



Competition Regulations

V.2024.1

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CONTENTS

1. Association Competitions	4
1.1 Forming Competitions	4
1.2 Grading of Teams	4
1.3 Grading Appeals and Re-Grading	5
2. Conduct of Competitions	6
3. Duration of Competition Matches	7
4. Player's Equipment	7
5. Player Grades and Upgrading	8
5.1 REGRADING of Players to Lower Division or Age Group	8
5.2 Upgrading of Players to Higher Division or Age Group	8
5.3 Upgrading of players participating in U12 to U17 teams (excluding intermediate leagues – See 5.4)	9
5.4 Upgrading of players participating in All Age Teams	9
5.5 Upgrade Rules Relating To Intermediate Men's & Women's Leagues	10
6. Payment and Financial Inducements to Players	10
7. Grounds and Match Equipment	10
7.1 Grounds	10
7.2 Match Equipment	11
7.3 Protests on the Condition of Grounds and/or Equipment	11
7.4 Hosting Of Matches including Neutral Field Matches	12
8. SUBSTANCE (DRUG & ALCOHOL) RESTRICTIONS AT VENUES	12
8.1 CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR AT GROUNDS	12
8.2 SMOKING & VAPING AT VENUES	13
8.3 NARCOTICS AND OTHER ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES	13
9. Referees	13
9.1 Referees	13
9.2 Referees Payment	14
10. Coaches, Managers & Marshals	14
10.1 Team Coaches	14
10.2 Team Managers	14
10.3 Team Officials for MiniRoos and Non-Competition Age Groups	15
10.4 Marshals	15
10.5 Ground Officials	16
11. Interchange & Replacement Rules	17
11.1 Interchange	17
11.2 INTERCHANGE Rules & Extra Time in any Match that Requires a result	17
12. SPECIAL RULES FOR U13 COMPETITIONS	18
13. Withdrawing of Teams and Match not Taking Place	18

13.1 TEAMS Withdrawn From Competition	18
13.2 Teams withdrawn from Field of Play	18
13.3 Abandoned Matches	19
14. Forfeits	20
14.1 Schedule of Penalties Relating to Forfeits	20
15. Results	21
16. Determining Competition Winners and Representatives to Champion of Champions	21
16.1 Points and League Winners	21
16.2 Semi Finals or Championship Tournament Series	21
16.3 FNSW Champion of Champions Representation	22
17. Wet Weather & Emergency Regulations	22
17.1 Wet Weather	22
17.2 OTHER Emergency Arrangements	22
18. Secondary Competitions	23
18.1 Nepean CUP - Applies to All Nepean Cup Competition Age Groups	23
19. Sponsorship	23
20. Trophies & Awards	23
20.1 Referee's Trophy	23
20.2 SID Horley Annual Junior Club Championship	23
20.3 Bill Morris Club Championship	24
20.4 (Linda Cerone) Excellence in Club Administration Award	24
20.5 Club Volunteer Of The Year	24
20.6 Outstanding Service Award	25
20.7 Fair Play Award	25
20.8 Future Leader Award	25
20.9 Other Awards	25
APPENDIX	26
NEPEAN F.A. GOVERNANCE DOCUMENTS	26
Glossary of Terms, Definitions & Interpretations	26
Definitions	26
Interpretation	28
Summary Of Financial Penalties Appearing In These Regulations	29
Minimum & Maximum Team Numbers	30

1. ASSOCIATION COMPETITIONS

1.1 FORMING COMPETITIONS

- a. Following the closing date for team nominations by clubs, the Association will conduct a preliminary grading of teams submitted by clubs. The CEO will be responsible for the formation of suitable competitions.
- b. The preliminary grading will be submitted to the Board of Directors for endorsement.
- c. The endorsed preliminary grading will be distributed to clubs, who will review and may submit objections to the document in the format and timeframe outlined by the Association. No relief to timelines will be permitted.
- d. A meeting of clubs will be called by the Association for the purposes of forming a Grading Review Panel. Each club may supply a single representative to attend a final Grading Review of the endorsed grading document. At this meeting the only business will be to consider the endorsed competition formation and grading of competition teams and any objections received from clubs to the proposed gradings.
- e. The outcome of the meeting will be final except in the event of any team withdrawals, which may require the re-grading of a competition.
- f. Waratah and Ruby leagues shall be formed according to nominations received each season. The Waratah League competition shall have a first-grade side and a reserve grade side.
- g. When permitted by the association, where a combination of teams from two clubs is used to form a Waratah League entry, the teams shall remain individual and shall not be interchangeable with each other.
- h. The Association will conduct non-competition programs in accordance with FA & Football NSW directives, refer to MiniRoos Regulations. For the purposes of producing fixtures, the groups formed for these age groups will be referred to as teams & competitions.
- i. In some age groups the Association may combine age groups or suspend competition for that age group for the season.
- j. In cases where there is no local competition, teams may be permitted to enter the competitions conducted by neighbouring Associations, provided such teams have not been combined with an adjacent age group by the Association. In such instances, all fees paid to the Association will be refunded.
- k. The lowest division in the All-Age competitions shall be restricted to players who have reached forty-five (45) years of age.
- l. Withdrawal of teams after the publication of team grading will incur a fine of;
 - a. \$500 for Ruby and Waratah League teams,
 - b. \$300 for competition teams and a fine of
 - c. \$100 for non-competition teams.

1.2 GRADING OF TEAMS

- a. The Association representatives shall grade competition teams according to the previous two season's league tables and may use semi-finals and finals results as a guide.
- b. The general principals of promotion and relegation of top two and bottom two teams will apply in new season grading of teams.
- c. The player content of teams and the player's previous experience will also be taken into consideration when determining the grading given to a team.
- d. Clubs may submit additional information to support their team nominations which will be used by the association in the consideration of team grading.
- e. Under 11 teams shall be graded as determined by the association, with consideration of information provided by clubs.

- f. Late entries of teams shall only be accepted if there is a vacancy in the age/division requested and the grading of the team is compatible with the grading of the vacancy. The association is not required to accept late entries.
- g. The final grading of a team may be altered by the Association, without protest, if a club is found to be withholding players or registering players later than team nominations, and thereby changing the apparent ability of the team
- h. Clubs will be issued with preliminary team grading within seven days after the closing date for team nominations.
- i. Clubs will be issued with a final grading outcome.

