



NORTHERN NSW
FOOTBALL

NORTHERN INLAND

2023

Northern NSW Football

Northern Inland

Competition Regulations



**NORTHERN
NSW**

FOOTBALL

NORTHERN INLAND



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1. SCOPE & DEFINITIONS

1.1. Northern NSW Football – Northern Inland Competition Regulations apply to the following competitions and/or fixtures conducted by NNSWF NI:

- (a)** Northern Inland Premier Division
- (b)** Armidale Senior Football;
- (c)** Armidale Youth Football;
- (d)** Namoi League
- (e)** Tamworth Senior Football;
- (f)** Tamworth Youth Football;
- (g)** Other competitions, tournaments and special events as promulgated by NNSWF Northern Inland from time to time.

1.2. These Regulations apply to all Clubs, Players, Teams, Club Officials & Match Officials participating in NNSWF Northern Inland Competitions.

1.3. These Regulations are supplementary to Football Australia (FA) Statutes and Regulations including:

- (a)** FA National Registration Regulations;
- (b)** FA National Disciplinary Regulations;
- (c)** FA National Code of Conduct;
- (d)** FA National Grievance Procedure By-Law;
- (e)** FA National Member Protection Policy;
- (f)** FA Spectator Code of Behaviour; and
- (g)** Any other regulations or policies adopted by FA from time to time.

1.4. FA Statutes apply to NNSWF Northern Inland Competitions.

1.5. If there is an inconsistency between these Regulations and any FA Statutes, Regulations or Policies, then the relevant provisions of the FA documents will prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

1.6. The subsequent Competition Rules address additional Regulations, conditions and requirements for specific competitions as outlined in Regulation 1.1:

1.7. All Competition Fixtures will be conducted in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game.

1.8. NNSWF Northern Inland reserves the right to deal with any persons or Clubs in respect of any offences or complaints and other matters not specifically provided for in these Regulations.



1.9. All Competition Fixtures shall be conducted in accordance with the NNSWF Northern Inland Competition Regulations, relevant Competition Rules and FA Regulations and Statutes.

1.10. NNSWF Northern Inland reserves the right to amend Competition Regulations and Competition Rules at any time in its absolute discretion.

1.11. The following definitions shall apply across these Regulations and Competitions Rules unless otherwise stated:

(a) Active means in relation to a Player or Team Officials registration status within the FA National Registration System, that the player or Team Official has paid the required registration fees to the club.

(b) Automatic / Auto means with respect to disciplinary sanctions the automatic 1 match mandatory suspension applied as a minimum;

(c) Away Team means the second listed Team on the Official Fixtures Draw;

(d) Club has the same meaning as in the NNSWF Constitution;

(e) Club Associate means one or more of the following, whether individually or collectively:

(i) Club Director(s), Committee Member(s) and Office Bearer(s);

(ii) Team Official(s) (including but not limited to a coach, Team manager or anyone who is officially associated with or on behalf of a Club).

(iii) Player(s) of a Club;

(iv) Member(s) of a Club as defined in the Club's Constitution;

(v) Supporter(s) of a Club;

(vi) Spectators at a Competition Fixture, who unless otherwise identified with a Club shall be deemed to be supporters of the Home Club;

(vii) Any person(s) involved with and/or who contributes to the game of Football in any capacity.

(h) Competition Fixture means any individual Match scheduled by NNSWF Northern Inland for points, or during Finals Series;

(i) Competition Management System means the online system for all fixtures and results currently contained within the SportsTG network;

(j) Doctors Medical Certificate means a written statement from a physician which attests to the result of a medical examination of a patient;

(k) Duty Officer(s) means persons engaged by a Club to fulfil the role as outlined in Regulation 10;

(l) FA means the National governing body, Football Australia Limited;



- (m)** FFA Cup means the national male club competition stage by, or under the control, FA between A-League Clubs and Member Federation Clubs;
- (n)** FA National Code of Conduct means the national code of conduct, as promulgated by FA from time to time;
- (o)** FA National Disciplinary Regulations means the national disciplinary regulations, as promulgated by FA from time to time;
- (p)** FA National Registration Regulations means the national regulations specifying the rules relating to the registration of Players, Clubs, Officials and Competitions with FA, as promulgated by FA from time to time;
- (q)** FA National Registration System means the online PlayFootball system used for Player registrations;
- (r)** FA National Spectator Code of Behaviour means FA's National Spectator Code of Behaviour which governs the behaviour of spectators present at a Match or otherwise involved in any activity staged by NNSWF or Club in order to enhance the reputation of FA and football generally;
- (s)** FIFA Equipment Regulations means the FIFA Equipment Regulations as promulgated by FIFA from time to time;
- (t)** FIFA Laws of the Game means the official 2019/20 Laws of the Game as promulgated by FIFA;
- (u)** Field of Play means:
- (i)** At an enclosed pitch the entire area within the temporary or permanent perimeter fencing; or
 - (ii)** At an open pitch the entire area within 3 metres of the boundary line of the football pitch.
- (v)** Finals Series means the series of Competition Fixtures contested with qualifying Teams as stipulated in the Competition Rules;
- (w)** Force Majeure Event means any event beyond the reasonable control of the party affected by it, including any acts of God, fire, explosion, flood, war, acts of terrorism, theft, malicious damage, strikes, lock outs, industrial action of any kind, government regulations or requirement or restraint or intervention;
- (x)** Goalkeeper means the player designated by a Club as that Club's goalkeeper in a Match;
- (y)** Home Team means the Team whose name appears first in the Official Fixtures Draw;



- (z)** Host Club means a Club which hosts one or more Competition Fixtures or Finals at their nominated Venue, whether or not that Club participates in one of those Competition Fixtures or Finals or not;
- (aa)** Just Cause means a legally sufficient reason;
- (bb)** Match(es) means a matchday for the relevant group of Teams. E.g. Premier Division First Grade and Reserve Grade;
- (cc)** Match Official includes the following:
- (i)** NNSWF appointed Senior Match Official (also known as the Referee);
 - (ii)** Assistant Match Official (also known as Assistant Referee);
 - (iii)** Fourth Official;
 - (iv)** Match Assessor;
 - (v)** Any other person designated by NNSWF as a Match Official; or
 - (vi)** Any individual who acts as a Match Official in any Match.
- (dd)** Mass Walk Off means where a Team or group of individuals remove themselves from a Match resulting in the Match being abandoned as per Regulation 25.2a;
- (ee)** Match Card means the official Match record with details pertaining to Players and/or Team Officials who participated in the Match as well as the result, goal scorers and any disciplinary actions;
- (ff)** Normal Time means the maximum length of 2 equal periods not including added time as specified in Competition Rules;
- (gg)** NNSWF means the Member Federation governing body, Northern New South Wales Football;
- (hh)** NNSWF Technical Director means the individual employed by NNSWF in this position;
- (ii)** Official Fixtures Draw means the competition draw for Northern NSW Football's Northern Inland competitions published on the Competition Management System;
- (jj)** Official Points Table means the recording of data including points, goal differences and matches played for each Competition where points are recorded housed within the Competition Management System;
- (kk)** Outfield Player(s) means the player(s) other than the designated Goalkeeper who participate on the field of play in a Match;
- (ll)** Player means any person who is registered with a Club to participate in the NNSWF Northern Inland Competitions;



- (mm)** Premiership means the Matches conducted within a Competition forming the home and away season excluding the Finals Series if applicable;
- (nn)** Red Card means a Player Red Card or Team Official Red Card, as the case may be;
- (oo)** Regulations means these NNSWF Northern Inland Competition Regulations promulgated by NNSWF Northern Inland from time to time;
- (pp)** Regular Season means the Premiership home and away fixtured competition;
- (qq)** Representative Team means a Team representing a State or Territory, a region or an Institute that participates in a Competition;
- (rr)** Senior Match Official means the most senior appointed Match Official for a Competition Fixture, usually the Referee;
- (ss)** Sporting Advantage means anything that provides a more favourable position, greater opportunity or a favourable outcome;
- (tt)** Talent Support Program means players who are selected to participate in the Talent Support Program administered by NNSWF technical staff;
- (uu)** Team means Players and/or Team Officials representative a Club in a specific competition age group and/or grade;
- (vv)** Team Official means any person employed or volunteering their services, including but not limited to, a Coach, team manager or physio / sports trainer;
- (ww)** Technical Area means the area marked and designated in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game within which the coach, the substitute Players and the Team Officials must remain during a Match;
- (xx)** Trial Game means any fixture sanctioned by NNSWF Northern Inland, but not as a Competition Fixture;
- (yy)** Venue means the venue at which Competition Fixtures are staged;
- (zz)** Withdrawn Club has the meaning prescribed in Regulation 27;
- (aaa)** Yellow Card means a Player Yellow Card or Team Official Yellow Card, as the case may be;

1.12. Interpretation

- (a)** In these Regulations, unless the context requires otherwise, capitalised terms shall have the meaning set out in clause 1.12 (Definitions)
- (b)** Unless otherwise defined in these Regulations, capitalised terms in these Regulations have the same meaning as defined in:
- (i)** the FA Statutes;
 - (ii)** the FIFA Laws of the Game;



(iii) the National Registration Regulations;

(iv) the National Disciplinary Regulations.

