



**NATIONAL  
PREMIER LEAGUES**  
NORTHERN NSW



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NORTHERN NSW

2023

National Premier Leagues

**Men's** Northern NSW

Competition Rules



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## 1. SCOPE & DEFINITONS

- 1.1. The National Premier Leagues **Men's** Northern NSW 2023 Competition Rules are to be read in conjunction with Northern NSW Football 2023 Premier Competition Regulations.
- 1.2. All definitions as outlined in the Northern NSW Football 2023 Premier Competition Regulations will apply in this document.

## 2. FEES

### 2.1. Participation Fee

**(a)** The total Participation Fee is approximately \$24677.85, subject to Rule 2.1(c).

**(b)** This Fee includes the following:

(i)	Competition Fees	\$7887.69
(ii)	Contribution to Match Official Appointments Officer	\$275.00
(iii)	Australia Cup Entry Fee	\$907.50
(v)	Disciplinary Levy	\$577.50
(vi)	Match Official Fees	\$7414.00
(vii)	Senior Player Registration Fees	\$7616.16

**(c)** The final confirmed amount will be based on the exact number of Player registrations undertaken by a Club throughout the season. This final adjustment, positive or negative, will be reflected in the 4<sup>th</sup> instalment noted in 2.1(d)(iv).

**(d)** The Participation Fee will be paid over four instalments:

(i)	Instalment 1	\$6169.47	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> February
(ii)	Instalment 2	\$6169.46	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> March
(iii)	Instalment 3	\$6169.46	Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> April
(iv)	Instalment 4	TBC	Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> August

## 3. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

3.1. Each Club will be required to field and maintain the following Teams in NPL **Men's** NNSW Competition:

**(a)** Senior Competition:

- (i) First Grade;
- (ii) Reserve Grade;

3.2. The Senior Competition is comprised of 12 Clubs and played on a home and away basis over 22 rounds.

3.3. Points will be awarded in accordance with the 2023 Premier Competition Regulations.

## 4. FINAL SERIES

4.1. The senior Finals Series will be conducted under the following format:

**(a)** Finals Series Fixtures:

Week 1				
QF	Qualifying Final	2 <sup>nd</sup> Placed Team	v	3 <sup>rd</sup> Placed Team
EF	Elimination Final	4 <sup>th</sup> Placed Team	v	5 <sup>th</sup> Placed Team
		Loser Eliminated		



B1	Bye	1 <sup>st</sup> Placed Team	v	Bye
Week 2				
MSF1	Major Semi-Final	1 <sup>st</sup> Placed Team	v	Winner QF
MSF2	Minor Semi-Final	Loser QF	v	Winner EF
		Loser Eliminated		
Week 3				
PF	Preliminary Final	Loser MSF1	v	Winner MSF2
		Loser Eliminated		
B2	Bye	Winner MSF1	v	Bye
Week 4				
GF	Grand Final	Winner MSF1	v	Winner PF

**(b)** Weeks 1-3 finals host Venue is determined solely on the basis of first named 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teams as outlined in Rule 4.1 (a).

**(c)** Reserve Grade Finals Series Matches will take place at the same Venue as their equivalent 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Competition Fixtures.

**(d)** The highest placed Team on the Official Points Table (1<sup>st</sup> Grade) reserves the right to nominate their preferred playing day.

**(e)** NNSWF reserves the right to schedule NPL Finals Series at their sole discretion, taking into account, all other Matches in Premier Competitions.

**(f)** If winners for the 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Finals Series Matches outlined in Rule 4.1 (a), Weeks 1-3 cannot be determined at the conclusion of normal time, then the following will occur immediately after the conclusion of the match:

- (i) Extra time of 2 equal periods of 15 minutes will be played in accordance with FIFA Law 8 for;
- (ii) If at the conclusion of both periods of extra time, a winner has not been determined, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game to determine a winner.

**(g)** If winners for the Reserve Grade Finals Series Matches outlined in Rule 4.1(a), Weeks 1-3 cannot be determined at the conclusion of normal time, then the following will occur immediately after the conclusion of the match:

- (i) Penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game to determine a winner;
- (ii) For the avoidance of doubt no extra time will be played in Reserve Grade Competition Fixtures for these Matches.

