



OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS



NORTHERN NSW
FOOTBALL



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FIFA / FA / NNSWF Regulations apply to all NNSWF Tournaments with the following Regulations implemented for the Women's State Cup. Definitions are in accordance with NNSWF Premier Competition Regulations.

1. TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT

The management of the tournament shall be the responsibility of Northern NSW Football (NNSWF). NNSWF shall have the authority to formulate the tournament regulations and to alter or add to these regulations at any time, where deemed necessary.

Clubs shall be bound by the tournament regulations. NNSWF reserves the right to take action and impose penalties as it deems necessary for any matters not specifically mentioned in these regulations.

2. NAMING CONVENTIONS

The tournament shall be named the NNSWF Women's State Cup.

3. TOURNAMENT DATES

The tournament will be conducted from Friday 2nd July until Sunday 4th July 2021.

4. VENUE

All matches shall be hosted at the [Lake Macquarie Regional Football Facility, Speers Point](#).

5. PARTICIPATING TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

- 5.1.** Eligible clubs shall nominate by completing and submitting the entry form supplied by NNSWF. NNSWF reserves the right to confirm and approve participation at its sole discretion.

The tournament is open to all NNSWF senior women's Clubs including:

- All clubs being Members of NNSWF Premier Competitions;
- All clubs being Members of a NNSWF Zone Competitions.
- Clubs will be permitted to enter only one Team per Club.
- NNSWF reserves the right to accept a Member Zone Representative Team at its sole discretion, however, representative or combined teams will not be eligible for the Community Plate semi-finals or final,

6. REGISTERED PLAYERS

Clubs will be permitted to register a maximum of 25 players for the tournament. Players must be a minimum age of 15 years (31st December 2021).

Clubs must submit their squad list within timelines as determined by NNSWF. Changes to squad lists will be accepted up until Friday 2nd July (5:00pm). Players who are not listed prior to this cut-off date will not be eligible to participate.

7. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

The following shall apply in defining player eligibility:

A qualified or bona-fide player is one who has a current season active registration on PlayFootball with either a NNSWF Premier Club or with a NNSWF Member Zone Club.

No player shall be permitted to play for more than 1 club in the tournament.



8. INELIGIBLE PLAYER

A team found guilty of playing an ineligible player in any match shall be ineligible for any points associated with that match.

8.1. GROUP STAGE

The result of the match shall be awarded as a 3-0 victory to the non-offending team unless the score of the match was greater, and in favour of the non-offending team, in which case the greater result will stand.

In determining what is a greater result, NNSWF will give preference to goals for in the first instance (i.e. 4-1 will be considered greater than 3-0)

8.2. FINALS SERIES

A club playing an ineligible player in any final's series match shall be disqualified and the opposing team, shall progress to the next phase of the tournament.

9. TOURNAMENT FEE

\$300 per club inclusive of GST.

10. MATCH OFFICIALS

The appointment of Match Officials will be the responsibility of NNSWF. Match Official payments will be payable by NNSWF.

11. TROPHY / MEDALLIONS

NNSWF will present players medallions and the Women's State Cup trophy to the tournament winners. Finalist medallions will also be presented following the completion of the tournament final.

NNSWF will also present the Community Plate to the respective winners.

12. TOURNAMENT FORMAT

The tournament shall be conducted in 2 phases which include the Group Round Robin Phase followed by the Finals Series.

NNSWF reserves the right to adjust or alter the tournament format if deemed necessary at any time subject to participating team numbers and/or other circumstances.

12.1. GROUP ROUND ROBIN PHASE

Group phase matches will be conducted across 4 groups with teams within each group playing against each other in round robin format.

12.2. WOMEN'S STATE CUP FINALS SERIES

Following the completion of the group phase matches the team ranked first in each group shall advance to the Final Series. The finals series shall include 2 semi-finals with the 2 winning teams advancing to the tournament final.

12.3. WOMEN'S COMMUNITY PLATE

Following the completion of the Group Round Robin Phase the highest ranked community club team in each group shall advance to the Women's Community Plate Final Series. The Community Plate Finals Series shall include 2 semi-finals with the 2 winning teams advancing to the Community Plate Final.



13. DRAW PROCEDURE

Clubs accepted into the tournament shall be drawn from pots and allocated into groups. 1st Grade Herald Women's Premier League (WPL) clubs will be seeded dependent upon their competition ladder position as determined by NNSWF.

All teams will be drawn into 4 groups. All Groups will consist of 4 teams including 1 WPL team from Pot 1, 1 WPL team from Pot 2 and Community Teams from Pot 3.