1.3 GRADING APPEALS AND RE-GRADING

- a. Following the publication of the preliminary grading document refer 1.2.h, clubs will have 48 hours to discuss preliminary grading with their teams and committee and submit a written protest to gradings which they believe require review.
- b. A grading review panel consisting of club members and board members will be convened and will review all protests.
- c. Once the final grading has been endorsed by the grading panel, no further appeal will be considered.
- d. Under extenuating circumstances, and up to the completion of 3 fixtures, the Association may consider applications for re-grading of teams only if competition format and time permits. This is at the discretion of the Competition Manager and Chief Executive Officer.
- e. Applications shall be made to the Competition Manager, in writing ([Prescribed Form 23 – Grading Protest](#)) stating reasons for the request. An application may be approved if there is a vacancy, or a mutual re-grade in the division requested and the request does not create the complete re-programming of either division affected by the request.
- f. The Competition Manager is responsible for reviewing all age groups and divisions throughout the season and may recommend to the Board a re-grade of a team, irrespective of an application made by a club or in the absence of any application in relation to the team.
- g. In extenuating circumstances, and in relation to Junior teams only (up to and including age groups preceding Intermediate Men & Intermediate Women), clubs may apply for teams to be regraded before the halfway point in the competition (before their 6th match in an 8-team competition and before their 8th match in a 10-team competition).
- h. To be eligible to apply to be re-grade under extenuating circumstances the following must apply;
 - a. The side has not won or drawn any games and has been defeated by a margin of 4 or more goals in each match.
 - b. There is a bye in the division below to move the team into
 - c. The re-grading will not change the structure of either the old or the new division, e.g. The moving of the team will not result in the new or old division being changed from an 8-team competition or 10 team competition to a 6 or 8 team competition respectively.
 - d. The team, if their request is successful, will be moved to their new division at the halfway point in the competition as this will allow each team in the new division to play them once.
 - e. The first round of games in the new division will not be replayed.
 - f. Teams in the division from which the team was moved out of will retain all points and results as recorded up to the halfway point in the competition.
 - g. The final decision of the move will be at the CEO's discretion and will consider the difficulties of rescheduling matches into the competition. No appeals to this decision will be permitted.

- h. A change in divisions may result in changes to the team's seeding in their new competition. This may lead to matches being played at neutral fields due to ground availability.
- i. A team who has requested a halfway point regrading, does so accepting the above conditions.
- i. In instances where the structure of a competition is changed due to team withdrawals, after the competition has commenced, the Association reserves the right to restructure the competition to address the changes. e.g., In an 8-team competition, 2 teams withdraw, reducing the competition to a 6-team competition, in such a case, the competition will be redrawn to reflect the new format. In such cases, the division will keep results relating to those teams remaining in the competition.

2. CONDUCT OF COMPETITIONS

- a. Determining the competition calendar, date, time and venue of all games, is the responsibility of the CEO in conjunction with the Competition Manager and shall be presented to the Board for endorsement.
- b. Unless specifically stated otherwise, the first named team in the competition draw shall be considered the Home Team.
- c. All matches arranged and published are to be played as scheduled, except in the following circumstances:
 - i) The fixture is cancelled or amended to fix scheduling errors or to address field management issues, e.g., filling gaps in fixtures.
 - ii) The referee cancels the match due to ground or inclement weather conditions.
 - iii) One of the teams participating forfeits the match.
- d. Clubs may request a change to the published matches if there are field management issues identified, provided it is done within reasonable timeframes as stipulated in competition protocols.
- e. This type of request can be made without the mutual agreement of the opposition team.
- f. The teams may mutually agree to change the fixture. All mutually agreed requests must be submitted on [Prescribed Form 24 – Fixture Alteration Request Form](#), to the Competition Manager 7 days before the games. Procedures and terms for changing fixtures are published annually in the Competition Secretary's Guidelines.
- g. The Competition Manager may consider a request to change fixtures up to 72 hours before a game if the change is due to extenuating circumstances. The Competition Manager will be the sole judge in determining if a circumstance is "extenuating" or not.
- h. The Association shall provide 48 hours notice to club Competition Secretaries when the Association makes a fixture alteration, except when covered by emergency arrangements (see Section 17.2).

3. DURATION OF COMPETITION MATCHES

- a. The duration of Competition matches shall be as follows, for non-competition matches, refer to MiniRoos Regulations:

All Age and Over 35		90	Minutes
Over	30 W	80	Minutes
Over	45 M	80	Minutes
Intermediate Men's or Women's League	IWL IML	90	Minutes
Under	17	80	Minutes
Under	16	70	Minutes
Under	15	70	Minutes
Under	14	60	Minutes
Under	13	60	Minutes
Under	12	60	Minutes

- b. There shall be a half-time break of 5 minutes at all games.
c. If the match official shortens any game, both halves of the game must be the same length of time, not including time added on for injuries.
d. The referee shall be sole judge of time for all games.

4. PLAYER'S EQUIPMENT

- a. Players in all matches shall be in proper club uniform, comprising shirts, with sleeves, boots, socks and shorts, in the club's colours as registered at the time of affiliation. A fine may be imposed for non-compliance with this rule.
b. All players shall have a number of the back of their shirt, to a maximum of two digits.
c. All players are required to wear regulation shin-pads at all times during the game. Shin-pads must cover most of the leg between ankle and knee and a sock must cover the shin-pad.
d. Where the colours of the opposing teams, in any match, are in the opinion of the referee, too similar, it is the responsibility of the home team to change shirts to an alternative colour. Failure to play in club strip, or alternate strip as required, will result in the team concerned deemed to have forfeited their game, except if the opposing club is able to lend their alternate strip, then the game shall be played.
e. Clubs wishing to change the appearance of their playing strip must apply in writing to the Board for permission. A colour photograph showing details of the playing strip must accompany the application.
f. Interchange players or substitute players (reserves) while not on the field of play will wear a bib, in a contrasting colour to the main colour of their playing strip.
 a. Penalties may be imposed by the NFA Board for breaches of this regulation reported by official Referees.
g. Jewellery and Glasses
 a. The only jewellery that is permitted to be worn by Players is a medical alert bracelet or necklace. The bracelet or necklace must be taped or bandaged to the body, covered by a wrist band, or otherwise appropriately padded.
 b. Players are permitted to wear sports goggles, sports glasses and sports sun glasses as long as, in the Match Official's opinion, the glasses pose no danger to the player wearing the glasses or to any other Player on the field.
 c. Match Officials are similarly bound by these Regulations with the exception of wearing a watch or similar device for timing the Match.
h. Miscellaneous Head Wear
 a. Where head covers are worn they must:

