



FOOTBALL
NSW

2021 COUNTRY CUP **REGULATIONS**



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Version 1, issued 31 May 2021

SECTION 1: ORGANISATION & ADMISSION

1. Scope and Application

- a) These Regulations are made under clause 5 of the Football NSW (FNSW) By-Laws adopted September 2015
- b) Football Federation Australia (FFA) has granted FNSW a mandate to be responsible for the organisation, promotion and regulation of football in the State
- c) Where these Regulations are silent on any particular aspect, then all Clubs, affiliated bodies and organisations shall first have regard to the Football NSW Constitution, By-Laws, Competition Regulations, FFA rules and regulations and where applicable rules and regulations of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and FIFA
- d) If any part of these Regulations is void that part shall be severable and will not affect the enforceability of the remaining sections of these Regulations
- e) FNSW will interpret and apply all articles of these Regulations and any such interpretation or application will be final and binding on all parties
- f) These Regulations apply to Participants in the following competitions (the Competitions) unless stated otherwise:

	AGE GROUP
Boys Age Groups	U/12, U/13, U/14, U/15, U/16
Girls Age Groups	U/12, U/14, U/16

- g) Open to all affiliated Association Representative teams from Riverina, Southern and Western Branches.
- h) The tournament is to be played under the ID Card system.
- i) Referees will be appointed by FNSW Referee's in consultation with the host branch.
- j) Referee Fees will be paid by Football NSW.
- k) A completed team sheet is required to be sent to Football NSW or presented to the Tournament Manager prior to the commencement of the Tournament.
- l) The players will retain those numbers indicated on that team sheet for the duration of the tournament and no other team sheets will need be produced.
- m) These rules shall cover the Country Cup conducted by Football NSW.
- n) These competition Rules and Regulations are subject to alteration as required, however such alterations must be made prior to commencement of the tournament.
- o) Matters not included in these Competition Rules and Regulations must be referred to the Head of Competitions.
- p) No Entry fee will apply to this tournament
- q) As agreed to by all Branches, should any nominated team withdraw from the Country Cup after nomination, that Branch will be potentially fined \$1000.00 per team and a deduction of six (6) points will be made on the final tally of points gained for the Cup Championship.

2. Control of Competitions

- a) The administrative control and conduct of the Competitions is vested in the Executive subject to any resolution by the Board to the contrary

3. Consequences for Breach

- a) Any breach of these Regulations or failure to comply with any direction therein may result in a fine issued by Football NSW or other sanction pursuant to the Football NSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations

4. Competition Contacts

CONTACT NAME	CONTACT DETAILS
PRIMARY CONTACT Kim Burge Competition Coordinator	FNSW Direct Number – 8814 4444
	Mobile Number: 0419 993 918
	Fax: 8814 4483
	Email: kim@footballnsw.com.au
Troy McColl Head of Competitions	FNSW Direct Number: 8814 4463
	Email: troy@footballnsw.com.au

5. Outstanding Debts

- a) Treatment of outstanding debts will be as per the FNSW By-laws
- b) For the avoidance of doubt, failure to comply with outstanding debts in accordance with the FNSW By-Laws may result in ineligibility to participate in Matches or forfeiture of completed matches
- c) This article applies to all Competition and cup Matches conducted by FNSW

6. Alteration

- a) The Executive will have the power from time to time to make, alter or rescind the Regulations

7. Special Consideration

- a) The Executive will have the power to consider individual circumstances outside the prescribed limits of the regulations should it be clear those special considerations are in the interests of the game
- b) The decision by the Executive to review and consider individual circumstances under this section is not subject to appeal or review

8. Disciplinary Sanctions and Proceedings

- a) All Clubs, Players, Team Officials, Match Officials, spectators or any person participating in any manner at a FNSW Fixture, Match or event will submit exclusively to the jurisdiction of the Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations
- b) The Disciplinary Committee will be convened by the Tournament Manager in accordance with the Football NSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations
- c) The Disciplinary Committee shall be authorised to suspend, fine, reprimand, caution or otherwise penalise any players, officials or teams whom they consider have breached the rules of the game or the tournament, or have by their action brought the game into disrepute.
- d) In all cases where the Disciplinary Committee is required to convene it shall consist of no less than three persons i.e. the Tournament Manager (Chairman) and two others.
- e) Where a player has been sent from the field the said player shall be automatically suspended from that player's next game.