(c) In the event of inconsistency between these Regulations and any other FA Statutes, the interpretation will prevail in the following order:

(i) the FIFA Statutes;

(ii) the National Registration Regulations;

(iii) these Regulations; and

(iv) the National Disciplinary Regulations.

(d) In these Regulations:

(i) any use of the words 'includes' or words such as 'for example' or 'such as' do not limit anything else that is included in general speech;

(ii) 'business day' means a day when the offices of FA are ordinarily open for business;

(iii) any reference to '\$' or 'dollars' is to Australian dollar;

(iv) a reference to a singular includes the plural and vice versa;

(v) a reference to any document is to that document as amended, supplemented, varied or replaced from time to time except to the extent expressly prohibited by that document or these Regulations; and

(vi) a reference to a clause, annexure or schedule is to a clause, annexure or schedule to these Regulations, unless otherwise specified.

2. PREMIERSHIP

2.1. Premiership competitions may vary across divisions regarding the number of fixtures played, opponents and finals series.

2.2. Notwithstanding NNSWF Northern Inland's right to determine the Venue of any Competition Fixture, each Team competing in a Premiership competition shall play its opponents on a home and away basis and in a sequence as far as is practicable according to the respective home Venues availability.

2.3. Premiership Points - Determination of Placing Premiers

(a) Competition points shall be awarded as follows:

Outcome	Value
Win	3 Points
Draw	1 Point
Loss	0 Points



Forfeit (awarded to)	3 points
Abandoned	As per Regulation 25

2.4. When all Premiership Competition Fixtures are concluded, and the competition points allocated the Team with the highest number of points on the Official Points Table shall be declared the Minor Premiers.

(b) Where Teams are equal on points at the conclusion of all Competition Fixtures, their placing is determined by the following process being applied in this sequence:

- (i)** Highest positive goal difference;
- (ii)** Highest number of goals scored;
- (iii)** Highest number of points accumulated in Competition Fixtures between the Clubs concerned;
- (iv)** Highest goal difference in Competition Fixtures between the Clubs concerned;
- (v)** Lowest number of Red Cards accumulated;
- (vi)** Lowest number of Yellow Cards accumulated; and
- (vii)** toss of a coin in the event of a tie of 2 Clubs or drawing of lots in the event of a tie of 3 or more Clubs.

3. HOME / HOST CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1. Home Clubs and Host Clubs are as defined in Regulation 1.11.

3.2. The Home Club and Host Club may be the same Club.

3.3. The responsibilities of the Host Club are as follows:

(a) Venue Availability

- (i)** Ensure its nominated home ground is available for the Competition Fixture, on the date and time as published in the Official Fixtures Draw;
- (ii)** In the event of the ground being unfit or unavailable (except in the event of a wash out) for the Competition Fixture the Host Club shall (where possible) arrange an alternative Venue for that date and time. NNSWF, the Away Team and Match Official Appointments Officer must be notified of any change of Venue as soon as possible, but not later than 48 hours before the scheduled Competition Fixture.

(b) Playing Surface

- (i)** The Host Club must ensure the playing surface is in a condition the Match Official considers safe, ground markings are clear and accurate as specified



within the FIFA Laws of the Game and that nets and corner posts are provided to conform to the requirements of the competition.

- (ii) The Senior Match Official shall decide on all matters relating to the Regulation 3.3 shall report any breaches in writing to NNSWF Northern Inland.
- (iii) Should the Senior Match Official refuse to commence a Competition Fixture due to non-compliance with Regulation 3.3 (except in the event of a wash out), the Host Club shall be responsible for payment of the Match Official's fees and the Club may be fined a sum as outlined in Section 1 of Appendix A, and the result of the Competition Fixture will be determined by NNSWF Northern Inland.

4. MATCH BALLS

4.1. Match Ball Sizes

Age Group	Match Ball Size
5-9 Years	Size 3
10-13 Years	Size 4
14+ Years	Size 5

5. NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS PROCESS

5.1. Match results are provided to the Competition Administrator by Match Officials completing Match Cards at the conclusion of fixtures. These results are entered into the NNSWF Northern Inland Competition Management System Monday following weekend matchdays.

5.2. Clubs may request access to upload results into the NNSW Northern Inland Competition Management System for results to be available before Monday following weekend matchdays.

6. POWER TO DIRECT A CHANGE OF HOME VENUE

6.1. Notwithstanding any other Competition Rules, NNSWF Northern Inland may direct a Club to play its Home Competition Fixture(s) at a Venue other than its Home Venue, providing that reasonable notice is given to the Team(s).

7. REGISTRATION OF PLAYER/TEAM OFFICIAL

7.1. Registration Periods

(a) The amateur registration period for all other NNSWF Northern Inland competitions is 1st February – 30th June each year.

7.2. Registration Fees

(a) A player registration fee will be imposed by NNSWF Northern Inland for participation in all NNSWF Northern Inland Competitions which shall be determined annually.



(b) The NNSWF Northern Inland player registration component fee is refundable to the Club up until 30th June each year provided that the de-registering player has not:

- (i)** Played in a competition fixture during their time of registration;
- (ii)** Lodged an insurance claim during their time of registration;
- (iii)** Been listed on a Team Sheet for any Competition Fixture as either a starting Player or a Substitute/Interchange Player.

7.3. Player Registration Process

- (a)** For all NNSWF competitions, Players are required to register online via the FA National Registration System;
- (b)** A Player is not considered registered to a Club until such time as the Club makes them Active;
- (c)** A Club is responsible for ensuring that all of its Players have been registered and made Active 60 minutes prior to the Match the Player is participating in;
- (d)** The final date for any Player registration with NNSWF Northern Inland is 30th June each year. Any registration submitted after this date will only be accepted in the terms outlined in Regulation 7.4;
- (e)** This Regulation is subject to FA National Registration Regulations.

7.4. NNSWF may register a Player outside the Registration Period if:

- (a)** That Professional Player was not bound by a playing contract before the expiry of the immediately preceding Registration Period;
- (b)** that Player is a Goalkeeper and FA or the Member Federation has been satisfied that the Club has a justifiable reason for the request and has provided appropriate evidence;
- (c)** FA or the Member Federation is satisfied in its absolute discretion that exceptional circumstances exist, including if a Player terminated their Professional Player Contract for Just Cause.

7.5. Player Eligibility

- (a)** An eligible amateur Player is one who has registered in accordance with FA National Registration Regulations and NNSWF Northern Inland Competitions Regulation 7.3;

7.6. A Club may seek special dispensation regarding a Player's eligibility by applying in writing to NNSWF. Teams Playing Ineligible Players

- (a)** A Team found guilty of playing an ineligible Player in any Competition Fixture shall be ineligible for any points associated with that Match and shall be fined a sum outlined in section 2 of Appendix A:



- (i) In such cases, the Competition Fixture shall be awarded as a 3-0 victory to the non-offending Team unless the score of the Competition Fixture was greater, and in favour of the non-offending Team, in which case the greater result will stand;
- (ii) In determining what is a greater result, NNSWF Northern Inland will give preference to goals for in the first instance (i.e. 4-1 will be considered greater than 3-0).

(b) If a Competition Fixture result is amended in line with Regulation 7.6, any goals and / or player award votes accumulated by the non-offending Team will be upheld;

(c) If a Competition Fixture result is amended in line with Regulation 7.6, any player award votes accumulated by the offending Team will be removed for the fixture;

(d) If a Competition fixture result is amended in line with Regulation 7.6, and a score awarded in line with 8.3.a.ii, any goals for the offending Team will be upheld in the results and Official Points Table but will not be attributed to any individual Player;

(e) Any Player or Team Official infringements i.e. Red / Yellow Cards for both Teams will be upheld;

(f) NNSWF Northern Inland reserves the right at all times to determine if there was any malice or intent to gain benefit by a Club playing a Player deemed to be ineligible. Where NNSWF Northern Inland determines there was no malice or intent to gain benefit in playing an ineligible Player it reserves the right to deem what action is appropriate, taking into account any Sporting Advantage gained by doing so.

7.7. A Club shall not allow a Player who is under suspension or disqualification from NNSWF Northern Inland or any other FIFA / FA affiliated football body to play in the competitions.

(a) Such Player will be declared an ineligible Player;

(b) Any Club playing a suspended or disqualified Player during his period of suspension or disqualification may be sanctioned in accordance with Section 2 of Appendix A;

7.8. Subject to any disciplinary restriction, a Player is eligible to compete in their Team's Final Series Matches subject to compliance with the Competition Rules;

7.9. Team Official Registration Process

(a) For all NNSWF Northern Inland competitions Team Officials are required to register online with the FA National Registration System;

(b) A Club is responsible for ensuring that all of its Team Officials have been registered and made Active a minimum of 60 minutes prior to commencing duties as a Team Official;

(c) The Team Official must be registered in accordance with FA National Registration Regulations and NNSWF Northern Inland Competitions Regulation;



(d) NNSWF Northern Inland reserves the right to refuse registration of a Team Official who does not have the required minimum qualifications;

8. NUMBER OF PLAYERS REGISTERED

8.1. A Club must register sufficient Players to fulfill the requirements of the Team(s) in the competitions(s) as per the Competition Rules, subject to timelines determined by NNSWF Northern Inland.