- i. Be black or of the same main colour as the jersey (provided that Players of the same team wear the same colour head scarf).
 - ii. Be in keeping with the professional appearance of the Player's equipment.
 - iii. Not be attached to the jersey.
 - iv. Not pose any danger to the Player wearing it or to any other Player (e.g. opening / closing mechanism around the neck).
 - v. Not have any part(s) extending out from the surface (protruding elements).
 - b. For religious reasons, Match Officials must not check the affixing of the Hijab or headscarf of a Player and under no circumstances touch the garment.
- i. Miscellaneous Protective and Other Equipment
 - a. Modern protective equipment such as headgear, face masks and knee and arm protectors made of soft, lightweight padded material are not considered dangerous and are therefore permitted.
 - b. Cloth head bands and wrist bands are permitted.
 - c. Material and elastic hair ties are permitted.
 - d. Captain's Arm Band
 - i. The captain of the team may wear a distinguishing arm band to indicate his / her status.
 - ii. There will be no regulations governing the display of a manufacturer's mark or Club logo on the captain's arm band, however Clubs are not permitted to use a captain's arm band that has any form of sponsor advertising.

5. PLAYER GRADES AND UPGRADING

5.1 REGRADING OF PLAYERS TO LOWER DIVISION OR AGE GROUP

- a. All players shall be assigned an age group and division by their club.
- b. Once the age group and division has been confirmed by the Association, Association Staff will process the player registration.
- c. Players may only be re-graded to a lower division or age group upon successful written application to the Competition Department of the Association by the player's club. If an application to the Association to downgrade a player is successful, the player will not be permitted to upgrade to any other team for the duration of the season in which the application has been made.
- d. There will be no re-grading of players to lower divisions or age groups within their club after 30 June each year, except in the event of their original team being withdrawn from competitions.
- e. In Waratah and Ruby Leagues, players who have played more than three games in these grades may be down-graded due to loss of form, upon application and approval by the Association, up to and including the ninth match.
- f. The CEO shall have the power to re-grade any player at any time.

5.2 UPGRADING OF PLAYERS TO HIGHER DIVISION OR AGE GROUP

- a. The rules of upgrade are designed to allow teams to borrow players if there are shortages due to injury or absenteeism. They do not exist for coaches to continually borrow players from different teams to gain additional game time that deprives regular team members of their game time. The Association expects that existing team members receive game time before any player that is being upgraded.
- b. Players can be upgraded provided that the player fulfils their own team's obligation and does not cause their team to forfeit through lack of players.
- c. For any competition game, no more than five (5) players, regardless of age or division, may be upgraded into a team.

- d. To be used as an upgraded player in a Final or Championship Tournament match a player must have played for the team they are upgrading to for at least 20% of that team's matches during the regular season.
- e. If a team is re-graded to a different division and all associated results are made "void", then any upgrades used by the team being re-graded shall also be deleted from the records and will not count towards the total number of upgrades used by a player. Player and team disciplinary records remain in force irrespective of upgrades and team re-grades.
- f. In instances where a match is abandoned, the upgrade of a player will remain on record and will count towards the upgrade tally of that player.
- g. A player may not be listed as upgraded while under suspension.
- h. From age group U13 and above, male and female players are not permitted to be upgraded between male and female competitions.

5.3 UPGRADING OF PLAYERS PARTICIPATING IN U12 TO U17 TEAMS (EXCLUDING INTERMEDIATE LEAGUES – SEE 5.4)

- a. A player may be upgraded to play in higher age group or division in the current season provided: -
 - i. The player does not play more than 2 years above the players age, i.e. To play in a U14 team the player must have turned or be turning the age of 12 in the competition year, regardless of the team the player has registered with, and
 - ii. If a player is playing in the same or one age group above the team in which they are registered, they may only play in a higher division if playing in the same age group, or in an equal to or higher division if playing into a higher age group, e.g., Players in U12/3 team can play in a 12/2 and higher or 13/3 or 13/2 or higher team but not a 13/4 team, and
 - iii. If the player is upgraded two age groups above their team e.g., U12 to U14 teams (subject to meeting the age requirement above) they will be permitted to play in any division.
- b. Players from non-competition age groups (U11 & younger) may only upgrade into competition age groups (U12 & above) a total of three (3) times. Upon the fourth and/or subsequent upgrade/s the resulting penalty will be a **Loss of Points to the competition team using the upgraded player**. It is the responsibility of each team to keep accurate records of upgrade usage to avoid penalties.
- c. For players in U11 and U12 mixed teams, male players are eligible to upgrade (subject to meeting the age requirement above) to mixed teams in the U12 age group and boys teams for older age groups. Female players are permitted to upgrade (subject to meeting the age requirement above) to teams in the U12 age group and female teams in older age groups playing in a female competition.
- d. Players from U16 teams to U17 teams (where an U17 competition exists), who have attained the age of 16, may upgrade to any Intermediate Men's or Women's or all age division (male and female) within their club, regardless of the division of their original team (Example – An U17.1 player may upgrade to AM division 1 or division 5, but not into a female team).
- e. In all competition age groups and divisions, Under 12 and above, there is no limit to the number of times a player may be used as an upgrade.
 - a. It remains the responsibility of the player, and in the case of players aged Under 18 years, the responsibility of the parents or carers of the player to consider the frequency with which the player is used as an upgraded player, keeping in mind at all times, the physical welfare of the player.