**(h)** For all Senior Grand Final matches outlined in 4.1 (a) Week 4, if a winner cannot be determined at the conclusion of normal time, then the following will occur immediately after the conclusion of the match:

- (i) For 1<sup>st</sup> Grade and Reserve Grade, extra time periods will be 2 equal periods of 15 minutes;
- (ii) If at the conclusion of both periods of extra time, a winner has not been determined, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game to determine a winner.

**(i)** NNSWF will determine the Venue, kick-off time and playing date of all NPL Grand Finals at its sole discretion.



#### 4.2. Senior Finals Eligibility

- (a)** The grade a Player has played the highest percentage of their Matches in is the lowest grade in which they are eligible to participate in the Final's Series.
- (i) A Player is eligible to participate in the lowest grade they qualify for in accordance with 4.2 (a) and grades above.
  - (ii) For the avoidance of doubt, percentage is calculated based on the number of individual games the Player has played, and not the number of games the Team has participated in.
  - (iii) Should a player have played an equal percentage of their Matches in all grades they participated in, they will be considered eligible to participate in those grades.
- (b)** The highest grade in which a Player is named as a starting Player, will be considered to be the grade in which that Player has participated in for that round.
- (c)** Subject to any suspension and/or age eligibility a Player is eligible to participate in the grade they have qualified for and grades above.
- (d)** Club may seek special dispensation for the specialist position of Goalkeeper. All requests will be considered on an individual basis by NNSWF.
- (e)** Should a Team be removed or withdrawn from a competition, NNSWF reserves the right to adjust finals eligibility requirements for remaining Clubs on the basis of a Player being eligible for the Team they have played the majority of matches for and the corresponding grades above.

#### 5. ADMISSION CHARGES

##### 5.1. Scheduled Fixture

- (a)** The following fees are the maximum admission fees which can be charged for senior Matches:

(i)	Adults	\$10.00
(ii)	Concession	\$5.00
(iii)	Vehicles	\$2.00

- (b)** Admission fees may only be charged for senior football:

- (i) In the event of youth Matches (including 18 Years) occurring on the same day at the same Venue as senior Matches, admission fees may only apply from half time in the youth Match immediately preceding the first senior match.

##### 5.2. Rescheduled Fixture

- (a)** Where a 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Team participates in a rescheduled fixture:

(i)	Adults	\$10.00
(ii)	Concession	\$5.00
(iii)	Vehicles	\$2.00

- (b)** Where only Reserve Grade participate in a rescheduled fixture:

(i)	Adults	\$5.00
(ii)	Concession	\$2.00
(iii)	Vehicles	\$1.00



## 6. CLUB PASSES

6.1. Each Club will be provided the following passes:

(a)	VIP	10
(b)	Committee	18
(c)	Players	60

6.2. Clubs are responsible for ensuring that all Club Associates adhere to the required terms and conditions noted on their specific pass.

## 7. AGE RESTRICTIONS

7.1. A Player's age is determined by the age they turn during that calendar year.

7.2. 2023 Senior Grades

**(a)** Minimum age to play in Senior Grades is 15 years.

**(b)** All Clubs, are required to register and maintain a minimum of 7 Players born 2002 or later in their Reserve Grade Roster.

7.3. A Player registered in the Player Points System Roster (1<sup>st</sup> Grade) is not permitted to participate in a Youth Grade competition.

## 8. PLAYER REGISTRATIONS

8.1. The minimum number of Players permitted to be registered per Club is:

Seniors	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade, Reserve Grade	30
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8.2. Player Eligibility Exemptions

**(a)** Players are not permitted to play down into an age group or grade lower than they are age eligible for with the exception of:

- (i) In the event of an injury or unavailability to a Goalkeeper and the subsequent goalkeeper from the age group or grade below is unable to participate, Clubs must complete and submit the following form [Eligibility Form](#) allowing for permission to play the Goalkeeper from the corresponding next age group or grade above.
- (ii) The [Eligibility Form](#) must be completed and submitted by a Club Executive or the Club Technical Director by or before 9am the next Business Day following the completion of the Match.
- (iii) Clubs are responsible for collecting and storing applicable evidence to support the usage of a Goalkeeper from the higher age group which may be requested by NNSWF.
- (iv) In the event a Player or Goalkeeper does not meet the above criteria, Clubs may apply in writing to NNSWF to request special exemption.
- (v) Should a Club be found guilty of the using a Goalkeeper from a higher grade to gain Sporting Advantage, which may include taking adequate steps in assembling their squads appropriately, they may be subject to NNSWF Premier Competition Regulation 7 and corresponding sanctions.

