



WARATAH CUP
REGULATIONS 2026

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SECTION 1: WARATAH CUP ORGANISATION & ADMISSION

1. Scope and Application

- a) All Clubs participating in the Waratah Cup are bound by the Waratah Cup Competition Regulations as promulgated by Football NSW from time to time.
- b) These Waratah Cup Competition Regulations (Regulations) shall apply to all Waratah Cup matches administered by FNSW and may be amended by FNSW at any time.
- c) Where these 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
- d) FNSW will interpret and apply all articles of these Regulations and any such interpretation or application will be final and binding on all parties and not subject to challenge or appeal
- e) Terms defined in the Waratah Cup Competition Regulations and Football NSW (FNSW) Rules of Competition shall have the same meaning in these Regulations unless otherwise stated.

2. Control of Competitions

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

3. Consequences for Breach

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

4. Outstanding Debts

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

5. Special Consideration

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

6. Disciplinary Sanctions and Proceedings

- a) All Clubs, Players, Team Officials, Match Officials, spectators or any person participating in any manner at a FNSW Fixture, Match, or event will submit exclusively to the jurisdiction of the Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations

7. Unforeseeable Circumstance

- a) Nothing in these Regulations will prevent the Board from approving a course of action to meet unforeseeable circumstances not covered by the Regulations.

8. Cup Format and Information

- a) National Premier League (NPL) and Football NSW Men's League One, Two and Three Clubs are required to register and participate in the Australia/Waratah Cup Preliminary Rounds.
- b) The Waratah Cup will follow the Australia Cup Preliminary Rounds at the following stages:
 - I. Association Clubs will enter the FFA Cup in Round 2; and
 - II. All Clubs in Football NSW Men's League Two and Three competitions, along with the remaining Association Clubs will enter the Cup in Round 3; and
 - III. All Clubs in NPL Men's and Football NSW Men's League One will enter the Australia Cup in Round 4.
- c) FNSW may amend the seeding of any Club within the draw as it deems necessary.
- d) All Round winners will proceed to the next Round.
- e) All Round draws will be random with no separation of seeds within each round.
- f) Where required, a bye round will fill any vacant slots in the draw process.
- g) FNSW may alter fixture kickoff times and dates as it deems necessary.
- h) The competition progression of the Australia/Waratah Cup Preliminary Rounds are completed after round 7 with the 4 winnings clubs progressing through to the Waratah Cup
- i) The Waratah Cup will consist of Semi Finals and Waratah Cup final

SECTION 2: TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

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

- a) All Fixtures will be played in compliance with the Waratah Cup Competition Regulations and these Regulations in force at the time and in accordance with Waratah and FNSW By-Laws, regulations, codes and directives, and under the FIFA laws of the game.

2. Match Balls

- a) The Home Club shall provide the Match Official with three (3) match balls (size 5) no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the Waratah Cup Match.
- b) Only licensed balls approved by FNSW may be used as match balls for Waratah Cup Matches and warming-up.
- c) Where directed by FNSW, Clubs must use the Official Waratah Cup Match Ball.
- d) Failure to supply match balls will result in a fine of \$100 per match they are not supplied.

3. Duration of Match

- a) Each Waratah Cup Match must consist of two (2) equal halves of forty-five (45) minutes to total a "full" regular period Waratah Cup Match time of ninety (90) minutes, excluding any injury time played as determined by the Referee.
- b) The half-time break for each Waratah Cup Match will be fifteen (15) minutes.

4. Extra Time and Penalties

- a) If at the conclusion of the regular period in any Waratah Cup Match (including injury time), the scores between the two (2) Clubs are tied, then extra time of two (2) equal periods of fifteen (15) minutes will be played. The conditions of Law 8 of the FIFA Laws of the Game will apply.

