



# **COMPETITIONS REGULATIONS**

## **2026 COMPETITIONS**

SECTION 1: Organisation & Admission	3
SECTION 2: Technical Regulations	7
SECTION 3: Eligibility	26
SECTION 4: Registration	35
SECTION 5: Ticketing, Distribution, Prize Money and Awards	47
SECTION 6: Team Sheets, Reporting and Match Officials	51
SCHEDULE 1: Additional Rules – Mixed Junior Development League	56
SCHEDULE 2: Additional Rules – Girls’ Junior Development League	59
SCHEDULE 3: Additional Rules – Pandemic	62
SCHEDULE 4: Player Roster Principles – Men’s	66
SCHEDULE 5: Player Points System – NPL and League One Women’s	67
SCHEDULE 6: Definitions	72

## SECTION 1: ORGANISATION & ADMISSION

### 1. SCOPE AND APPLICATION

- a. These Regulations are made under clause 5 of the By-Laws and apply to the 2026 football Season.
- b. Football Australia (FA) has granted Football NSW a mandate to be responsible for the organisation, promotion and regulation of football in the State.
- c. The Regulations govern the Leagues as set out in Section 1 Article 6.
- d. Where the Regulations are silent on any particular aspect, then all Clubs, affiliated bodies and organisations shall first have regard to the Constitution, By-Laws, FA rules and regulations and where applicable rules and regulations of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and FIFA.
- e. If any part of the Regulations is void that part shall be severable and will not affect the enforceability of the remaining sections of the Regulations. Football NSW may choose to not enforce a term of the Regulations in some cases, in its absolute discretion, without affecting its right to enforce that term in other cases.
- f. Football NSW will interpret and apply all articles of the Regulations and any such interpretation or application will be final and binding on all parties and not subject to challenge or appeal.
- g. The Regulations apply to Participants in the following Competitions (the Competitions) unless stated otherwise:
  - i. National Premier Leagues (NPL) Men's NSW,
  - ii. Football NSW (FNSW) League One Men's,
  - iii. Football NSW (FNSW) League Two Men's,
  - iv. Football NSW (FNSW) Boys' Youth League One,
  - v. Football NSW (FNSW) Boys' Youth League Two,
  - vi. Football NSW (FNSW) Boys' Youth League Three,
  - vii. National Premier Leagues (NPL) Women's NSW,
  - viii. Football NSW (FNSW) League One Women's,
  - ix. Football NSW (FNSW) Girls' Youth League One,
  - x. Football NSW (FNSW) Girls' Youth League Two,
  - xi. Football NSW (FNSW) Mixed Junior Development League,
  - xii. Football NSW (FNSW) Girls' Junior Development League; and
  - xiii. Football NSW Cup Competitions.

### 2. CONSEQUENCES FOR BREACH

- a. Any breach of the Regulations or failure to comply with any direction therein may at Football NSW's discretion result in a fine issued by Football NSW or other sanction pursuant to the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

### 3. REFERENCE

- a. Where the Regulations refer to a "Club" that reference is to either the Association, Club or Branch that has been accepted to participate in the Competition.

### 4. CAPITALISED TERMS

- a. Any capitalised terms used in the Regulations will have the meanings given to them in Schedule 6.

## 5. ADMISSION / APPLICATION TO FNSW COMPETITIONS

- a. Participation in the Competitions is on an annual basis unless otherwise specified.
- b. For the avoidance of doubt, the Club agrees that it has no right to any renewal or extension to participate in any future Competitions and Football NSW has the right to determine, in its absolute discretion, whether any right to participate in any Competition is renewed or extended.
- c. Applications to participate in all Competitions administered within the Regulations are to be made to Football NSW, on the prescribed Football NSW documents, and submitted by the date on those documents.
- d. Football NSW will distribute the prescribed Football NSW documents in the year preceding each Season.

## 6. CONFIRMATION OF LEAGUES / COMPETITIONS

- a. FNSW will conduct Competitions in the following Leagues and grades:

League	Grades
NPL Men's NSW	1st grade, U20
FNSW League One Men's	1st Grade, U20
FNSW League Two Men's	1st Grade, U20
FNSW Boys' Youth League One	U18, U16, U15, U14, U13
FNSW Boys' Youth League Two	U18, U16, U15, U14, U13
FNSW Boys' Youth League Three	U18, U16, U15, U14, U13
NPL Women's NSW	1st Grade, U23
FNSW League One Women's	1st Grade, U23
FNSW Girls' Youth League One	U18, U16, U15, U14
FNSW Girls' Youth League Two	U18, U16, U15, U14
FNSW Mixed Junior Development League	U12, U11, U10, U9
FNSW Girls' Junior Development League	U13, U12, U11, U10

- b. Composition of the Leagues, including maximum numbers of Teams per grade, will be determined by the Board.
- c. Football NSW may conduct Cup Competitions for any League or grade. Notification and invitation for participation in these Competitions will be made prior to any Competitions, should they be conducted.

## 7. OUTSTANDING DEBTS

- a. Treatment of outstanding debts will be as per the Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.
- b. For the avoidance of doubt, failure to comply with outstanding debts in accordance with the By-Laws may result in ineligibility for Competition points while the debt remains unpaid, and those points may not be reinstated once the debt is cleared. It may also result in ineligibility to participate in Championship Matches.
- c. This article applies to all Competition and Cup Matches conducted by Football NSW.

## 8. ALTERATION

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

## 9. SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

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

## 10. STADIUMS

- a. The Stadium for the Matches in the Competition will be nominated by the Clubs upon entry, before the deadline communicated by Football NSW, and will be subject to inspection and confirmation by Football NSW.
- b. Unless stipulated otherwise in the Regulations or by the Executive, Matches in the Competition must be played in a Stadium which meets all the requirements of, and standards stated in, the Football NSW Stadium Technical Requirements and in compliance with the safety and security standards and other Football NSW, FA, Australian Standards and Australian Sports Commission guidelines and instructions.
- c. Should any Stadium be deemed unacceptable for use for any reason during a Season Football NSW reserves the right to determine the most appropriate course of action to conclude the Season, including but not limited to rescheduling Matches at the Away Club's Stadium, moving Fixtures or Matches to a neutral Stadium, or declaring that the Home Club has forfeited a Match or Matches.
- d. In all instances of article 10 c), any costs incurred in the rescheduling of Fixtures or Matches will be the responsibility of the original Home Club.
- e. In circumstances where nominated Stadium are shared by other than the senior and youth body of the same Club, the responsibility for the resolution of Fixture clashes between Clubs shall rest with the nominating Club.
- f. Unavailability of any Stadium due to neglect, non-payment of accounts or any other reason for which the Home Club is responsible will result in the Home Club forfeiting that Match.

## 11. DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS AND PROCEEDINGS

- a. All Clubs, Players, Team Officials, Match Officials, Spectators or any Person participating in any manner at a Football NSW Fixture, Match, or event will submit exclusively to the jurisdiction of the Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

## 12. UNFORESEEABLE CIRCUMSTANCE

- a. Nothing in the 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.

## 13. 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.

## 14. INTERSTATE / INTER-LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVE FIXTURES

- a. The Board may enter into agreements on behalf of Football NSW to arrange Fixtures or Matches either interstate or inter league etc., always bearing in mind the standing of the State or Territory Member Federation or FA in such matters and the interest of the members of Football NSW.
- b. The Board may be empowered to call upon the services of all Football NSW Players for possible selection in representative Football NSW Matches, upon such terms and conditions as they deem fit.
- c. Any Player, who, without just cause, fails or refuses to participate in a representative Match, cannot participate in his/her Premiership or Championship Fixture, played at or about the same time as the representative Match.

## 15. AMALGAMATION OF CLUBS

- a. Subject to any term in a Participation Agreement entered into between Football NSW and a Club, the new Club remains responsible for the financial obligations of the Clubs that amalgamated to form the new Club. This includes but is not limited to all fines and fees relating to admission, registration, Suspension, breach of regulations etc. and payments to any Players and Team Officials of the Clubs as per their contracts.

## 16. MEETINGS

- a. Football NSW may schedule meetings Pre-Season and during the Season to update Clubs on administrative and coaching matters.
- b. Attendance at such meetings is compulsory for each Club participating in the Competition. Failure to attend without satisfactory reason will result in a fine of \$5.

## SECTION 2: TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

### 1. MATCHES PLAYED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE GAME

- a. All Fixtures and Matches will be played in compliance with the Regulations in force at the time and in accordance with FA 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 played in grades other than 1st Grade and may vary the Regulations for any special domestic Competition providing due notice of the variations is given to all competing Clubs.

### 2. DURATION OF MATCH

- a. Duration of Premiership Matches will be as follows for the respective grades of the Competitions:

Age Grade	Duration of Match	Half Time
1st Grade (Men's & Women's)	Two Periods of 45 Minutes	Fifteen (15) minutes between the whistle ending the first period to the whistle starting the second period
U23 (Women's)		
U20 (Men's & Women's)		
U18 (Men's & Girls')		
U16 (Boys' & Girls')	Two Periods of 40 Minutes	Ten (10) minutes between the whistle ending the first period to the whistle starting the second period
U15 (Boys' & Girls')	Two Periods of 35 Minutes	Ten (10) minutes between the whistle ending the first period to the whistle starting the second period
U14 (Boys' & Girls')	Two Periods of 35 Minutes	Ten (10) minutes between the whistle ending the first period to the whistle starting the second period
U13 (Boys')		
U13 (Girls')	Two Periods of 35 Minutes	Five (5) minutes between the whistle ending the first period to the whistle starting the second period – Girls' JDL
U12 (Boys' & Girls')	Two Periods of 25 Minutes	Two (2) minutes between the whistle ending the first period to the whistle starting the second period
U11 (Boys' & Girls')		
U10 (Boys' & Girls')		
U9 (Boys')		

### 3. ADDED TIME

- a. Referees will play additional "injury and stoppage time" at the conclusion of each half in 1st Grade only in the Premiership Matches of the Leagues governed by the Regulations.
- b. In a 1st Grade Premiership Match, should delay be experienced (e.g. a serious injury to a Player that requires suspension of play while the Player is treated or transported from the Stadium) the Referee will record the elapsed time and ensure it is added to the Match duration. If the elapsed time between suspension of play and recommencement of play is longer than 45 minutes the Referee will abandon the Match and it will be replayed at a date in accordance with the Regulations.

- c. In all grades other than 1st Grade, should a delay be experienced in the first half of a Match (other than in the circumstances detailed in article 29 (Postponed Fixtures and Matches)), the Referee will continue to keep the official time of the Match and will blow half time when the duration of the first half has expired. The second half of the Match cannot commence until the delay has cleared. If the delay continues for more than 30 minutes after the whistle ending the first half, the Match will be immediately postponed unless advised otherwise by Football NSW.
- d. In all grades other than 1st Grade, if a delay occurs in the second half (other than in the circumstances detailed in article 29 (Postponed Fixtures and Matches)), the Referee will continue to keep the official time of the Match and blow full time when the Match duration has expired. The Match result will then be referred to Football NSW for review and determination.
- e. The principles in paragraphs c) and d) above will also apply to delays occurring during extra time in Championship Matches.
- f. For the Championship Matches in 1st Grade, U23 and U20 of the Leagues governed by the Regulations Referees will play additional "injury and stoppage time" at the conclusion of each half of normal time, and each half of extra time where applicable.

#### 4. EXTRA TIME

- a. There will be no extra time played in Football NSW Premiership Matches in the event of a draw at the conclusion of normal time.
- b. Should scores be equal at the conclusion of a Cup tie or Championship Match, extra time will be played as follows:

Age Grade	Duration of Extra Time
1st Grade (Men's & Women's)	Two periods of 15 minutes
U23 (Women's)	
U20 (Men's & Women's)	
U18 (Men's & Women's)	
U16 (Boys' & Girls')	
U15 (Boys' & Girl's)	
U14 (Boys' & Girl's)	
U13 (Boys')	
U13 (Girls')	Not Applicable
U12 (Boys' & Girls')	
U11 (Boys' & Girls')	
U10 (Boys' & Girls')	
U9 (Boys')	

#### 5. DETERMINING THE WINNER BY PENALTY KICKS

- a. If the result of a Cup Match or Championship Match is still a draw after the two (2) periods of extra time, alternate kicks from the penalty mark will be taken to determine the winner, in accordance with the procedures described in the FIFA Laws of the Game.
- b. If the taking of kicks from the penalty mark cannot be completed because of weather conditions or for other reasons beyond control and not the direct result of actions by either Team, the result will be decided by the drawing of lots by the Referee in the presence of the two (2) Team captains.
- c. If the taking of kicks from the penalty mark cannot be completed through the fault of a Team/Club, the Match will be deemed forfeited by that Team/Club.

## 6. TECHNICAL AREA

- a. Only currently registered and eligible Players, Coaches and Team Officials are allowed in the technical area during Matches.
- b. All Team Officials in the technical area must be listed on the digital team sheet.
- c. All Players in the technical area must wear a bib that contrasts with the colours worn by Players of both Teams, Match Officials and the bibs of the opposing Team.
- d. All Team Officials in the technical area must wear clothing that contrasts with the kit of the Players and Match Officials on the pitch. Should their clothing clash they are required to wear a bib that does not clash with the colours of the Players and Match Officials.
- e. All substitutes in the technical area must remain seated unless moving to and from warm-up.
- f. Only one (1) Person at a time is authorised to convey tactical instructions from the technical area.
- g. For 1st Grade and U20's of the NPL Men's NSW, FNSW League One Men's, FNSW League Two Men's and 1st Grade and U23's of the NPL Women's NSW and FNSW League One Women's the following is to apply:
  - i. A maximum of twelve (12) people are permitted in the technical area. These twelve (12) people are up to seven (7) substitute Players (inclusive of a goalkeeper) and five (5) registered Team Officials.
  - ii. Seating will be supplied and placed in position by the Home Club in sufficient quantity to seat twelve (12) people from each Team.
- h. For FNSW Boys' Youth League One, FNSW Boys' Youth League Two, FNSW Boys' Youth League Three, FNSW Girls' Youth League One and FNSW Girls' Youth League Two Competitions, the following is to apply:
  - i. A maximum of twelve (12) people are permitted in the technical area. These twelve (12) people are up to seven (7) return substitute players and five (5) registered Team Officials.
  - ii. Seating will be supplied and placed in position by the Home Club in sufficient quantity to seat twelve (12) people from each Team.

## 7. WARMING UP

- a. Clubs must supply an alternate warm-up area, in accordance with the Stadium Technical Requirements, near to the field. This location is regarded as the primary warm-up area for the Match.
- b. Where teams are permitted to warm up on the field of play, both teams are required to be provided the same access to the field of play. One team cannot be allocated to warm up away from the field of play while the other team is provided access to warm up on the field of play. Failure to comply will result in a fine of \$500.
- c. During play, a maximum of six (6) Players from each Team may warm up at the same time, assisted by two (2) Team Officials, without a ball (except for the goalkeeper), in the identified warm-up area within the pitch perimeter fence.

## 8. FOOTBALLS

- a. The Home Club (that being the first Team listed on the draw) will supply a minimum of three (3) first class footballs of the same brand, colour and weight for all Premiership and Cup Matches.
- b. Failure to supply Match balls will result in a fine of \$50 per Match they are not supplied.
- c. Football NSW will supply footballs for all Championship Matches.
- d. Football NSW may from time to time stipulate a particular make of football to be used in a particular League or grade.
- e. Match balls are to be provided to the Match Officials no later than thirty (30) minutes before kick-off.

f. The following sizes of footballs are applicable to the different age grades:

Grade	Size
U14 and older	5
U10 to U13 inclusive	4
U9	3

## 9. BALL BOYS / GIRLS

- At each 1st grade Match of the NPL Men's NSW and NPL Women's NSW it is recommended that boys / girls are appointed to the match.
- If ball boys/girls are appointed, they must be between the ages of 10 - 16 years.
- Colours worn by the ball boys or ball girls must be distinct from those worn by the Players of both Teams and Match Officials.

## 10. PREMIERSHIP RANKING

Football NSW will use the following process when determining the ranking of Teams within each grade of a Competition:

- The team with the greatest number of points obtained in all Premiership Matches will be ranked highest, except in the Boys Youth League Three Competitions, where the Premiership ranking will be determined using the Points Per Game (PPG) ratio:
  - PPG Ratio = Total Points ÷ Games Played
- If two (2) or more Teams are equal on the basis of the above criterion, their place will be determined as follows:
  - Greater goal difference resulting from all Premiership Matches. For Boys Youth League Three, it will be determined by Total Difference ÷ Games Played.
  - Greater goals scored in all Premiership Matches. For Boys Youth League Three, it will be determined by Total Goals Scored ÷ Games Played.
  - Greater number of points obtained in the Premiership Matches between the Teams concerned (head to head).
  - Greater number of goals scored in the Premiership Matches between the Teams concerned (head to head).
  - A Play-off Match between the Teams concerned under arrangements approved by the Executive.

## 11. CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP RANKING

a. Football NSW will use the following process when ranking the Clubs within each Competition:

- NPL Men's NSW, FNSW League One Men's and FNSW League Two Men's– Club championship with points calculated from all Premiership Matches in all grades using the following system;

Grade	Points Multiplier
1st Grade	Premiership points x 4
U20	Premiership points x 2

Please Note: Club championship ranking for Men's does not contribute to promotion and relegation.

ii. NPL Women's NSW and FNSW League One Women's – Club championship with points calculated from all Premiership Matches in all grades using the following system:

Grade	Points Multiplier
1st Grade	Premiership points x 4
U23 Grade	Premiership points x 1

iii. FNSW Boys' Youth League One, FNSW Boys' Youth League Two, FNSW Girls' Youth League One and FNSW Girls' Youth League Two. – Club championship with points calculated from all Premiership Matches in all grades using the following system:

Grade	Points Multiplier
U14	Premiership points x 1
U15	Premiership points x 1
U16	Premiership points x 1
U18	Premiership points x 1

iv. For Boys Youth League Three, the same weighting will apply however the PPS ratio will be applied.

v. Inclusion of 'Club Championships points will be used within the Club Standards & Benchmarking Framework.

b. There will be no Club championship for FNSW Boys' Youth League One (U13), FNSW Boys' Youth League Two (U13) and FNSW Boys' Youth League Three (U13) Competitions.

c. Football NSW will use the following process to determine the ranking of Clubs in the Club championship:

- Greater number of points obtained in all Premiership Matches, in all applicable grades, using the relevant points multipliers.
- If two (2) or more Clubs are equal on the basis of the above criterion, their place will be determined as follows:
  - Greater goal difference resulting from Premiership Matches in all applicable grades. For Boys Youth League Three, it will be determined by  $\text{Total Difference} \div \text{Games Played}$ .
  - Greater goals scored in Premiership Matches in all applicable grades. For Boys Youth League Three, it will be determined by  $\text{Total Goals Scored} \div \text{Games Played}$ .
  - Greater Number of points obtained in the Premiership Matches between the Teams concerned (head to head).
  - Greater number of goals scored in the Premiership Matches between the Teams concerned (head to head).
  - A playoff Fixture between the Teams concerned under arrangements approved by the Executive.

## 12. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION FROM 2026 TO 2027 – MEN'S COMPETITIONS

- a. Eligibility for promotion and relegation will be determined by use of Premiership standings of 1st Grade as defined in the Regulations, as well as any other criteria deemed appropriate by the Board.
- b. The following are the principles by which Clubs will become eligible for promotion or relegation to 2027 leagues at the conclusion of the 2026 football Season;
  - i. 1st Grade Clubs highest in ranking in the relevant Premiership Standings will be eligible for promotion.
  - ii. 1st Grade Club lowest in the ranking the relevant Premiership Standing will be eligible for relegation.
  - iii. The 1st Grade Club 2nd highest in the ranking in the League One Men's and League Two Men's Standings will participate in a home and away play-off series against the club ranked 2nd lowest in the league above.
- c. Promotion and relegation is subject to Clubs meeting criteria including but not limited to all articles of the Regulations, the Stadium Technical Requirements, official Football NSW application documents, and any other criteria as determined by the Board.
- d. Promotion and Relegation between NPL Men's NSW and FNSW League One Men's.
  - i. The highest ranked 1st Grade Club in FNSW League One Men's will be eligible for promotion to NPL Men's NSW.
  - ii. The lowest ranked 1st Grade Club in the NPL Men's NSW will be eligible for relegation to FNSW League One Men's.
  - iii. The second highest ranked 1st Grade Club in the FNSW League One Men's will participate in a home and away play-off series against the club ranked second lowest in NPL Men's NSW.
  - iv. The second lowest ranked 1st Grade Club in the NPL Men's NSW will participate in a home and away play-off series against the club ranked second highest in FNSW League One Men's.
- e. Promotion and relegation between FNSW League One Men's and FNSW League Two Men's.
  - i. The highest ranked 1st Grade Club in FNSW League Two Men's will be eligible for promotion to FNSW League One Men's Competition.
  - ii. The lowest ranked 1st Grade Club in the FNSW League One's Men's will be eligible for relegation to FNSW League Two Men's.
  - iii. The second highest ranked 1st Grade Club in the FNSW League Two Men's will participate in a home and away play-off series against the club ranked second lowest in FNSW League One Men's.
  - iv. The second lowest ranked 1st Grade Club in the FNSW League One Men's will participate in a home and away play-off series against the club ranked second highest in FNSW League Two Men's.