5.4 UPGRADING OF PLAYERS PARTICIPATING IN ALL AGE TEAMS

- a. All Age Men's & All Age Women's teams (any division) can upgrade players, from lower division teams within their own club, provided they have attained the age of 16. The maximum number of players that can be upgraded for a game is five (5).
- b. Over 35 and Over 45 Men's and Over 30 Women's teams can upgrade players, provided they qualify for age criteria for those age groups, from lower division teams within their own club. The maximum number of players that can be upgraded for a game is five (5)
- c. Upon reaching 50 years of age, a player registered into any division of All Age or O35 or O45 Grades,

- excluding Waratah or Ruby League, may be used as a borrowed player into any grade or division.
- d. For male players, teams in O45 competitions are considered to be in lower divisions than teams in O35 and AM competitions, while teams in O35 competitions are considered to be in a lower division than teams AM competitions. For female players, teams in O30 competitions are considered to be in a lower division than teams in AW competitions.
 - e. Women's Ruby League or Men's Waratah League teams can have unlimited upgrades of players (provided they have attained the age of 16) from lower division teams within their own club. The maximum number of players that can be upgraded for a game is five (5).

5.5 UPGRADE RULES RELATING TO INTERMEDIATE MEN'S & WOMEN'S LEAGUES

- a. U16 male players may upgrade into the Intermediate Men's League (IM), provided they are turning or have turned 16 in the year of competition, regardless of their registered div. in the U16 competition.
- b. 15-year-old girls may upgrade into Intermediate Women's League (IW) provided they have attained the age of 15 years
- c. Players registered to teams in the Intermediate Leagues, any division, may upgrade to any All-Age Divisions provided the upgrading player has attained the age of 16.

6. PAYMENT AND FINANCIAL INDUCEMENTS TO PLAYERS

- a. Clubs are not permitted to pay players, or offer financial inducements to play for the club, except to cover expenses for such items such items as travel. These types of payments shall be made in accordance with the FA by-laws. (Refer to Glossary of Terms for meaning of Financial inducements)
- b. If a club or player is found guilty of making or receiving payment of financial inducements, penalties shall apply.

7. GROUNDS AND MATCH EQUIPMENT

7.1 GROUNDS

- a. Host clubs are required to ensure that their facilities meet a minimum standard.
- b. The absolute minimum standard at a ground hosting NFA matches are as follows, and must be made available to both home and away teams
 - a. Must have a de-fib machine available for use for any attendee at the venue.
 - b. Toilet facilities - male and female toilets available from the time of set up until closure of the facility. Male and female toilets should be supplied with toilet paper.
 - c. Freely available, safe, drinking water and
 - d. Must have a supply of ice available to treat injured players and a fully stocked first aid kit. First aid supplies must be available regardless of canteen facilities being available.
- c. Rubbish receptacles should be placed at suitable locations.
- d. Where possible the host club will provide a canteen on site that is stocked with hot and cold drinks and provides hot and cold food either by use of a barbecue or food warming facilities.
- e. Secure dressing rooms incorporating hot showers, and available for home and away teams capable of housing a minimum of two teams.
- f. The club will have at least one person on duty at the ground in the role of Ground Official. A ground official may not act as a team marshal while executing their duties as Ground Official. (See also 10.5 Ground Officials)
- g. The host club shall be responsible for ensuring the field is regulation size and is marked correctly.
- h. It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure that there is a clear gap of one metre along the sidelines.
 - a. The gap must be identified by a painted line.

- b. Spectators are required to remain behind the line at all times.
- c. The area behind the goals at each end of the field shall be kept free of spectators at all times.
- i. It is a requirement that all clubs use a technical area on one side of the playing field, on a full-size field. A club may apply to the Board of Directors for an exemption to this rule if the layout of their field does not support a technical area as described. The decision of the Board is final in their determination for any exemption request.
- j. The technical area shall be marked as an area commencing two metres from either side of the halfway line, one (1) metre back from the sideline, measuring six (6) metres x minimum one (1) metre deep. The four (4) metre area between both technical areas shall remain spectator free and shall be used for player interchange only (*see diagram located in the Competition Secretaries Guidelines*)
- k. The technical area shall house the coach and manager and substitutes for the teams taking part in the match. No other person may occupy the technical area. No person is permitted to issue instructions from any other area. The Board may fine a club for breaches of this rule.
- l. The officials and players of both teams shall occupy a technical area each. In the event of a dispute as to which officials stand in which area, first choice shall be awarded to the visiting club coach and manager. The team officials shall issue all instructions from this area.
- m. A referee is entitled to refuse to officiate on an insufficiently marked ground and in such an event, the host club, if they are one of the two participants in the match, shall be deemed to have forfeited the match. In such instances, the opposition team, may be awarded the points.

7.2 MATCH EQUIPMENT

- a. The host club shall provide suitable goal posts, corner flags and goal nets.
- b. The host club shall provide two match balls, correctly inflated, and shall present them to the referee for inspection prior to the commencement of the game.
- c. Where a neutral field is used, the team listed first on the fixture sheet shall be responsible for providing two properly inflated match balls.
- d. Should the host club not comply with the requirements of points 7.3 a, b & c, and the matter is reported to the association, and if upheld by the CEO, a fine may be imposed for non-compliance.
- e. Ball sizes to be used at the Association's sanctioned games are as follows:

Age Groups	Ball Size
6, 7, 8, 9	3
10, 11, 12, 13	4
14 and above	5

7.3 PROTESTS ON THE CONDITION OF GROUNDS AND/OR EQUIPMENT

- a. A visiting team that wishes to protest the condition of any ground or the goal posts, corner flags, nets or ball, shall make their protest to the referee before commencement of the match, or if a replacement ball is being used, at the time of the incident. The referee shall note the protest on the Match Sheet. However, the referee has the authority to order a match to be played, despite protests made in accordance with this paragraph.
- b. Where the protest relates to the ground, goal posts, corner flags, nets or ball not conforming to the Laws of the Game, a further protest may be made in writing on [Prescribed Form 19](#), but only if first protested to the Referee.

- c. A protest must be received by the Association within 48 hours of the match being played. The protest must be lodged via email by a member of the club's management committee. Protests not lodged in this manner will not be considered.