5. Substitution Rules

- a) For Waratah Cup Matches, Each team will be permitted to use a maximum of five (5) substitutes:
 - I. 18 players will be permitted on the team sheet, the 18th player must be a substitute Goalkeeper
 - II. If a team does not have a substitute Goalkeeper, that team will be capped at 17 players on the team sheet
 - III. 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 (do not count as one (1) of the three (3));
 - IV. If both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as one (1) of the three (3) opportunities for each team;
 - V. Unused substitutions and opportunities are carried forward into extra time
 - VI. 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 permitted substitution opportunities in normal time.
- b) A substitution can be made upon a Match Official being notified. A substitute Player must only enter the field of play:
 - I. after the Player being replaced has left the field of play

- II. after he receives a signal from the Referee; and
 - III. at the half-way line and during a stoppage in the FFA Cup Match.
- c) The Player leaving the field must leave the field at the nearest point on the boundary line, unless otherwise directed by the referee

6. Colours

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

7. Postponed Matches and Fixtures

- a) If a Waratah Cup Match is abandoned due to adverse weather conditions or a cause outside the reasonable control of either club (including its Players and Officials) at or after sixty (60) minutes of the regular period being played and where, at the time of the Waratah Cup Match being abandoned, the scores are not level, the result at the time of abandonment will be declared the final result.
- b) If a Waratah Cup Match is abandoned due to adverse weather conditions or a cause outside the reasonable control of either club (including its Players and Officials) either:
 - a. at the time of the Waratah Cup Match being abandoned, the scores are level; or
 - b. prior to sixty (60) minutes of the regular period having been played,

The Waratah Cup Match must be rescheduled by FNSW. Such rescheduling will require the Waratah Cup Match to either restart from the beginning or recommence at the minute at which play was interrupted (to be determined at the sole and absolute discretion of FNSW. The following principles will apply to the recommencement of the Waratah Cup Match:

- I. The Match will recommence with the same Players on the pitch and substitutes available as when the Waratah Cup Match was initially postponed unless a player has received a suspension in matches conducted between the postponed match and the rescheduling of that match.
- II. Should a player have received a suspension in a match conducted between the postponed match and the rescheduling of that match that player:
 - a. Will not be eligible to participate in the rescheduled match
 - b. Will not be able to count the match as a stand down in relation to any fixture suspension
 - c. The club will not be permitted to replace the player on the team sheet
 - d. If the player was on the field of play at the time of the postponement the player may be replaced by a substitute listed on the team sheet as long as the team has available substitutions as per the Regulations
 - e. If the Player was a substitute the number of available Players to substitute will decrease as they player cannot be replaced
- III. No additional substitutes may be added to the list of Players on the team sheet

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- IV. The Teams can make only the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the Match was postponed
 - V. Players sent off during the abandoned Match cannot be replaced
 - VI. FNSW will endeavor to appoint the same Match Officials to the completion of the Match, however, may appoint replacements should any or all of the Match Officials be unavailable
 - VII. The referee is the sole arbiter of elapsed time, and no protest may be lodged against the actual elapsed time as recorded by the referee
 - VIII. Should a Match be abandoned due to the fault of one (1) Team, or should it be determined by FNSW that one (1) Team / Club is responsible for the delay to the Match, the remaining minutes will not be rescheduled for completion, and the Match will be determined as a forfeit against the Team / Club that is deemed guilty of the abandonment or responsible for the delay
 - IX. Where a fixture is incorrectly reported as abandoned by the Referee where circumstances show clearly that the match was actually postponed, FNSW will treat the Match as postponed

8. Forfeits

- a) Should a Waratah Cup Match not commence within 10 minutes of the start time in the match schedule or amended by FNSW, the Waratah Cup Match will be forfeited by the team that has caused the delay to the start of the Waratah Cup Match.
- b) Forfeits prior to the scheduled match day will result in a fine of \$500.
- c) Forfeits on the day of the scheduled match or without notice will result in a fine of \$500 per forfeited match plus relevant match official's fees.

SECTION 3: ELIGIBILITY & DISCIPLINARY

1. Player Eligibility

a) Eligible Players:

- I. An eligible Player is one who has completed an online registration through National Registration System, either direct with a FNSW or with a FNSW Member Association.
- II. No player shall be permitted to play for more than one Club in the Australia Cup/Waratah Cup and can only represent the Club to which he is currently registered. A Player will be deemed to have participated in an Australia Cup/Waratah Cup Match where they have:
 - I. been listed as a Player on the team sheet of the Australia Cup Match;
 - II. played in the FFAP Cup/Waratah Cup Match either as a starting player or as a substitute (noting that this does not include unused substitute).

b) Ineligible Players:

An Ineligible Players is;