9. DUTY OFFICERS

9.1. At all Senior Matches, both Home and Away teams must have a minimum of one (1) identifiable Duty Officer present at all times.

9.2. Duty Officers are required to wear a Duty Officer vest or similar high viz vest for clear identification to spectators and officials.

9.3. Duty Officers are required to:

- (a) Actively patrol the playing arena;
- (b) If requested, escort Match Officials on and off the playing arena;
- (c) Be the point of contact with Spectators of the Duty Officers own Club.

9.4. Duty Officers are not to enter the Technical Area during a fixture.

9.5. A player serving a suspension may act as a Duty Officer during their suspension but is not permitted to enter the technical area at any time.

9.6. Duty Officers must be at least 18 years of age and cannot be involved in any other activity such as coach, manager, or player during that fixture.

9.7. Duty Officers must not consume alcohol during their duties.

10. BEHAVIOUR OF PLAYERS, OFFICIALS AND SPECTATORS

10.1. Each Club shall be responsible and liable for the behaviour of its Players, Team Officials and Supporters at all times in accordance with the FA National Code of Conduct and FA Spectator Code of Behaviour.

11. PLAYING AREA AND TECHNICAL AREA REQUIREMENTS

11.1. Field of Play

(a) During any Match, an Official or Player not involved in the Competition Fixture, or a supporter shall not be permitted to stand closer than 3 metres to the playing field marked lines or where a permanent boundary fence exists, shall not be permitted to stand inside the boundary fence;

(b) Coaching from the boundary line/fence is strictly prohibited. Coaches must be in the marked technical areas.



11.2. All Team Officials and players in the technical area must be named on the official match card.

11.3. Clubs will be permitted a maximum of three (3) Team Officials and five (5) substitute/interchange players in the technical area during the fixture.

11.4. Team Officials and Players must remain seated within the prescribed area during the fixture, with the exception of:

- (a)** Team Officials attending to an injured Player;
- (b)** One (1) Team Official who may engage in active coaching;
- (c)** Players warming up under the direction of Match Officials.

11.5. Should the substitution/interchange of a Player become necessary a Team Official shall notify the Fourth Official or Assistant Referee of the change and will remain with the Player at halfway until the Player is called onto the field of play. If there is no Fourth Official or Assistant Referee the Player and Team Official must stand on halfway and wait for the referee.

11.6. Should a Player injury occur, the Team Official (1 only) will be called onto the field of play by the Match Official, to attend the injured player.

- (a)** In the event on an injury of a serious nature, treatment or movement of that Player is to be at the discretion of the first aid attendant or a Team Official.

11.7. The participants in the technical area are subject to the jurisdiction of the referee, assistant referees and fourth official for the duration of the match.

11.8. A Player or Team Official who has been sent from the field of play or is serving a suspension is not permitted to occupy a place in the technical area during a fixture.

11.9. No alcohol is to be consumed in the technical areas.

12. ADMISSION CHARGES

12.1. No admission may be charged for Competition Fixtures.

12.2. NNSWF Northern Inland reserves the right to determine admission fees for Grand Final Competition Fixtures.

13. PLAYER UNIFORM / EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

13.1. Equipment

- (a)** A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to themselves or another Player (including any kind of jewellery) as outlined in Law 4 of FIFA Laws of the Game;



(b) Shin guards must be worn by all Players at all times during any fixture as outlined in Law 4 of FIFA Laws of the Game. A shin guard should provide a reasonable level of protection.

13.2. Law 4 of the FIFA Laws of the Game states that basic compulsory equipment worn by Players must not have any political, religious or personal statements:

(a) Where a Player contravenes this Regulation, their Team may be subject to sanction by NNSWF Northern Inland where the contravention occurred or by FIFA;

(b) Basic compulsory equipment is inclusive of Players jerseys, shorts and socks (stockings), shin guards and footwear.

13.3. In addition, Article 8 of the FIFA Equipment Regulations states that Player equipment items may contain decorative elements, provided that they do not produce the visual impression of a country, a religious symbol or comparable symbol. A decorative element is defined as a further aesthetic element, other than identifications of a Member Association or Manufacturer's Identifications, which are added to, and used in, the design of any Player equipment item.

13.4. The numbers on the back of shirts must be of a consistent design and dimensions, as approved by NNSWF. They must be in complete contrast to dominant colours of the shirt (i.e. white or light colour numerals on dark coloured shirts and black or dark colour numerals on light coloured shirts).

13.5. Where dominant shirt colours are light or dark colours or horizontal, vertical, or diagonal stripes or carry a multi-coloured pattern thereon, which may impair the clear identification of the number from a distance of 100 metres, then the numeral must be placed on a plain coloured panel, in accordance with the preceding paragraph.

(a) For number size and placement, refer to Appendix C.

13.6. Sponsor branding can be included on the playing strip, with suggested areas noted in appendix C.

(a) NNSWF Northern Inland reserves the right to deny or approve at its absolute discretion the placement of a sponsor's logo/emblem on any Club kit in the event that the sponsor and/or sponsor's branding:

- (i)** is determined by NNSWF Northern Inland to be inappropriate and/or offensive;
- (ii)** has the potential to damage the reputation of NNSWF or the sport of football;
- (iii)** conflicts with NNSWF Northern Inland Naming Rights and/or Major Sponsor of the relevant Competition; and/or
- (iv)** contravenes the FIFA Laws of the Game and/ or FIFA Equipment Laws including by referencing or containing a national or political flag, foreign nation, political emblem, religious or racial inference or foreign language.



(b) If requested by NNSWF Northern Inland, Clubs must make a submission and provide evidence within 21 days as to the appropriateness and legitimacy of the sponsorship (financial or in kind) which will be determined by NNSWF Northern Inland at its absolute discretion.

(c) Clubs that seek to acknowledge sponsors that may breach Regulation 13.6 are required to apply to NNSWF Northern Inland for prior written approval to use the proposed sponsor logos on Club kits.

14. EXPENSES

14.1. All expenses incurred participating in a competition shall be the responsibility of the participating Teams. NNSWF Northern Inland may at its discretion, make a contribution from NNSWF Northern Inland funds to help offset costs.

15. OFFICIAL FIXTURES DRAW

15.1. All Matches to be contested in each competition shall be prepared by NNSWF Northern Inland and upon publication, shall be known as the Official Fixtures Draw.

15.2. Notwithstanding any other Competition Rules on the same subject matter, NNSWF Northern Inland reserves the right to alter, abandon or amend any Match after it has been nominated in the Official Fixtures Draw.

16. KICK-OFF TIMES

16.1. Scheduled Fixtures

(a) Matches should be played on the date and times as nominated in the Official Fixtures Draw;

(b) A Match should start at the nominated kick-off times provided that when a Match starts later than the stipulated time, short time will be played in equal halves to allow the following Match to start at the scheduled time;

(c) All Competition Fixtures on a Saturday, Sunday or Public Holiday, may not be scheduled before 8am;

(d) Senior Competition Fixtures between Monday and Friday may not be scheduled before 5.30pm;

(e) Youth Competition Fixtures between Monday and Friday may not be scheduled before 4pm;

(f) Competition Fixtures may not be scheduled to commence after 8.30pm;

(g) Notwithstanding the above, NNSWF Northern Inland reserves the right to determine the kick-off times for all Competition Fixtures;

(h) Finals Series Fixtures may kick off at different times and/or days than those during the point score season.



17. LIGHTING

17.1. A Match may be played on any day, wholly or in part under floodlights provided that the standard of lighting shall meet all requirements set out in NSNWF Lighting Policy.

18. CHANGE OF VENUE / FIXTURE REQUEST BY CLUB

18.1. Change of Venue Requests

(a) Change of Venue requests may only be made on the basis of perceived unplayable pitch conditions, or to relocate a Competition Fixture to an improved Venue;

(b) A written request, including booking confirmation, to relocate Competition Fixtures to an improved Venue must be received by NNSWF Northern Inland no later than 14 days prior to the Competition Fixtures. NNSWF Northern Inland shall consider factors such as maintaining kick off times, relative distance to travel, and the quality of the Venue and playing surface when considering such requests. Any request that involves a change to kick-off times or dates will be subject to Regulation 19.2;

(c) Any change request based on deteriorating pitch or Venue conditions may be considered within the 14-day period prior to the Competition Fixtures at the discretion of NNSWF Northern Inland;

(d) Alternate Venues need to be approved by NNSWF Northern Inland prior to confirmation of usage.

18.2. Fixture Date / Time Change Requests

(a) NNSWF Northern Inland will consider a Competition Fixtures change request by a Club if the request is received no later than 14 days prior to the Competition Fixtures with written consent provided to NNSWF by the Club Officials of both Clubs. Any request submitted within 14 days is subject to the availability of Match Officials and the discretion of NNSWF Northern Inland;

(b) No date or time change request will be accepted for the final round of any competition;

(c) Scheduled NNSWF Northern Inland Competition catch-up rounds will only be used in the case of postponed or abandoned Competition Fixtures.

18.3. Regulations 18.1 and 18.2 do not apply to Finals Series Competition Fixtures.

18.4. Any decision to reschedule a Competition Fixture (or otherwise) under Regulation 18 is subject to NNSWF Northern Inland right to reschedule a Competition Fixture.

18.5. NNSWF Northern Inland decisions in relation to rescheduling of Competition Fixtures will be final and binding on all parties and are not subject to appeal.