## 13. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION FROM 2026 TO 2027 THE PLAYOFF – MEN'S COMPETITIONS

- a. The 1st Grade club which is 2nd highest in the ranking in the League One Men's and League Two Men's Premiership Standings will participate in a home and away play-off series against the club ranked 2nd lowest in the league above.
- b. The first leg will be held at the home of the team seeking promotion and the second leg will be held at the home of the team facing relegation.
- c. The winner of the play off is decided by the aggregate score after the two legs. If the aggregate score is level at the end of the 90 minutes (Two halves of forty-five (45) minutes of the second leg, then an additional 30 minutes (Two halves of fifteen (15) minutes of extra time is played to confirm the winning

team. If the score at the end of extra time is still level, then the tie is decided by penalty kicks. For the avoidance of doubt, away goals do not count for double in the play-off series.

- d. The winning team of a play-off series will either maintain its status in the league (in the case of a winning NPL team) or be promoted into the higher league (in the case of a winning League One Men's or League Two Men's team).
- e. The losing team of a play-off series will be relegated from its current league, in the case of a losing NPL or League One Men's team.

## **14. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION FROM 2026 TO 2027 – BOYS' YOUTH COMPETITIONS**

- a. The Club Standards & Benchmarking framework will be implemented across the Boys' Youth Leagues in 2026 & 2027, with movement between Leagues occurring at the conclusion of the 2027 season. For avoidance of doubt, there will be no movement (promotion/relegation) between Boys' Youth Leagues at the conclusion of the 2026 season.
- b. The Club Standards & Benchmarking framework is comprised of five components;
  - League Compliance
  - Club Championship
  - Football Criteria
  - Technical Qualifications
  - Progression & Retention
- c. Movement between Leagues within the Boys' Youth environment will be based on the accumulation of assessment points given across the five components of the Club Standards & Benchmarking framework outlined above.
- d. Each component is weighted differently and Clubs will receive a final assessment score for the two-year Licence period at the conclusion of the 2027 season.
- e. For further, detailed information on the Boys' Youth League Club Standards & Benchmarking framework please find the document here – [click here](#)

## **15. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION FROM 2026 TO 2027 – WOMEN'S COMPETITIONS**

- a. Eligibility for promotion and relegation will be determined by use of Club championship rankings as defined in the Regulations, as well as any other criteria deemed appropriate by the Board.
- b. The following are the principles by which Clubs will become eligible for promotion to 2027 leagues at the conclusion of the 2026 football Season;
  - i. Club highest in ranking in the relevant Club championship will be eligible for promotion.
  - ii. Club lowest in the ranking in the relevant Club championship will be eligible for relegation.
- c. Promotion is subject to Clubs meeting criteria including but not limited to all articles of the Regulations, the Stadium Technical Requirements, official Football NSW application documents, and any other criteria as determined by the Board.
- d. Promotion and relegation between NPL Women's NSW and FNSW League One Women's;
  - i. The highest ranked Club in FNSW League One Women's will be eligible for promotion to NPL Women's NSW.
  - ii. The lowest ranked Club in the NPL Women's NSW will be eligible for relegation to FNSW League One Women's.

## 16. MOVEMENT BETWEEN LEAGUES FROM 2025 TO 2026 – GIRLS’ YOUTH LEAGUE COMPETITIONS

- a. The Club Standards & Benchmarking framework will be implemented across the Girls’ Youth Leagues in 2025 & 2026, with movement between Leagues occurring at the conclusion of the 2026 season. For avoidance of doubt, there was no movement (promotion/relegation) between Girls Youth Leagues at the conclusion of the 2025 season.
- b. The Club Standards & Benchmarking framework is comprised of five components;
  - League Compliance
  - Club Championship
  - Football Criteria
  - Technical Qualifications
  - Progression & Retention
- c. Movement between Leagues within the Girls Youth environment will be based on the accumulation of assessment points given across the five components of the Club Standards & Benchmarking framework outlined above.
- d. Each component is weighted differently and Clubs will receive a final assessment score for the two-year Licence period at the conclusion of the 2026 season.
- e. For further, detailed information on the Girls Youth League Club Standards & Benchmarking framework please find the document here – [click here](#).

## 17. COMPETITION POINTS

- a. Points will be allocated as follows for all Premiership Matches:
  - i. Win - 3 points
  - ii. Draw - 1 point each Team
  - iii. Bye - no points
  - iv. Loss - no points
  - v. Forfeit - 3 points to the Team receiving the forfeit

## 18. COMPETITION SYSTEM

- a. All Competitions (except for FNSW League One Men’s, FNSW League Two Men’s and Cup Competitions) will consist of two (2) stages;
  - i. Premiership consisting of home and away Matches or any league format as approved by the Executive; and
  - ii. Championship consisting of knockout Matches in a format approved by the Executive.
- b. FNSW League One Men’s, FNSW League Two Men’s Competitions will consist of one (1) stage;
  - i. Premiership consisting of home and away Matches or any league format as approved by the Executive.
- c. Cup Competitions will consist of either;
  - i. Straight knockout Matches involving all entered Teams or seeded Round entry as approved by the Executive; or
  - ii. Round robin Competition followed by a knockout finals series, in accordance with the Regulations, or as amended by the Executive.

d. The FNSW Mixed Junior Development League and FNSW Girl's Junior Development League programs will operate under a league format.

## 19. TECHNICAL RULES FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP

a. All Championship Matches will be played in accordance with the knockout system, single Match, in a Stadium to be chosen by Football NSW.

b. For purposes of allocating a Home Club, the Team appearing first in the format below will be considered the Home Club for each respective Match in the Championship.

c. Teams will play a single Match and the Team having scored most goals in the Match will win the Match.

d. If extra time or penalty kicks are required to determine the winner of a Championship Match they will be conducted as per the Regulations.

e. The following format will be used for the Championship Matches of the NPL Men's NSW Competitions:

Round	Match Number	Title	Teams
1	1	Elimination Semi Final 1	3rd v 6th
	2	Elimination Semi Final 2	4th v 5th
2	3	Preliminary Final 1	1st v lowest ranked winner from round 1
	4	Preliminary Final 2	2nd v highest ranked winner of round 1
3	5	Grand Final	Highest seed winner of the major Semi Final v Lowest seed winner of the Semi Final.

f. The following format will be used for the Championship Matches of the NPL Women's NSW, FNSW League One Women's, FNSW Girls' Youth League One, FNSW Girls' Youth League Two, FNSW Boys' Youth League One, FNSW Boys' Youth League Two and FNSW Boys Youth League Three Competitions:

Round	Match Number	Title	Teams
1	1	Major Semi Final	1st v 4th
	2	Major Semi Final	2nd v 3rd
2	3	Grand Final	Highest seed winner of the major Semi Final v Lowest seed winner of the Semi Final.

## 20. TECHNICAL RULES FOR CUP COMPETITIONS

a. Football NSW Cup Competitions will be conducted in accordance with the knockout system involving all entered Teams or seeded Round entry as approved by the Executive, in Stadiums chosen by Football NSW.

b. Any Pre-Season Cup Competition will be conducted as a round robin Competition followed by a final.

c. Football NSW may from time to time conduct other Cup Competitions in accordance with the Regulations or the regulations of a third party approved by the Board.

d. If extra time or penalty kicks are required to determine the winner of a Cup Match they will be conducted as per the Regulations.

e. Clubs competing in NPL Men's NSW, FNSW League One Men's, FNSW League Two Men's, NPL Women's NSW and FNSW League One Women's may be exempt from the early Rounds of a Cup Competition.

f. Football NSW will conduct the Competition draw by either:

- i. Drawing the competing Teams into pairs, then following each Round complete the draw in the same manner for all remaining Rounds; or
- ii. Drawing the Teams into pairs and then drawing the “winners” of the Matches and any seeded Teams for all remaining Rounds up to and including the final.

## 21. COLOURS/CLASH OF COLOURS

- a. All Clubs are required to submit their primary (first choice) and secondary (alternate) kit colours to Football NSW prior to the Competition commencing.
- b. Clubs are required to wear their first choice kit colours for all Matches unless there is a clash of colours and the Referee has determined one Club must change.
- c. Clubs are required to make both their primary and secondary jerseys available for use on match days.
- d. During any Fixture the Teams of the same Club must wear the same colour playing kit unless ordered expressly otherwise by the Referee to resolve a clash with the Match Officials’ kit.
- e. Unless already determined and communicated by Football NSW, the Referee will be the sole decision maker in respect of a clash of colours.
- f. In the case of a clash of colours of field Players the Away Club will be required to wear their reserve playing kit.
- g. In the case of a colour clash with the Match Officials, the Referee may order the Away Club to wear their reserve kit or a combination of the reserve playing kit and first choice playing kit in order to resolve the clash.
- h. In the case of a goalkeeper’s colours clashing with either the opponent’s field Players, goalkeeper or the Match Officials’ kit, the Referee will determine which goalkeeper will change, always keeping in mind the principle that the Away Club should change.
- i. In the case of a combination of first choice and reserve kit colours of both Teams clashing with the Match Officials, the Referee will determine the final colours to be worn by all Players and Match Officials.
- j. A failure to comply with this article, or as expanded upon in the Football NSW Equipment, Commercial and Media Regulations, may result in forfeit and a fine of \$500 per match.

## 22. SUBSTITUTION AND RETURN SUBSTITUTIONS (INTERCHANGE)

### Substitution

a. For 1st Grade and U20’s of the NPL Men’s NSW, FNSW League One Men’s, FNSW League Two Men’s and 1st Grade, U23 and U20’s of the NPL Women’s NSW and FNSW League One Women’s the following process will be implemented:

- i. Each Team will be permitted to use a maximum of five (5) substitutes:
  - 18 Players will be permitted on the digital team sheet, the 18th Player must be a substitute goalkeeper;
  - Except for Men’s 1st Grade, where a substitute goalkeeper is mandatory, any team that does not name a substitute goalkeeper will be limited to a maximum of 17 players on the digital team sheet
- ii. To reduce disruption to the Match, each Team will have a maximum of three (3) opportunities to make substitutions during the Match; substitutions may also be made at half time (and will not count as one (1) of the three (3)).
- iii. If the Teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as one (1) of the three (3) opportunities for both Teams.
- iv. Unused substitutions and opportunities are carried forward into extra time.

- v. One (1) additional substitute may be used and each team will have one (1) additional substitution opportunity during Extra Time of a match up until the conclusion of Extra Time (whether or not the team has already used the full number of substitutes or substitution opportunities in normal time), substitutions may also be made before the start of Extra Time and at half-time in Extra Time.
- b. Once a Player is substituted, they cannot return to the Field of Play to participate in the Match.
- c. Unless issued a yellow or red card, only Players that take the pitch are deemed to have participated in the Match.

### **Return Substitutions (Interchange)**

- a. For FNSW Boys' Youth League One, FNSW Boys' Youth League Two, FNSW Boys' Youth League Three, FNSW Girls' Youth League One and FNSW Girls' Youth League Two League Competitions, the following process will be implemented:
  - i. 18 players will be permitted on the team sheet;
  - ii. Unlimited return substitution (interchange) will occur until the final 10 minutes of the match at which time one (1) substitution of one (1) Player will be permitted for each team in normal time;
    - If a player is issued a Technical Dismissal (TD) and a team has utilised its one (1) substitution of one (1) Player, the player issued the TD must return to the field of play once serving the TD, the player cannot be substituted for another player. Failure to adhere to this process will result in an ineligible player taking the field of play.
  - iii. In extra time, Unlimited return substitution (interchange) will occur in the first half, for the second half of extra time one (1) substitution of one (1) Player will be permitted for each team.
- b. Following is the procedure and rules for the return substitutions (interchange) of Players:
  - i. The "Return Substitution (Interchange zone)" zone will be an area one (1) metre either side of the half-way line, as defined in the FNSW Stadium Technical Requirements;
  - ii. A return substitution (interchange) is one which is made when the ball is out of play, and for which the following conditions will be observed:
    - The Player leaving the field must leave the field at the nearest point on the boundary line, unless otherwise directed by the referee
    - The Player entering the field will also do so from the return substitution (interchange) zone, but not until the Player leaving the field has passed completely over the nearest point on the boundary line
    - A player nominated for return substitution (interchange) will be subject to the authority and jurisdiction of the Referee whether called upon to play or not
    - The return substitution (interchange) is completed when the Player who was off the field, enters the field
  - iii. The number of return substitutions (interchanges) made during a Match is unlimited (except as referenced in a) i) A Player who has been replaced may return to the field for another Player.
  - iv. If during a return substitution (interchange), a return substitution (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 return substitution (interchange) Player and then restart the Match.
  - v. The return substitution (interchange) of Players will cease at the completion of normal and extra time. If at this time penalty kicks are required to obtain a result, then the eleven (11) Players on the field at the end of extra time are the only Players permitted to participate in the penalty kicks. No interchanging at this time is permissible.

- vi. Note: If during the taking of the penalty kicks the Goalkeeper is injured he / she may be replaced with another Goalkeeper providing the replacement was listed on the team sheet.
- c. Substitutes and return substitution (interchange) players cannot be used to replace any Player who has been dismissed from the Match by the referee.
- d. Any Player listed on the team sheet is deemed to have participated in the match.

## 23. CLUBS REMOVED OR WITHDRAWN FROM COMPETITIONS

- a. In the event of any Team withdrawing or being removed from a Competition (Ex-Team), the following procedure will take effect to allow the altered Competition to proceed to a conclusion;
  - i. Removal or withdrawal before Competition has started: all Teams remaining in the Competition will be credited with a bye result
  - ii. Removal or withdrawal before the first half of the Premiership Matches have been completed: all goals scored and points earned by opponents in Matches against the Ex-Team will be deleted from their records and all Teams remaining in the Competition will be credited with a bye result
  - iii. Removal or withdrawal after all of the first half of the Premiership Matches have been completed: all goals scored and points earned by opponents in Matches against the Ex-Team in the first half of the round robin Matches will be retained by those Teams but all goals scored and points earned by opponents in Matches against the Ex-Team in the second half of the round robin Matches (if any) will be deleted from their records and all Teams remaining in the Competition will be credited with a bye result

## 24. WITHDRAWAL AND FORFEIT FROM CUP FIXTURES

- a. Clubs failing to give satisfactory reasons for failing to participate in a scheduled Cup Fixture or withdrawing at short notice from a Cup Match may not be permitted to enter the Competition the following Season, will pay the expenses incurred by the other Club, Match Official fees and may be further sanctioned by Football NSW

## 25. CLUB OFFICIALS AND MATCH COORDINATORS

- a. All Clubs must supply three (3) jacketed Officials for all Matches, who must be 18 years of age or older and must have their names recorded on the digital team sheet.
- b. All jacketed Officials are to wear clothing that easily identifies them as Club Officials. (i.e. brightly coloured bibs).
- c. Clubs must ensure that individuals acting as jacketed Officials have read and understood the document [Jacketed Officials - Roles and Responsibilities](#) prior to taking up this role.
- d. Jacketed officials must have read and understood the document [Jacketed Officials - Roles and Responsibilities](#) prior to taking up this role.
- e. Failure by a Club to supply and identify the three (3) jacketed officials for each Match will result in a fine of \$100 per offence.
- f. Clubs and jacketed Officials who fail to comply with this Section 2 article 25 and/or the document [Jacketed Officials Roles and Responsibilities](#) may be dealt with in accordance with the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

## 26. LIQUIDS DURING PLAY

- a. Liquids may only be drunk during stoppages in play.
- b. Drinks must be contained in plastic bottles and handed to the Players on the touch lines.
- c. It is forbidden to throw bottles or other receptacles on to the Field of Play.
- d. The goalkeeper may keep a plastic bottle in the corner of his/her goal.

e. Plastic bottles may be placed around the pitch at least one (1) metre away from the touch lines and goal lines, but only as long as they do not obstruct the Match Officials in the course of their duty.

## 27. MATCH SCHEDULE AND KICK-OFF TIMES

- a. Football NSW will communicate the official Match schedule for all Competitions.
- b. Football NSW will determine the Stadiums of all Premiership, Championship and Cup Matches.
- c. Final match dates and kick-off times for all Matches will be determined by the Executive.
- d. All Matches must be conducted on the scheduled day and commence at the stipulated kick-off time.
- e. Failure to do so may result in a fine of \$200.
- f. Football NSW, in setting down kick-off times, may start Matches at 8:00 am for any daytime Fixture which may include Saturday, Sunday or any Public Holiday.
- g. Football NSW may also schedule midweek evening Matches to accommodate Premiership washed out or deferred Fixtures as well as Cup Competitions.
- h. Should serious delays be experienced in Matches scheduled prior to a 1st grade Match, any number of Matches will be reduced in time, whilst retaining the principle of equal halves, to ensure that the 1st Grade Match commences on time.
- i. Clubs will not arrange other Matches or Fixtures until after the official Matches and Fixtures are settled.
- j. Clubs will not arrange other Matches or Fixtures that improperly interfere with other Clubs' home Competition Matches or Fixtures.
- k. Clubs will not agree to defer or reschedule matches due to a shortage of player availability, all fixture deferral requests must be submitted through the communicated process and assessed by FNSW.
- l. Clubs will not agree to defer or reschedule matches due to a shortage of player availability, all fixture deferral requests must be submitted through the communicated process and assessed by FNSW.
- m. U20s and U23s must be played immediately prior to 1st Grade or immediately after the scheduled 1st Grade match unless approval has been provided by FNSW through the fixture alteration process.
- n. Any disputes between two (2) or more Clubs as to the arrangement of Fixtures will be referred to and decided by the Executive.
- o. Notwithstanding any other Regulation on the same subject matter, the Executive reserves the right to alter or amend any Fixture after it has been nominated in the official Match schedule. The alterations could be to the date, Stadium, kick-off times or a combination of all providing the Clubs involved are given seven (7) days prior notice.
- p. Changes to the official Match schedule for all Leagues will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. Any application for a change of Stadium, Fixture and/or Match must be submitted to Football NSW, along with reasoning documentary proof of the "exceptional circumstance" validating the requirements for a Stadium change, Fixture and or Match change along with details of the rescheduled Stadium, Fixture and or Match, no later than seven (7) days prior to the scheduled Match.
- q. Any application for a change to the official Match schedule within seven (7) days will only be considered by the Executive if in its absolute discretion it is satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist, including if a Stadium has become unavailable at no fault of the Club. Details of the rescheduled Stadium, Fixture and or Match, must be submitted at the time of the request for a change to the official Match schedule.

## 28. INCLEMENT WEATHER AFFECTED FIXTURES

In all instances, where rain or other weather conditions preceding a Fixture raise fair doubt as to the possibility of play taking place, the following rules are to apply, so that Players, Match Officials and the public can be given correct notice of intentions:

- a. Day/s prior to the scheduled match day:

- i. The Home Club coordinator or his/her nominee is to contact the relevant Stadium operator or his/her nominee the day prior to the scheduled match day to ascertain whether the ground will be fit for play. If the field has been closed, the Home Club coordinator is to immediately contact Football NSW and the Away Club coordinator to inform them.
- b. Day of the scheduled Match:
  - i. The Home Club coordinator or his/her nominee is to inspect the particular ground at 6:00am or the earliest possible time and decide whether play can take place. In the event that the Match is washed out article 28 (b) v. and vi. will apply.
  - ii. In the event no decision is made as per article 28 (b) i. The Home Club coordinator or his/her nominee, the Stadium operator or his/her nominee and the appointed Referee or his/her nominee, are to meet at the particular ground at 7:30am.
  - iii. The Referee or his/her nominee is to inspect the ground and decide whether play can take place:
    - At all; or
    - Providing no further rain falls.
  - iv. If, in accordance with article 28 b) (ii), the Referee decides that play can take place, he/she is also to decide whether all grades should be played.
  - v. The Home Club coordinator or his/her nominee is to communicate the Referee's decision by SMS to Football NSW immediately after the decision is made. The SMS must include the following details:
    - Competition Name
    - Date
    - Round Number
    - Time (s)
    - Stadium
    - Age Grades
    - Home Club and Away Club
  - vi. The Home Club coordinator or his/her nominee is to advise the Away Club coordinator immediately after the decision is made.
  - vii. Football NSW will communicate any field closures to the relevant Referee appointment officer, who will in turn inform the Match Officials.
  - viii. All Away Clubs and Match Officials should check with the Home Club before departing for the Stadium.
  - ix. In the case of Fixtures outside the Sydney Metropolitan area, the Home Club coordinator will be responsible for conveying the relevant information to Football NSW by 7:00am on match days. Referees officiating at Fixtures outside the Sydney Metropolitan area should check with the Football NSW Appointments Manager before departure from Sydney.
  - x. Failure to adhere to any part of this article may result in a fine of \$100.