14. HOME TEAM DETERMINATION

The Team listed first on the fixture draw shall be declared the home team with their opposition declared the away team for the match.

15. MATCH DURATION

All matches will be played over 2 equal periods of 25 minutes. No stoppage time shall be applied. A maximum of 5 minutes shall apply for half-time.

16. DETERMINATION OF RESULTS

The result recorded on the team sheet by the appointed match official shall be the result of the match and is not subject to appeal.

16.1. GROUP PHASE

Teams will be allocated points as follows:

Win	→	3 Points
Draw	→	1 Point
Loss	→	0 Points

16.2. FINALS SERIES

If a match is drawn at the conclusion of normal time, the result of the match shall be decided by Penalty Kicks as per FIFA Laws of the Game. No extra time shall be applied.

16.3. INCOMPLETE MATCHES

In the event a match is abandoned due to adverse weather conditions or a cause outside the reasonable control of either club (including its players and officials) during a match, unless exceptional circumstances apply (such exceptional circumstances as determined by NNSWF in its sole and absolute discretion):

The result at the time of abandonment shall be declared the final result.

NNSWF reserves the right to determine the outcome or future action to be taken with respect to the fixture(s) with consideration to the circumstances of the abandonment.

Official results will be displayed across NNSWF Social Media platforms and via the [NNSWF Website](#).

17. DETERMINATION OF GROUP ROUND ROBIN PHASE PLACINGS

In the event of Teams finishing on equal points at the conclusion of the Group Phase the following will apply to determine Teams advancing to the Finals Series Phase:

At the completion of the group matches, rankings in each group will be determined by the following criteria:

At the completion of the Pool Matches, rankings in each Pool will be determined by the following criteria:



a) Greatest number of match points obtained in all Pool Matches

If two or more teams are equal on the basis of the above criteria, their ranking shall be determined as follows:

b) The result of the Match played against each other in the Pool phase

c) The Team with the highest goal difference

d) The Team with the highest goals for

e) Fair Play Points System in which the number of Yellow and Red Cards in Pool matches is considered according to the following deductions:

- First Yellow Card → minus 1 point
- Second Yellow Card / Indirect Red Card → minus 3 points
- Direct Red Card → minus 4 points
- Yellow Card and Direct Red Card → minus 5 points

f) Drawing of lots by NNSWF tournament management

18. FINAL SERIES PHASE

Following the completion of the Group Round Robin Phase 2 Finals Series shall be conducted in order to determine the Women's State Cup winners and the Community Plate winners.

18.1. WOMEN'S STATE CUP FINALS SERIES

Semi Finals →	M1	Group A 1 st Place	v	Group B 1 st Place
	M2	Group C 1 st Place	v	Group D 1 st Place
Final →	M3	Winner M1	v	Winner M2

18.2. COMMUNITY PLATE FINALS SERIES

Semi Finals →	M1	TBC*	v	TBC*
	M2	TBC*	v	TBC*
Final →	M3	Winner M1	v	Winner M2

In the event a community club qualifies for the Women's State Cup Finals Series the next ranked community club within their group shall advance to the Women's Community Plate Finals Series.

*Community Plate Semi Finals will be determined at the conclusion of the Group Stage. The highest ranked Community side from Group A, C and D will progress to the Community Plate Semi Finals,



along with the best Community side runner up from either Group A or C. Semi Finals will be managed so no teams that play each other in the Group Stage will play each other again in the Semi Final.

19. PLAYING STRIPS

All participating Clubs must register 2 playing strips (main and alternate) for both field players and goalkeepers. Clubs must nominate their strips on the prescribed form provided by NNSWF.

NNSWF, in its absolute and sole discretion, will pre-determine strip allocations for each match and provide teams with a strip allocation document.

In the event of a playing strip colour clash, the team listed as away (second on the draw) must provide an alternate strip inclusive of shirts, shorts and socks for both field players and goalkeepers.

The match official shall be the sole arbiter on match day in the event of a colour clash and their decision shall be binding.

All participating clubs must have both registered strips available at the venue for all matches they participate in.

20. PLAYING NUMBERS / INTERCHANGES

Each team is permitted to name a maximum of 11 starting players for each match (inclusive of a nominated goalkeeper) plus a maximum of 5 interchange players.

Unlimited interchange shall apply for all matches.

A Team must field a minimum of 7 eligible players at all times during a match. Failure to do so shall result in the offending team forfeiting the match.

21. MATCH BALLS

NNSWF shall supply match quality footballs of the same brand, colour and weight for all matches.

22. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

All disciplinary matters shall be dealt with by NNSWF in accordance with FFA National Disciplinary Regulations and Code of Conduct with provision for the following:

22.1. YELLOW CARDS

A player or team official who accumulates 3 yellow cards during the tournament (inclusive of both Group stage and Finals Series matches) shall receive an automatic 1 match suspension to be served in the next tournament match.

Should a player or team official and her club not progress to the next round or stage of the tournament; the said player or team official's yellow card infringement shall be considered expunged.

22.2. RED CARDS

A player or team official who receives a red card in a match shall receive a minimum automatic 1 match suspension to be served in the next tournament match. NNSWF shall consider each incident individually and issue advice to the club of the applicable sanction being applied.

Should a player or team official's Club not progress to the next round of the tournament (inclusive of both Group stage and Finals Series matches) shall; the following will apply for red card infringements:

Indirect Red Card – Infringement shall be considered expunged



Direct Red Card – NNSWF Tournament Administrator will review infringement and determine any further action deemed necessary.

22.3. SUSPENSIONS OUTSIDE OF TOURNAMENT

Players or team officials who have received match suspensions outside of the Tournament are permitted to participate. Any matches in which they do not participate in will not count towards serving their suspension.

23. TEAM OFFICIALS / DUTY OFFICER AT FIXTURES

Clubs will be permitted a maximum of 6 Team Officials within their designated Technical Area for each match. Team officials must be listed on the team sheet and display supplied accreditation.

All Clubs must have a minimum of 1 identifiable duty officer present during their match.

Duty officers are required to:

- Actively patrol the playing arena;
- Escort Match Officials on and off the playing arena and
- Be the point of contact with spectators of the Ground Marshal's own Club.

24. TEAM SHEETS

The team sheet must be completed in ink, in a legible manner by both Teams and must contain the names of the Players and Team Officials taking part in the match, including the names of the nominated interchange Players.

The original Team sheet must be handed to the Referee at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled kick off time.

The numbers on the back of the shirts shall correspond to the numbers on the Team sheet handed to the Referee prior to the commencement of the match.

Should a match be forfeited, the referee shall endorse the Team sheet accordingly.

Any Team Manager, Team Coach or Club Official supplying false information shall be subject to disciplinary action as determined by NNSWF.

25. DISPUTE PROCEDURES

All queries relating to the interpretation of these regulations, or any dispute / protest, shall be referred to NNSWF in writing by a Club Executive. NNSWF's decision shall be final and binding on parties concerned.



SCHEDULE A

CODE	OFFENCE	GRADING GUIDELINES	PENALTY
R4	Denying goal scoring opportunity – Handling the ball		Auto
R5	Denying goal scoring opportunity – Foul		Auto
R1	Serious Foul Play (typically, but not limited to, serious foul play when the ball is in play)	1. Careless or reckless tackle	Auto
		2. Attempting to gain possession of the ball using excessive force	Auto
		3. Conduct that endangers the safety of an opponent in a contest for the ball or has the potential to cause serious injury.	Auto +1
		4. Conduct causing serious injury	Auto +2
R3	Spitting	1. Spitting at an opponent or another Club Associate	Auto +4
		2. Spitting on an opponent or another Club Associate	Auto +8
R2	Violent Conduct (typically, but not limited to, serious foul play when the ball is not in play, and/or playing distance)	1. Minimal contact with an opponent or Club Associate	Auto +1
		2. Violent conduct and/or attempted violent conduct towards an opponent or Club Associate	Auto +1
		3. Serious and/or premeditated violent conduct towards an opponent or Club Associate	Auto +2
		4. Serious violent conduct that has caused bodily harm or responsibility for a Melee (violent)	Auto +3
		5. Violent conduct causing serious injury	Auto +4
R6	Offensive, insulting, abusive or intimidating language and/or gestures	1. Using language and/or gestures in frustration	Auto
		2. Using language and/or gestures directed at another player or Club Associate	Auto +1
		3. Incitement to violence, or repeated use of offensive language and/or gestures, to another Player or Club Associate	Auto +2
		4. Use of discriminatory, homophobic, racist, religious ethnic or sexist language and/or gestures	Auto +4
R7	Second caution (Yellow Card)		Auto
R8	Offences against match Officials	1. Unsporting conduct	Auto +1
		2. Using offensive language and/or gestures	Auto +1
		3. Repeated use of offensive language and/or gestures	Auto +2



		4. Inappropriate contact with and/or conduct with a Match Official	Auto + Code of Conduct
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