- f) Where a player receives three yellow cards during the tournament the player shall be suspended from that player's next game.
- g) Any appeal against the determination of the ruling Disciplinary Committee must be made in writing upon notification of the determination by Football NSW accompanied by an appeal fee of seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750).
- h) Players will be cautioned for the following offences as in the Laws of the Game:

CAUTION CODES	
Y1	Is guilty of unsporting behaviours
Y2	Shows dissent by word or mouth
Y3	Persistently infringes the Laws of the Game
Y4	Delays the restart of play
Y5	Fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner-kick, free-kick or throw-in
Y6	Enters or re-enters the field of play without the referee's permission
Y7	Deliberately leaves the field of play without the referee's permission.

- i) A player shall be sent from the field for the following offences as in the Laws of the game:

SEND OFF CODES	
R1	Is guilty of serious foul play
R2	Is guilty of violent conduct
R3	Spits at an opponent or any other person
R4	Denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to the goalkeeper within his or her penalty area)
R5	Denies an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick
R6	Uses offensive or insulting language and/or gestures
R7	Receives a second caution in the same match

9. Unforeseeable Circumstance

Nothing in these Regulations will prevent the Board from approving a course of action to meet unforeseeable circumstances not covered by the Regulations including but not limited to promotion, relegation, number of divisions and composition of Teams in each division

SECTION 2: TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

1. Matches Played in Accordance with the Laws of the Game

- a) All Fixtures will be played in compliance with the Regulations in force at the time and in accordance with FFA and FNSW By-Laws, regulations, codes and directives, and under the FIFA laws of the game
- b) The Executive will decide from time to time the duration of games and may vary Competition regulations for any special domestic competition providing due notice of the variations is given to all competing teams

2. Competition Format

- a) The competition format is played on a round robin basis with Finals and Play-Offs
- b) All age groups are 11 v 11
- c) The Match schedule together with the allocated venues will be issued by Football NSW prior to the tournament.

3. Competition Points

COMPETITION RESULT	POINTS
Win	3
Draw	1
Loss or Bye	0
Win By Forfeit	3 Points (and 3-0 Result)

4. Team

- a) A team shall consist of a minimum of seven players in strip, one of which must be the goal keeper
- b) A team shall be allowed to play late players, but only to bring the team to full playing strength, providing all registration requirements are met

5. Match Balls

- a) Only Football NSW Licensed balls are to be used in this competition.

GRADE	SIZE
U14 / U15 / U16	5
U12 and U13	4

- b) Football NSW will provide all match balls

6. Duration of Match

- a) The match durations will be dependant on the number of games scheduled for age groups based on the number of teams participating
- b) The match times for age groups will be issued with the draws
- c) For all Matches there will be an interval of five (5) minutes between the whistle ending the first period to the whistle starting the second period

7. Extra Time

- a) Should a match require extra time, then it will be 2 x 5 minutes.
- b) Following extra-time, the match will be determined by Penalty Kicks.

8. Corner Kicks

- a) The takings of corner kicks is modified in the U12 age grade and are to be taken on the goal line 7.5 metres from the edge of the penalty area towards the Corner Flag

9. Goal Difference

- 1) For cases where the goal difference is taken into account, the manner in which they shall be arrived at shall be:
 - a) The number of goals against shall be subtracted from the number of goals for. The highest resultant plus figure from such subtraction shall be deemed to have the best goal difference and shall take precedence in determining positions in respect to minus goal difference.
 - b) The lowest resultant minus figure from the subtraction shall be deemed to have the best goal difference and shall take precedence in determining positions in respect to minus goal difference.

10. Colours

- a) Where colours clash in the opinion of the referee, The AWAY team must change
- b) The Home team is first team indicated in draw unless otherwise advised by Football NSW
- c) All teams must wear numbered strip with no duplication of numbers.
- d) All teams must have with them at each match a complete official and reserve playing strip

11. Grounds

- a) All games are to be played on suitably roped-off or enclosed grounds
- b) It shall be the responsibility of each Association to control their own spectators. For this purpose, two officials must be present at all their games and easily recognisable by wearing official's vests. The Coach and Manager of a team playing cannot be regarded as officials for this purpose.
- c) The Referee has the authority to remove either a player or official from the playing field
- d) It is not permitted to charge an entry fee for spectators to any match in the competition
- e) By nominating teams all Branches accept responsibility to ensure amenities and an operating canteen are provided at all grounds where matches are played.