## 29. RESCHEDULING OF MATCHES OR FIXTURES DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER AND UNAVAILABILITY

- a. Rescheduling of Matches or Fixtures affected by adverse weather or unavailability will be arranged by the relevant Clubs in the first instance.

- b. Matches or Fixtures are to be rescheduled, subject to ground availability and weather conditions, to be played within fourteen (14) days of the original scheduled date.
- c. Home Club will be given 48 hours after the postponement to determine the Stadium and date
- d. Failure to comply with section 2 article 29 b) and c) may result in the Away Club being given the opportunity to host the rescheduled Match(s) in accordance with section 2 article 29 b).
- e. Failure to comply with section 2 article 29 b), c) and d) will result in Football NSW rescheduling the Match or Fixture at a time and place of its choosing.
- f. A change of grounds is to be permitted for good reason (adverse weather only) up to the Thursday evening prior to normal weekend playing days, or at least two (2) days before any other playing day. In circumstances where such change occurs, or where cancellation becomes effective, it is the responsibility of the Home Club to notify the Away Club contact, as well as Football NSW as soon as practical.
- g. If a match is repeatedly washed out, Football NSW reserves the right to require the rescheduled match to be played on a synthetic surface at a designated venue or the opposition's venue.

## 30. DISRUPTION OF FIXTURE DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER

- a. When the Referee finds it necessary to stop play, owing to adverse weather, he/she will wait a reasonable length of time before deciding whether to abandon or postpone the Match.

## 31. POSTPONED FIXTURES AND MATCHES

- a. Fixtures and Matches may only be Postponed by the Referee or by Football NSW in its absolute discretion.
- b. A Fixture or Match may be Postponed for any of, but not limited to, the following reasons:
  - i. A government department or authority closes the Stadium where the Fixture or Match was scheduled to be played; or
  - ii. It is not possible and/or not safe to play the Fixture or Match due to adverse weather, lighting failure, or any other cause over which neither Club has any control.
- c. In the event of lighting failure:
  - i. The Home Club must immediately send a text message via the Football NSW after hours contact line, requesting a phone call for guidance, including whether the Match should be postponed;
  - ii. The Home Club must use its best endeavors and take all reasonable steps to enable the lights to be turned on, including but not limited to, contacting the hirer of the Stadium (if the Club itself is not the hirer or lessee) to seek support and assistance, and allowing access for a qualified Person to investigate the light switch box; and
  - iii. If, notwithstanding the actions of the Home Club, there is insufficient lighting for the Fixture or Match to be played, the Match will be Postponed.

The Match will be rescheduled by Football NSW at a time, date and place of its choosing.

- d. After a Fixture or Match has been Postponed, the Clubs involved must (unless otherwise approved or directed in writing by Football NSW) reschedule the Fixture or Match:
  - i. Within 48 hours; and
  - ii. On a date within 14 days of the original date of the Match.
- e. If the Clubs fail to reschedule the Fixture or Match in accordance with paragraph (d) above, Football NSW will determine the date, time and Stadium for the rescheduled Fixture or Match and any such decision will be final.
- f. If a Club fails to participate in a Match that was rescheduled after having been Postponed, it will forfeit the Match.

## 32. ABANDONED MATCHES

- a. Matches may only be Abandoned by a decision of the Referee or Football NSW.
- b. A Match may be Abandoned for any of, but not limited to, the following reasons:
  - i. One or both of the Clubs is not ready to commence the Match within 10 minutes of the scheduled kick-off time;
  - ii. A Club has its playing numbers reduced for any reason below the minimum FIFA requirement of seven Players;
  - iii. A disturbance involving Players, Club Officials and/or Spectators takes place;
  - iv. The lighting at the Stadium where the Match is being played fails, such that, in the opinion of the Referee, it is impossible or unsafe to continue to play;
  - v. The Referee or Football NSW determines that playing conditions have become unsafe or untenable due to adverse weather such as, but not limited to, excessive heat, humidity, lightning or rain; or
  - vi. The Referee, in consultation with other Match Officials, security staff and other personnel responsible for the safety of those attending the Match, determines that the conditions compromise participant safety. This includes the physical and mental safety of Players, Team Officials, Match Officials and/or Spectators.
- c. If a Referee considers it necessary to stop play due to adverse weather, the Referee will wait a reasonable length of time before deciding whether the Match should be Abandoned.
- d. If a Match is Abandoned by the Referee:
  - i. Both the Referee and the Home Club must notify Football NSW by close of business on the next working day that the Match has been Abandoned; and
  - ii. The Home Club and the Away Club must submit a full report in writing to Football NSW within 48 hours of the abandonment.
- e. When a match has been Abandoned by the Referee, the Executive, in its absolute discretion, may investigate, or may refer to a Tribunal for investigation, the circumstances of the abandonment.
- f. If the Executive or a Tribunal (as the case may be) finds that:
  - i. A Club, a Club Official, its Players or Spectators has or have caused, in whole or in part, the abandonment of a Match, that Club may forfeit the Match and/or may be subject to sanctions under the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.
  - ii. Both Clubs have caused the abandonment, the Match will not be rescheduled and will be recorded as No Result, and the Clubs may be subject to sanctions under the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.
- g. If a Referee or Football NSW has Abandoned a Match due to adverse weather conditions or to a cause other than the conduct of either Club (including its Players, Officials and Spectators), when:
  - i. 70% or more of the regular Match duration has been played, and the scores are not level, the score at the time of the abandonment will be declared the final result
  - ii. Either the scores are level or less than 70% of the regular Match duration has been played (or both), the Match must be rescheduled by Football NSW as soon as possible.
- h. Football NSW will determine, in its absolute discretion:
  - i. Whether a Match that is rescheduled pursuant to paragraph g) ii. will be replayed in full or will recommence at the time that had elapsed when the Match was Abandoned; and
  - ii. The date, time and Stadium for the rescheduled Match.

- i. If Football NSW determines that an Abandoned Match is to be recommenced, the following principles will apply:
  - i. The Referee is the sole arbiter of elapsed time and no protest may be lodged in respect of the elapsed time as recorded by the Referee.
  - ii. The score at the time when the Match was Abandoned will remain the score at the time when the Match recommences.
  - iii. Both Clubs must ensure that the same Players are on the Field of Play and the same substitutes are available as when the Match was Abandoned unless a Player or Players has/have received a disciplinary suspension in the interim.
  - iv. If a Player has received a suspension in a Match that took place between the abandonment and the rescheduling of the Abandoned Match:
    - The Player will not be eligible to participate in the rescheduled Match;
    - The Player will not be able to count the rescheduled Match as a fixture served for the disciplinary suspension;
    - The Player's Club will not be permitted to replace the Player on the digital team sheet;
    - If the Player was on the Field of Play at the time of the abandonment, the Player may be replaced by a substitute listed on the digital team sheet, as long as their Club has available substitutions as per the Regulations; and
    - If the Player was a substitute at the time of the abandonment, the number of available substitutes will decrease, as the Player cannot be replaced.
  - v. No additional substitutes may be added to the list of Players on the digital team sheet.
  - vi. The Clubs can make no more than the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the Match was Abandoned.
  - vii. Players sent off before the Match was Abandoned cannot be replaced.
  - viii. Football NSW will endeavour to appoint the same Match Officials to the rescheduled Match, however it may appoint replacements should any or all of the Match Officials be unavailable.
  - ix. If a Club fails to participate in a rescheduled Match, it will forfeit the Match.
- j. If the Referee reports that a Match has been Abandoned when, in the reasonable opinion of Football NSW, circumstances show that the Match was in fact Postponed, Football NSW will treat the Match as Postponed.

### 33. FORFEITS

- a. Teams will be deemed to have forfeited a Match when:

- i. They fail to fulfil an engagement to play a Match on the appointed date, time or Stadium; or
- ii. They refuse or fail to begin a Match within ten (10) minutes of the stipulated kick-off time; or
- iii. They field less than seven (7) of their registered Players at the start of any Match; or
- iv. At any point during the Match they cannot field at least seven (7) of their registered Players; or
- v. An ineligible Player as defined in the Regulations participates in the Match; or
- vi. Any other scenario within the Regulations or the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations that stipulates a forfeit of the Match occurs.

- b. In the event of any Team forfeiting its Match, the following procedure will take effect:

- i. Full points allocated for the Match will be forfeited to the opponent Team and the goals recorded according to 3 goals scored by the Team receiving the points and 0 by the Team

that has infringed the regulation, unless the goal difference for the Team receiving the forfeit is greater than 3, in which case they will receive the number of goals for scored in the Match, with the forfeiting Team receiving nil.

- ii. Offending Clubs will pay all appropriate Match Officials fees, whether or not the Match Officials were in attendance, and pay compensation to the opposing Club. Compensation will be determined by the Executive.
- iii. Any Team that forfeits two Matches during a Season will be required to show cause as to why it should not be expelled from the Competition, and the Team will, in addition to any fine imposed and loss of Match points should the result have been a win in their favour or a draw, forfeit four (4) additional Competition points.
- iv. If a Club does not have sufficient Players to field a 1st grade Team, the Club will forfeit all age grades included in the Club championship for that Fixture. Men's Club championship is defined as U20 & 1st Grade, Women's Club championship is defined as U23 & 1st Grade. The points will be awarded as a 3-0 win to the Team receiving the forfeit unless the goal difference for the Team receiving the forfeit is greater than 3, in which case they will receive the number of goals for scored in the Match, with the forfeiting Team receiving nil.
- v. If a Club does not have sufficient Players to field a U20/U23 Team, the Club will forfeit all grades included in the Club Championship for that Fixture. Men's Club championship is defined as U20s and 1st Grade, Women's Club Championship is defined as U23s and 1st Grade. The points will be awarded as a 3-0 win to the Team receiving the forfeit unless the goal difference for the Team receiving the forfeit is greater than 3, in which case they will receive the number of goals for scored in the Match, with the forfeiting Team receiving nil.

c. Fines for forfeited Matches in Football NSW Competitions are:

- i. 1st forfeited Match in a Season: \$500
- ii. Subsequent forfeited Match/s in the same Season: \$1,000

d. Should a Team forfeit its last scheduled Premiership Match without prior written advice from Football NSW permitting the Match to be rescheduled, the Club that causes the Match to be forfeited will not be eligible to participate in the Championship.

## 34. MATCH DEFERMENTS

- a. A Club may seek Football NSW's permission to have Matches deferred in the following cases;
  - i. When an epidemic/pandemic affects the availability of Players (see schedule 4).
  - ii. Excluding 1st Grade, when four (4) or more players from a team are involved in Football NSW or National Team representative duties (including training camps and official training sessions) at the time of a fixture. Where 1st Grade is impacted, only the U20 or U23 match may be deferred; the 1st Grade match must proceed as scheduled.
  - iii. In circumstances which the Executive at its discretion consider to be of sufficient weight to merit a deferral.
- b. Clubs seeking to defer Matches in regards to items ii. and iii. above must submit their request in writing to Football NSW giving a minimum 14 days' notice of the date on which deferment will be sought.

## 35. MATCHES CONDUCTED UNDER ARTIFICIAL LIGHT

- a. A Fixture may be played wholly or in part under floodlights, provided that any alteration to starting times will have been given due approval and that the standard of lighting meets the requirements contained in the Stadium Technical Requirements.

## 36. TRIAL MATCHES

- a. Clubs will not arrange Trial Matches without first submitting the prescribed form to Football NSW at least five (5) working days prior to the requested Trial Match date.
- b. The Match then can only be conducted upon receipt of written approval from Football NSW.

- c. Payment for Match Officials at Trial Matches will be as communicated by the Competition Department. All fees are to be paid by the participating Clubs to the Match Officials on the day of the Match except where Football NSW directs, failure to do so will result in a fine of \$25 per Match.
- d. Appearance of suspended Players in Trial Matches is in accordance with the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

## 37. OVERSEAS TOURS AND TRAVEL

- a. Clubs wishing to arrange overseas tours and travel must obtain the written approval of Football NSW not less than eight (8) weeks prior to departure.
- b. The overseas tours and travel should not interfere with Fixtures of other Clubs in Football NSW Competitions. Any overseas tour that may interfere with Competition Fixtures must be played prior to overseas travel and arranged fourteen (14) days in advance by the departing Team/Club. Failure to do so will result in the overseas tour and travel not being sanctioned by Football NSW and forfeits will apply to Matches that interfere with Competition Fixtures.
- c. Football NSW will not provide any approval for overseas tours that involves travel between July 15 and the completion of the respective Competition that the Team/Club participates in. Any Team/Club that travels during that period, will automatically forfeit its Matches in accordance with section 2 article 33.

## 38. FRIENDLY MATCHES AND VISITING TEAMS

- a. Clubs wishing to arrange a friendly Match must obtain the written approval of Football NSW not less than fourteen (14) days before the Match and also must ensure that such a Match does not interfere with Fixtures of other Clubs in Football NSW Competitions.
- b. Club Matches versus visiting overseas or interstate Teams as distinct from organised tours by Football NSW and/or FA will only be authorised upon such terms and conditions as determined by the Executive from time to time.

## 39. PROTESTS

- a. The judgement decisions of a Referee or another Match Official during the playing of a Match, including whether a goal is scored, whether a Player is offside, disciplinary decisions and the result of the Match, are final and cannot be disputed by any party, and a Club cannot protest about a Match because it has formed the view that a Match Official was incompetent.
- b. The Executive will consider a protest after a Match has been played only if there has been an obvious error made in the application of the Laws of the Game – for example, without being exhaustive, contrary to Law 12, a Referee issuing two cautions (Yellow Cards) to a Player in the same Match but not sending that Player off (Red Card) or, contrary to Law 14, a Referee not awarding a free kick when the kicker of a penalty kick touches the ball again before it has touched another Player or, again contrary to Law 14, a Referee awarding an indirect free kick when the ball enters the goal after a team-mate of a player taking a penalty kick has encroached, rather than directing that the penalty kick be retaken – that directly affects the outcome of the Match.
- c. In order to be considered, a protest must be:
  - i. In writing to Competitions@footballnsw.com.au;
  - ii. Lodged with Football NSW by no later than 5.00pm on the second business day after the end of the Match to which the protest relates; and
  - iii. Accompanied by an administration fee of \$500 – a refund of the fee may apply at the discretion of the Executive if the protest is upheld.
- d. Any decision made in relation to a protest will be at the absolute discretion of the Executive and will not be subject to an appeal.
- e. If a protest made in accordance with this article 38 is upheld, the Executive may determine that the Match to which the protest related be replayed either in its entirety or from the time of the error.
- f. Football NSW also reserves the right to investigate any matter at its own discretion even though a formal protest has not been lodged.

## SECTION 3: ELIGIBILITY

### 1. AGE ELIGIBILITY

a. The following table details the birth dates applicable to the age grades of the Competitions. Players must be within these ranges in order to be eligible for registration:

Age Grade	Birth Date
U23	For Players born on or after 1 January 2003
U20	For Players born on or after 1 January 2006
U18	For Players born on or after 1 January 2008
U17	For Players born on or after 1 January 2009
U16	For Players born on or after 1 January 2010
U15	For Players born on or after 1 January 2011
U14	For Players born on or after 1 January 2012
U13	For Players born on or after 1 January 2013
U12	For Players born on or after 1 January 2014
U11	For Players born on or after 1 January 2015
U10	For Players born on or after 1 January 2016
U9	For Players born on or after 1 January 2017

b. A Participant who registers themselves or another Person(s) in the incorrect age grade is deemed to have committed Misconduct and may be dealt with pursuant to the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

c. For the avoidance of doubt, a Club may be held vicariously liable for an offence committed under paragraph (b) above by one of its Officials or Players and may be dealt with pursuant to the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

### 2. A-LEAGUE MEN'S (ALM) ACADEMY CLUBS

a. To be eligible to participate in a 2026 1st grade Team for an AL Academy Club, the Player must:

- Have been born between 1 January 2003 and 31 December 2010 (inclusive).
- Be an Australian Player as defined by the A-League & National Youth League Player Contract Regulations 2025/2026.
- Be approved by the Australian Professional Leagues (APL) and FA as an eligible Player as per the A-League & National Youth League Player Contract Regulations.
- The player must be registered on Play Football prior to the close of the registration window on 30 January 2026.

b. A player born in 2003, 2004 or 2005 must be either be scholarship player registered as a Professional or registered to a Youth Development Agreement (YDA) if eligible and registered as an Amateur. If a player does not meet either requirement, the player will not be eligible to play.

c. Except in the case of goalkeepers, ALM Academy Clubs are not permitted to play any over age Player in the U20 Competition.

### 3. A-LEAGUE WOMEN'S (ALW) ACADEMY CLUBS

- a. To be eligible to participate in a 2026 1st grade Team for an ALW Academy Club, the Player must:
  - i. Have been born between 1 January 2003 and 31 December 2010 (inclusive).
  - ii. Be an Australian Player as defined by the A-League Women Player Contract Regulations 2025/2026.
  - iii. Be approved by the Australian Professional Leagues (APL) and FA as an eligible Player as per the A-League & National Youth League Player Contract Regulations.
  - iv. The player must be registered on Play Football prior to the close of the registration window on 18 December 2025.
- b. ALW Clubs are permitted a maximum of four (4) players born between 1 January 2003 and 31 December 2005 to play in the U23's Competitions. All other players must be born on 1 January or after to be eligible to play in the U23's Competition.

### 4. ELIGIBILITY AND INELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS GENERAL

- a. Eligible Players:
  - i. An eligible Player is a Player who meets all registration requirements within the Regulations and is not ineligible according to any article of the Regulations.
- b. Ineligible Players: Ineligible Players include:
  - i. Unregistered Players
  - ii. Suspended Players
  - iii. A Player who is required to stand down for receiving the specified number of cautions or Red Cards
  - iv. A Player who has been expelled from a Match on the day/s prior to a Match but whose expulsion has not yet been reviewed by Football NSW and/or the Disciplinary Committee
  - v. A Player that has been expelled from a Match earlier on the same day
  - vi. A Player that has appeared on more than two (2) team sheets on a match day (excluding a Goal Keeper)
  - vii. A Player who is ineligible pursuant to the FNSW Gender Diversity Policy
  - viii. A Player who is deemed ineligible due to any article of the Regulations or pursuant to the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations
- c. Where a Player who is subject to a suspension incurred in grassroots football joins a Competition, the Player must serve the balance of that suspension in that Competition and in accordance with section 15 of the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations. Further, that suspension is a Suspension for the purposes of the Regulations, and that Player is a Suspended Player for the purposes of the Regulations until that suspension is served in full.
- d. Subject to Section 3 article 4 f), a Team will automatically lose a Match on forfeit and be fined \$250 if an ineligible Player participates for that Team in a Match or if, at the time of a Match, the Team is in breach of the cap on Visa Players set out in the Player Points System.
- e. Additionally, the Club, Team Officials and / or Player may be further sanctioned in accordance with the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations for a breach of this Section 3 article 4.
- f. In the case of a suspension incurred in grassroots football that has carried over into a Competition pursuant to Section 3 article 4 c), Football NSW may not enforce Section 3 article 4 d) if it determines, in its absolute discretion, that the suspension was not satisfactorily communicated to the Player's current Club and any such determination is final and not subject to any challenge or appeal.
- g. For clarity, it is a Club's absolute responsibility to ensure that it fields eligible Players in any Match.

h. Football NSW may decide, in its absolute discretion, whether a Suspension or part thereof may be served in an abandoned, cancelled or forfeited Match and any such decision is final and not subject to any challenge or appeal.

## 5. ELIGIBILITY AND INELIGIBILITY OF COACHES AND OFFICIALS GENERAL

### a. Eligible Coaches and Officials:

- i. An eligible Coach is a Coach who meets all registration requirements within the Regulations and is not ineligible according to any article of the Regulations.
- ii. An eligible Official is an Official who meets all registration requirements within the Regulations and is not ineligible according to any article of the Regulations.