18.6. Deferral of Fixtures



- (a) A Team may seek permission from NNSWF Northern Inland to have a fixture(s) deferred;
- (b) Such requests for deferrals must be received no less than 14 days prior to the fixture;
- (c) Due notice to defer a fixture may be waived in the event of a critical incident which occurs within the 14-day period in Regulation 19.6. NNSWF Northern Inland reserves the right to determine the validity of a critical incident and the result of any fixture deferred due to a critical incident;
- (d) NNSWF Northern Inland shall reschedule the date for the playing of a deferred fixture;
- (e) NNSWF Northern Inland may at its discretion declare a deferred fixture cancelled.

19. FORFEITED FIXTURES

- 19.1.** A Team that, without Just Cause, fails to fulfil an engagement to play a Competition Fixture on the appointed date, time or Venue (except for in accordance with Regulation 24) shall for each and every offence forfeit that Competition Fixture.
- 19.2.** Any forfeit shall be awarded as a 3-0 victory to the non-offending Team.
- 19.3.** The offending Team shall also be liable for any reasonable expenses incurred by its opponent relative to the fixture as determined by NNSWF Northern Inland.
- 19.4.** Any points, goals scored, or votes acquired by the forfeiting Team will be removed from record.
- 19.5.** The offending Team shall pay all appropriate Match Official fees and any another penalty as determined by the NNSWF Northern Inland.
- 19.6.** A Team forfeiting on 2 or more occasions, without an acceptable reason, will be given a show cause notice on why your team should remain in the competition and will be subject to a fine in accordance with Section 6 of Appendix A.
- 19.7.** In the event of a team forfeiting on 2 or more occasions in the Northern Inland Premier League, without an acceptable reason, the club will be given a show cause notice on why both grades should remain in their respective competitions and will be subject to a fine in accordance with Section 6 of Appendix A.

20. START TIMES

- 20.1.** With the exception of any delay outside the control of the participating Teams, a Match must start at the scheduled time and may not start more than 15 minutes after the scheduled Match starting time.
- 20.2.** Any Team unable to or unwilling to begin a fixture after this period shall have forfeited the Match.



20.3. A Team refusing to start to play a Match shall be fined in accordance with Section 9 of Appendix A and a forfeit shall be awarded to the opposing Team.

21. MINIMUM NUMER OF PLAYERS

21.1. For all 11-a-side competitions a Team must field a minimum 7 of its eligible Players at all times in a Match in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game;

(a) For competitions with modified playing numbers the minimum number of Players shall be defined in the respective Competition Rules;

21.2. Any Club who does not have the minimum number of Players to commence a Competition Fixture will be deemed to have forfeited that Competition Fixture.

21.3. If a Club is unable to maintain a minimum of 7 players for the duration of a Competition Fixture, that Competition Fixture will be abandoned.

21.4. In the case of abandoned Competition Fixtures relation to regulation 21.3.

(a) Results and Match details will be dealt with in accordance to Regulation 24.2.

21.5. A team starting a match and failing to continue due to the inability to maintain the minimum number of 7 players on 2 or more occasions, without an acceptable reason, may be removed from the competition and will be subject to a fine in accordance with Section 7 of Appendix A.

22. APPROVAL FOR OTHER COMPETITION FIXTURES

22.1. A Club shall not play in any other fixture/competition in opposition to NNSWF Northern Inland Competition Fixture unless it has received prior written approval from NNSWF Northern Inland.

23. WEATHER AFFECTED FIXTURES / DOUBTFUL FIXTURES

23.1. In all instances where weather or other incidents preceding a fixture raise fair doubt as to the possibility of play taking place the following shall apply:

(a) For Council Controlled Venues

(i) Council representatives will inspect the Venue on the day of Competition Fixtures and decide whether play can take place during the day. Council representatives will notify Competition Administrators and Host Clubs.

(ii) The Competition Administrator will notify all Clubs.

(iii) A decision should be made no later than 7am.

(b) For Club Controlled Venues

(i) The Host Club are to inspect the Venue on the day of Competition Fixtures and decide whether play can take place during the day. In addition, the Host Club



Official shall advise the Away Team(s) and the Match Official Appointments Officer;

- (ii) In the event of a Venue being declared unfit for play due to inclement weather, Clubs are required to submit photos / short videos to NNSWF Northern Inland of the affected areas within 24 hours after the scheduled Competition Fixtures.

24. ABANDONED FIXTURES

24.1. Competition Fixtures may only be abandoned by a decision of the Match Official.

24.2. The Competition Fixture may be abandoned for any, but not limited to, the following reasons:

- (a) a Team has its playing numbers reduced for any reason below the minimum FIFA requirement of 7 players;
- (b) the lighting at the Venue fails such that in the opinion of the Match Official it is impossible or unsafe to continue to play;
- (c) the Match Official determines that playing conditions have become unsafe or untenable for any reason;
- (d) the Match Official, in consultation with duty officers, determines that the conditions for Players, Team Officials, Match Officials or supporters have become unsafe or untenable for any reason.

24.3. If a Competition Fixture is abandoned due to a matter set out in Regulation 24.2 NNSWF Northern Inland may determine one of the following outcomes of the Competition Fixture at its absolute discretion:

- (a) If 75% or more of Normal Time of a 1st Grade Competition Fixture has been played, then the score at the time of abandonment may stand. 'Played' in the context of this Rule will be determined by NNSWF Northern Inland with reference to the Match Official;
- (b) If 50% or more of Normal Time of any Competition Fixture, with the exception of 1st Grade, has been played then the score at the time of abandonment may stand. 'Played' in the context of this Rule will be determined by NNSWF Northern Inland with reference to the Match Official;
- (c) Competition Fixture to be replayed in full;
- (d) Competition Fixture to be awarded as a 'No Result';
- (e) Competition Fixture result is 0-0;
- (f) Competition Fixture result is 3-0 to the non-offending Team unless the score at the time of abandonment was greater and in favour of the non-offending Team, in which case the greater result will stand. In determining what is a 'greater' result, NNSWF



Northern Inland will give preference to goals FOR in the first instance (i.e. 4-1 will be considered a 'greater' result than 3-0);

(g) Competition Fixture to be replayed from the time at which the original Competition Fixture was abandoned. In the event a Competition Fixture is replayed in accordance with this Rule:

- (i)** The score at the time of the abandonment remains at the time the Competition Fixture recommences;
- (ii)** Only players listed on the Match Record for the initial Competitions Fixture between the 2 Teams will be eligible to compete in the recommenced Competition Fixture, unless NNSWF Northern Inland determines that additional Players are eligible (for example, in the case of player injury or availability);
- (iii)** NNSWF Northern Inland will determine what, if any, further substitutions are allowed by each Team during the recommenced Competition Fixture, giving consideration to the number of substitutions made in the Competition Fixture before it was originally abandoned (including which players may take the Field of Play or be substituted on).

(h) Competition Fixture at the time of abandonment is to stand;

24.4. A Team causing a fixture to be terminated before its natural conclusion through a "Mass Walk Off" or refusal to allow play to continue, shall be deemed to have committed serious misconduct and a forfeit shall be awarded to the opposing Team.

24.5. In respect of the above Regulations, the decision of NNSWF Northern Inland shall be final and not subject to an appeal to another authority. The action of NNSWF Northern Inland in respect of penalties imposed in this regard shall be distinct from decisions as determined by the Competition Administrator and / or the Disciplinary Chairman in respect of Players charged with offences by a referee and/or assistant referee.

25. FIXTURES NOT PLAYED AS SCHEDULED

25.1. In the event that weather or other causes, disrupt a competition to such an extent that it will not be completed within the Competition Fixtures time frame, NNSWF Northern Inland may cancel all or any Premiership / Final Series Matches to complete as many Competition Fixtures as possible in the Premiership and/or the Final Series.

25.2. Should a Match be declared cancelled by NNSWF Northern Inland, each competing Team shall be awarded a draw result. The goal score shall be recorded as 0-0.

25.3. Should a Finals Series fixture not be completed due to inclement weather or other causes over which neither Team has any control, NNSWF Northern Inland shall reschedule the postponed / abandoned Finals Series Fixture prior to the next scheduled Final Series fixture.



25.4. Should continuing inclement weather prevent the rescheduling of either semi-final fixture the highest place Team as determined in Regulation 2 of this document will progress to the next final series stage.

25.5. Should a grand final fixture not be completed due to inclement weather or other causes over which neither Team has any control NNSWF Northern Inland reserves the right to determine the result of the fixture.

26. TEAMS WITHDRAWN / REMOVED FROM COMPETITIONS

26.1. If a Team is withdrawn after the point of the Regular Season at which all Teams have played each other an equal number of times, a 'BYE' will be inserted to replace the withdrawn Team in the fixture, and:

(a) All Premiership points along with goals scored (for & against) for:

(i) Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team up to the point of the season at which all Teams have played each other an equal number of times will remain;

(ii) Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team after the point of the season at which all Teams have played each other an equal number of times until the time the Team withdrew, will be erased.

(b) All Player award votes gained in:

(i) Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team up to the point of the season at which all Teams have played each other an equal amount of times will remain;

(ii) Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team from the point of the season at which all Team have played each other and equal number of times, until the time the Team withdrew, will be erased.