12. Wet Weather Cancellations

- a) Should a ground be considered unplayable for any reason the host Association will immediately contact the Competitions Coordinator and a decision will then be made whether the match is deferred or moved to another venue and/or time. The Competitions Coordinator will then take the necessary steps to advise all Branches involved and the appointed Referees

13. Postponed Matches & Fixture

- a) After the commencement of the Match, should play be postponed due to serious injury that requires the player to be removed from the stadium by ambulance, poor weather, failed lighting, state of the pitch or any other reason as determined by the referee, and the Match cannot be completed in full, and FNSW has approved the rescheduled match, it will recommence at the minute at which play was interrupted rather than being replayed in full. The following principles will apply to the recommencement of the Match:
 - i. The Match will recommence with the same Players on the pitch and substitutes available as when the Match was initially postponed unless a player has received a suspension in matches conducted between the postponed match and the rescheduling of that match.

- ii. Should a player have received a suspension in a match conducted between the postponed match and the rescheduling of that match that player:
 - a. Will not be eligible to participate in the rescheduled match
 - b. Will not be able to count the match as a stand down in relation to any fixture suspension
 - c. The club will not be permitted to replace the player on the team sheet
 - d. If the player was on the field of play at the time of the postponement the player may be replaced by a substitute listed on the team sheet as long as the team has available substitutions as per the Regulations
 - e. If the Player was a substitute the number of available Players to substitute will decrease as they player cannot be replaced
- iii. No additional substitutes may be added to the list of Players on the team sheet
- iv. The Teams can make only the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the Match was postponed
- v. Players sent off during the abandoned Match cannot be replaced
- vi. FNSW will endeavor to appoint the same Match Officials to the completion of the Match, however may appoint replacements should any or all of the Match Officials be unavailable
- vii. The referee is the sole arbiter of elapsed time, and no protest may be lodged against the actual elapsed time as recorded by the referee
- viii. Should a Match be abandoned due to the fault of one (1) Team, or should it be determined by FNSW that one (1) Team / Club is responsible for the delay to the Match, the remaining minutes will not be rescheduled for completion, and the Match will be determined as a forfeit against the Team / Club that is deemed guilty of the abandonment or responsible for the delay
- ix. Where a fixture is incorrectly reported as abandoned by the Referee where circumstances show clearly that the match was actually postponed, FNSW will treat the Match as postponed

14. Interchange

- a) Unlimited Interchange of players is permissible at any time during the game in all age groups. The maximum number players to be used for interchange are five (5) players for all age groups
- b) Following is the procedure and rules for the unlimited interchange of Players:
 - i. The "Interchange zone" will be an area one (1) metre either side of the half-way line, as defined in the Stadium Technical Requirements for the 2014 Competitions
 - ii. An interchange is one which is made when the ball is out of play, and for which the following conditions will be observed:
 - a. The Player leaving the field will do so from the touch line, crossing over at the sector called the interchange zone
 - b. The Player entering the field will also do so from the interchange zone, but not until the Player leaving the field has passed completely over the touch line
 - c. A player nominated for interchange will be subject to the authority and jurisdiction of the Referee whether called upon to play or not
 - d. The interchange is completed when the Player who was off the field, enters the field
 - iii. The number of interchanges made during a Match is unlimited. A Player who has been replaced may return

to the field for another Player

- iv. If during an interchange, an interchange Player enters the field before the replaced Player has completely left it, the Referee will ensure the replaced Player leaves the field, then caution the interchange Player and then restart the Match
- v. If during an interchange, an interchange Player enters the field or a replaced Player leaves it from a place other than the interchange zone, the Referee will caution the offending Player
- vi. The interchanging of Players will cease at the completion of normal and extra time.

15. Forfeits

- a) Should a match not commence within 10 minutes of the start time in the match schedule or amended by Football NSW, the match will be forfeited by the team that has caused the delay to the start of the match
- b) Should any team forfeit any match in these Championships no points gained by this team during the tournament will be considered in determining the overall Champions
- c) As agreed to by all Branches, if any nominated team withdraws from the Country Cup after nomination, that Branch will be fined \$1000.00 per team and a deduction of six (6) points will be made on the final tally of points gained for the Cup Championship

16. Withdrawals from Competition

- a) Withdrawal after the match schedule has been communicated will result in a fine of \$1000.00 per team and a deduction of six (6) points will be made on the final tally of points gained for the Cup Championship