### b. Ineligible Coaches and Officials: Ineligible Coaches and Officials include:

- i. Unregistered Coaches/Officials;
- ii. Suspended Coaches/Officials;
- iii. A Coach/Official who is required to stand down for receiving the specified number of cautions or Red Cards;
- iv. A Coach/Official that is within the technical area and/or field of play before, during and after a Match and has not been listed on the electronic match sheet;
- v. A Coach/Official who does not meet the minimum child protection training requirements. Please click the following link for a document that outlines the Minimum Coaching Qualifications required:
  - [Child Protection Training Requirements – Click here](#)
- vi. A Coach who does not meet the minimum coaching requirements for a role undertaken on match day. Please click the following link for a document that outlines the Minimum Coaching Qualifications required:
  - [Minimum Coaching Qualifications – Click here](#)
- vii. A Coach/Official who has been expelled from a Match on the day/s prior to a Match but whose expulsion has not yet been reviewed by Football NSW and/or the Disciplinary Committee;
- viii. A Coach/Official that has been expelled from a Match earlier on the same day;
- ix. A Coach/Official who is deemed ineligible due to any article of the Regulations or pursuant to the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.
- x. A Manager/Official acting in a Coaching capacity who does not hold the minimum coaching requirements required for the match.

c. Where a Coach/Official who is subject to a suspension incurred in grassroots football joins a Competition, the Club Coach/Official must serve the balance of that suspension in that Competition and in accordance with section 15 of the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations. Further, that suspension is a Suspension for the purposes of the Regulations, and that Coach/Official is a Suspended Coach/Official for the purposes of the Regulations until that suspension is served in full.

d. Subject to Section 3 article 5 f), a Team will automatically lose a Match on forfeit and be fined \$250 if an ineligible Coach participates for that Team in a Match.

e. Additionally, the Club, Team Officials and /or Coach may be further sanctioned in accordance with the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations for a breach of this Section 3 article 5.

f. In the case of a suspension incurred in grassroots football that has carried over into a Competition pursuant to Section 3 article 5 c), Football NSW may not enforce Section 3 article 5 d) if it determines, in its absolute discretion, that the suspension was not satisfactorily communicated to the Coach/Officials current Club and any such determination is final and not subject to any challenge or appeal.

- g. For clarity, it is a Club's absolute responsibility to ensure that it fields eligible Coaches/Officials in any Match.
- h. Football NSW may decide, in its absolute discretion, whether a Suspension or part thereof may be served in an abandoned, cancelled or forfeited Match and any such decision is final and not subject to any challenge or appeal.

## 6. AGE ELIGIBILITY IN PREMIERSHIP MATCHES – MEN'S & YOUTH COMPETITIONS

- a. Except in the case of AL Academy Clubs (to which Section 3 article 2 above applies), for the Men's 1st Grade, U20, U18, U16, U15, U14, U13 grades:
  - i. Provided they are age eligible as prescribed under Section 3.1a), Players are permitted to play in any of the 1st Grade, U20, U18, U16, U15, U14 and U13 age grades during the Premiership if registered prior to the first registration window.
  - ii. An age eligible Player is not permitted to play in the U18, U16, U15, U14, or U13 age grades if the Player was registered with the Club's U20 or 1st Grade Team during the mid-season registration window, or was registered in the A-League Men's Competition during the 2025/26 season. Where this occurs, the player will be deemed to be an Ineligible Player in accordance with Section 3.4.b) viii.
  - iii. An age eligible Player is not permitted to play up into the U13, U14, U15, U16 or U18 age grade if that Player was not registered with the Club at the close of the FNSW Boys' Youth League One, FNSW Boys' Youth League Two and FNSW Boys' Youth League Three registration window.
  - iv. Additionally, Clubs are permitted to play up to four (4) over age 1st Grade Players in U20 in any given Match.
  - v. Except in the case of goalkeepers, a Club is not permitted to list a Player on more than two (2) digital team sheets on any match day, For the avoidance of doubt, this provision also applies to AL Academy Clubs. Where this occurs, the player will be deemed to be an Ineligible Player in accordance with Section 3.4.b) vi.
- b. For the Youth U18, U16, U15, U14 and U13 age grades:
  - i. Clubs will not be permitted to leave any Player off the digital team sheet unless that Player is injured, absent through illness, or there is any other reason that is deemed appropriate by the Football NSW Executive. Clubs deemed to have breached this article will be fined \$500.
  - ii. Players are permitted to play up in any higher age grades of their Club, including across different divisions.
  - iii. Clubs that have squads in the MJDL are able to field MJDL Players in their U13 Team.
  - iv. Except in the case of goalkeepers, a Club is not permitted to list a Player on more than two (2) digital team sheets on any match day.
  - v. No Player registered in the 11 v 11 Competition format is permitted to play in MJDL.

## 7. AGE ELIGIBILITY IN PREMIERSHIP MATCHES – WOMEN'S COMPETITIONS

- a. For the Women's 1st Grade, U23, U20, U18, U16, U15, U14:
  - i. Provided they are age eligible under section 3.1a), Players are permitted to play in any of the 1st grade, U23, U18, U16, U15, U14 age grades during the Premiership if registered prior to the first registration window.
  - ii. An age eligible Player is not permitted to play down into the U18, U16, U15 or U14 age grade if that Player was registered with the Club's U23 or 1st grade Team during the mid-Season registration window, or was registered in the A-League Women's Competition during the 2025/26 season Where this occurs, the player will be deemed to be an Ineligible Player in accordance with Section 3.4b) vii.

- iii. In the NPL Women's NSW and FNSW League One Women's Competition, Clubs are permitted to play up to four (4) over age 1st Grade Players in U23 in any given Match.
- iv. Except in the case of goalkeepers, a Club is not permitted to list a Player on more than two (2) digital team sheets on any match day.

b. For the Girls' Youth, U18, U16, U15, and U14 age grades:

- i. Clubs will not be permitted to leave any Player off the digital team sheet unless that Player is injured, absent through illness, or there is any other reason that is deemed appropriate by the Football NSW Executive. Clubs deemed to have breached this article will be fined \$500.
- ii. Clubs that have full time Girl's JDL or Girl's Players who play in the Club's MJD are able to field those Players in their U14 Team.
- iii. Clubs that have part time Girl's JDL will not be permitted to field those Players in their U14 Team.
- iv. Except in the case of goalkeepers, a Club is not permitted to list a Player on more than two (2) digital team sheets on any match day. Where this occurs, the player will be deemed to be an Ineligible Player in accordance with Section 3.4b) viii.
- v. No Player registered in the 11 v 11 Competition format is permitted to play in Girls' JDL.

## 8. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS IN CHAMPIONSHIP FIXTURES

### Men's Competitions:

a. Except in the case of AL Academy Clubs (to which Section 3 article 2 above applies), for the Men's 1st, U20 grades:

- i. Provided they are age eligible as prescribed in Section 3 article 1a), Players are permitted to play in the 1st and U20 grades of their Club during the Championship.
- ii. Other than the goalkeeper, to be eligible to play in an U20 grade Championship Match, a Player who is age eligible or over age must have played a minimum of ten (10) matches in the U20 Competition for their current Club during the season. The age eligible or over-age Player must take the field in an U20 Match for that Match to be counted as one of the ten (10) Matches.
- iii. For the 1st Grade Grand Final, each participating Club shall be permitted a maximum of twenty-three (23) player accreditations and ten (10) non-playing role accreditations.
- iv. Except in the case of goalkeepers, a Club is not permitted to list a Player on more than two (2) digital team sheets on any match day.

### Boys' Youth Competitions:

a. For the Youth U18, U16, U15, U14 and U13 grades:

- i. A Player who is age eligible and does not breach the provisions of section 3 article 6 a) i is eligible to participate in any of the age grades (U18, U16, U15, U14 or U13) of their Club during the Championship, provided that the Player has been listed on the digital team sheet in a minimum of ten (10) matches in that same age grade during the Premiership season.
- ii. In circumstances where a Player has not been available to play the required ten (10) Matches, due to his individual circumstances, such as injury, his Club may apply in writing to the Football NSW Competitions Department for dispensation to play.
- iii. A player who has played in ten (10) matches in their own age grade during the Premiership will be eligible to play in the age grades above their eligible age grade during the Championship. In circumstances where a Player has not been available to play the required ten (10) Matches, due to his individual circumstances, such as injury, his Club may apply in writing to the Football NSW Competitions Department for dispensation to play.
- iv. Except in the case of goalkeepers, a Club is not permitted to list a Player on more than two (2) digital team sheets on any match day.

- v. Clubs will not be permitted to leave any Player off the digital team sheet unless that Player is injured, absent through illness, or there is any other reason that is deemed appropriate by the Football NSW Executive. Clubs deemed to have breached this article will be fined \$500

#### **Women's Competitions:**

##### a. 1st Grade:

- i. Provided a Player is eligible they will be available for selection for a Club in Championship Matches.
- ii. Except in the case of goalkeepers, a Club is not permitted to list a Player on more than two (2) digital team sheets on any match day,

##### b. Under 23:

- i. Other than the Goalkeeper, to be eligible to play in a U23 Championship Match, a Player who is age eligible or over age must have played a minimum of minimum of seven (7) matches in U23 competition for her current club during the season. The age eligible or over-age player must take the field in an U23 match for that match to be counted as one of the seven (7) matches.
- ii. Except in the case of goalkeepers, a Club is not permitted to list a Player on more than two (2) digital team sheets on any match day,

##### c. U18, U16, U15 and U14:

- i. A Player who is age eligible and does not breach the provisions of section 3 article 7 a) ii, is eligible to participate in any of the age grades (U18, U16, U15 or U14) of their Club during the Championship, provided that the Player has been listed on the digital team sheet in a minimum of ten (10) matches in that same age grade during the Premiership season.

In circumstances where a Player has not been available to play the required 10 Matches, due to her individual circumstances, such as injury, her Club may apply in writing to the Football NSW Competitions Department for dispensation to play.

- ii. A player who has played in ten (10) matches in their own age grade during the Premiership will be eligible to play in the age grades above their eligible age grade during the Championship. In circumstances where a Player has not been available to play the required 10 Matches, due to her individual circumstances, such as injury, her Club may apply in writing to the Football NSW Competitions Department for dispensation to play.
- iii. Clubs will not be permitted to leave any Player off the digital team sheet unless that Player is injured, absent through illness, or for any other reason that is deemed appropriate by the Football NSW Executive. Clubs deemed to have breached this article will be fined \$500 without it affecting their eligibility to play in their registered age grade Matches.
- iv. Except in the case of goalkeepers, a Club is not permitted to list a Player on more than two (2) digital team sheets on any match day.

### **9. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS CUP COMPETITIONS**

##### a. Pre-Season Competitions:

- i. Each Club may list three (3) "trial" Players on the digital team sheet in each of the pool Matches of the Pre-Season Cup.
- ii. All other Players used in these Matches must be currently registered Players with Football NSW.
- iii. Only Football NSW registered Players may be used in the final Match of the Pre-Season Cup
- iv. A "trial" Player may take the field for more than one Club in the Pre-Season Cup.

##### b. All Other Cup Competitions;

- i. Only Players registered with Football NSW in accordance with the Regulations may represent a Club in Cup Fixtures.
- ii. No Player will be permitted to play for more than one Club in any Cup Competition in a Season.

## 10. BIOLOGICAL MATURATION TESTING

- a. The Biological Maturation principle allows for Players that are classified as late developers to offset any physical disadvantage in relation to Players of typical or early maturation by playing down one age group.
- b. Biological Maturation approval will be provided by Football NSW to a Player who has undergone a Peak Height Velocity (PHV) assessment and has been assessed as a late developer:
  - i. For Boys, an on-time maturer is someone who goes through PHV between 13.5 to 14.5 years of age. If a Player is assessed as having gone through PHV before 13.5 years of age, they will be deemed an early maturer (relative to the normal population) and will be required to play in their age group. If a Player is assessed as expected to go through PHV after 14.5 years of age, they will be deemed a late developer and will be entitled to play down one age group.
  - ii. For Girls, an on-time maturer is someone who goes through PHV between 11.5 to 12.5 years of age. If a Player is assessed as having gone through PHV before 11.5 years of age, they will be deemed an early maturer (relative to the normal population) and will be required to play in their age group. If the Player is assessed as expected to go through PHV after 12.5 years of age, they will be deemed a late developer and will be entitled to play down one age group.
  - iii. Football NSW will conduct PHV assessments. Football NSW will communicate the assessment process in October 2025 in planning towards the 2026 Season.
- c. The age groups for which the Biological Maturation principle will apply for the 2026 Season are as follows:
  - i. Boys': FNSW Boys' Youth League One, FNSW Boys' Youth League Two and FNSW Boys' Youth League Three, – U13, U14, U15 and U16;
  - ii. Girls': FNSW Girls' Youth League One and FNSW Girls' Youth League Two – U14 and U15; and
- d. Each Club will be permitted to register a maximum of one (1) approved "late developer" per Team/age grade. For the avoidance of doubt, Players classified as late developers must be allocated to and appear on the Player ID of the youngest squad they are eligible to participate in.

## 11. RELATIVE AGE EFFECT (RAE)

- a. RAE will remain in the U9 to U12 age groups of Football NSW Competitions and U10 to U13 Girls' age groups of Football NSW Competitions only.
- b. RAE consideration will be provided to Players who have height and weight results, when assessed, below the 50th percentile as listed in the following table:

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Height (cm) – 50th percentile</b>		<b>Weight (kg) – 50th percentile</b>	
	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
9 years	Less than 136.7	N/A	Less than 33	N/A
10 years	Less than 142.5	Less than 144.5	Less than 38	Less than 39
11 years	Less than 149.3	Less than 150.7	Less than 42.4	Less than 43.3
12 years	Less than 153.4	Less than 156.7	Less than 49.2	Less than 51.4
13 years	N/A	Less than 159.5	N/A	Less than 52.3

- c. Clubs must request for RAE assessment by Football NSW for any Player who is seeking RAE status.
- d. Registration as an RAE Player is only possible if Football NSW has granted RAE status to a Player following Football NSW's assessment processes.
- e. Football NSW will communicate the process for RAE assessment prior to the annual trial period.
- f. For Football NSW Mixed JDL & Football NSW Girls' JDL:
  - i. Each applicable age grade is limited to two (2) RAE Players unless a special exemption is provided by Football NSW on a case by case basis.
  - ii. RAE Players are to be included in the permitted squad totals. For clarity, RAE Players cannot be registered in addition to the maximum squad totals.
  - iii. JDL Technical directors can make the determination of RAE status in their licence. For clarity, it will be necessary for Players seeking exemption in U13 (Boys') Competition and U14 (Girls') Competition after leaving JDL to undergo a Biological Maturation assessment.

## 12. PRE-MATCH PLAYER IDENTIFICATION

- a. Player identification is to be made available to the opposing Team Manager for perusal prior to the commencement of the Match, and it will be his / her duty to validate the Player identifications on the digital team sheet to confirm all Players are eligible in accordance with the Regulations.
- b. Players for any Team that are not included on the digital team sheet are not permitted to take the Field of Play.
- c. Any Team who cannot produce at least seven (7) Players that appear on the digital team sheet for any Match will not have enough eligible Players to commence the Match and will be deemed to have forfeited the Match.
- d. The Referee is to report the reason for the forfeit on the digital team sheet and submit it to Football NSW.
- e. Opposing Team Managers are responsible for sighting the Player identification prior to the Match. Should a Team suspect the opposition of replacing any Player between the initial identification check and the commencement of either the first or second half, the following procedure must be followed:
  - i. The Manager of the Team suspecting a breach informs the Manager of the opposing Team that he / she wishes to check the identity of the specific Player/s.
  - ii. The Managers of both Teams, along with the Referee and fourth Official (should a fourth Official be appointed) check the identity of the Player/s in question against the Player identification and the digital team sheet, on the Field of Play before the Player/s leaves the Field of Play at either the half time interval or conclusion of the Match.
  - iii. Should it be determined that the Team has fielded an ineligible Player, Football NSW is to be contacted immediately for further guidance to determine if the Match is to continue or if it will be immediately forfeited in favour of the Team that did not breach the regulation. If Football NSW is unable to be contacted the Match should proceed and the Match Officials are to submit incident reports post-Match through the incident report procedure.
  - iv. Should it be determined that both Teams fielded an ineligible Player, Football NSW will determine whether the Match is to be replayed, void and if any sanction should be imposed on the Clubs, Club Officials and/or Players involved.
  - v. Should any Team Official or Player refuse to follow the above procedure the Match will immediately be forfeited to the opposing Team.
  - vi. In all cases the Referee will report the incident to Football NSW.
- f. Any Club, Team Official and/or Player that is found to have breached this article may be sanctioned pursuant to the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.
- g. The failure of a Team to produce Player identification on request will result in a fine of \$250.

### 13. PLAYER ROSTER PRINCIPLES (PRP) – MEN'S

- a. The PRP for NPL Men's NSW, FNSW League One Men's and FNSW League Two Men's, is as detailed in Schedule 4.
- b. A breach of the PRPs during the Season, either by fielding an ineligible Player, falling below the minimum Player roster, or upgrading Players that result in "1st Team" Players in excess of the maximum, will result in a forfeit by the offending Team.
- c. Clubs are required to submit a final PRP Report on the official form, by email to Football NSW by no later than:
  - i. 5:00pm as per the below:
    - NPL Men's NSW, FNSW League One Men's and FNSW League Two Men's – 30 January
  - ii. Any changes to the Club's PRPs during the Premiership are required to be submitted to Football NSW no later than 9:00am on the Thursday prior to the weekend's Fixture

### 14. PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM (PPS) – WOMEN'S

- a. The PPS for NPL Women's NSW and Football NSW League One Women's is as detailed in Schedules 7 and 8.
- b. Breach of the PPS during the Season (i.e. fielding an ineligible Player), will result in a forfeit by the offending Team.
- c. Clubs are required to submit a final Player Points Report on the official form, by email to Football NSW, by no later than:
  - i. 5:00pm as per the below:
    - NPL Women's NSW - 13th February
    - Football NSW League One Women's – 13th February
  - ii. Any changes to the Club's PPS during the Premiership are required to be submitted to Football NSW no later than 9:00am on the Thursday prior to the weekend's Fixture

## SECTION 4: REGISTRATION

### 1. PLAYER STATUS

- a. Players who are registered Participants in Football NSW Competitions will be either Amateur or Professional Players as prescribed in the National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations (NRSTRs).
- b. Clubs are required to record the status of each Player on the National Registration System by having the Player self- register as either Amateur or Professional.
- c. Players who participate for Clubs who play in the NPL Men's NSW, FNSW League One Men's, FNSW League Two Men's, NPL Women's NSW and FNSW League One Women's Competitions can be either Amateur or Professional in accordance with the permissible total Professional Players indicated in the Regulations.
- d. All Players in other Leagues must be registered as Amateur Players.

### 2. AMATEUR OR PROFESSIONAL PLAYER

- a. Article 5.1(b) of the National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations (NRSTRs) provides that "a Professional is a Player who has a written contract with a Club, under which he or she is paid more than the expenses he or she.
- b. effectively incurs to play football for that Club". Article 6.1(a) of the NRSTRs provides that the contract must be in the form of the Professional Player Contract (FA Prescribed Form NRSTR 05) and the body of the contract must not be amended. Article 6.1 includes other requirements in relation to the contents of the contract and Clubs should make reference to that article.
- c. Article 5.1(c) of the NRSTRs provides that "An Amateur is any Player that is not a Professional. A Club may pay or reimburse a Player any expenses incurred by that Player without affecting his or her status as an Amateur, including but not limited to travel, kit, equipment or insurance premiums. If, however, an Amateur is paid or reimbursed more than \$110 a week by a Club, the onus is on that Club to satisfy the Competition Administrator [Football NSW] that the amount paid accurately reflects the expenses incurred by that Player. If the Club fails to satisfy this onus, that Player will be deemed to be a Professional."
- d. All Clubs eligible to register Professionals (Competitions listed with a Professional Player Window as per Article 6.10 of the NRSTRs) must complete the Professional Player Declaration Form, which can be viewed by clicking [here](#), declaring all Players on professional contracts registered to your Club for the 2026 Season. Failure to complete the declaration form or failure to declare all "Professional Players" at the Club (and/or to properly register them) may result in sanctions against the Club, including, but not limited to, fines, the loss of Competition points and/or the return of prize money.

### 3. REACQUISITION OF AMATEUR STATUS

- a. A Player registered as a Professional Player cannot re-register as an Amateur Player until at least thirty (30) days after his or her last Match as a Professional Player.

### 4. PROCESS FOR THE REGISTRATION OF AN AMATEUR

- a. All Amateur Players must be registered via the National Registration System. The registration of an Amateur Player with a Club is effective from the date the individual is made active by the Club and allocated to the respective Team within the National Registration System and FNSW Competition Management System (Dribl).
- b. The registration must be effected through the Player self-registering via the National Registration System, the Club accepting the Player's registration and the FNSW and FA registration fees are paid at the point of registration approval.
- c. If a Player is registering with any Club for the first time, that Player must provide the Club with evidence of name and age, by producing an original birth certificate, passport, drivers licence or similar form of identification. It is the Club's responsibility to ensure this process is adhered to, including that the Player is eligible to play in the age grade to which he/she has been registered.