## 9. PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM

9.1. Each Club is subject to the requirements of the Player Points System as set out by Football Australia.

**(a)** For season 2023 each Club is allocated 180 PPS points for their 1<sup>st</sup> Grade squad.



(i) Promoted Clubs are allocated an additional 20 points for their first season as prescribed by Football Australia.

**(b)** Each Club must maintain a minimum PPS Roster of 20 Players and a maximum PPS Roster of 23 Players at all times throughout the NPL season.

**(c)** Should any Club's PPS Roster fall below the minimum 20 Players, for any reason, the Club will be required to nominate the appropriate number of Players from their Reserve Grade to fulfil the requirements outlined in Rule 9.1 (b) Overage Players will not be considered in this instance.

9.2. Clubs will be required to submit PPS documents to NNSWF as below:

Draft Roster	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February
Final Roster	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> February (5pm)

9.3. Clubs will be permitted to make unlimited changes to their original PPS squad during the following window:

Mid-Season Window	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May → Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May (12pm)
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9.4. Reserve Grade

**(a)** Players born 2002 or earlier on the Reserve Grade Roster, will not be permitted to play 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Matches unless they have been added to the PPS in line with Rule 9.3.

**(b)** Clubs are permitted to transfer overage Players into the PPS Roster in the window outlined in Rule 9.3.

9.5. Should a Player listed within a PPS squad be deregistered outside of the allocated PPS windows, the Club will not be able to draft a replacement Player into its PPS squad until the PPS window opens, with the exception of Rule 9.1 (c).

9.6. Changes to a PPS squad will not be permitted in the event of a Player(s) suspension.

9.7. Any Club found to deliberately mislead or breach the PPS by knowingly providing incorrect information on a Player/s history will be subject to disciplinary action as determined by NNSWF.

## 10. MATCH DURATION

10.1. Each Competition Fixture shall consist of the following:

Competition	Match Duration	Half-Time Interval
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	2 x 45-minute halves	15 minutes (max.)
Reserve Grade	2 x 45-minute halves	5 minutes (min.)   10 minutes (max.)

10.2. Additional time for injuries and stoppages in 1<sup>st</sup> Grade may be added at the discretion of the referee.

## 11. MATCH BALLS

11.1. Approved match balls must be used in all NPL Competition Fixtures.

11.2. Mitre is the approved match ball for season 2023.

11.3. The following match balls must be used:

Competition	Match Ball Size	Match Ball Min. Quality
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	5	Top of the range Mitre (NPL Delta or similar)
Reserve Grade	5	Mid-range Mitre





## 12. TEAM OFFICIALS & TECHNICAL AREA

12.1. Clubs will be permitted to the following number of Team Officials, substitute and / or interchange Players within in the Technical Area during a fixture:

Competition	Maximum Officials Permitted	Maximum Players Permitted
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	6 Registered Team Officials	7 Substitute Players
Reserve Grade		5 Substitute Players

**(a)** All Team Officials & Players must be eligible to participate in the Match and named accordingly on the Official Team Sheet.

12.2. All registered Team Officials must display their NNSWF Accreditation Pass at all times.

12.3. A Player or Team Official who has been expelled or is serving a suspension is not permitted to be in the Technical Area during a fixture in accordance with Regulation 37 of 2023 Premier Competition Regulations.

## 13. SUBSTITUTION OF PLAYERS

### 13.1. 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

**(a)** Each competing Team may name a maximum of 7 substitute Players on the Official Team Sheet and at its discretion use 5 substitutes during a Match, 1 of whom may be the Goalkeeper;

**(b)** To reduce disruption to the Match, each Team will have a maximum of 3 opportunities to make substitutions during the game; substitutions may also be made at half-time which does not count towards the maximum of 3 opportunities. If both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as 1 of the 3 opportunities for each team.

(i) For Matches where Extra Time is required (Rule 4.1) each Team will have 1 additional opportunity to make a substitution

### 13.2. Reserve Grade

**(a)** Each competing Team may name a maximum of 5 substitute Players on the Official Team Sheet and at its discretion use 5 substitutes during a Match, 1 of whom may be the Goalkeeper;

**(b)** To reduce disruption to the Match, each Team will have a maximum of 3 opportunities to make substitutions during the game; substitutions may also be made at half-time which does not count towards the maximum of 3 opportunities. If both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as 1 of the 3 opportunities for each team.