7.4 HOSTING OF MATCHES INCLUDING NEUTRAL FIELD MATCHES

- a. When any game scheduled to be played on a neutral field, the Association shall advise the host club that there are additional fixtures set down for the field by way of a fixture alteration notice.
- b. If teams are not able to access electronic match sheets, paper match sheets are the responsibility of the team named first on the fixture list and completed sheets shall be returned to an official of the home team.
- c. The host club is responsible for marking the field and supplying and installing nets and corner posts and must supply basic amenities as outlined elsewhere in this regulation.
- d. During Covid-19 outbreaks, restrictions may be put in place from time to time in accordance with State and/or Federal Government directives.

8. SUBSTANCE (DRUG & ALCOHOL) RESTRICTIONS AT VENUES

8.1 CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR AT GROUNDS

- a. No alcohol to be allowed at any ground under the jurisdiction of the Association within 10 metres of the playing area.
- b. No alcohol may be consumed at any venue while Junior matches are being conducted, except as per clause 8.1.b.i-v below;
 - i) In Waratah or Ruby League matches that are played on Saturday, host clubs may establish an alcohol zone for these matches only. The zone must be more than 10m from the playing field, but not near any fields where a junior (U16 or below) match is taking place.
 - ii) Alcohol must not be consumed outside of this zone.
 - iii) Penalty for breach of this regulation is a \$300 fine to the offending club and a loss of 3 points to the team who the perpetrator can be identified as belonging to.
 - iv) A second offence by the same club will result in a \$600 fine and loss of 6 to the team who the perpetrator can be identified as belonging to
 - v) A third offence by the same club will result in a \$1000, 12-month alcohol ban on the club and the offending team will be removed from the competition.
- c. At venues sign posted as alcohol free zones by the Local Government Authority, no alcohol may be consumed under any circumstances, at any time.
- d. All players, officials and spectators are required to follow the directions of club officials or ground signage in relation to local rules pertaining to the consumption of alcohol.
- e. The penalties, as here-under, apply to any field within the Association's area, whether the players or spectators are at home, away or on a neutral ground, and whether they are officials, players or spectators from any club within the Association's area.
- f. Failure to comply with rules relating to the consumption of alcohol shall incur the following penalties:
 - i) FIRST OFFENCE = Minimum \$300 fine, plus a loss of 3 points to the team involved if found guilty of the offence.
 - ii) SECOND OFFENCE = Minimum \$600 fine, plus, a loss of 6 points to the team involved if found guilty of the offence.
 - iii) THIRD OFFENCE = Minimum \$1000 fine plus expulsion from the competition to the team if found guilty of the offence. If the 3rd offence occurs at the end of a season, the matter will be referred to a GPT for further or alternate penalty.

8.2 SMOKING & VAPING AT VENUES

Smoking and vaping at sporting venues is strictly prohibited. Clubs may establish designated smoking areas in car parks, on roadways and in areas permitted by their local government rules and statutes.

8.3 NARCOTICS AND OTHER ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES

1. Any members or supporters of any team or club who are found to be consuming or providing any illegal substance or narcotic anywhere within the grounds of a club, including change rooms, other amenities rooms or areas, playing fields or carparks, will be immediately stood down pending investigation and charges. Offences may also be reported to the police for further action.
2. A player may not take the field when under the influence of an illegal substance. A breach of this regulation will result in a 12-month suspension to the player concerned.
3. A team or club official, may not execute their duties whilst consuming or under the influence of alcohol or any narcotic or other illegal substance.

9. REFEREES

9.1 REFEREES

- a. All official referee appointments are made by the Nepean Referees Group (NRG).
- b. If an appointed referee arrives after the designated kick-off time and the match has started using a substitute referee, the game shall proceed and the appointed referee shall not officiate for the game, nor shall they be entitled to any payment for the fixture.
- c. A referee may not be replaced during the game for any reason other than an illness or an injury that prevents them from completing their duties. In the event of a referee being unable to complete their duties, it is the responsibility of the team officials to appoint a replacement referee for the remainder of the match.
- d. In the event of such a replacement, the Match Sheet will be so marked with a notation.
- e. The referee shall commence the game as per the schedule provided by the Association.
- f. In the event of a replacement referee not being available, the match will be declared abandoned and dealt with under the Competition Secretary's Guidelines & Protocols.
- g. In the event of an official referee not attending a match, the team managers, or captains, of both teams shall agree to appoint a referee to control the game.
- h. The first preference shall be given to any accredited referee who is available and willing to officiate. The accredited referee may have (and should declare) an affiliation with one of the two clubs involved in the fixture, if an affiliation exists.
- i. Unofficial referees, if appointed to a match, must be suitably attired, carry a whistle, a time keeping device and a set of cards for use in the match.
 - i. **Host clubs are required to keep a set of red & yellow cards, whistles & a time keeping device on hand** for use by unofficial or un-appointed referees.
- j. For clarity, an unofficial referee has the same authority and responsibility of an official referee.
- k. Unofficial referees must record all cautions and send-offs on the EMS or paper match sheet and provide incident reports in all cases where a player is dismissed from the field, using the [Prescribed Form 02](#) to record send offs & [Prescribed Form 03](#) to record an incident report.
- l. No person that is currently under suspension from any football organisation, may referee a competition match as an official or unofficial referee.
- m. The referee shall record their name on the EMS and indicate whether they are official referee or an unofficial referee. Official referees are to record their FA registration number in the space provided.

9.2 REFEREES PAYMENT

- a. Football NSW Rates of pay for each season shall be advised to clubs upon receipt of the scheduled fees for the coming season. If required, NFA rates may be subject to further specific negotiations and shall be notified to clubs no later than 31st December each year. This will be the rate for the next calendar year.
- b. The Association invoices each club a 50% share of the costs associated with sanctioned referee and assistants.
- c. If a club notifies the association that a team will forfeit a competition match, they may still be invoiced 100% of the cost of a referee, due to scheduling requirements.
- d. Rules relating to Referees procedures may vary in Football NSW and inter-district competitions. Clubs are required to observe differences in rules when playing outside of the Nepean FA.