## 5. PROCESS FOR REGISTRATION OF A PROFESSIONAL

- a. A Player is eligible to be registered with Football NSW as a Professional Player with a Club only if:
  - i. The Player has self-registered via the National Registration System, the Club has accepted the Player's registration and the FNSW, including FA, registration fees have been paid at the point of registration; (If a Player is registering for the first time, that Player must provide the Club with evidence of name and age, by producing an original birth certificate, passport or drivers licence).
  - ii. An original Professional Player contract signed by the Club and the Player seeking to be registered is lodged with Football NSW within the outlined registration windows.
  - iii. Accurately entered all the mandatory and information required for the purposes of requesting Domestic Transfer Certificate in the National DTMS.
  - iv. Received valid Domestic Transfer Certificate via the National DTMS in respect of that player.
  - v. The requirements set out in (i) – (vi), above, are completed during the prescribed registration period.
  - vi. At the closure of each Professional Player Registration Window, each Club is required to complete the prescribed online Professional Player declaration form as communicated by Football NSW.
- b. The registration of a Professional Player with a Club is effective from the date of registration as entered by Football NSW on the prescribed form and continues in accordance with the Professional Player contract.

## 6. PROCESS FOR REGISTRATION OF TEAM OFFICIALS

- a. Clubs are required to submit registrations for all Team Officials whom they appoint to Teams including but not limited to Coaches, physiotherapists, Team Managers, and gear stewards.
- b. The registration can be affected through the Team Official:
  - i. self-registering via the National Registration System, the Club accepting the Team Official's registration and the FNSW, including FA, registration fees have been paid at the point of registration; and
  - ii. meeting the Working with Children Check and Child Protection training requirements as communicated by Football NSW.
- c. Failure to comply will result in the non-issue of an ID Card.

## 7. SUBMISSION OF REGISTRATIONS

- a. All registrations must be submitted via the National Registration System, with allocation to the respective Team, and a passport style photo (head and shoulders ONLY) is to be uploaded into the Player or Match Official's profile within the communicated registration period.
- b. All Clubs must submit registrations for all Players and Team Officials as listed in the Regulations.
- c. All registrations during advertised registration dates must be submitted to Football NSW no later than 11:00pm on Wednesday prior to the weekend's Fixtures to be eligible for that weekend.
- d. On the closing date of each registration period, registrations must be lodged by no later than 5.00pm.

League	Amateur Player Window	Professional Player Window
NPL Men's NSW, FNSW League One Men's, FNSW League Two Men's – U20's and 1st Grade	14 January – 30 January	14 January – 30 January
FNSW Boys' Youth League One, FNSW Boys' Youth League Two and FNSW Boys' Youth League Three - U13 - U18	1 December – 30 January	N/A
Mixed Junior Development League – U9 – U12	1 December – 20 February	N/A
NPL Women's NSW, FNSW League One Women's – 1st Grade (only)  U23 and U18 registration packages will be available on Play Football to register players during this window for players to be eligible for 1st Grade	6 November – 18 December, 2025	6 November – 18 December, 2025
NPL Women's, FNSW League One Women's, FNSW Girls' Youth League One and Two – U14 – U23	1 December – 20 February	N/A
Girls' Junior Development League	1 December – 20 February	N/A
<p>Note: Excluding 1st grade Competitions with professional registration windows, registrations for Round 1 must be received and allocated to the respective Team 2 weeks prior to the commencement of the relevant Competition in order to be processed.</p> <p>Note: Excluding 1st grade Competitions with professional registration windows, registrations outside of registration periods principles as per the Regulations will continue to be applied.</p> <p>Note: Professional or Amateur Players not registered in the Professional windows, are not permitted to play 1st Grade until the next professional window opens. Example: U20s or U23s player registered outside the window after the close of the professional window will not be eligible to play 1st grade until the next window opens.</p>		

### Mid-Season Registration Window

League	Open	Close
NPL Men's NSW, FNSW League One Men's, FNSW League Two Men's – U20s & 1st Grade	TBC	TBC
NPL Women's NSW, FNSW League One Women's – U23s & 1st Grade	30 April	5pm, 26 May
FNSW Girls' Youth League One (U14-U18) and FNSW Girls' Youth League Two (U14-U18)	No mid-Season registration window, Players will not be permitted to register for FNSW Girls' Youth League One or FNSW Girls' Youth League Two Club after the close of the pre-season registration window.	
FNSW Boys' Youth League One, FNSW Boys' Youth League Two and FNSW Boys' Youth League Three (U13-U18)	No mid-Season registration window, Players will not be permitted to register for another FNSW Boys' Youth League One, FNSW Boys' Youth League Two or FNSW Boys' Youth League Three Club after the close of the pre-season registration window	
Mixed Junior Development League - (U9 – U12) and Girls' Junior Development League (U10-U13)	No mid-Season registration window, Players will not be permitted to register for another MJD or Girls' JDL after the close of the pre-season registration window	

## 8. REGISTRATIONS OUTSIDE REGISTRATION PERIODS

a. Football NSW may register a Player outside of the registration periods if:

- i. That Player is a goalkeeper and Football NSW has been satisfied that the Club has justifiable reason for the request and has provided appropriate evidence
- ii. Players will be granted special exemption from the above-mentioned registration periods/windows, under the following circumstances:
  - A Player who has NOT been registered to a FNSW Boys' or Girls' Youth League, Mixed Junior Development League, Girls' Junior Development League, NPL Men's, League One Men's, League Two Men's, NPL Women's, League One Women's, A-League Men's and A-League Women's team during the 2026 Outdoor Season. For clarity, any player registered through this process will not be permitted to play 1st Grade until the respective mid-season registration window opens.
  - The Player is registered and active in the National Registration System before 26 June 2026.
  - This will apply to the following Competitions and age groups:
    - Mixed Junior Development League
    - Girls' Junior Development League
    - FNSW Boys' Youth League One
    - FNSW Boys' Youth League Two
    - FNSW Boys' Youth League Three
    - FNSW Girls' Youth League One
    - FNSW Girls' Youth League Two

- iii. Football NSW is satisfied in its absolute discretion that exceptional circumstances exist, including if a Player terminated his/her Professional Player Contract for just cause.
- iv. No submissions will be considered after 5:00pm on Friday, 26 June for Men's, Boys' Youth and Mixed Junior Development Leagues.
- v. No submissions will be considered after 5:00pm on Friday, 26 June for Women's, Girls' Youth and Girls Junior Development Leagues.

## 9. PLAYER REGISTRATION IN THE CASE OF AMALGAMATION OF CLUBS

- a. Where an amalgamation/merger takes place between two Clubs, the following will apply to registered Players of such Clubs:
  - i. Professional Player registrations will be carried over to the new Club
  - ii. Amateur Player registrations will automatically cease and the Club will be required to re-register Amateur Players within the applicable squad maximums
  - iii. Should an amalgamation occur post the registration period, Football NSW will decide on a solution, in its absolute discretion, to be in the best interests of the Competition
  - iv. All disciplinary cautions incurred by Players will be carried forward if Players move to another Club
  - v. All Suspensions incurred by Players will be carried forward if Players move to another Club

## 10. PLAYER REGISTRATION IN THE CASE OF TEAMS WITHDRAWING FROM COMPETITION

- a. When a Club is declared defunct by Football NSW or is expelled from Membership of or Affiliation to Football NSW, the following will apply to registered Players of such Clubs:
  - i. As from the date of the Club being declared defunct or expelled, the Professional Players of any such Club will be deemed to be registered with Football NSW
  - ii. Football NSW will have the same rights in respect of the transfer of registration of a Professional Player as the Player's Club had until the date of the Club being declared defunct or expelled
  - iii. Football NSW will determine the applicable compensation (transfer fee) for the transfer of such a registration to the Club to which said Professional Player wishes to transfer. The fee will be set in accordance with the National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations (NRSTRs) and, where relevant, the Regulations
- b. The transfer fee in relation to such transfers must be paid to Football NSW and will, in order of priority, be distributed in the following manner;
  - i. To pay any outstanding monies owed to Football NSW by the defunct or expelled Club.
  - ii. To pay any outstanding monies owed to the Players of the defunct or expelled Club.
  - iii. To pay any monies outstanding to any member Club or affiliated Club.

## 11. PLAYER DEREGISTRATION

- a. An Amateur Player may deregister by applying to deregister via the National Registration System, which will notify the Club and Football NSW of the Player's intention to deregister.
- b. If a Club no longer wants an Amateur Player to play for the Club, that Club must apply to deregister that Player via the National Registration System, which will notify the Player and Football NSW of the Club's intention to deregister the Player.
- c. In the case of Amateur Players, the deregistration is effective from the earlier of the following:
  - i. When the other party (i.e. Club or Player, as the case may be) has confirmed the notification or cancellation; or

- ii. Seven (7) days from the date the Player requested the deregistration via the National Registration System, unless a grievance has been initiated with Football NSW in accordance with the FNSW Grievance & Disciplinary Regulations and the Amateur Player will not be deregistered until the processes promulgated by the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations have been exhausted or terminated.
- d. In the case of Professional Players, if the purported termination of a Professional Player contract is for just cause, the party wishing to terminate the contract must provide written notice to the other party specifying the reasons for the termination and copying Football NSW (Termination Notice). If the Termination Notice is not disputed or if Football NSW does not receive notification of a dispute in relation to the Termination Notice within seven (7) days of receipt of the Termination Notice, the Player's deregistration is effective from the expiration of those seven (7) days. If the other party initiates a grievance in respect of the purported termination with FA in accordance with FA's Grievance Resolution Regulations and Football NSW is notified of same within seven (7) days of receipt of the Termination Notice, the Player will not be deregistered until the processes promulgated by the FA Grievance Resolution Regulations have been exhausted or terminated.
- e. Any disputes relating to Player deregistration will be settled in accordance with the FA Grievance Resolution Guidelines and FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.
- f. In the case of Professional Players, if the purported termination of a Professional Player contract is for sporting just cause, the Player must, within seven (7) days after the last Match in which the Club participates in a Season, give written notice to the Club (copied to Football NSW) setting out the particulars of the sporting just cause. The Player's deregistration is effective from;
  - i. if, within seven (7) days of receipt of the Player's notice, the Club notifies the Player in writing that the Club consents to the termination of the Professional Player contract for sporting just cause (copied to Football NSW), the date that Football NSW receives the Club's notification; or
  - ii. if the Club does not consent to the purported termination and the Player disputes the Club's decision, the Player must issue a notice in accordance with the FA Grievance Resolution Regulations and the Player will not be deregistered until the processes promulgated by the FA Grievance Resolution Regulations have been exhausted or terminated.

## 12. PROFESSIONAL PLAYER DISPUTES

- a. Football NSW will recognise complaints made by Players against Clubs, or Clubs against Players, in regard to the terms and conditions as stipulated in a contract between them which has been lodged with Football NSW.
- b. A Professional Player or a Club will have the right to lodge a complaint in writing with Football NSW in which either seeks a tribunal hearing concerning any disputes about a Player's contract and any matter arising out of it.
- c. Football NSW will only recognise complaints by Players against Clubs for monies in arrears for a period of not more than one (1) year from the date the complaint is lodged with Football NSW.
- d. If before the Tribunal, it is proved that a Club has failed to honour its contract with the Player then the Tribunal will provide the Club with fourteen (14) days to fulfil its obligations towards the Player.
- e. If it is established by the Tribunal that monies are owed to a Player by the Club with whom he or she is registered such monies will be paid to Football NSW within the fourteen (14) day period. Football NSW will forward such payment to the Player(s) entitled to receive the monies.
- f. If the Club fails to effect full payment of monies due to the Player within the fourteen (14) day prescribed period, the following action will be taken by Football NSW:
  - i. Withdraw all administrative services from the offending Club.
  - ii. The offending Club will not be permitted to register any further Players.
  - iii. The offending Club will be sanctioned in accordance with the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

## 13. LOAN PLAYERS

- a. A Professional Player loan to a Football NSW Club may only occur within the registration period.
- b. Loans are only permitted for Professional Players between Professional Clubs.
- c. A loan is subject to the same rules that apply to the transfer of a Player with the following additional rules;
  - i. The minimum period of a loan is the time between two (2) registration periods and the maximum duration of a loan is one (1) year.
  - ii. The minimum duration of a Loan must fall within one (1) of the Registration Periods set by the Association of the Professional's parent Club.
  - iii. Once accepted, a loan will continue in force until the expiry date of the period of the loan (unless it is terminated earlier in accordance with the terms of the loan or the Regulations).
  - iv. A Club that has accepted a Professional Player on a loan basis is not entitled to transfer that Professional to a third Club without the written authorisation of the Club that released the Professional on loan and the Professional.
  - v. On termination of the loan, the registration reverts immediately to the Club from which the registration was transferred.
- d. Refer section 13.4 and 13.5 of the NRSTRs for the limitations on the number of International and Domestic loans.
- e. To complete a loan, all three (3) parties concerned (the present Club, the Player and the loan Club) agree to a Player loan in the form of Prescribed Form NRSTRs 06 – Application for Transfer or Loan of Professional Player. A loan agreement in the form of a loan contract; Prescribed Form NRSTRs 05 – Professional Player Contract must also be completed.
- f. The loan of an international Player must occur within the relevant registration period and will require an International Transfer Certificate or an International Futsal Transfer Certificate (ITC).
- g. The loan of an interstate Player must occur within the relevant registration period and will require documentation in accordance with the Regulations.

## 14. INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER CERTIFICATE (ITC)

- a. If a Player was previously registered with an International Club, FA must request an ITC from the National Association of that
- b. Subject to article 6.8 and the FIFA Statutes, FA may only request an ITC for:
  - i. Professional Player; and
  - ii. an Amateur Player who is participating in a Professional Competition, from another National Association during the Registration Periods for FA, as specified in FIFA TMS.
- c. Where an ITC is required for a Minor that is ten (10) years or older FA must, in accordance with the FIFA Statutes, obtain prior approval from the FIFA Players' Status Chamber before FA is able to request an ITC from the other National Association.
- d. A Player cannot be registered unless and until the ITC is received by FA via the FIFA TMS or confirmation is received that an ITC is not required.
- e. If FA does not receive a response from the other National Association to an ITC request made via FIFA TMS within seven (7) days of that request being made by FA, then the Player may immediately be registered on a provisional basis in accordance with the FIFA Statutes.
- f. Where a Player requires an ITC to be eligible to play in a Competition other than a National League, a Player is only eligible to complete their registration in the National Online Registration System after FA provides the relevant Member Federation with a copy of that Player's ITC.

- g. Where a Player does not require an ITC to be eligible to play in a Competition other than a National League, registration takes effect on the date that FA provides the relevant Member Federation with written confirmation that an ITC is not required.
- h. An ITC is not required for a Player under the age of ten (10) years.
- i. In accordance with the FIFA Statutes, a separate ITC is required for futsal which is distinct from the ITC used in eleven-a-side football. An international futsal transfer certificate can be requested outside of the FIFA TMS.
- j. All ITC and TMS requests must only be submitted once a player has finished their playing commitments overseas
- k. To be eligible to participate in Competition Matches all requests must be lodged and ITC received by Football NSW as per the ITC/TMS procedures relevant to the particular Football NSW Competition prior to the registration windows closing, as set out in Section 4 article 7
- l. The players must also be registered in the National Registration System with their status at "Pending ITC" and allocated into their correct Team by the deadline set out in section 4 article 7
- m. It is the Club's responsibility to ensure that the relevant documentation required to obtain an ITC for a minor has been correctly submitted and until such time as an ITC has been received, the Player must not participate in any Match. Email [competitions@footballnsw.com.au](mailto:competitions@footballnsw.com.au) for further information.

## 15. VISA PLAYERS

- a. If a Player was previously registered with another National Association, the provisions of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players must be complied with, including the receipt by FA of a valid ITC from that National Association.
- b. If a Club wants to register a Visa Player as a Professional Player, that Club must ensure it meets all the legal requirements pertaining to the obtaining and maintaining of a valid visa or work permit for that Visa Player, including, where applicable, a letter of endorsement from FA, the payment of any minimum salary and any sponsorship requirements.
- c. The Regulations apply equally to Visa Players, including the submission of prescribed forms, registration periods, Professional Player contracts and ITCs.
- d. The maximum number of Visa Players for the NPL Men's NSW, FNSW League One Men's, FNSW League Two Men's, NPL Women's NSW and FNSW League One Women's Competitions are as defined in the Player Points System.

## 16. PRIORITY OF REGISTRATION

- a. In the event of a Player signing registration forms for more than one Club, priority of registration will be accorded to the Club who earliest in time, all things being equal, obtained the Player's signature to a valid registration form.
- b. If a Player has self-registered through the National Registration System, the registration which earliest in time is recorded in that system will be granted priority.
- c. Any Player found to have wilfully registered or signed registration forms for more than one (1) Club, or a Club found to have knowingly induced a Player to register or sign a registration form with that Club in the knowledge that the Player has previously registered or signed a registration form with another Club, will be deemed to have committed Misconduct and will be liable to sanction by Football NSW.

## 17. MAXIMUM PLAYER ROSTERS

- a. The following are the maximum permissible Players for each League and grade. Contained in the table are the maximum permissible Professional Players allowed in each Team. All other Players must be registered as Amateur Players, failure to comply will result in a fine of \$500 per breach with Football NSW reserving the right to add further sanctions per breach:

League	Grade	Squad Total	Max Pro Players
NPL Men's NSW, FNSW League One Men's FNSW League Two Men	1st grade & U20 combined	40	20 of 40
FNSW Boys' Youth League One, FNSW Boys' Youth League Two, and FNSW Boys' Youth League Three,	U13	18	0
	U14	18	0
	U15	18	0
	U16	18	0
	U18	18	0
NPL Women's NSW, FNSW League One Women's	1st grade & U23	40	20 of 40
FNSW Girls' Youth League One, FNSW Girls' Youth League Two	U18	18	0
	U16	18	0
	U15	18	0
	U14	18	0
FNSW Mixed Junior Development League	Refer to Schedule 1		
FNSW Girls' Junior Development League	Refer to Schedule 2		

## 18. MAXIMUM LOAN PLAYERS

a. A Club that, in accordance with the Regulations, is permitted to register Professional Players may register a maximum of three (3) Players on a loan basis during the Season.

## 19. TECHNICAL DIRECTOR AND COACH REGISTRATION

### a. Technical Directors

- i. Appointment of a Technical Director in the NPL Men's NSW, Football NSW Men's League One, Football NSW Men's League Two, Football NSW Boys' Youth League One, Football NSW Boys' Youth League Two, Football NSW Boys' Youth League Three and NPL Women's NSW, Football NSW Women's League One, Football NSW Girls' Youth League One, Football NSW Girls' Youth League Two is mandatory.
- ii. All Technical Directors are to be registered through the National Registration System.
- iii. If the Technical Director is employed by the Club on a full time contract, the Club may expand his/her role beyond the scope of the Technical Director (i.e. in administration, coaching additional Teams, coaching in JDL etc), so long as his / her ability to perform the Technical Director role is not compromised.
- iv. If the Technical Director is employed on a part time basis, they are able to be registered to perform one of the following roles in addition to their role as the Club Technical Director;
  - Be registered as Coach of one of the U13-U18 Teams at the Club; or
  - Be registered to the Head of GJDL/MJDL role for the Club's Girls' JDL or MJDL; or
  - Be registered as Coach of one of the Club's Girls' JDL or MJDL Teams; or
  - Be registered as Head Coach of any single grade plus assistant Coach of any single grade.

**b. Head of GJDL/MJDL**

- i. Appointment of a Head of GJDL / MJDL in Girls Junior Development League and Mixed Junior Development League is mandatory.
- ii. All Heads of GJDL / MJDL are to be registered through the National Registration System.
- iii. The Club Technical Director can be appointed to this role, however they must meet the minimum requirements as per above.
- iv. If the Head of GJDL / MJDL is employed by the Club on a full-time contract, the Club is open to expand his / her role beyond the scope of the role (i.e. in administration, coaching additional teams, coaching in JDL etc), so long as his / her ability to perform the role is not compromised.
- v. If the Head of GJDL / MJDL is employed on a part time basis, they are able to be registered to perform one of the following roles in addition to their role as the Head of GJDL / MJDL;
- vi. Be registered to Coach one of the U13-U18 teams at the Club; or
- vii. Be registered to Coach one of the Club's Girls' GJDL and MJDL teams; or
- viii. Be registered as Head coach of any single grade + assistant coach of any single grade.

**c. Head of Roles – GYL/BYL**

- i. The appointment of a Head of GYL / BYL in Boys Youth League and Girls Youth League is optional, However, if a club appoints someone to this position and they meet the required technical qualifications, they must comply with the following requirements:
  - All Heads of GYL / BYL are to be registered through the National Registration System
  - The Club Technical Director can be appointed to this role, however they must meet the minimum requirements as per above.
  - If the Head of BYL / GYL is employed by the Club on a full-time contract, the Club is open to expand his / her role beyond the scope of the role (i.e. in administration, coaching additional teams, coaching in BYL/GYL etc), so long as his / her ability to perform the role is not compromised.
  - If the Head of BYL / GYL is employed on a part time basis, they are able to be registered to perform one of the following roles in addition to their role as the Head of BYL / GYL;
    - Be registered to Coach one of the GYL/BYL teams at the Club; or
    - Be registered to Coach one of the Club's Girls' GJDL and MJDL teams; or
    - Be registered as Head coach of any single grade + assistant coach of any single grade.