- I. Unregistered Players.
 - II. Suspended Players.
 - III. Football NSW may decide, in its absolute discretion, whether a Suspension or part thereof may be served in an abandon, cancelled or forfeited Match and any such decision is final and not subject to any challenge or appeal.
 - IV. A Player that has been expelled from a Match on the day/s prior to a Waratah Cup Match but after the regular Disciplinary Committee hearing date.
 - V. A Player that has been expelled from a Match on the same day as the Waratah Cup Match but played early in the day.
 - VI. A Player that is deemed ineligible due to any article of these Regulations or pursuant to the Waratah Cup Competition Regulations, these Regulations and/or FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.
- c) Where a Player subject of 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 15.6 of the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations. Further, that suspension is a Suspension for the purposes of these Regulations, and that Players is a Suspended Player for the purposes of these Regulations until that suspension is served in full.
- d) Subject to 3.3 g), any Team will automatically lose a Match on forfeit and be fined \$250, if an ineligible player participates 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 Official/s and / or Player may be further sanctioned in accordance with the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations for a breach of this Section 3.3
- f) In the case of a suspension incurred in grassroots football that has carried over into a Competition pursuant to Section 3.3 f), Football NSW may not enforce Section 3.3 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 the Clubs 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

2. Maximum Player Rosters

- a) All Clubs participating in the Waratah Cup must submit a Waratah Cup Player Roster Form not less than 48 hours prior to the day scheduled for the Club's Waratah Cup Match.
- b) FNSW will maintain the list of Players on each Club's Waratah Cup Player Roster.
- c) Contained in the table are the maximum players permissible for registration in the Preliminary Rounds of the Waratah Cup:
- d) A Club may add players to the squad total however a Club may not remove a player from the submitted squad total.

Squad Total	Team Sheet
Maximum of 40 players	A maximum of seventeen (18) Players only may be listed on the team sheet; 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 team sheet in accordance with section 4 art. 1 c)

3. Disciplinary Matters

- a) Yellow Cards:
 - I. For the Waratah Cup, three (3) yellow cards equate to a one match suspension. Suspensions incurred due to the accumulation of Yellow Cards from the Preliminary Rounds will apply to the next Waratah Cup Match in which the suspended Player's Club competes in.
 - II. If a Club is eliminated from the Waratah Cup and a player has received his third yellow card in the match that the Club was eliminated, the suspension will apply for the players next Waratah Cup Match in which the player competes in. Yellow Card suspensions are Waratah Cup specific and are required to be served in the Waratah Cup.
- b) Red Cards:
 - I. For the Waratah Cup, the Minimum Sanctions set out in the Table of Offences (as outlined in Schedule B of the Waratah Cup Regulations) must be applied by FNSW to Red Card Offences and to Expulsion Offences.
 - II. Red Card suspensions incurred in a Waratah Cup Match are to be served in the Club's next competitive fixture(s) Red Card suspensions incurred in a Local Competition fixture will apply to the next Match in which the suspended Player's club competes in, including the Waratah Cup.

SECTION 4: TEAM SHEETS, RESULTS, MATCH OFFICIALS & VENUE ENTRY

1. Digital Team Sheets

- a) All team sheets for all matches are to be completed via Dribl.
- b) The Away Club must make their Player selection in Dribl no later than one (1) hour prior to the scheduled Fixture. Failure to comply will result in a \$50 fine.
- c) A maximum of seventeen (18) Players only may be listed on the team sheet, 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 team sheet.
- d) 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 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 Failure to comply with any section of this regulation may result in a fine of \$100
- e) 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.

2. Results of Matches

- a) For all Waratah Cup Matches FNSW will enter the results into Dribl.

3. Match Official Appointments

- a) The appointment of all Match Officials will be made by FNSW, who may utilise such other people as deemed necessary to assist in the carrying out of this responsibility

4. Referee's Fees

- a) Clubs are responsible for the payment of Match Official Fees for the Semi Final fixtures, in accordance with the Waratah Cup Match Official Fees determined by FNSW.

WARATAH CUP PRELIMINARY ROUNDS - MATCH OFFICIAL FEES				
Round	Referee	AR1	AR2	4th Official
Semi Finals	\$280	\$150	\$150	\$90
Cup Final	\$280	\$150	\$150	\$90

5. Admittance to Semi and Grand Final Fixtures

- a) Admittance prices for the Waratah Cup shall be up to the following maximums:

Round	Adult	Student or Concession	Child Under 16
Semi Finals	\$10	\$5	Free
Cup Final	\$15	\$10	Free



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