10. COACHES, MANAGERS & MARSHALS

(For more regulations concerning Coaches & Managers – refer also to Registration Regulations)

10.1 TEAM COACHES

- a. Teams Under 5's and above shall have a coach who shall be registered with the Association, as per the registration guidelines and procedures.
- b. Team coaches must be registered for each team at the time of team nominations.
- c. Teams who do not have a registered Coach in place will forfeit each match until a suitable coach is registered and assigned to the team.
- d. An ID card, complete with photograph of team coach, shall be issued by the Association. The ID card must be worn and clearly displayed at all matches.
- e. There shall be one coach only per team for the duration of the game and that coach shall wear the coloured vest as purchased from the Association.
- f. In all competition age groups, and on fields where a technical area has been marked, Coaches must remain in the technical area throughout a match unless invited onto the field by the Referee.
 - a. In Non-Competition MiniRoos age groups, coaches/team officials must not enter the field unless invited by the Game Leader.
- g. If the registered team coach is not available for a match, then an acting coach is to be nominated by the team. The acting coach's name is to be recorded on the EMS. If a paper match sheet is used, the acting coach must print their first and last name and sign in the appropriate place.
- h. It is the responsibility of a club management committee to ensure that all registered coaches are;
 - i. Suitably qualified to deliver coaching to their appointed team through accreditation.
 - ii. Have been properly identified using photo ID.
 - iii. Have been assessed to determine their compliance requirements for Working with Children Checks
 - iv. Have been properly and adequately instructed regarding Codes of Conduct.

10.2 TEAM MANAGERS

- a. Teams Under 5s and above must have a manager who shall be registered with the Association, as per the registration guidelines and procedures.
- b. No team manager shall be appointed under the minimum age of 18 years.
- c. An ID card, complete with photograph of team manager, shall be issued by the Association. The ID card must be worn and clearly displayed at all matches.

- d. Team managers must be registered for each team at the time of team nominations.
- e. The team manager, or the person acting in the role of Team Manager, shall wear the coloured vest as purchased from the Association
- f. The team manager is to record their name on the Match Sheet in the space provided. If the registered team manager is not available for a match, then an acting manager is to be nominated by the team and their name is to be recorded on the EMS.
- g. Team managers are responsible for completing the Match Sheet or paper match sheet.
- h. Both Team Managers will complete the relevant process at the end of the match to ensure that the score is recorded correctly
- i. Team managers are responsible for the appointment of their team Marshal at each match and to ensure that the Marshal is aware of their responsibilities in accordance with **Regulation 10.4**.
- j. It is the responsibility of a club management committee to ensure that managers are;
 - i. Properly instructed in the completion of Electronic Match Sheets & Paper Match Sheets and
 - ii. Are provided with a copy of the Association Regulations relating to the completion of Match Sheets.
 - iii. Have been properly identified using photo ID.
 - iv. Have been assessed to determine their compliance requirements for Working with Children Checks
 - v. Have been properly and adequately instructed regarding Codes of Conduct.

10.3 TEAM OFFICIALS FOR MINIROOS AND NON-COMPETITION AGE GROUPS

- a. U5 to U11 Age Groups shall have one registered coach and one registered manager per team.

10.4 MARSHALS

- a. At all matches, there shall be a minimum of two marshals, one marshal from each team, wearing an appropriate vest as purchased from the Association.
- b. The marshals shall introduce themselves to the referee before the commencement of the game.
- c. Marshals' duties shall be to ensure that spectators, coaches and managers do not encroach the sidelines, or the pitch, and see that good order is maintained amongst their own spectators.
- d. Should any incidents arise out of a match that are for consideration by the Board, each marshal shall complete a written report into such incidents for the Board. The report shall be submitted on [Prescribed Form 20](#) (Incident Report lodged by a Team Official or Spectator) in accordance with instructions contained in the form. Forms are available from the association website Library.
- e. The marshals shall appear at any inquiry as neutral witnesses, if required.
- f. All marshals shall have obtained the age of 18 years of age.
- g. Marshals from both teams shall record their name, and sign the paper Match Sheet, or have the team manager enter their first and last name on the Electronic Match Sheet indicating they were in attendance for the game.
- h. Where a game is played on a neutral field, it is the responsibility of each visiting team to supply their own marshal for their game.
- i. It is the responsibility of the Team Manager, or in their absence, the team Coach to appoint the Marshal for their match and to ensure that the Marshal is aware of their responsibilities in accordance with these regulations.
- j. In matches where a team/s does not have any spectators available to act in the role of marshal, they should approach the home club officials to act in the role/s for the team, or both teams if necessary. If this is not possible, then no marshal should be recorded on the Match Sheet.

- k. Referees have been instructed not to officiate at matches where no marshal is present at all. If the referee elects not to proceed, the match will be recorded as not played. The match will not be rescheduled, no points will be awarded, and both teams will be responsible for the referee's fees.

10.5 GROUND OFFICIALS

- a. All clubs hosting matches at their fields should have a Ground Official assigned.
- b. In instances where a team is playing at a neutral field, the visiting team is not required to provide an official unless they have multiple, consecutive matches assigned at a neutral venue (such as when their field is closed, and their games are moved in their entirety to another venue).
- c. A person assigned the responsibility of ground official should ensure that they introduce themselves to marshals of all teams and any match officials appointed to the ground.
- d. A ground official should advise the match official as to where he will be located whilst the match is being played. (This should be within line of sight of the referee and not in the club canteen or away from the playing area)
- e. A ground official's main duty shall be to provide assistance to match officials, team officials, spectators and players at their venue. Any other task that the ground official carries must be secondary in nature and must be relinquished immediately when it is made apparent that their assistance is required by any of the above.
- f. Ground Officials duties shall be to:
 - i. Assist the referee as required.
 - ii. Ensure that team Marshals are aware of their responsibilities, and if they are not, outline to them what their duties are.
 - iii. Where necessary, assist Team Marshals to ensure that spectators, team officials or reserve players do not encroach onto the pitch.
 - iv. Ensure that good order amongst spectators is maintained.
 - v. Ensure that alcohol is not consumed in the immediate vicinity of the playing area and that the local by-laws relating to the consumption of alcohol are upheld.
 - vi. Sign the Match Sheet (if a paper Match Sheet is used) in the space provided to acknowledge their presence at the fixture in case the association needs to contact you.
 - vii. If EMS are in use, the club should keep a register of who the Ground Officials are, recording date and time of duty, should they need to be recalled later.
 - viii. Call for emergency assistance from Police, Ambulance or Fire/Rescue if required.
 - ix. A ground official will have the same authority as a club committee member in the absence of a club committee member during an incident.
- g. A ground official has the right and responsibility to ask any abusive person to leave the area of play.
- h. if any action should be taken against their club member or report to the opposition club, details regarding the action that was taken against their club member/s should be provided by the Ground Official in a written incident report.
- i. Should any incident arise out of a match that is for consideration by the Association, the ground official shall complete a written eyewitness report. The report should be submitted to the club for forwarding to the association.
- j. A Ground Official shall be prepared to appear at any association inquiry formed to deal with specific incidents where the ground official was in attendance.
- k. While it's not necessary that a Ground Official is fully conversant with Association Regulations or the Laws of the Game, it is advisable that they have access to a copy of the Association Regulations and access to a phone to contact the Association should an emergency arise.
- l. Ground Officials should be provided with a club directory and access to emergency competition contact numbers to assist them in obtaining advice during or after any incident.
- m. All Ground Officials shall have obtained the age of 18 years of age.
- n. Ground Officials will be required to wear a vest, as made available by the NFA with the NFA logo and markings.
- o. Penalties may be imposed by the NFA Board for breaches of this regulation.