**d. Head Coaches**

- i. Appointment of individual Head Coaches to all grades of all Leagues is mandatory and all Coaches are to be registered through the National Registration System.
- ii. Head Coaches of any grade will be permitted to be registered to additionally coach in the following capacities within a Club:
  - Head Coach of any single grade plus Coach of any single grade in Girls' JDL or MJDL; or
  - Head Coach of any single grade plus Head of Girls JDL or MJDL.
- iii. Where a Coach's position is terminated from a mandatory role, as outlined in Section 4 article 20 of the Regulations, Clubs will be given a maximum of four (4) weeks to appoint a new, fully accredited Coach and the failure to do so will result in a fine. The amount of the fine will be equal to the cost of the required coaching course(s) for the position that is vacant.

e. Assistant Coaches and goalkeeper Coaches

- i. Appointment of assistant Coaches and goalkeeper Coaches to all Leagues is optional. Should either be appointed they must meet the relevant minimum standard and be registered on the National Registration System.
- f. All Coaches must be registered through the National Registration System by close of business **Monday, 2 February 2026**. Failure to comply with this or other minimum coaching accreditation will result in a fine to the Club as detailed in Section 4 article 20 b).
- g. All Clubs must ensure that their Coaching Roster details are kept up to date and any changes must be communicated via email to the Football NSW Competitions Department within 7 days of any change occurring (e.g. coach termination, update in accreditation, submission of SIA Certificates ([click here](#)) etc.)

## 20. MINIMUM COACHING QUALIFICATIONS

- a. The following are the minimum coaching qualifications required by Coaches for each respective League and grade of the Competitions:
- b. Please click the following link for a document that outlines the Minimum Coaching Qualifications, the procedure associated with registration of Coaches and the associated fines for a breach in the Minimum Coaching Qualifications:
  - [Minimum Coaching Qualifications - Click here](#)

## 21. MEDICAL COVERAGE

- a. Clubs will be required to provide medical coverage to Players on match days in compliance with the minimum standards contained in the following table.
- b. Clubs will not be required to appoint separate individuals to each grade within a League. The requirement is to ensure adequate medical coverage is provided, which, by way of example, could be provided by a “team” of sports trainers shared across all grades at a Club.
- c. All sports trainers and physiotherapists must be registered with Football NSW through the National Registration System.
- d. Failure to comply with this article will result in a fine of \$100 per breach.
- e. Minimum standards for the NPL Men’s NSW, FNSW League One Men’s and FNSW League Two are:

League	2026	2027
<b>NPL Men’s NSW &amp; FNSW League One Men’s</b>		
1st Grade	Physiotherapist	TBA
U20	Level 2 Sports Trainer	TBA
<b>FNSW League Two Men’s</b>		
1st Grade, U20	Level 2 Sports Trainer	TBA

- f. FNSW Boys’ Youth League One, FNSW Boys’ Youth League Two, FNSW Boys’ Youth League Three, FNSW Girls’ Youth League One and FNSW Girls’ Youth League Two:

League	2026	2027
FNSW Boys’ Youth Leagues and FNSW Girls’ Youth Leagues		

U18, U16, U15, U14, U13	Level 1 Sports Trainer	TBA
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g. NPL Women's NSW, FNSW League One Women's:

League	2026	2027
NPL Women's NSW & Football NSW League One Women's		
1st Grade	Physiotherapist	TBA
U23	Level 2 Sports Trainer	TBA

## 22. PLAYER GATE ENTRY PASSES

- Players, Coaches and Team officials registered to 1st grade, U23 and U20 Competitions in which Clubs are permitted to charge a fee for entry to the Stadium will be issued a gate entry pass.
- A gate entry pass affords the Player, Coach and Team Official complimentary entry to the Match in which their Team is competing.

## 23. COACH AND TEAM OFFICIAL IDENTITY PASSES

- All registered Coaches and Team Officials will be issued with digital identity passes.
- Only registered Coaches and Team Officials in receipt of their official Football NSW digital identity pass will be permitted to participate in any approved Football NSW Match.
- Coaches and Team Officials that do not have a Football NSW digital identity pass with them at any Match will not be permitted onto the Field of Play nor permitted to sit in the Technical area/Team bench.
- Only the official Football NSW digital identity pass embossed with the correct year of the Competition will be eligible for use in that Season.
- Prior to kick-off the fourth Official or, should a fourth Official not be appointed, the Referee, is required to check the benches of both Teams and request any non-playing individual without an identity pass on the match sheet to leave the bench. Should the individual refuse, the Match will immediately be forfeited to the Team that has not breached the Regulation. Any individual that causes a forfeiture in this regard may be further sanctioned pursuant to the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.
- Failure to comply with any part of this article will result in a fine to the Club of \$250.

## 24. APPROVAL TO PLAY IN OTHER COMPETITIONS

- Clubs will not play, or be involved in, or give approval for any Player and/or Official to participate in any other competitions unless they have first received the approval of the Executive.
- Registered Players, Amateurs or Professionals, will not play or be involved in any other competitions unless that competition has first received the approval of Football NSW. Any Club or Player found to be playing in an unauthorised competition will be deemed to have committed Misconduct and may be dealt with pursuant to the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.
- In applying the principle of no dual registration, as defined by FIFA and elaborated by FA, Players competing in competitions not recognised or approved by Football NSW may be deemed "registered" and as such not be eligible for registration to Teams participating in Football NSW Competitions.

## SECTION 5: TICKETING, DISTRIBUTION, PRIZE MONEY AND AWARDS

### 1. TICKETED LEAGUES

a. Tickets may only be sold for attendance at the following Leagues and grades:

- i. 1st grade and U20 of the NPL Men's NSW
- ii. 1st grade and U20 of the FNSW League One Men's
- iii. 1st grade and U20 of the FNSW League Two Men's
- iv. 1st grade and U23 of the NPL Women's NSW
- v. 1st grade and U23 of the FNSW League One Women's
- vi. Waratah Cup
- vii. Australia Cup Preliminary Rounds

b. Breach of this regulation will result in a fine of \$500.

### 2. TICKET OPERATIONS

a. Sale of tickets in the NPL Men's NSW, FNSW League One Men's, FNSW League Two Men's, NPL Women's NSW and FNSW League One Women's cannot commence until 15 minutes after the kick-off of the Match prior to the U20 / U23 Match.

b. As Waratah Cup Matches are 1st grade only, sale of tickets can commence from two (2) hours before the scheduled kick-off time.

### 3. TICKET PRICES

a. Following are the maximum ticket prices that Clubs may charge for entry to Matches;

League	Grade	Adult	Student/ Concession
NPL Men's NSW	1st Grade and U20	\$15	\$10
NPL Men's NSW Grand Final (Early Bird)	1st Grade and U20	\$15	\$10
NPL Men's NSW Grand Final	1st Grade and U20	\$20	\$15
Football NSW League One Men's	1st Grade and U20	\$10	\$5
Football NSW League Two Men's	1st Grade and U20	\$10	\$5
Waratah Cup and Sapphire Cup (Early Bird Cup Final Only)	1st Grade	\$15	\$5
Waratah Cup and Sapphire Cup (Cup Final Only)	1st Grade	\$20	\$10
Australia Cup Preliminary Rounds	Round 3	\$5	\$3
	Round 4-7	\$10	\$5
NPL Women's NSW – subject to the Men's ticket prices if the match day is linked in a double header format for the Grand Final.	1st Grade and U23	\$10	\$5
Football NSW League One Women's	1st Grade and U23	\$10	\$5

b. Attendance for all children under the age of 16 will be free.

#### 4. PRIZE MONEY

- a. Prize money for 1st Grade Premiers is applicable to the following Leagues;
  - i. NPL Men's NSW
  - ii. FNSW League One Men's
  - iii. FNSW League Two Men's
  - iv. NPL Women's NSW
  - v. FNSW League One Women's
- b. Prize money for 1st Grade Champions is applicable to the following Leagues:
  - i. NPL Women's NSW
  - ii. FNSW League One Women's
- c. Notification of applicable Prize money will be communicated to Clubs in each respective League by FNSW.

#### 5. GATE MONIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE REPLAY OF POSTPONED OR ABANDONED OR INCOMPLETE FIXTURES

- a. If the gate money was not taken on the date originally fixed for the Match, or if gate money was taken and the Match was not commenced and the gate money was returned to the Spectators or pass-out checks given for a subsequent Match, the visiting Club will play the rescheduled Match without charge to the Home Club.
- b. If gate money was taken at the first Match and retained, then out of the gate money taken at such second Match, the Home Club will pay the travelling and other expenses of the visiting Club.

#### 6. DISTRIBUTION - CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES OTHER THAN THE GRAND FINAL

- a. The net proceeds of the Championship Matches other than the Grand Final, will be retained by the host 1st Grade Team that incur the costs associated with the fixture.

#### 7. DISTRIBUTION - CHAMPIONSHIP GRAND FINAL

- a. The net proceeds from the Grand Finals will be retained by Football NSW.

#### 8. APPLICABLE LEAGUES FOR CHAMPIONSHIP GATE DISTRIBUTION

- a. Gate distribution will only be applicable to Championship Matches of the NPL Men's NSW, FNSW League One Men's, FNSW League Two Men's, NPL Women's NSW and FNSW League One Women's should Football NSW charge entry to those Matches.

#### 9. DISTRIBUTION - CUP TIES

- a. Pre-Season Cup:
  - i. In Cup ties organised by Football NSW, the net gate for all Matches up to but not including the Grand Final, will be retained by the Home Club.
- b. Other Cup Matches:
  - i. In Cup ties organised by Football NSW, the net gate for all Matches up to but not including the Grand Final will be retained by the Home Club.

#### 10. DISTRIBUTION – CUP FINALS

- a. Cup Matches:
  - i. All net proceeds from the Grand Final will be retained by Football NSW. Prize money dependent on qualification through the Waratah Cup and Sapphire Cup will be communicated by Football NSW to the Teams prior to the Competition commencing.

## 11. TROPHIES, MEDALS AND SHIELDS

Football NSW will present the following medals, trophies and shields:

a. Premiership and Championship Winners:

- i. Perpetual trophy for 1st grade, U23 and U20
- ii. Replica trophy for all grades
- iii. 25 medals for all Men's and Women's 1st grade, U23 and U20 Teams
- iv. 20 medals for all other applicable male and female age grades
- v. Any requests for medals above the allocated number may be purchased at a cost to the Club

b. Championship Runners-up:

- i. 25 medals for all Men's and Women's 1st grade, U23 and U20 Teams
- ii. 20 Medals for all other applicable male and female age grades
- iii. Any requests for medals above the allocated number may be purchased at a cost to the Club

c. Club championship Winners: Perpetual shield for the following Leagues:

- i. NPL Men's NSW
- ii. FNSW League One Men's
- iii. FNSW League Two Men's
- iv. NPL Women's NSW
- v. Football NSW League One Women's

d. Fair Play Award Perpetual Shield for the following Leagues:

- i. NPL Men's NSW
- ii. FNSW League One Men's
- iii. FNSW League Two Men's
- iv. NPL Women's
- v. FNSW League One Women's

e. Player of the Year Trophy for the following Leagues:

- i. NPL Men's NSW (1st grade and U20)
  - To be eligible for the U20 award, a Player must be born in 2006 or later.
- ii. FNSW League One Men's (1st grade and U20)
  - To be eligible for the U20 award, a Player must be born in 2006 or later.
- iii. FNSW League Two Men's (1st grade and U20)
  - To be eligible for the U20 award, a Player must be born in 2006 or later.
- iv. NPL Women's NSW (1st Grade and U23)
  - To be eligible for the U23 award, a player must be born in 2003 or later.
- v. FNSW League One Women's (1st grade and U23)
  - To be eligible for the U23 award, a Player must be born in 2003 or later.

f. Golden Boot, Goalkeeper of the Year and Coach of the Year trophies for the following Leagues:

- i. NPL Men's NSW (excluding U20 Coach of the Year)
  - To be eligible for the U20 Gold Boot and Goalkeeper of the Year award, a Player must be born in 2006 or later
- ii. FNSW League One Men's (excluding U20 Coach of the Year)
  - To be eligible for the U20 Gold Boot and Goalkeeper of the Year award, a Player must be born in 2006 or later
- iii. FNSW League Two Men's (excluding U20 Coach of the Year)
  - To be eligible for the U20 Gold Boot and Goalkeeper of the Year award, a Player must be born in 2006 or later
- iv. NPL Women's NSW (excluding U23 Coach of the Year)
  - To be eligible for the U23 Gold Boot and Goalkeeper of the Year award, a Player must be born in 2003 or later
- v. FNSW League One Women's (excluding U20 Grade Coach of the Year)
  - To be eligible for the U23 Gold Boot and Goalkeeper of the Year award, a Player must be born in 2003 or later

g. Club Awards:

- i. Football NSW may from time to time recognise Club Officials from any League with awards in any form approved by the Executive.

h. Referee of the Year:

Football NSW will award a Referee of the year for each of the following Leagues:

- i. NPL Men's NSW and Women's (Gold Medal Dinner)
- ii. Football NSW Leagues (Silver Medal Dinner)

i. Additional Awards:

- i. Football NSW may from time to time recognise individuals for their accomplishment or service to football in a manner approved by the Executive.

j. Cup Competitions:

- i. Medals and trophies will be determined dependent on Football NSW conducting the relevant Cup Competitions.
- ii. Should Football NSW conduct the Waratah Cup, the perpetual trophy, a replica trophy, and 25 Medals will be presented to the Champion Team only.

## 12. PERPETUAL TROPHY OWNERSHIP

- a. All perpetual trophies / shields remain the property of Football NSW.
- b. Football NSW will retain possession of the perpetual trophy / shield immediately following the prize giving ceremony.
- c. Should a perpetual trophy / shield be lost or damaged whilst under the care or custody of a Club, the latter shall refund to Football NSW the cost of thorough repair or replacement in addition to any other penalty which Football NSW may impose.

## SECTION 6: TEAM SHEETS, REPORTING AND MATCH OFFICIALS

### 1. MATCH OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS

a. The appointment of all Match Officials will be made by Football NSW, who may utilise such other Persons as deemed necessary to assist in the carrying out of this responsibility.

### 2. MATCH OFFICIAL POWERS, DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS

a. The Match Officials are charged with all duties, responsibilities and obligations as contained within the FIFA Laws of the Game.

b. Unless otherwise stated, the Referee shall be the sole arbiter as to whether a game will proceed, having regard to the condition of the ground, the weather at the time of inspection and the projected weather forecast.

c. If the Referee finds it necessary to stop play for whatever reason, he / she should wait a reasonable time before deciding to abandon the Match.

d. Referees may abandon, postpone or forfeit a Match in accordance with any relevant articles of the Regulations.

e. In addition, Referees are required, immediately after the conclusion of each Match, to forward to Football NSW send-off reports and incident reports if the latter is deemed necessary.

f. Referee assessors will submit to Football NSW a report on the performance of the Referee within two (2) days of the conclusion of the Match, should one be appointed to the Match.

### 3. WELFARE OF THE MATCH OFFICIALS

a. The Home Club will be solely responsible for the welfare of the Match Officials, from the time they arrive at the Stadium, until the time they depart the Stadium. Failure to carry out this requirement may result in a sanction under the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

### 4. MATCH OFFICIALS FEES

a. Prior to the commencement of a Competition, Football NSW will communicate to all Clubs and relevant Referees Bodies the approved Match Officials fees for that particular Season. These fees will come into effect immediately.

b. Match Officials' fees process for Cup Matches will be communicated to Clubs and Referees Bodies prior to the commencement of the Cup Competition by Football NSW.

c. Match Officials' fees for Premiership Matches for the following Competitions will be paid directly to the Match Officials by Football NSW as per the Football NSW Competitions Club Entry Fees Circular:

League	Grades
NPL Men's NSW	1st Grade, U20
FNSW League One Men's	1st Grade, U20
FNSW League Two Men's	1st Grade, U20
FNSW Boys' Youth League One	U18, U16, U15, U14, U13
FNSW Boys' Youth League Two	U18, U16, U15, U14, U13
FNSW Boys' Youth League Three	U18, U16, U15, U14, U13
NPL Women's NSW	1st Grade, U23
FNSW League One Women's	1st Grade, U23
FNSW Girls' Youth League One	U18, U16, U15, U14
FNSW Girls' Youth League Two	U18, U16, U15, U14

d. Match Officials' fees for all other Premiership Matches in all other Leagues will be paid directly to the Match Officials on the day of the Match by the Home Club, unless otherwise communicated to Clubs prior to the Season commencing.

e. Match Officials' fees for all Championship Matches in all Leagues will be paid directly by Football NSW to the Referees.

f. In the case of forfeits and abandonments, Match Officials' fees will still be due and payable by the Team that caused the forfeit or abandonment, except where Matches are abandoned or postponed by the Referee through no fault of either Team.

g. In the case of Matches abandoned after commencement, through the fault of neither Team, Match Officials will be required to submit an invoice claim to Football NSW for Match Officials' fees. The Home Club will not be responsible for these Match Officials' fees.

h. Compensation to Match Officials will be paid for attendance at Matches which are not conducted or completed in full on the following grounds:

- i. Match Officials that attend the Stadium and a Match is abandoned or postponed prior to kick-off due to unplayable conditions: compensation will be paid by Football NSW in accordance with the table below. Compensation will be paid if a referee has been allocated to multiple matches and one or more matches have been completed. Match officials are entitled to one compensation claim per venue, per day.
  - Example A: 1st Grade match is postponed due to unplayable conditions, compensation will be paid to match officials that were in attendance at the stadium when the match was postponed.
  - Example B: A referee is allocated to U20s and 1st Grade. The U20s match is completed but a thunderstorm causes 1st Grade to be postponed before kick off. The referee will be entitled to the full match fee for the completed 20s match, and a compensation claim for the postponed 1st Grade match.
- ii. Match Officials that attend the Stadium to find the Match cancelled without being notified by Football NSW: compensation will be paid by Football NSW in accordance with the table below. Match officials are entitled to one compensation claim per venue, per day.
- iii. Match Officials that attend a Match on the wrong day, incorrect Stadium and/or kick-off time due to a Football NSW clerical error: compensation will be paid by Football NSW in accordance with the table below. Match officials are entitled to one compensation claim per venue, per day.
- iv. Match Officials that attend the Stadium to find one Club has forfeited: compensation will be paid by Football NSW in accordance with the table below. Football NSW will then invoice the offending Club to recoup those costs. Match officials are entitled to one compensation claim per venue, per day.
- v. Match Officials that attend the Stadium to find a Club has called off the Match without notifying the Match Officials or Football NSW: compensation will be paid by Football NSW in accordance with the table below. Football NSW will then invoice the offending Club to recoup those costs. Match officials are entitled to one compensation claim per venue, per day.
- vi. The following table sets out the level of compensation for Match Officials:

Age Grade	Level of Compensation per Match Official
1st Grade, U23 Grade, U20	\$50
U18 to U13	\$25

## 5. MATCH OFFICIAL TRAVEL ALLOWANCE

- a. Match Officials (excluding Match Commissioners) appointed to Competition Fixtures that require travel outside of the Sydney Metropolitan area will be entitled to a travel allowance, paid by Football NSW as follows:
  - i. Sydney Match Officials will be entitled to a travel allowance when travelling to the Central Coast (\$30), Wollongong (\$30) Nowra (\$60) and Bathurst/Mudgee (\$60).
  - ii. Match Officials who reside at the Central Coast and Wollongong and travel to Sydney will receive (\$30). Match Officials residing distances further than these regions will receive (\$60).

## 6. NON-PAYMENT OF MATCH OFFICIALS FEES

- a. Clubs who fail to pay the Match Officials where cash payment is required on the day will be fined \$100.

## 7. ATTENDANCE OF MATCH OFFICIALS

- a. Match Officials appointed to Matches must be at the Stadium by half time of the preceding Match. Where there is only one Match, or the Match is the first of the day, the Match Officials will be in attendance at least 30 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time.