(c) For the avoidance of doubt, NNSWF Northern Inland may consider forfeited Competition Fixtures as Played for the purposes of Regulation 27.1 (a).

26.2. Any Player or Team Official infringements i.e. Red / Yellow Cards in all fixtures involving of the withdrawn Team, will be upheld.

26.3. If a Team withdraws prior to the start of the Regular Season and cannot be replaced, a "BYE" will be inserted into the fixture, or the fixture may be amended to accommodate the new number of Teams.

26.4. If a Team is withdrawn prior the point of the Regular Season at which all Teams have played each other an equal number of times, a 'BYE' will be inserted to replace the withdrawn Team in the fixture, and

(a) All premierships points along with goals scored (for & against) for Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team will be erased;



(b) All Player award votes gained in Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team will be erased.

26.5. NNSWF Northern Inland may alter Competition Fixtures kick-off dates, Venues and/or times as it deems necessary in its sole and absolute discretion due to the removal or withdrawal of a Team.

27. MATCH CARDS / TEAM SHEETS

27.1. Match cards in a form decided by NNSWF Northern Inland are the official record of the fixture.

27.2. Match cards are to be completed by all competitive teams (12 years – Seniors) prior to the starting time of every fixture and handed to the referee prior to kick off.

27.3. Match cards are to be completed in black or blue biro only and all relevant details thereon being legible.

27.4. All match cards must include the coach and/or managers name printed and signed.

27.5. Senior match cards must have the Duty Officer listed.

27.6. All Clubs are asked to keep their own records of each fixture.

27.7. The referee is responsible for correctly filling in the relevant post-match details and lodging the card in the appropriate place appointed for completed match cards within 48 hours of the completion of the fixture.

27.8. When a fixture is played without an Official Match Official, the home team must notify the Competitions Administrator of the result within 48 hours of the completion of the fixture.

27.9. If a result or score is in dispute for a fixture, then the Club should notify, in writing, the Competitions Administrator. Clubs are asked to check the Official Points Table regularly and advise the Competitions Administrator, via email, of any disputes.

28. MATCH CARD / TEAM SHEET DISPUTES

28.1. In the event of a dispute regarding the recorded result and the referee refuses to alter the result, the Team Official shall have the dispute noted on the Match Card and sign their name under that note. The Team Official(s) should also report the dispute to their Club who may wish to lodge a protest via email.

28.2. If the Match Card is not signed by a Team Official, all information on the Match Card pertaining to infringements, results and goals scorers, is deemed to be correct.

28.3. Match Card Disputes will only be investigated by NNSWF Northern Inland in the following circumstances:

(a) The Match Record and request to conduct a Match investigation is lodged with NNSWF Northern Inland within 7 days of the Competition Fixture; and



(b) The following evidence is submitted by the Club in support of its request for a Match investigation:

- (i)** Full Team List;
- (ii)** Video or photography evidence;
- (iii)** Statutory Deceleration(s); and
- (iv)** Any other information accepted from the Club at the discretion of NNSWF Northern Inland.

28.4. Match Records will only be amended if NNSWF Northern Inland is satisfied that the information disputed is proven beyond reasonable doubt. There is no appeal against NNSWF Northern Inland's decision.

28.5. For the avoidance of doubt any dispute relating to a suspension will be dealt with in accordance with Regulation 33.

28.6. NNSWF Northern Inland may extend or abridge the deadline referred to in Regulation 28.3 (a), at its discretion.

28.7. Should a Team Official have a reasonable doubt regarding the eligibility of an opposing Player(s) named on the Team Sheet, they should note such concern on the back of the Team Sheet and in addition advise the Match Official.

(a) The Player(s) will be allowed to play in the Match and NNSWF Northern Inland shall adjudicate on the eligibility of the Player(s) upon receipt of Match Card.

28.8. A person and or Club found guilty of deliberately supplying false information on a Team Sheet shall be subject to disciplinary action and may be fined in accordance with Section 10 of Appendix 1.

29. INTERCHANGE

29.1. Restricted Interchange Substitution (NIPL First Grade)

(a) A Team is permitted to name a maximum of 5 interchange Players on the Team Sheet.

(b) A Team will be permitted to utilise 3 interchange periods during the match:

- (i)** A Team's interchange periods can be used at the discretion of that Team;
- (ii)** During these periods, Teams may make an unlimited number of interchanges;
- (iii)** Teams may make an unlimited number of interchanges during the half-time period;

29.2. In the event of an injury causing a Player to be unable to continue in the match, an Injury Interchange may be permitted, for the injured Player only, at the discretion of the Match Official which will not count toward the two interchange periods outline in Rule 29.1



29.3. Unlimited Interchange

- (a) A team is permitted to list a maximum of five (5) interchange Players on the match card and may make an unlimited number of interchanges during a fixture.
- (b) Unlimited Interchange applies to all competition fixtures except for Northern Inland Premier League First Grade fixtures.

30. MATCH OFFICIALS

- 30.1. Each Match, (including Trial Game fixtures) wherever possible, shall be played under the control of a registered referee and assistant Match officials (hereinafter called Match Officials) who are appointed by NNSWF
- 30.2. In the event of no appointed Match Official being in attendance 15 minutes prior to the scheduled kick off time, the Home Team shall be responsible for the appointment of a replacement Match Official for the Match.
 - (a) Failure of the Home Team to do so shall result in a forfeit being awarded to the non-offending Team in line with Regulation 20.2;
 - (b) Failure by the Away Team to accept the appointed person shall result in a forfeit to the non-offending Team in line with Regulation 20.2;
 - (c) The appointed person shall assume the full authority of a Match Official and shall be recognised as such.
- 30.3. Any Club appointed Match Official for an age grade competition should not be younger than 14 years of age and should be a minimum of 2 years older than the age grade they are appointed to referee.
- 30.4. Should the appointed person be 18 years of age they are entitled to referee senior (18 years plus) competitions.
- 30.5. In the event of non-attendance of a Match Official, the Match Card is to be clearly recorded accordingly and the matter reported by the Home Club to NNSWF Northern Inland.
- 30.6. A Club or Team Official may submit a report to NNSWF Northern Inland on the performance of a referee during a fixture on the prescribed form.
- 30.7. The Match Official shall record all key Match information including, but not limited to, goal scorers, Red and Yellow Cards and substitutions on the Team Sheet.
- 30.8. Any postponement or abandonment of a fixture must be noted on the Match Card by the Match Official. When a fixture is forfeited, the Match Card shall be endorsed accordingly by the referee and the relevant Team Official(s).
- 30.9. The referee and assistant Match officials shall report, in writing, any misconduct they have witnessed or breach of the Laws of the Game, including a Player and/or Team Official Red Card to NNSWF Northern Inland within 48 hours after the end of the Match.



30.10. The referee/assistant Match officials may be required to attend the respective disciplinary hearing as determined by the Disciplinary Chairman.

31. MATCH OFFICIAL FEES

31.1. Match Official's fees for Competition Fixtures and Trial Games are outlined in Appendix F.

31.2. Each participating Team in any Premiership / Finals Series Competition Fixture (excluding Grand Finals) shall be invoiced for payment 50% of Match Official fees for that Match.

31.3. NNSWF shall pay the Match Officials' fees for all NNSWF – Northern Inland administered competition grand finals.

32. PLAYING NAME & CLUB LOGO

32.1. No club shall be admitted to compete in NSNWF Northern Inland Competitions for the upcoming season where such Club's playing name / Club emblem has not been approved in writing by NNSWF. A Club's playing name must be in accordance with the FA Inclusivity Principals for Club Identity.

33. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

33.1. The Competition Administrator may (in accordance with the FA National Disciplinary Regulations):

(a) Determine and impose mandatory disciplinary sanctions and or impose fines and/or suspensions as per these Competition Regulation or relevant Competition Rules;

(b) Cite a Player, Team Official or Club to appear before its Disciplinary Committee;

(c) Suspend, fine, reprimand, caution or otherwise a Player, Team Official, or Club or any other person whom they consider has breached the Laws of the Game, the Regulation, Competition Rules or has brought the code into disrepute.

33.2. Appeal Against Disciplinary Sanction Imposed by Competition Administrator:

(a) A Player or a Team Official may appeal a sanction imposed by the Competition Administrator;

(b) Should a Player or Team Official appeal sanction imposed by the Competition Administrator, they must notify the Competition Administrator in writing within 72 hours of receiving the summary disciplinary notification. Received is taken to include club notification;

(c) The Disciplinary Chair will, at their sole discretion, review whether the appeal will be heard by:

(i) The Disciplinary Chair;

(ii) The Disciplinary Committee.



- (d)** A fee of \$1000 will be imposed for any hearing requests as a result of a disciplinary sanction which is administered by the Disciplinary Chair through a hearing;
- (e)** A fee of \$1500 will be imposed for any hearing requests as a result of a disciplinary sanction which is administered by the Disciplinary Chair through a hearing with the full Disciplinary Committee;
- (f)** All fees are partly, or wholly, refundable at the sole discretion of the Disciplinary Chair if the appeal is successful;
- (g)** A Mandatory Match Suspension cannot be appealed, other than in accordance with the limited exceptions contained under Regulation 34.10..