11. INTERCHANGE & REPLACEMENT RULES

11.1 INTERCHANGE

- a. Our competitions use unlimited interchange at all levels and ages. This offers teams the opportunity to rotate up to 16 players, which is the maximum number of players allowed to participate in a match.
- b. An interchange of five players at any time during a match, for any reason, may be made, provided players who are used as interchanges have been listed on the Match Sheet and identified by the opposition prior to taking the field of play.
 - a. In matches where a paper Match Sheet is used, the interchange player must be listed on the Match Sheet and be identified by the opposition manager prior to the start of the game or at half time only.
 - b. Unidentifiable players arriving after half time cannot take the field of play.
 - c. Following is the procedure and rules for the Interchange of Players;
 - i. The Interchange “zone” will be an area one (1) metre either side of the half-way line.
 - ii. An interchange is one which is made when the ball is out of play, and for which the following conditions will be observed:
 - a. The Player leaving the field must leave the field at the nearest point on the boundary line, unless otherwise directed by the referee.
 - b. The Player entering the field will also do so from the interchange zone, but not until the Player leaving the field has passed completely over the nearest point on the boundary line.
 - c. A player nominated for Interchange will be subject to the authority and jurisdiction of the Referee whether called upon to play or not.
 - d. The interchange is completed when the Player who was off the field, enters the field.
 - iii. A Player who has been replaced may return to the field for another Player.
 - iv. If during an interchange, a Player enters the field before the replaced Player has completely left it, the referee will ensure the replaced Player leaves the field, then caution the interchange Player and then restart the Match.
 - v. The interchange of Players will cease at the completion of normal and extra time. If at this time penalty kicks are required to obtain a result, then the eleven (11) Players on the field at the end of extra time are the only Players permitted to participate in the penalty kicks. No interchanging at this time is permissible.
 - a. Note: If during the taking of the penalty kicks the Goalkeeper is injured, he / she may be replaced with another Goalkeeper providing the replacement was listed on the Match Sheet
 - vi. Substitute Players cannot be used to replace any Player who has been dismissed from the Match by the referee.
 - vii. Any Player listed on the Match Sheet is deemed to have participated in the match.
 - c. The number of interchanges made during a match is unlimited.

11.2 INTERCHANGE RULES & EXTRA TIME IN ANY MATCH THAT REQUIRES A RESULT

- a. In matches that require extra time, interchanging of players will cease at the completion of extra time.
- b. If penalty kicks are required to determine a winner, then the 11 players on the field at the end of extra time are the only players permitted to participate in the penalty kicks.
- c. If a team wishes to replace the goalkeeper for a penalty shootout, the change may only be made with one of the ten players who were on the field at the completion of extra time.

12. SPECIAL RULES FOR U13 COMPETITIONS

- a. Goal kicks will be taken from anywhere within the 5.5 metre area (6-yard box) by the Goalkeeper and defending Players will be required to retreat at least twenty-five (25) metres to allow the attacking Team to build up play out of the back third
 - a. An attacking Player will not be able to encroach inside the 25-metre area until a defending Player has had his/her first touch of the ball once the whole of the ball has vacated the 18yrd box.
 - b. If an attacking Player encroaches prior to the defending Player having his/her first touch, then the goal kick will be retaken.
 - c. The 25-metre line must be marked by the Home Club via placement of a cone or pole to the side of both touch lines, 25 metres from the goal line at both ends of the field.
- b. If in the opinion of the Referee, the 25-metre rule is being utilised to waste time by either the attacking or defending Team, the Players guilty of the perceived time wasting will be cautioned.

13. WITHDRAWING OF TEAMS AND MATCH NOT TAKING PLACE

13.1 TEAMS WITHDRAWN FROM COMPETITION

- a. In all instances where a team has been permanently withdrawn or removed from a competition, the results relating to that team shall be deleted and a withdrawal fine of \$300 will be applied to the club.

13.2 TEAMS WITHDRAWN FROM FIELD OF PLAY

- a. A team withdrawn from the field of play for any reason whatsoever shall be required, via their club committee representative to:
 - i. Give an account of their actions by completing the appropriate Abandoned Match Report ([Prescribed form 21](#)) within 24 hours of the match.
 - ii. The team will be deemed to have forfeited the match and will incur a \$100 fine and be responsible for the payment of 100% of all referees fees.
- b. When a match does not proceed, for whatever reason, except when a team fails to turn up or has insufficient number of players to take the field, i.e., less than seven (7), each club shall submit a written report to the Competition Manager within 24 hours of the match being abandoned. The report must be made via email using ([Prescribed form 21 – Abandoned Match Report](#)) The Competition Manager will determine how the abandoned match will be recorded.
- c. A \$25 per day penalty will be applied to any club who is in breach of points 13.2.a and/or b (where the match has not been started).