## 8. NON-ATTENDANCE OF MATCH OFFICIALS

- a. Should appointed Match Officials not be in attendance by the scheduled time, it is the responsibility of the Home Club to provide Match Officials. The appointee must control the whole Match, except that a suitably qualified and identified Match Official, in uniform, from either side will take precedence over an unqualified Person from the Home Club.
- b. The article above applies only to the following Leagues:
  - i. FNSW Boys' Youth League One – U16 to U13
  - ii. FNSW Boys' Youth League Two – U16 to U13
  - iii. FNSW Boys' Youth League Three – U16 to U13
  - iv. FNSW Girls' Youth League One – U16 to U14
  - v. FNSW Girls' Youth League Two – U16 to U14
- c. Matches in all other grades (except MJD & Girls' JD) cannot commence unless a qualified Match Official, appointed by Football NSW, is officiating.
- d. If a Referee fails to honour his / her appointment, the fourth Official, or in the absence of a fourth Official the most senior assistant Referee, shall take his/her place. In this case the Home Club and the Away Club are required to supply a replacement "Assistant Referee" for alternate halves.
- e. Unless otherwise stated, Clubs are required to fulfil all Fixtures regardless of the attendance of Match Officials or not. Failure to fulfil any Fixture may result in a sanction as per the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

## 9. DIGITAL TEAM SHEETS

- a. All digital team sheets for all Matches are to be completed online via Dribl.
- b. Both Clubs must make their Player selections in Dribl no later than one (1) hour prior to the scheduled Fixture. Failure to comply will result in a \$50 fine.
- c. Clubs are required to note the shirt number of each Player in Dribl. This information appears automatically next to the Player's name on the digital team sheet.
- d. Changes to the digital team sheet will be permitted any time until **fifteen (15)** minutes prior to kick-off, at which point the following will apply:
  - i. Should a listed starting Player be removed from the starting line-up, that Player may only be replaced by a Player listed as a substitute on the digital team sheet. The former starting Player

may then be listed as a replacement. However, no other Player may be added to the digital team sheet to replace the former substitute Player.

ii. Should a listed substitute Player be removed from the digital team sheet, the Team will not be permitted to name another Player in his/her place, and the number of available substitutes will be decreased by one (1).

e. All team sheets must be submitted no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time. Failure to do so may result in a fine of up to five hundred dollars (\$500) for 1<sup>st</sup> Grade, U23 and U20 age grades.

f. The numbers on the back of the Players' jerseys will correspond to the numbers on the digital team sheet handed to the Referee before the commencement of a Match. There must be no change of numbers from fifteen (15) minutes prior to or during a Match (this includes goalkeepers).

g. For 1<sup>st</sup> grade, U23 and U20s of the NPL Men's NSW, FNSW NSW League One Men's, FNSW League Two Men's, NPL Women's NSW and FNSW League One Women's, a maximum of 18 Players will be permitted on the digital team sheet and the 18th Player must be a substitute goalkeeper. If a Team does not have a substitute goalkeeper, that Team will be capped at 17 Players on the digital team sheet.

h. For U13 – U18 of the FNSW Boys' Youth League One, FNSW Boys' Youth League Two, FNSW Boys' Youth League Three, FNSW Girls' Youth League One and FNSW Girls' Youth League Two Competitions, a maximum 18 Players only may be permitted on the digital team sheet. If it is deemed that the team player more than 18 players, the team will forfeit the match.

i. At the completion of the Match, the Match Official is to enter the match data, which includes: the half time and full time scores, cautions, send offs, substitutions and any other Match incident that is deemed worthy of inclusion in the post-Match reporting.

j. The Home Club and Away Club must, within thirty (30) minutes of the Match competition, validate the Match Official data to ensure all records are accurate. If a discrepancy is identified by either Club that cannot be resolved on the day of the Match, notification must be issued to Football NSW: [matchreports@footballnsw.com.au](mailto:matchreports@footballnsw.com.au) within 24 hours of the Match taking place. Football NSW will review and adjudicate on the alleged discrepancy within a workable time frame.

k. When a Match is forfeited, the digital team sheet will be endorsed accordingly by the Referee.

l. Each Team must nominate three (3) jacketed Officials on the digital team sheet.

m. Regardless of the Competition, no Player is permitted to be listed on more than two (2) digital team sheets on any match day, with the exception of goalkeepers.

n. Unless otherwise stated in the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations, or in the Regulations, a Player listed on the digital team sheet in a Match that involves the Return Substitution (Interchange) Regulation (Section 2 article 22) will be deemed to have participated in the Match.

o. A suspended Player will automatically be recorded as stood down where that Player does not appear on the digital team sheet.

p. The Home Club Team appears first on the digital team sheet (left side).

q. If a Player who is registered in accordance with the Regulations is not listed on the digital team sheet prior to the Match and then participates in the Match, the following shall apply:

- The Club will be fined \$250 for the first breach
- The Team will forfeit the Match for the second breach and also be fined \$500;
- Any further breaches of this article will require the Club to show cause as to why the Team should not be expelled from the Competition, and the Team involved shall forfeit the Match in question and be fined \$500

r. Clerical errors by either Team on the digital team sheet will result in a fine of \$50 per error. Clerical errors include, but are not limited to, duplicate shirt numbers, incorrect shirt numbers and failing to validate the digital team sheet within thirty (30) minutes of the completion of the Match.

## 10. RESULT OF MATCH

a. Once Football NSW declares the result of a Match or Competition after the conclusion of that Match or Competition then that result will stand.

## 11. MATCH RESULT REPORTING

a. For all Premiership and Championship Matches, the Match Official is responsible for entering the half-time and full-time scores online into Dribl no later than 15 minutes following the conclusion of the Match.

b. The Match Officials are responsible for entering the Player statistics into Dribl within 15 minutes of the completion of the Match. Player statistics include the following:

- Goal Scorers – for 1st grade, U23 and U20s Competitions only: no other age grade will be permitted to enter goal scorers
- Cautions (Yellow Cards)
- Expulsions (Red Cards)

c. The Home Club and the Away Club must, within thirty (30) minutes of the Match, validate the Match Official data to ensure all records are accurate. If a discrepancy is identified by either Club that cannot be resolved on match day, notification must be lodged to Football NSW via the Dribl Dispute process – Click Here within 24 hours of the Match taking place. Football NSW will review and adjudicate on the alleged discrepancy within a workable time frame.

## 12. CAUTION AND RESULT REPORTING

a. Expulsion and caution reporting is as per the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

## 13. CAUTION AND EXPULSION FINES

a. Clubs will receive the following automatic fines for cautions and expulsions received by their Players in the Competitions for 1st grade, U23 and U20s;

- Player's first caution of the Season - \$10 per Player
- Player's subsequent caution of the Season - \$30 per Player
- When five (5) or more Players from the same Team are cautioned in the same Match - \$100 in addition to the individual caution fines
- Player expelled from the Field of Play - \$60 per Player
- When three (3) or more Players from the same Team are expelled in the same Match - \$150 in addition to the individual expulsion fines

b. For the avoidance of doubt, these fines are payable in addition to any sanctions imposed against Clubs or their Players pursuant to the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

## SCHEDULE 1: ADDITIONAL RULES – MIXED JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

### 1. SCOPE AND APPLICATION

- a. Schedule 1 is to be read in conjunction with the remainder of the Regulations, and does not constitute the complete regulations applicable to the Mixed Junior Development League (MJDL) participating in Competitions.
- b. Schedule 1 is specific to MJDL only.

### 2. REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY

- a. All Players in the 2026 MJDL must be registered on the National Registration System.
- b. 2026 MJDL licensees will only be permitted to register Players from the Football NSW JDL Player Boundaries within which the licensee's home ground is located.
  - i. Clubs may be required to provide evidence of a Player's residential address to the satisfaction of Football NSW.
- c. Additionally, a child who fits within the following categories is eligible to participate in an MJDL program conducted by a particular licensee in 2026 even if that child lives outside the applicable geographic area:
  - i. A child of a Person who is a Life Member of the licensee or had been for at least 10 years a combination of any of the following: a registered Player at the licensee or a director of the licensee or a member of the Management Committee (or similar committee in the event of there not being a Management Committee) of the licensee.
  - ii. If a Player was registered at the GJDL/MJDL Club in 2025 (returning player).
- d. Football NSW may provide exemptions for Players to participate out of area should they believe there is genuine merit in the application. The exemptions will remain valid for the duration of the Player's participation in MJDL unless their circumstances supporting the exemption change or they seek to change Clubs.
- e. The JDL Player Boundaries are:

JDL PLAYER BOUNDARY	ASSOCIATIONS	STATE TITLE BOUNDARY
NORTH	Central Coast Football	Met Far North
	Northern Suburbs FA	
	Manly-Warringah FA	Met North
	North-West Sydney FA	
EAST	Canterbury DSFA	Met East
	Eastern Suburbs FA	
	Football St George	
WEST	Blacktown DSFA	Met West
	Granville DSFA	
	Hills FA	
	Nepean FA	
SOUTH	Bankstown DFA	Met South
	Macarthur FA	
	Southern Districts FA	

	Football South Coast Sutherland Shire FA	Met Far South
RIVERINA	Riverina Branch	Riverina Branch
SOUTHERN	Southern Branch	Southern Branch
WESTERN	Western Branch	Western Branch

f. Breaches of the eligibility criteria will result in a fine to the licensee of \$2,000 per breach.

### 3. PLAYERS PER TEAM

a. Permissible players per team are identified in the following table:

Age Group	Field Players	Players Per Team	Licensee Squad Totals
U9	7	10	20 (16 boys + 4 girls)
U10	9	12	24 (20 boys + 4 girls)
U11	9	12	24 (20 boys + 4 girls)
U12	9	12	24 (20 boys + 4 girls)

b. Licensees may elect to select more than 4 girls per Team. This will result in a proportionate decrease in the number of boys selected to comply with the maximum Team Player number.

c. For clarity, licensees can only register the maximum number of boys identified in the table above; they cannot replace girls' registrations with boys' registrations.

d. Breaches of the permissible Players per Team criteria will result in a fine to the licensee of \$2,000 per breach.

### 4. MATCH FORMAT

a. To ensure optimal development opportunities in MJDL, and provide a consistent platform underpinning Football NSW programs and competitions, MJDL match formats will reflect the FA Small Sided Football formula:

Age Group	Players per Team	Recommended Formation
U9	7 v 7	1-3-3 or 1-2-3-1
U10, U11, U12	9 v 9	1-3-2-3 or 1-3-3-2

b. Matches will be scheduled over four (4) time slots, as follows:

Match Slot	Half Field A	Half Field B
1	U9 match 1	U10 match 1
2	U9 match 2	U10 match 2
3	U11 match 1	U12 match 1
4	U11 match 2	U12 match 2

## 5. LEAGUE TABLES AND POINTS

- a. No results, points and league tables will be kept during the game phase of the 2026 MJD.

## 6. MATCHES

- a. There will be no Championship Matches at the conclusion of the MJD 2026 game phase.

## 7. REFEREES (GAME LEADER)

- a. It is the responsibility of the licensee to appoint instructing referees or game leaders to their home MJD matches.

- b. FNSW encourages Clubs to ensure all Game Leaders are in Club or consistent attire; including closed runners/boots, appropriate fitness gear, wrist watch and whistle:

- i. Game Leader Handbook – [Click Here](#)

- c. For clarity, a Game Leader can be either:

- i. Club Official;
  - ii. capable parent;
  - iii. older child or Player; or
  - iv. beginner Referee.

## SCHEDULE 2: ADDITIONAL RULES – GIRLS’ JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

### 1. SCOPE AND APPLICATION

- a. Schedule 2 is to be read in conjunction with the remainder of the Regulations, and does not constitute the complete regulations applicable to the Girls’ Junior Development League (Girls’ JDL) participating in Competitions.
- b. Schedule 2 is specific to Girls’ JDL only.

### 2. REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY

- a. All Players in the 2026 Girls’ JDL must be registered on the National Registration System.
- b. All Players participating in a part-time Girls’ JDL program will be required to register with a local community football Club in the region within which the Girls’ JDL Club is located and register with a Girls’ JDL Club/Association.
- c. 2026 Girls’ JDL licensees will only be permitted to register Players from the GJDL Player Boundaries within which the licensee’s home ground is located.
  - i. Clubs may be requested to provide documentation in support of the Player’s residential address. This documentation can be in any form from time to time as defined by Football NSW.
- d. Additionally, a child who fits within the following categories is eligible to participate in a Girls’ JDL conducted by a particular licensee in 2025 even if that child lives outside the applicable geographic area:
  - i. A child of a Person who is a Life Member of the licensee or had been for at least 10 years a combination of any of the following: a registered Player at the licensee or a director of the licensee or a member of the Management Committee (or similar committee in the event of there not being a Management Committee) of the licensee.
  - ii. If a Player was registered with the GJDL/MJDL Club in 2025 (returning player).
- e. Football NSW may provide exemptions for Players to participate out of area should they believe there is genuine merit in the application. The exemptions will remain valid for the duration of the Player’s participation in Girls’ JDL unless their circumstances supporting the exemption change or they seek to change Clubs.
- f. The GJDL Boundaries are:

GJDL PLAYER BOUNDARY	ASSOCIATIONS	STATE TITLE BOUNDARY
NORTH	Central Coast Football	Met Far North
	Northern Suburbs FA	
	Manly-Warringah FA	Met North
	North-West Sydney FA	
EAST	Canterbury DSFA	Met East
	Eastern Suburbs FA	
	Football St George	
WEST	Blacktown DSFA	Met West
	Granville DSFA	
	Hills FA	
	Nepean FA	

SOUTH	Bankstown DFA	Met South
	Macarthur FA	
	Southern Districts FA	
	Football South Coast	Met Far South
	Sutherland Shire FA	
RIVERINA	Riverina Branch	Riverina Branch
SOUTHERN	Southern Branch	Southern Branch
WESTERN	Western Branch	Western Branch

g. Breaches of the eligibility criteria will result in a fine to the licensee of \$2,000 per breach

### 3. PLAYERS PER TEAM

a. Permissible players per team are identified in the following table:

Age Group	Field Players	Players per Team	Licensee Squad Totals
U10s	9	12-14	14
U11s	9	12-14	14
U12s	9	12-14	14
U13s	9	12-14	14

### 4. MATCH FORMAT

a. Girls JDL To ensure optimal development opportunities in GJDL, and provide a consistent platform underpinning Football NSW programs and competitions, GJDL match formats will reflect the FA Small Sided Football formula:

Age Group	Player Per Team	Formation (Recommended)
Under 10's, 11's, 12's	9	1-3-2-3 or 1-3-3-2
Under 13s (Girls JDL only)	9	1-3-2-3 or 1-3-3-2

b. Girls JDL - Matches will be scheduled over two (2) time slots, as follows:

Match Slot	Age Grade	Duration of Match	Half Time
1A	U10 Match	Two Periods of 25 Minutes	Two (2) minutes between the whistle ending the first period to the whistle starting the second period
1B	U12 Match		
2A	U11 Match		
2B	U13 Match	Two Periods of 35 Minutes	Five (5) minutes between the whistle ending the first period to the whistle starting the second period – Girls JDL

### 5. LEAGUE TABLES AND POINTS

a. No results, points and league tables will be kept during the game phase of the 2026 GJDL. This includes no Championship Series.

## 6. MATCHES

a. There will be no Championship Matches at the conclusion of the 2026 Girls' JDL game phase.

## 7. REFEREES (GAME LEADER)

a. It is the responsibility of the licensee to appoint instructing referees or game leaders to their home MJDL matches.

b. FNSW encourages Clubs to ensure all Game Leaders are in Club or consistent attire; including closed runners/boots, appropriate fitness gear, wrist watch and whistle:

- i. Game Leader Handbook – [Click Here](#)

c. For clarity, a Game Leader can be either:

- i. Club Official;
- ii. capable parent;
- iii. older child or Player; or
- iv. beginner Referee.

## SCHEDULE 3: ADDITIONAL RULES – PANDEMIC

### 1. SCOPE AND APPLICATION

- a. This Schedule 3 is to be read in conjunction with the remainder of the Regulations and does not constitute the complete Regulations applicable to the Competitions.
- b. This Schedule 3 is specific to situations where Pandemic affects the ability of Teams or Clubs to participate in the Competitions and/or the ability of FNSW to conduct the Competitions.
- c. Health and safety are FNSW's highest priority; our aim is to provide our stakeholders with a safe environment within which to train, play and participate in our game.
- d. Should any scenario occur which is not covered within these Regulations, then the matter shall be referred to the FNSW Executive who will determine the most appropriate outcome in its absolute discretion.
- e. In this Schedule 3, "Pandemic" means a widespread occurrence of an infectious disease over a whole country or the world at a particular time leading to public health emergencies, communicable disease outbreaks, epidemics or pandemics and any other capitalised terms used in this Schedule 3 will have the meaning given to them in Schedule 6 of the Regulations.
- f. In this Schedule 3, "50% of the Premiership" means exactly half of the total number of round robin Matches (both home and away) in which, at the commencement of a FNSW Competition, all of the Teams in that Competition were scheduled to compete

### 2. DISRUPTIONS TO TEAMS AND COMPETITIONS

Set out below are the principles that Football NSW will apply when determining outcomes following Pandemic-related disruptions to Teams and Competitions and the process by which Clubs may apply for the deferral of a Match where a Team is impacted by Pandemic:

- a. All Clubs, Club Officials, Teams, Players, Coaches Match Officials, Managers and Spectators will comply with NSW Public Health Orders, protocols and guidelines in relation to the Pandemic.
- b. Subject to the terms of any NSW Public Health Order and this article 2, Teams must participate in all Premiership Matches despite the unavailability of Players, Coaches and Club Officials.
- c. If six (6) or more Players from one Team are unable to participate in a Match because they have tested positive for the Pandemic in accordance with NSW Health Public Health Orders, the affected Team's Club may, no later than 24 hours before the Match, apply to Football NSW to have the Match deferred in accordance with Section 2 article 34, and rescheduled.
- d. An application by a Club to defer a Match in the circumstances described in paragraph (c) above must be made on the prescribed form (available here) and include an explanation of why the Club is unable to field a Team, including why it is not possible for the Club to select replacement Players from lower grades.
- e. Football NSW will consider an application for deferral submitted pursuant to paragraph (c) above and communicate its determination to the applicant Club as soon as possible. Any determination made by Football NSW on a question of deferral under this article 2 will be made in its absolute discretion, is final and binding on all parties and is not subject to challenge or appeal.
- f. After reviewing an application submitted pursuant to paragraph (c) above, Football NSW may require a Club to provide further evidence of the impacts of the Pandemic. If Football NSW reasonably concludes that false evidence has been supplied during any part of the application process and/or that a Club is seeking to use this article 2 to gain a competitive advantage, then the Club will be deemed to have forfeited the Match and the procedure in Section 2 article 31(b) will take effect. Football NSW may also take action against the Club and/or any relevant Club Officials and Players pursuant to the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.
- g. If the Players from one Team who are unable to participate in a Match for one of the reasons outlined in paragraph (c) above number less than 6 (six), or number 6 (six) or more but the affected Team's Club does not apply to Football NSW to have the Match deferred at least 24 hours before the Match (or does

apply for deferral within the specified timeframe but approval is denied by Football NSW), the affected Team must:

- i. participate in the Match, if necessary, by selecting Players from a lower grade who are eligible for selection in accordance with Section 3 (see articles 4 and 5); or
- ii. forfeit the Match.

h. If a Team forfeits a Match in the circumstances described in paragraph (g) above, the procedure in Section 2 article 31(b) will take effect, with the exception, at Football NSW's absolute discretion, of subparagraph (iv).

i. It is a condition of a Club's entitlement to seek Football NSW's approval to have a Match deferred in any of the circumstances described in paragraph (c) above that the Players who are unable to participate in the relevant Match are part of the current squad roster for the affected Team and are otherwise free of injury at the time that permission is sought.

j. If a Club receives Football NSW's approval only for a 1st Grade Match to be deferred and the Club's U23 and/or U20s Matches proceed as scheduled, the following eligibility criteria apply:

- i. in the Men's Competitions, 1st Grade Players must be eligible for selection in accordance with Section 3 article 4 a) i
- ii. in the NPL Women's Competition, 1st Grade Players must be eligible for selection in accordance with Section 3 article 5 a) i
- iii. in the League One Women's Competition, 1st Grade Players must be eligible for selection in accordance with Section 3 article 5 a) ii.

k. If a Club receives Football NSW's approval for both its 1st Grade and U23 Matches to be deferred and rescheduled, both of the rescheduled Matches must be played on the same day.

l. Teams must play rescheduled Matches as determined by Football NSW. If a Team fails to participate in a rescheduled Match, it will be deemed to have forfeited the Match and the procedure in Schedule 2 article 33(b) will take effect.

m. If Football NSW is unable, for whatever reason, to reschedule a Match that has been deferred in accordance with this article 2 within the Premiership calendar, a "no result" will be recorded.

n. In circumstances where Football NSW has determined that a complete Round of a Competition cannot proceed for COVID-19-related reasons, that Round will be postponed and rescheduled by Football NSW, provided that it can be played within the Premiership calendar. If a postponed Round cannot be played within the Premiership calendar, it will be cancelled.

o. In circumstances where Football NSW has determined that a Championship Match cannot proceed for Covid-19-related reasons, that Match will be cancelled and the highest-ranked Team, based on the Premiership table standings at the end of the Premiership, will be deemed the winner of the Match.

p. In circumstances where Football NSW has determined that a Grand Final of a Competition cannot proceed for the Pandemic-related reasons, the Match may be rescheduled, provided that, as determined by the Football NSW Executive in its absolute discretion, it can be played within a reasonable period of time after the original Match date. If the Grand Final cannot be played within a reasonable period of time, it will be deemed a cancelled Match and there will be no Champion of the Competition.