33.3. Appeal Against Disciplinary Sanction:

(a) A Player or Team Official may appeal a disciplinary sanction imposed under Regulation 34.1 and 34.2 by notifying the Competition Administrator within 7 days after the date on which the disciplinary infringement notice was received, using the application form in accordance with FA Grievance Resolution Regulations and the following Appeal Processes:

- (i)** Appeal to NNSWF;
- (ii)** Appeal to FA.

(b) There is no appeal process for a mandatory Match suspension, unless it is a case of mistaken identity;

33.4. Suspensions

(a) A Suspension is a ban or prohibition imposed on a Club or Club Associate from participating in a Match in a specific capacity, either for a period of time, or for a number of Matches;

(b) Minimum mandatory suspensions for Red Card offences are outlined in table 27.4:

Table 33.4 Minimum Mandatory Suspensions			
CODE	OFFENCE	GRADING GUIDELINES	PENALTY
R4	Denying goal scoring opportunity – Handling the ball		Auto
R5	Denying goal scoring opportunity – Foul		Auto
R1	Serious Foul Play (typically, but not limited to, serious foul)	1. Careless or reckless tackle	Auto
		2. Attempting to gain possession of the ball using excessive force	Auto



	play when the ball is in play)	3. Conduct that endangers the safety of an opponent in a contest for the ball or has the potential to cause serious injury	Auto +1
		4. Conduct causing serious injury	Auto +2
R3	Spitting	1. Spitting at an opponent or another Club Associate	Auto +4
		2. Spitting on an opponent or another Club Associate	Auto +8
R2	Violent Conduct (typically, but not limited to, serious foul play when the ball is not in play, and/or playing distance)	1. Minimal contact with an opponent or Club Associate	Auto +1
		2. Violent conduct and/or attempted violent conduct towards an opponent or Club Associate	Auto +1
		3. Serious and/or premeditated violent conduct towards an opponent or Club Associate	Auto +2
		4. Serious violent conduct that has caused bodily harm	Auto +3
		5. Violent conduct causing, or with the potential to cause, serious injury	Auto +4*
R6	Offensive, insulting, abusive or intimidating language and/or gestures	1. Using language and/or gestures in frustration	Auto
		2. Using language and/or gestures directed at another player or Club Associate	Auto +1
		3. Incitement to violence, or repeated use of offensive language and/or gestures, to another Player or Club Associate	Auto +2
		4. Use of discriminatory, homophobic, racist, religious ethnic or sexist language and/or gestures	Auto +4*
R7	Second caution (Yellow Card)		Auto
R8	Offences against Match Officials	1. Unsporting conduct	Auto +2
		2. Using offensive language and/or gestures	Auto +2
		3. Repeated use of offensive language and/or gestures	Auto +3



		4. Unwarranted contact with and/or conduct with a Match Official	Auto + 5*
		5. Threatening or intimidating language and/or conduct towards a Match Official or conduct reasonably perceived as a threat of physical violence towards a Match Official or their family or property	Auto + 7*
		6. Spitting at or on a Match Official	Auto + 8*
		7. Violence towards a Match Official and/or their family or property	Auto + 10*
		8. Violence towards Junior Match Official and/or their family or property	Auto + 10*
R9	Team Official Specific Offences (not covered in R1-R8)	1. Delaying the restart of play for the opposition	Auto
		2. Deliberately throwing / kick an object onto the field of play	Auto
		3. Physical aggressive behaviour towards any person other than a Match Official	Auto +1
		4. Entering the field to confront a Match Official at half time or full time	Auto + 1
		5. Entering the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner	Auto + 1
		6. Entering the field to interfere with play or an opposing player	Auto + 2
		7. Entering the field to confront a Match Official during a Match	Auto + 5*

* NNSWF will assess these charges and may also refer them to the Independent Disciplinary Chair to be dealt with under the Code of Conduct in addition to the minimum sanction.

(c) For the purposes of these Regulations, unless otherwise directed by a NNSWF, a Club Associate with a Suspension imposed in respect of circumstances where the individual was directly involved in a Match, may attend Competition Fixtures as a spectator only but must not participate as either a Coach, Player or in any official capacity for any NNSWF Club. This means and includes, but is not limited to a Suspended Club Associate may not:



- (i)** Enter the field of play and/or change rooms for the period of 30 minutes prior to a Competition Fixture, during half time and 15 minutes after the Competition Fixture;
 - (ii)** Be within 10m of the Technical Area for the period of 30 minutes prior to a Competition Fixture, during half time and 30 minutes after the Match;
 - (iii)** Take, or otherwise be involved in, training sessions or warm-ups on Match day;
 - (iv)** Give the Team or Players instructions, either directly or via a third-party, on Match day (this does not prohibit giving encouragement or barracking);
 - (v)** Be in the change rooms for the period of 30 minutes prior to a Match, during half time and 30 minutes after the Match;
 - (vi)** Complete Team / Match Sheets; or
 - (vii)** Otherwise approach the Senior Match Official to discuss any aspects of the Match as a representative of the Team or Club, or otherwise hold themselves out as having the authority of a Club Associate for the Match.
- (d)** An individual Suspended under Regulation 33.4 may, unless otherwise directed by the Disciplinary Committee:
- (i)** Attend team training sessions; or
 - (ii)** Participate in NNSWF Northern Inland Summer Football programs, unless the individual's Suspension is for conduct greater than 4 weeks length of Suspension.
- (e)** Any violation of Regulation 33.4(c) may be deemed Misconduct and subject to further NNSWF Disciplinary sanctions as follows:
- (i)** Recommencing the Club Associate's Suspension from the date of the violation of the Suspension; or
 - (ii)** Referring the matter to the Disciplinary Committee for determination of Misconduct.
- (f)** In all cases where an individual is Suspended and ordered to undertake training, provide a written apology, or complete any other tasks as required by the Disciplinary Committee, the individual shall remain Suspended until such time as all aspects of the determination have been satisfied or completed.
- (g)** Any Player or Club Official who has served a suspension for an accumulation of Yellow Cards as outlined in table 33.6 during the competition and subsequently receives a suspension from a Red Card in line with regulation 33.4 will be subject to an additional Match suspension:
- (i)** The additional Match will only be applied once for any Red Card suspension;



- (ii) For the avoidance of doubt, any Player or Team Official sent off during a Match is subject to the provisions of Regulation 33.4 (c).

33.5. Serving A Suspension:

- (a) A Club Associate must serve a Suspension without delay and a Suspension shall remain in effect until served in full irrespective of a change of status, league, level or age group;
- (b) In all cases until a Suspension is served in full, a Club Associate must not participate in any other Match at any level in NNSWF Northern Inland Competitions. This includes Suspensions that are not totally served in a Competition Season and that are carried over and served in future or subsequent seasons;
- (c) A Suspension arising out of a Finals Series which is not served in full in that Finals Series shall be carried over to the following Competition Season in which the Club Associate participates;
- (d) If a Match is postponed prior to its commencement, such Match will not be classified as a Match served under Suspension for the purposes of calculating a Suspension remaining;
- (e) A Match that is Abandoned after commencement, or Forfeited prior to commencement, shall count as a Match served under Suspension for the purposes of calculating a Suspension remaining unless:
 - (i) Any Club or Team to which the Suspended Club Associate belongs was responsible for the facts that led to the Abandonment or Forfeit;
 - (ii) An incident leading to the Abandonment or Forfeit of a Match is referred to the Disciplinary Committee;
 - (iii) For the avoidance of doubt: where a Match is Abandoned after commencement, or Forfeited prior to commencement, and is subsequently re-played, the Abandoned / Forfeited Match shall not be considered to be a Match served under Suspension, and the relevant Player or other Club Associate will serve their Suspension in the next available Match.

33.6. Accumulation of Yellow Cards:

- (a) A Player or Club Official who accumulates Yellow Cards during the course of the competition must serve mandatory Match suspensions in accordance with Table 33.6:

Table 33.6 Accumulation of Yellow Cards			
Person	Competition	Number of Yellow Cards	Mandatory Suspension
	Premiership	5	1 Match



Player		8	2 Matches
		9	Disciplinary Hearing
	Finals Series	3	1 Match
Club Official	Premiership	3	1 Match
		5	2 Matches
		6	Disciplinary Hearing
	Finals Series	2	1 Match

(b) Any Player or Club Official who has served a suspension for a Red Card as outlined in table 33.4 during the competition and subsequently accumulates Yellow Cards in line with Regulation 33.6 will be subject to an additional Match suspension:

(i) The additional Match will only be applied once for any Red Card suspension.

(c) It is the Clubs responsibility to record and monitor all Player/team Official infringements and impose sanctions in accordance with the FA National Disciplinary Regulations and competition rules;

(d) The accumulation of Yellow Cards in a Final Series is inclusive of all grades participating in the Final Series;

33.7. Accumulation of Red Cards

(a) A player who accumulates the following number of Red Cards during the course of the competition must serve the following mandatory Match suspensions.

Table 33.7 Accumulation of Red Cards			
Person	Competition	Number of Red Cards	Minimum Mandatory Suspension
Player	Premiership	2	As per initial suspension plus 1 additional Match
		3	As per initial suspension plus 2 additional Matches
	Finals Series	2	As per initial suspension plus 1 additional Match



Club Official	Premiership	1	As per initial suspension
		2	As per initial suspension plus 1 additional Match
		3	As per initial suspension plus 1 additional Match and mandatory Disciplinary Hearing
	Finals Series	2	As per initial suspension plus 1 additional Match

(b) Players stood down by the club will not be deemed to have served a suspension if NNSWF Northern Inland has not confirmed the suspension in writing;

(c) It is the Club's responsibility to record and monitor all player infringements and impose player sanctions.