(i) For Matches where Extra Time is required (Rule 4.1) each Team will have 1 additional opportunity to make a substitution.

## 14. RESCHEDULED FIXTURES

### 14.1. Senior Competitions

**(a)** Senior Competition Fixtures postponed due to inclement weather, or any other causes will in the first instance be rescheduled to the next available catch-up round, with preference given to matchdays where multiple grades have been postponed.

**(b)** Should there be no available catch-up rounds, the matches will be replayed the second week after the postponement as follows with due consideration given to previously scheduled Competition Fixtures:

1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Wednesday	8:00pm
Reserve Grade	Wednesday	6:00pm





**(c)** NNSWF reserves the right at its absolute discretion to consider all available options to ensure that as many fixtures as possible are played during a period of inclement weather or postponements, and where any fixture may have a bearing on a final's series position all endeavours will be made to reschedule fixture.

14.2. Should inclement weather persist and cause the postponement of rescheduled fixtures, NNSWF will liaise with the Home Club to determine new Competition Fixture dates.

14.3. The availability of Players or Team Officials will not be taken into consideration when determining rescheduled fixtures.

## 15. PRIZE MONEY

15.1. Prize money shall be awarded in accordance with the following table:

1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Premiers	\$10 000.00
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Second Place	\$2 000.00
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Grand Final Winners	\$4 000.00
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Grand Finalists	\$2 000.00
Club Championship	\$2 000.00
Club of the Year	\$1 000.00

## 16. MEDIA & MARKETING

16.1. Clubs will be required to actively operate Social Media accounts that are up to date, relevant and **provide information to their members in accordance with NNSWF's Social Media Policy.**

16.2. Clubs may be required to erect 3 NPL sponsorship banners on the inside of the playing field perimeter fencing with 1 banner erected behind each set of goalposts and the remaining banner on or as near as possible to the halfway line on the opposite side of the ground to the grandstand.

**(a)** Clubs who fail to adhere to this will be subject to a fine in accordance with Appendix A of the 2023 Premier Competitions Regulations.



APPENDIX A – AWARDS

The following awards shall be presented to eligible recipients.

Award	Criteria / System	Method
Graham Jennings Medal (Player of the Year) *	Ongoing 3-2-1 Vote System	Voted by Match Officials of each Premiership fixture.
Players Player Award *	1 off singular Vote System	Following the completion of the Premiership each Player on the respective 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Roster will vote for the player they believe is the best in the league.
Media Award *	1 off 3-2-1 Vote System	Following the completion of the Premiership selected media who have actively covered the league will vote for the best player in the league.
Bill Mahoney Goalkeeper of the Year *	1 off 3-2-1 Vote System	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Head Coaches vote at the conclusion of the Premiership season.
Young Player of the Year *	Highest eligible vote getter	Highest vote getter in the Player of the Year tally who is 21 or younger. In the event this player has won the Player of the Year the next highest vote getter within the criteria would receive the award.
Coach of the Year *	1 off 3-2-1 Vote System	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Head Coaches vote at the conclusion of the Premiership season.
Fair Play Award	Scaled Disciplinary Infringement System	Awarded to the Club with the best disciplinary record throughout the Premiership season considering yellow / red card infringements & Code of Conduct offences across all Competition Grades.
Golden Boot *	-	Highest goal scorer during the Premiership season.
Dave Williams Medal Player of the Grand Final *	-	Technical panel assembled to determine the best player of the Grand Final.
Club of the Year	NNSWF Reporting System	Based on Club reporting system data.

\*1<sup>st</sup> Grade only.

(A) Clubs who fail to submit votes may be subject to financial sanctions in accordance with the NNSWF Competition Regulations Appendix A.



#### AWARD ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

(1) A Player or Team Official is ineligible to win the following awards if the Player / Team Official is:

- (A) suspended as a result of receiving a Direct Red Card in Match;
- (B) suspended as a result of a determination of a body under the Disciplinary Regulations;
- (C) convicted of an anti-doping offence;
- (D) found guilty of serious misconduct as determined by FA; and/or
- (E) found guilty of breaching an FA Statute and NNSWF determines that as a result of such breach the Player is ineligible to win any of the aforementioned awards.

(2) Player / Team Official ineligibility only applies to the following categories:

- (A) Player of the Year;
- (B) Young Player of the Year;
- (C) Coach of the Year.

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