### **3. RECOMMENCEMENT/DELAYED COMMENCEMENT OF COMPETITION**

The following principles will apply when a Competition recommences after having stopped, or its commencement is delayed, for any reason related to the Pandemic:

a. If two (2) to four (4) Rounds of the Premiership have been postponed by FNSW under this Schedule 3, a minimum of seven (7) days will be allowed by FNSW for Teams to train and prepare for the recommencement of the Competition.

- b. If five (5) or more Rounds of the Premiership have been postponed by FNSW under this Schedule 4, a minimum of fourteen (14) days will be allowed by FNSW for Teams to train and prepare for the recommencement of the Competition.
- c. If the FNSW Executive determines that, upon the recommencement of a Competition, or upon the delayed commencement of a Competition, it will not be possible for all of the remaining Rounds of the Premiership and/or postponed Matches (if any) in that Competition to be played before the scheduled end of the Season, the FNSW Executive will determine, in its absolute discretion, how many (if any) and which of the remaining Rounds and/or postponed Matches (if any) will be played.

#### 4. LEAGUE TABLES AND POINTS – PREMIERSHIP

In circumstances where the FNSW Executive has determined that a Competition cannot be completed for Pandemic-related reasons, the following principles will be applied to determine the final standings for the Premiership:

- a. A Team will only be recognised as premiers of a Competition, and premiership trophies and medals will only be awarded, if at least 50% of the Premiership has been played at the time when the FNSW Executive made its decision not to recommence that Competition.
- b. If at least 50% of the Premiership has been played at the time when the FNSW Executive makes its decision not to recommence the Competition and every team in the Competition has, at that time, played the same number of Matches, the final standings for the Premiership will be determined in accordance with Section 2 article 10.
- c. If at least 50% of the Premiership has been played at the time when the FNSW Executive makes its decision not to recommence the Competition but the Teams in the Competition have not played an equal number of Matches, the final standings for the Premiership will be determined by means of the average points per game formula (PPG), as follows:

**PPG = Number of points/Number of Matches played Examples**

**The 16 Teams in the NPL Men's Competition were scheduled to play a total of 240 Matches in the Premiership but, for Pandemic-related reasons, the FNSW Executive decided to stop the Competition and it cannot be recommenced.**

**Example 1: Every Team had played the same number of Matches at the time of the stoppage**

- If, at the time when the FNSW Executive makes its decision not to recommence the Competition, a total of 120 Matches (50% of the Premiership) have been played and every Team has played the same number of Matches, the final standings for the Premiership will be determined in accordance with Section 2 article 10, based on the results of the 120 Matches played.
- If, at the time when the FNSW Executive makes its decision not to recommence the Competition, a total of 192 Matches (approximately 80% of the Premiership) have been played and every Team has played the same number of Matches, the final standings for the Premiership will be determined in accordance with Section 2 article 10, based on the results of the 192 Matches played.

**Example 2: Not all of the Teams had played the same number of Matches at the time of the stoppage**

- If, at the time when the FNSW Executive makes its decision not to recommence the Competition, the Teams have collectively played a total of 120 Matches (50% of the Premiership) but the Teams have not played an equal number of Matches, the final standings for the Premiership will be determined by means of PPG, based on the Matches then played, and the number of points then accrued, by each of the Teams.
- If, at the time when the FNSW Executive makes its decision not to recommence the Competition, the Teams have collectively played a total of 192 Matches (approximately 80% of the Premiership) but the Teams have not played an equal number of Matches, the final standings for the Premiership will be determined by means of PPG, based on the number of Matches then played, and the number of points then accrued, by each of the Teams.

## 5. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

In circumstances where the FNSW Executive has determined that a Competition cannot be completed for Pandemic- related reasons, the following principles will apply in relation to promotion and relegation:

- a. In respect of the FNSW League One 1st Grade Men's Competition and the FNSW League Two 1st Grade Men's Competition, if at least 50% of the Premiership has been played in both of those Competitions, eligibility for promotion will be determined in accordance with Section 2 article 12, failing which, none of the Clubs competing in those Competitions will be eligible for promotion or relegation and the structures of those Competitions will not change for the 2026 Season.
- b. In respect of the FNSW League One Women's Competition, if at least 50% of the Premiership has been played in the Club Championship age grades (see Section 2 article 11a)iv), eligibility for promotion will be determined in accordance with Section 2 article 14, failing which, none of the Clubs participating in that Competition will be eligible for promotion or relegation and the structure of that Competition will not change for the 2026 Season.
- c. In respect of the Boys' Youth Competitions, if at least 50% of the Premiership has been played in the Club Championship age grades (see Section 2 article 11a) v), eligibility for promotion and relegation will be determined in accordance with Section 2 article 13, failing which, none of the Clubs participating in those Competitions, will be eligible for promotion or relegation and the structure of those Competitions will not change for the 2026 Season.

This Schedule 3 may be updated throughout the course of the 2026 Season at the absolute discretion of Football NSW.

## SCHEDULE 4: PLAYER ROSTER PRINCIPLES

- a. The Player Roster Principles applies to the NPL Men's NSW, FNSW League One Men's and FNSW League Two Men's Competitions.
- b. The Player Roster Principles (PRPs) which govern player eligibility, registration and movement, are located at the following link: <https://footballnsw.com.au/resources/player-roster-principles-prp/>
- c. These Principles form part of the 2026 Competition Regulations and will apply in full to all Clubs, Teams, and Players participating in the 2026 season. All Clubs are required to comply with these Principles in the management of their player rosters.

## SCHEDULE 5: PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM – NPL AND LEAGUE ONE WOMEN'S

- a. The Football NSW Women's Player Points System applies to the 1st grade and U23 squads of the NPL Women's NSW and Football NSW League One Women's Competitions.
- b. The maximum points total for a forty (40) Player combined 1st grade and U23 squad in the 2026 NPL Women's NSW Competition and Football NSW League One Women's Competitions is 460.
- c. A Club newly entering at the level of NPL Women's NSW or Football NSW League One Women's either through either through promotion or at the invitation of Football NSW independent of the previous Season's results will be given an additional fifty (50) points to their PPS cap in their first Season of entry.
- d. The Senior Player and Youth Player advancement points adjustments can be used either;
  - i. in the same Season the Player moves to the Pathway Program, should the move happen during the football Season; or
  - ii. in the Season immediately following the Season in which the Player moves to the Pathway Program; or
  - iii. in the Season immediately following the move should the move occur outside the Football NSW Season.
- e. Each Club will start with forty (40) Players that are attributed with a points value of 12.5 points.
- f. Once a Player is added to the Senior Squad Player Roster, their points value is adjusted to 10 points, and then further adjusted depending on certain characteristics which result in points being added to or deducted from the Player's points value.
- g. A Player's points value cannot be less than 0 points.
- h. The following table details the points adjustment depending on the Player's history:

Category	Points Adjustment	Criteria
Homegrown Player Deduction	-1 for each season registered with the Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Homegrown Player is a Player that has been registered for any period during a Season with her Club's Youth Teams.</li> <li>• One (1) point is deducted from the Player's points value for each Season the Player was registered with her Club's Youth Teams.</li> <li>• The maximum adjustment to a Player's points value under this category is minus five (5) points.</li> </ul>
Loyalty Player Deduction	-1 for each continuous season with the Club's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Loyalty Player is a Player that has registered for her Club's Senior Squad for at least four (4) continuous seasons.</li> <li>• One (1) point is deducted from a Player's points value for each Season, starting from her fifth continuous Season, in which the Player is registered for the Club's Senior Squad.</li> <li>• The maximum adjustment to a Player's points value under this category is minus five (5) points.</li> </ul>

Category	Points Adjustment	Criteria
Visa Player	+10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Visa Player is any Player who is not an Australian Player.</li> <li>Ten (10) points are added to a Player's points value if that Player is a Visa Player.</li> <li>A Visa Player may still benefit from the other categories of the PPS (e.g. Loyalty Player Deduction).</li> <li>A Club is permitted a maximum of three (3) Visa Players per squad. Of the three (3) Visa Players, a minimum of one (1) player must be an AFC or OFC Visa Player. In the event a Club does not have an AFC or OFC Visa Player, the maximum number of Visa Players permitted shall be two (2).</li> </ul>
Switching Player	+8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Switching Player is a Player that has switched from another NPL Women's NSW or FNSW League One Women's Club, or a Club from an equivalent Member Federation Competition, during the current or preceding Season(s) and are in the Senior Squad.</li> </ul>
	+0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Player that has not been registered with an NPL Club or FNSW League One Women's Club for a period of 30 months from the date the Player made her last appearance for a Club in a Match will not incur a Switching Player penalty.</li> </ul>
Pathway Player	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No points are added to, or deducted from, a Player's points value, where that Player has left the Club and registered directly with a Pathway Program and are returning to the same Club directly from that program.</li> </ul>
Youth Player Advancement	-3 per Player	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three (3) points may be deducted from a Club's Points Total for each registered Player that is recruited from the Club's youth Teams into a Pathway Program.</li> <li>A one-off deduction will be attributed to the Club's Points Total when a Player is recruited to a Pathway Program for the first time.</li> </ul>
Senior Player Advancement	-8 per Player	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eight (8) points may be deducted from a Club's Points Total for each registered Player that is recruited from the Club's Senior Squad into a Pathway Program.</li> <li>A one-off deduction will be attributed to the Club's Points Total when a Player is recruited to the Pathway Program for the first time.</li> </ul>

Promoted Club	-50 per Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Promoted Club will receive a deduction of 50 points from their Points Total.</li> <li>• This points deduction only applies for the Promoted Club's first Season following promotion into the NPL Women's NSW Competition or a new Club being granted a licence to participate in the NPL Women's NSW or FNSW League One Women's Competition by Football NSW.</li> </ul>
Relegated Club	-50 per Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Relegated Club will receive a deduction of 50 points from their Points Total.</li> <li>• This points deduction only applies for the Relegated Club's first Season following relegation into the FNSW League One Women's Competition.</li> </ul>

## GENERAL DEFINITIONS

### Senior Squad

Senior Squad means the Club's 1st Grade and U23 Team participating in the NPL Women's NSW or Football NSW League One Women's Competitions.

### Youth Teams

Refers to a Club's U13–U20 teams participating in the Football NSW Girls Youth League One or Girls Youth League Two competitions. Where a Club does not operate a GJDL program but does have a MJDL program, Football NSW will consider the Club's U12 team as part of the Youth Teams category. Additionally, any female player participating in the Club's U13 Boys program will also be recognised under this category.

### Youth Player

Youth Player means a Player from the Club's U13 – U18 Teams.

### Senior Player

Senior Player means a Player from the Club's U23 or 1st grade Teams.

### National Elite Pathway Team

A National Elite Pathway Team is a team which participates in the National Elite Pathway, as determined by the FA Technical Department and the Member Federations from time to time. Points are credited for the movement of Players through the National Elite Pathway. For the purposes of the PPS, a team is a National Elite Pathway Team if they are one of the following:

- A-League Womens Club including Academy team's participating in the NPL/League One and or, the A-League Womens Team; or;
- National Training Centre team (full-time programs only).

For clarity, Bulls Academy FC are not classified as National Elite Pathway Teams as they do not currently hold an A-League Womens licence.

### Club

Club means any entity admitted by Football NSW to field a Team in the NPL Women's NSW and Football NSW League One Women's.

### PPS or Player Points System

PPS or Player Points System means the system for calculating a Club's Player points as set out in the Regulations.

## Points Total

Points Total means the sum of all points attributed to all Players on the Club's Senior Squad at any given time.

## Maximum Points Total

Maximum Points Total means the permitted total value of a Club's Points Total, as determined by Football NSW, being 460 points.

# EXPLANATORY NOTES

## Senior Squad Player Roster Requirements

- At all times during a Season, a Club may include a maximum of 40 Players on its Senior Squad Player Roster.

## Australian Player

An Australian Player is any Player who is:

- a citizen of Australia;
- a Permanent Resident of Australia (where Permanent Resident means a Person residing in Australia on a "permanent" visa class issued by the Australian Government, evidenced by either the Person's Visa Grant Notice or as a listed entitlement on the Person's online Visa Entitlement Verification); or
- the holder of a refugee visa, humanitarian visa or protection visa issued by the Australian government.

For further details see: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/>

## Visa Player

- Member Federations and NPL Clubs are encouraged to refer to the following website for further clarification regarding visas: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/>
- For the purposes of the PPS, a New Zealand Citizen is classified as a Visa Player unless he satisfies the definition of an Australian Player. Please refer to the Department of Home Affairs for further clarification regarding the visa status of New Zealand Citizens in Australia: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/>.

## Homegrown Player

- A Player does not need to register in continuous Seasons in a Club's Youth Teams to be eligible for Homegrown Player points.

**Example:** For a Player who was registered for the Club in the U14's and U15's but was not registered with the NPL Club in the U17's, a total of two (2) points will be deducted from her points value for the current Season.

- A Player is eligible for Homegrown Player points at the same time as being eligible for Loyalty Player points.

## Loyalty Player

**Example:** A Player is registered with a Club's Senior Squad in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 (continuous Seasons). If also registered in 2026, they will be eligible to receive their first point reduction of one (1) point as a Loyalty Player in the 2026 Season.

- If a Player is not registered with any Club for a Season and subsequently returns to her last Club, the number of continuous Seasons of registering for that Club will be deemed to be continuous.

**Example:** A Player was registered with the same Club in 2022, 2023 and 2024 (continuous Seasons), however was not registered with any Club in 2025. If the Player registers with that NPL Club in 2026, it will be deemed to be the players fourth continuous Season with that Club.

- Should a Player move into a Pathway Program, the determination of the continuous Seasons of service will not be deemed to have ceased if she returns to her previous Club. During the Player's time in the Pathway Program, the calculation of continuous Seasons of service will be suspended.

### **Switching Player**

- Football NSW has the right to determine in its sole and absolute discretion as to whether Switching Player points will apply.
- Switching Player points also apply for mid-Season registrations and transfers, including a Player promoted from a Club's Youth Teams.
- Where a Player is promoted from a Club's Youth Team to a Club's Senior Squad Player Roster during the Season, Switching Player points will be applied where the Player's registration immediately prior (e.g. earlier in the 2026 Season) or in the previous Season (2025) was with another NPL Women's NSW Club.
- A Player that has not been registered with a Club for a period of 30 months from the date the Player made his or her last appearance for a Club in a Match will not incur a Switching Player penalty.

### **Pathway Player**

- A Pathway Player is subject to all other categories of the PPS (other than the Switching Player category). For example, a Pathway Player is eligible for Loyalty Player points and Homegrown Player points.
- A Player who departs a Club for a Pathway Program and returns to the same Club will be classified as a Pathway Player provided the Player has remained with the Pathway Program for the duration of their absence from the relevant Club.

## SCHEDULE 6: DEFINITIONS

**“Abandoned”** means a Match which, while not postponed, has failed to commence, or has commenced but has been stopped by the Referee or Football NSW prior to its conclusion.

**“A-League Academy Clubs”** means Central Coast Mariners FC, Newcastle Jets FC, Bulls FC Academy, Sydney FC & Western Sydney Wanderers FC National Youth League Team and underpinning Teams that are participating in the National Premier League NSW Men’s, FNSW League One Men’s, FNSW League Two Men’s, FNSW Boys’ Youth League One & FNSW Boys’ Youth League Two.

**“Association Member”** means those admitted from time to time as association members of Football NSW under the Football NSW Constitution.

**“Away Club”** means the Club not playing the Fixture or Match at its home ground and / or appearing second on the Fixture list in the event a Match is conducted at a neutral Stadium.

**“Board”** mean the directors of Football NSW appointed or elected from time to time. “Body” has the meaning given to it under the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations. “By-Laws” means the by-laws of Football NSW as amended from time to time.

**“Championship”** means the final series conducted at the completion of the Premiership in accordance with the Football NSW Rules and Regulations.

**“Club”** means an entity formed for the purpose of playing football or futsal in the Competitions.

**“Club Official”** means any Person involved with the administration, management or organisation of a Club or Centre (whether paid or unpaid), including employees, contractors, directors, representatives and volunteers.

**“Coach”** means any Person with the required qualifications registered with Football NSW to control a Football Team’s training and Match performance.

**“Competitions”** means any or all of the football Matches or competitions conducted by Football NSW.

**“Constitution”** means the constitution of Football NSW as amended up to 20 March 2020.

**“Cup”** means a tournament or event conducted by Football NSW which includes, but is not limited to, the Waratah Cup played in the State in accordance with the Football NSW Rules and Regulations.

**“Executive”** means the Chief Executive Officer of Football NSW or his or her nominee.

**“FA”** means Football Australia Limited, the governing body for football (soccer) in Australia.

**“Field of Play” or “playing area”** means the field of play and any perimeter area between the line markings of the pitch and the Spectator area.

**“FIFA”** means Federation Internationale de Football Association, its successor or assignee.

**“Fixture”** means a meeting of Clubs as scheduled in all grades applicable.

**“FNSW Gender Diversity Policy”** means the Football NSW Gender Diversity Policy adopted on 20 September 2023 as amended from time to time.

**“FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations”** means the Football NSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations adopted on 21 February as amended from time to time.

**“Football Activity”** means any activity of a football nature that takes place on the Field of Play, playing area or within the external surrounds of a ground or Stadium or any other activity relating or incidental to the objects of Football NSW.

**“Football NSW”** means Football NSW Limited ACN 003 215 923 which is the governing body for football (including Futsal) in the State.

**“Home Club”** Means the Club playing the Fixture or Match at its home ground and/or appearing first on the Fixture list in the event a Match is conducted at a neutral Stadium.

**“Laws of the Game”** means the official laws of the game of football and futsal as promulgated by FIFA

**“League”** means a Competition conducted by Football NSW comprised of specific gender and age grades, as declared by the Board.

**“Manager”** means any Person registered with Football NSW to control the administrative aspect of a Team’s training and Match performance, including maintain all records and information relevant to game play (player cautions, goal scorers etc). A manager is not permitted to issue instructions to players or referees from within the Technical area nor communicate with media outlets if the person does not possess the correct Coach qualifications.

**“Match”** means any Match played in a Football NSW Competition, Cup, Premiership, other event or tournament under Football NSW’s control.

**“Match Official”** means a Referee, assistant Referee, fourth Official, Match commissioner, any Person in charge of safety or any other Person appointed by FA, Football NSW, a Referee’s Body, a Centre, an Association Member or a Club to assume responsibility in connection with a Match.

**“Misconduct”** has the meaning given to it under section 15.3 of the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

**“National Association”** means a national football association that is a recognized member of FIFA.

**“National Team”** means any national team squad selected or nominated by FA, including the men’s and women’s senior, under age, Olympics, futsal and beach teams or any other national representative team determined by FA from time to time.

**“National Registration System”** means FA’s national registration database

**“No Result”** means recording a 0-0 score in a Match with no points or goals awarded to either Club.

**“Official”** means a Club Official, Match Official or Team Official.

**“Participation Agreement”** means the Part 3 document completed by the Club or Team on acceptance to the Competition.

**“Participant”** means a Player, Official or Spectator.

**“Person”** means a natural person.

**“Player”** means any Person who participates in a Match (irrespective of whether he or she is registered with FA, junior or senior or an Amateur or Professional).

**“Postponed”** means a Match or Fixture which has not commenced and is to be rescheduled.

**“Pre-Season”** means the period of the year outside the Season.

**“Pre-Season Competition”** means Fixtures or Matches played prior to the commencement of a Football NSW Competition.

**“Premiership”** means the round robin Matches (both home and away) that a Team competes in during a Season in accordance with the Football NSW Rules and Regulations.

**“Professional Player”** means a Player registered with a football Club under a written contract to play football for reward other than payment for sundry expenses such as traveling to and from a Football Activity. Every other Player is an Amateur Player.

**“Referee”** means the referee appointed to assume responsibility in connection with a Match. “Referee’s Body” means a body made up of Match Officials who provide services to Football NSW. “Regulations” means these Football NSW Competition Regulations.

**“Representative Competition”** means any competition involving solely Teams representing either Nations, States, Territories, Regions or institutes.

**“Round”** means a series of Fixtures scheduled by Football NSW.

**“Season”** means from the commencement of a Football NSW Competition to the conclusion of a Football NSW Competition unless otherwise directed by Football NSW.

**“Spectator”** means a Person who attends a Match.

**“Stadium”** means stadia, venue or ground where the Match is conducted.

**“Stadium Technical Requirements”** means the regulations adopted on 6 August 2012.

**“State”** means the state of New South Wales with the exception of the northern regions of NSW which are identified by FA as “Northern NSW”.