33.8. Misconduct of a Team

(a) A minimum sanction of a \$200 fine will be imposed on any club for the misconduct of a Team which includes, but is not limited to:

- (i)** 5 players are cautioned or sent off during 1 Match;
- (ii)** 3 players are sent off during 1 Match; or
- (iii)** Several players together make threats or show force against a Match official.

33.9. Match Official Abuse

(a) In addition to any National Disciplinary Regulation sanctions applied to any Player, Team or Club Official found guilty of Match Official abuse, intimidation and/or harassment will be sanctioned in accordance with the Code of Conduct Regulations with minimum sanctions applied as follows:

(b) Player:

- (i)** 1st Offence will receive a minimum 2 Match suspension, as table 33.4 during which time the Player will not be permitted to attend Club fixtures during suspension and the Club will receive a \$200 fine;



- (ii) 2nd Offence will receive a minimum 4 Match suspension during which time the Player will not be permitted to attend Club fixtures during suspension and the Club will receive a \$400 fine;
- (iii) If a player commits more than two offences of Match Official Abuse they will be required to appear before the Disciplinary Committee for further sanction.

(c) Team or Club Official

- (i) 1st Offence will receive a minimum 2 Match suspension during which time the Team Official will not be permitted to attend Club fixtures during suspension and the Club will receive a \$200 fine;
- (ii) 2nd Offence will receive a minimum 4 Match suspension during which time the Team Official will not be permitted to attend Club fixtures during suspension and the Club will receive a \$400 fine;
- (iii) If a Team or Club Official commits more than two offences of Match Official Abuse they will be required to appear before the Disciplinary Committee for further sanction.

(d) A Club is jointly and severally liable for a fine imposed on one of its participants (even if that participant subsequently leaves the Club).

(e) Club Disciplinary Action

- (i) A Club which has more than two (Player, Team or Club Officials) found guilty of Match official abuse (in any one age group or division in both Senior and Youth) will be subject to a loss of three Competition points for each offence in that particular age group or division after the second offence;
- (ii) A Club which has more than two (Player, Team or Club Officials) found guilty of Match official abuse (in all grades inclusive of both Senior and Youth) will be subject to a fine of \$2000.00 for each offence after the second offence;
- (iii) Notwithstanding the above, all Clubs may be subject to further Disciplinary / Code of Conduct action as determined by NNSWF.

33.10. Mistaken Identity

(a) Where NNSWF can be satisfied through clear and verifiable video evidence, that a referee:

- (i) Issued in error a Yellow Card and/or Red Card during the Match to a Player instead of to another Player (being the Player who should have received the card as the Player who committed the offence attracting the card); or
- (ii) Expelled in error a Team Official instead of another Team Official (being the Team Official who should have been Expelled)



(b) Clubs seeking to have any Yellow or Red Card amended due to mistaken identity must submit via email within 48 hours of the Match concluding:

- (i)** The name of the player incorrectly identified;
- (ii)** The name of the player that should have received the Yellow / Red Card;
- (iii)** A link to the footage; and
- (iv)** The time the incident occurred.

(c) Any submission that does not meet the requirements set out in Regulation 33.10(b) will not be considered.

- (i)** NNSWF Northern Inland will rectify this error provided the process outlined in Regulation 33.10(b) has been complied with.

34. FINANCIAL STATUS

34.1. Competition Member

- (a)** Should the accounts from NNSWF Northern Inland to a competition member remain unpaid for a period of 30 days after they become due, then the competition member may, after notice of default, be declared an unfinancial competition member;
- (b)** NNSWF Northern Inland may consider allowing an unfinancial competition member to continue participation in the competitions up to a period not exceeding 4 Competition Fixtures;
- (c)** Unfinancial competition members may not receive any competition points in these 4 fixtures;
- (d)** A Team may not be entitled to participate in a Final Series fixture if its Club has not paid accounts due in full, before its last Premiership fixture:
 - (i)** Should a vacancy occur in a Final Series, NNSWF Northern Inland may at its discretion fill that vacancy with the next highest placed Team on the points table.
- (e)** A Club may not be entitled to be considered for future membership of NNSWF Northern Inland competitions if its financial obligations, other than those subject to the normal terms of payment, have not been paid in full by 30th September each year;
- (f)** NNSWF Northern Inland reserves the right to relegate a Club not fulfilling its financial obligations to a lower competition or refuse its membership.

34.2. Player / Team Official / Match Official

- (a)** Should the accounts from NNSWF Northern Inland to a Player/Team Official/Match Official remain unpaid for a period of 14 days after they become due,



then the Player/Team Official/Match Official may after notice of default be declared unfinancial and subject to sanctions as determined by NNSWF Northern Inland.

35. NATIONAL FLAGS, EMBLEMS AND SLOGANS

- 35.1.** In accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game and the FIFA Equipment Regulations, Clubs are prohibited from displaying political emblems, religious or racial slogans and emblems at sanctioned fixtures and on any part of the Players' attire or any uniform worn by Club Officials.
- 35.2.** NNSWF Northern Inland reserves the right at its absolute discretion to approve or deny a Club's proposed use of logos and/or emblems that breach Regulation 35.1. NNSWF Northern Inland will consider whether the proposal is reflective of a Clubs' heritage or history.
- 35.3.** Clubs may not display, distribute, disseminate, broadcast or publish by any means whatsoever whether electronically or otherwise any material in a language other than English, without the prior written consent of NNSWF to do so.
- 35.4.** All Clubs must have the prior written approval of NNSWF Northern Inland before introducing or incorporating any design, emblem or slogan onto any Club logo or name, product or medium, including but not limited to playing strips, promotional material, Club letterhead, banners, advertisements, public announcements, website or any other form of communication.
- 35.5.** NNSWF Northern Inland may request the immediate removal of any offending material at any time.
- 35.6.** If any person is in breach of this rule, both the individual and any Club of which that person is associated may be sanctioned and disciplined in accordance with Part V of the FA Statutes.

36. SALE OF ALCOHOL

- 36.1.** Clubs seeking to sell, or supply alcohol must obtain the applicable liquor license and comply with all legislative requirements.
- (a)** NNSWF takes no responsibility for any Club participating within its Northern Inland Competitions that does not comply with relevant legislation.
- 36.2.** NNSWF reserves the right at its absolute discretion to direct a Club not to sell or to restrict the sale of alcohol at any fixture under its jurisdiction.

37. GROUND SIGNAGE AND SPONSOR BRANDING

- 37.1.** In accordance with the FA Spectator Code of Behaviour, the display of any sign or banner featuring political emblems, religious and racial inferences is strictly prohibited at sanctioned fixtures.



37.2. In addition to regulation 37.1 above, NNSWF Northern Inland reserves the right to deny or approve at its absolute discretion the display of ground signage at fixtures sanctioned by NNSWF Northern Inland in the event that the signage:

- (a)** is determined by NNSWF to be inappropriate and/or offensive;
- (b)** has the potential to damage the reputation of NNSWF or the sport of football;
- (c)** conflicts with the NNSWF Northern Inland Naming Rights and/or Major Sponsor of the relevant Northern Inland Competition;
- (d)** features a religious emblem or symbol.

37.3. If requested by NNSWF Northern Inland, Clubs must make a submission and provide sufficient evidence as to the appropriateness and legitimacy of any sponsorship. The legitimacy of Club sponsorship will be determined by NNSWF Northern Inland at its absolute discretion.

37.4. Clubs that seek to display signage that conflicts with the terms outlined in Regulation 37.2 are instructed and required to contact NNSWF Northern Inland for prior written approval.

37.5. Clubs are required to remove offending signage at NNSWF Northern Inland total discretion and direction.

37.6. The above terms also apply to any other form of sponsor branding including but not limited to equipment and Club stationery.