17. Code of Conduct for the Technical Area

- a) The Team Manager is responsible to ensure proper conduct of all persons occupying the bench and technical area
- b) Coaching and encouragement in suitable language is permitted from the technical area but no comments must be directed to or about referees, opposing players or officials
- c) Abusive or derogatory comments will not be tolerated. Offenders may be ordered from the technical area by the Match Officials or Tournament Director
- d) With the prior approval of the Football NSW Representative or Match Official, a coach may leave the technical area during a match, however any coaching comments from outside the enclosure must still comply to article 14 of these regulations
- e) Only the nominated reserves on the team sheet, the coach, the manager and the trainer will be permitted within the confines of the pitch perimeter fence

18. Match Schedule

- a) Football NSW will release a match schedule for the Competitions

19. Fines

- a) Withdrawal after draw is completed - \$1000.00 plus loss of six (6) points from Cup Championship final tally of points.
- b) Forfeits: Without prior advice - \$1000.00 (+ Officials Fees) plus loss of nine (9) points from Cup Championship final tally of points.

SECTION 3: ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION

1. Age Eligibility

- a) Following are the birth dates applicable to the age grades of the Competitions. Players must be within these ranges in order to be eligible for registration;
 - U12 (for players born on or after 1 January 2009);
 - U13 (for players born on or after 1 January 2008);
 - U14 (for players born on or after 1 January 2007);
 - U15 (for players born on or after 1 January 2006);
 - U16 (for players born on or after 1 January 2005);

2. Team Eligibility

- a) It shall be the responsibility of the Association to nominate the Association Representative teams which it chooses to be its representative in the competition. The registered team nominated at the start of the tournament will have NO Additions or Deletions without the approval of the Competition Coordinator.

3. Player Identification Cards

- a) All competitions matches shall be played under the Photo ID system.
- b) It shall be the responsibility of Managers to inspect their opposition Photo ID team cards/slips.
- c) No protests will be accepted re player eligibility if ID cards are not checked.
- d) In the event a team fails to produce their ID cards/slips prior to the kick off, the Manager is to contact the Competitions Coordinator. Unless authorised by the Competitions Coordinator a period of ten (10) minutes will be allowed from the scheduled kick off time to produce identification cards/slip and if still not produced, the game will be awarded to the non-offending team with a result of 3-0. The Referee is to mark the Team Sheet accordingly. Managers are reminded if a forfeit is claimed they are not to take the field.
- e) Should an ID card/slip not be available for an individual player, then that player will not be eligible to take part in any game except as in (f).
- f) Where a player's ID card has been sent to the Disciplinary Tribunal and has not been received or returned by the Disciplinary Tribunal, Football NSW may give written authority for the player to play without an ID card.

4. Registrations

- a) All teams and players must be registered via Play Football
- b) Associations must complete registrations no later than 7 days prior to the commencement of the tournament and forward a copy of this report from Play Football to the Competition Coordinator kim@footballnsw.com.au.

NOTE: When submitting the registration form the responsibility is with the Association Secretary/Administrator to ensure the registered teams comply with the regulations
- c) Each team shall be eligible to register a maximum of 18 players. A player is only permitted to be registered into one team in the Country Cup.
 - i. Only 16 players can play in a match
- d) De-registration of players will not be permitted. For clarity, a player whose team has been defeated will not be eligible to register in any other team during that competition, regardless of dates each age group play
- e) Late registrations must be submitted to Football NSW prior to the players taking the field in the player's first game. Failure to comply will result in a forfeit and points awarded to the non-offending team with a recorded result of 3 - 0
- f) Amateur status players only will be permitted

SECTION 4: TEAM SHEETS, RESULTS AND MATCH OFFICIALS

1. Team Sheets

- a) Official Football NSW team sheets must be used.
- b) Team sheet must be completed by each team and given to the Tournament Manager prior to commencement of the tournament. No other team sheets need to be submitted
- c) Each player's name & FFA Number is to be printed on the team sheet corresponding with the number on the playing strip.
- d) Failure to comply with any section of this regulation will result in a fine of \$70 per breach
- e) Players may play up an age group to fill in provided they are playing for the same association and they are noted on the team sheet

2. Results

- a) It is the responsibility of the Host Association to upload results for their venue for the tournament. The Association may nominate a Venue Coordinator to do this. Results are to be entered within 1 hour of the match.
- b) Failure to comply with any section of this regulation will result in a fine of \$70 per breach

3. Referees

- a) If appointed Match Officials fail to attend a match, then the home team will be required to appoint Match Officials



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NSW