APPENDIX A – DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

<u>Item</u>	<u>Offence</u>	<u>Minimum Cost</u>	
1. Home/Host Team Responsibilities			
1 a	Failure to provide approved Match Balls (Home Team)	\$100	Per offence
1 b	Deficiency in ground (Host Team)	\$100	Per offence
2. Ineligibility			
2 a	Playing an ineligible Player	\$200	Per offence
3.	Inducement to Bring About A Result	\$2000	Per offence
4. Player Uniform / Gear Requirements			
4 a	Failure to wear correct alternate strip, resulting in a clash	\$100	Per Team
4 b	Failure to have playing strips approved by NNSWF	\$200	Per strip
4 c	Inappropriate sponsor branding	\$500	Per round
5.	Failure to obtain consent for kick off time change	\$200	Per offence
6. Forfeited Fixtures			
6 a	Forfeited fixtures – Two or more occasions	\$\$200	Per offence
6 b	Forfeited fixtures – With no reason	\$500	Per offence
7. Abandoned Fixtures			
7 a	Caused by a Player	\$500	Per offence
7 b	Caused by a Club	\$1000	Per offence
7 c	Caused by another Club Associate	\$500	Per offence
8	Mass Walk Off	\$500	Per offence
9	Refusing to start a fixture	\$500	Per offence
10. Team Sheets			
10 c	Illegible Match card	\$100	Per offence
10 d	Supplying false information on a Match Card	\$500	Per offence
10 e	Match card not available	\$100	Per offence



11	Failure to provide replacement Match Official	\$500	Per offence
12	Three Players, Teams or Club Officials found guilty of Match Official abuse across all grades inclusive of both Senior and Youth	\$1000	Per offence
13.	Code of Conduct		
13 a	Breach of Code of Conduct by Player of Team Official	\$500	Per offence
13 b	Breach of Code of Conduct / Spectator Code of Behaviour by Player of Club Associate	\$500	Per offence
14	Display of prohibited flags, slogans or emblems	\$500	Per offence

APPENDIX B – APPEAL FEES

Disciplinary Sanctions	
Appeal to NNSWF Competition Administrator ¹	\$500
Code of Conduct Sanction	
Application for a Grievance Hearing NNSWF Competition Administrator ²	\$1000
Grievance Appeal Fee NNSWF ¹	\$1500
Grievance Appeal Fee FA ¹	\$2000

¹ - Refundable if appeal completely successful

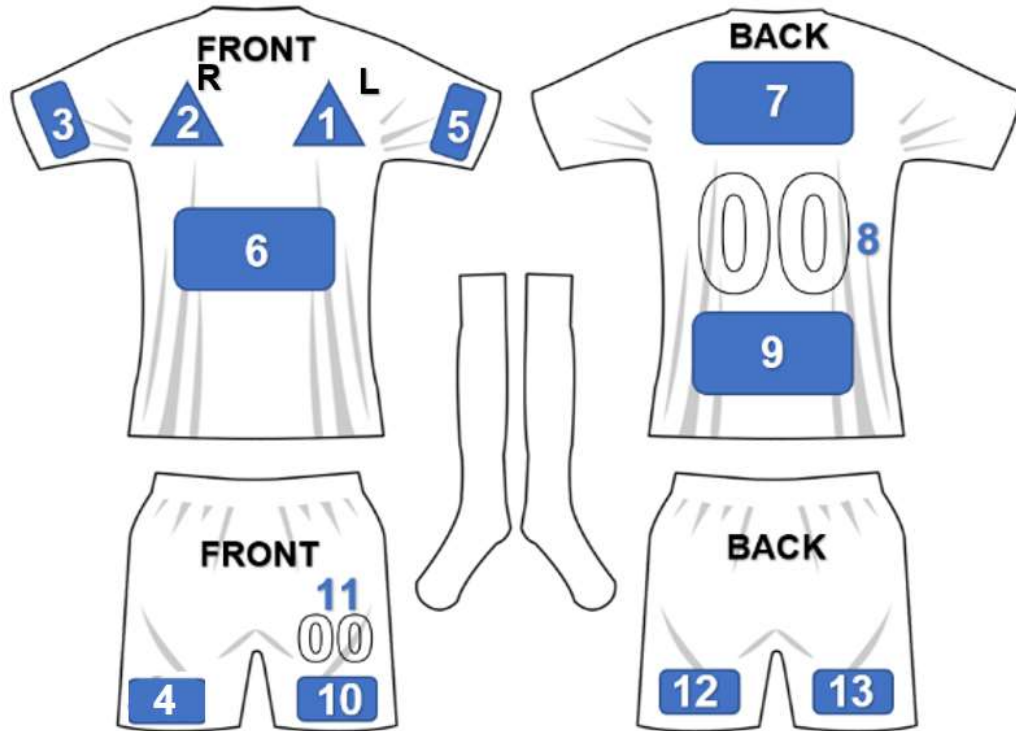
² - Non-Refundable



NORTHERN NSW FOOTBALL

NORTHERN INLAND

APPENDIX C – PLAYING STRIP BRANDING



Position	NNSWF / Club	Logo	Sizing
1	Club	Club Logo / Emblem	9cm (h) x 9cm (w)
2	Club	Sponsor	9cm (h) x 9cm (w)
3	Club	Sponsor Logo	10cm (h)
4	Club	Sponsor	14cm (w) x 7cm (h)
5	Club	Sponsor Logo	10cm (h)
6	Club	Sponsor Logo	30cm (w) x 15cm (h)
7	Club	Player / Club Name or Sponsor	30cm (w) x 10cm (h)
8	Club	Central Player Number	20cm (h)
9	Club	Player / Club Name or Sponsor	30cm (w) x 10cm (h)
10	Club	Club Logo or Sponsor	14cm (w) x 7cm (h)
11	Club	Player Number	10cm (h)
12	Club	Sponsor	14cm (w) x 7cm (h)
13	Club	Sponsor	14cm (w) x 7cm (h)



APPENDIX E - DISCIPLINARY CODES

1. **Player Red Card** means the sending off of a Player for the commission of the following sending off offences specified at Law 12 of the FIFA Laws of the Game:
 - 1.1. R1 – serious foul play;
 - 1.2. R2 – violent conduct;
 - 1.3. R3 – biting or spitting at someone;
 - 1.4. R4 – denying the opposing Team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a Goalkeeper within his own penalty area);
 - 1.5. R5 – otherwise denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent as prescribed by Law 12 of the Laws of the Game;
 - 1.6. R6 – using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures;
 - 1.7. R7 – receiving a second Yellow Card in the same Match;

2. **Player Yellow Card** means a caution of a Player by the Referee for the commission of the following cautionable offences specified at Law 12 of the FIFA Laws of the Game:
 - 2.1. Y1 – unsporting behaviour;
 - 2.2. Y2 – dissent by word or action;
 - 2.3. Y3 – persistent infringement of the FIFA Laws of the Game;
 - 2.4. Y4 – delaying the restart of play;
 - 2.5. Y5 – failure to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or thrown in;
 - 2.6. Y6 – entering re-entering, or deliberately leaving the field of play without the Referee’s permission

3. **Team Official Red Card** means the sending off of a Team Official by a Referee for the commission of the following sending-off offences specified in the Approved IFAB Trial Guidelines read in conjunction with the Laws of the Game:
 - 3.1. R-TO1 – violent conduct;
 - 3.2. R-TO2 – physical or aggressive behaviour towards an opposing Player, substitute, Team Official, Match Official, spectator or any other person (e.g. security or competition official);
 - 3.3. R-TO3 – using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures;
 - 3.4. R-TO4 – biting or spitting at any person;
 - 3.5. R-TO5 – entering the field of play to:
 - (a) confront a Match Official (including at half-time and full-time);
 - (b) interfere with play or an opposing Player.
 - 3.6. R-TO6 – deliberately leaving the technical area to:



- (a) show dissent towards or remonstrate with a Match Official;
 - (b) act in a provocative or inflammatory manner;
 - (c) enter the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner.
- 3.7. R-TO7 – deliberately throwing/kicking an object onto the field of play;
- 3.8. R-TO8 – delaying the restart of play by the opposing Team e.g. holding onto the ball, kicking the ball away, obstructing the movement of a player
- 3.9. R-TO9 – receiving a second Yellow Card in the same Match
- 4. **Team Official Yellow Card** means the caution of a Team Official by Referee for the commission of the following cautionable offences specified in the Approved IFAB Trial Guidelines read in conjunction with the Laws of the Game:
 - 4.1. Y-TO1 - dissent by word or action, including throwing / kicking drinks bottles or other objects to show dissent and/or gestures which show a clear lack of respect for the Match Officials (e.g. sarcastic clapping);
 - 4.2. Y-TO2 – gesturing or acting in a provocative, derisory or inflammatory way;
 - 4.3. Y-TO3 – gesturing for a Red Card or Yellow Card to be shown;
 - 4.4. Y-TO4 – clearly / persistently not respecting the confines of their Team’s Technical Area;
 - 4.5. Y-TO5 – deliberately entering the Technical Area of the opposing Team (nonconfrontational);
 - 4.6. Y-TO6 – delaying the restart of play by their Team;
 - 4.7. Y-TO7 – showing a lack of respect for the game;
 - 4.8. Y-TO8 – persistent / repeated unacceptable behaviour (including repeated warning offences);



APPENDIX F – MATCH OFFICIAL FEE SCHEDULE

Age/Grade	Referee	Assistant Referee	4 th Official
Senior Competitions			
Premier Division First Grade	\$90	\$45	\$20
Premier Division Reserve Grade	\$75	\$37	\$20
Namoi League First Grade	\$70	\$35	N/A
Namoi League Reserve Grade	\$60	\$30	N/A
Division 3	\$60	\$30	N/A
Division 4	\$60	\$30	N/A
Women's Matches	\$60	\$30	N/A
Local Youth Competitions			
U18	\$48	\$24	N/A
U16	\$36	\$18	N/A
U15	\$36	\$18	N/A
U14	\$30	\$15	N/A
U13	\$30	\$15	N/A
U12	\$28	\$14	N/A
NNSWF Premier Youth League Boys Competitions – NIAS Football Club			
U16	\$70	\$35	\$20
U15	\$64	\$32	\$20
U14	\$52	\$26	\$20
U13	\$46	\$23	\$20
Special Events			
Match Fees Determined by NNSWF Northern Inland			
Travel Allowance			
50 to 249 Kilometres - \$70			
250 Kilometres and Over - \$110			