13.3 ABANDONED MATCHES

- a. An abandoned match is one that was not played for the full duration of the match because it was ended early by the referee due to incidents of on or off field violence
- b. Any match abandoned for reasons relating to player injury, venue failure (lights, watering systems, field corruption), or inclement weather determined by the referee to be dangerous to players or causes the field to become an unsafe environment is considered a postponed match.
- c. Any Match, not completed, for any reason must be reported to the nominated association contact (refer to competition guidelines) on the day of the match, by telephone.
 - i. A \$50 penalty, per incident, per club will be applied for failure to report (by phone) an abandonment or incomplete match.
- d. Both clubs involved in the abandoned match, which results from an altercation between sides, must complete an abandoned match report on the ([Prescribed form 21 – Abandoned Match Report](#)) within 48 hours. Failure to do so, will result in a \$100 fine to the offending club.
- e. After the commencement of the Match, should play be postponed due to serious injury that requires the player to be removed from the field by ambulance, poor weather, failed lighting, state of the pitch or any other reason as determined by the referee, and the Match cannot be completed in full, it will be rescheduled by the Association and will recommence at the minute at which play was interrupted rather than being replayed in full. The following principles will apply to the recommencement of the Match:
 - i. The Match will recommence with the same Players on the pitch and substitutes available as when the Match was initially postponed unless a player has received a suspension in matches conducted between the postponed match and the rescheduling of that match.
 - ii. Should a player have received a suspension in a match conducted between the postponed match and the rescheduling of that match that player:
 - a. Will not be eligible to participate in the rescheduled match.
 - b. Will not be able to count the match as a stand down in relation to any fixture suspension.
 - c. The club will not be permitted to replace the player on the Match Sheet.
 - d. If the player was on the field of play at the time of the postponement the player may be replaced by a substitute listed on the Match Sheet as long as the team has available substitutions as per the Regulations
 - e. If the Player was a substitute the number of available Players to substitute will decrease as they player cannot be replaced
 - iii. No additional substitutes may be added to the list of Players on the Match Sheet.
 - iv. Players sent off during the postponed Match cannot be replaced.
 - v. Nepean Referees Group will endeavour to appoint the same Match Officials to the completion of the Match, however, may appoint replacements should any or all the Match Officials be unavailable.
 - vi. The referee is the sole arbiter of elapsed time, and no protest may be lodged against the actual elapsed time as recorded by the referee.
 - vii. Should a Match be abandoned due to the fault of one (1) Team, or should it be determined by NFA that one (1) Team / Club is responsible for the delay to the Match, the remaining minutes will not be rescheduled for completion, and the Match will be determined as a forfeit against the Team / Club that is deemed guilty of the abandonment or responsible for the delay.
 - viii. Where a fixture is incorrectly reported as abandoned by the Referee where circumstances show clearly that the match was actually postponed, Nepean FA will treat the Match as postponed.
 - ix. In all cases of postponed matches, where no fault is attributed to either team, the team who was losing the match at the time of postponement will be given the opportunity to allow the score to stand, and the score will be recorded as it was at the time of the original match ending.

14. FORFEITS

- a. Matches shall be played on the ground set down by the Association and shall commence at the designated times. Any team failing to play the match as scheduled shall be deemed to have forfeited the match and incur such penalties as the Board may impose.
- b. Any team forfeiting a game, the opposition shall be credited with a 3–0 win. Reporting forfeits must be carried out in the manner designated by the Association each season. This is provided in the in the Competition Secretary’s Guidelines & Protocols document issued by the CEO in conjunction with the Board.
- c. A team must field at least 7 registered players at the commencement of any match. Failure to do so shall deem the team to have forfeited.
- d. If during the game, a team is reduced to less than 7 registered players, the game shall be abandoned and recorded as a forfeit. The score shall be recorded as 3–0 to the non-forfeiting team, except in cases where the non-forfeiting team is leading by a larger score at the time the game is abandoned, in which case the score shall be recorded as advised by the referee on the Match Sheet.
- e. When a game is forfeited, without notice on the day set down for play, the team to whom the game is forfeited, must record the match as a forfeit in the EMS portal.
- f. When a match is forfeited, all match officials’ fees shall be the responsibility of the club that forfeited the fixture..
- g. Forfeits with or without notice must also be notified by the forfeiting club via email to the Association’s office, the host club (if the match is set down as a Neutral Field fixture) and the opposition team.
- h. A team forfeiting on three consecutive occasions must submit a report for the Board’s attention, to the CEO showing just cause why they should not be removed from the competition.
 - i. Failure to do so will result in the immediate removal of the team from the competition and will be classed as a team withdrawal. Penalties apply.
- i. A forfeit in the Men’s Waratah League competitions by either the 1st Grade or Reserve Grade team will result in a forfeit being recorded against both the 1st and Reserve Grade teams, regardless of a game having been played by either grade.
 - i. Relevant forfeit penalties and Referees fees will apply to the forfeiting club for both grades.
- j. When a match is delayed due to insufficient players being present, no Player ID being present, or a team not having the correct attire, every effort shall be made for the match to proceed up to 15 minutes after the scheduled kick off time. If after 15 minutes of the scheduled kick off time, the issue causing the delay is not resolved, a forfeit will be declared by the match official.
 - i. In the absence of a match official, the forfeit may be declared by the team deemed not to be in breach of the regulations.

14.1 SCHEDULE OF PENALTIES RELATING TO FORFEITS

- a. Any team forfeiting a game – Automatic Loss of Points plus Fine as set out here-under.
 - i. Any competition team forfeiting - Fine \$100
 - ii. Any non competition team forfeiting - Fine \$25 if reported
 - iii. Any non-competition team forfeiting and not reported by the forfeiting club - \$50
- b. Referees & Assistant Referees Fees: where applicable, will be paid by the forfeiting club. Due to scheduling, referee fees may be applied irrespective of what period of notice was provided by the club forfeiting.
- c. Competition points will be awarded to opposition team in all cases where a team forfeits.

15. RESULTS

- a. Club officials are responsible for submitting results in the method directed each season by the Association.
- b. Within 24 hours of the match kick off time.
- c. A fine of \$10 will be imposed for non-compliance of this rule on all teams who are required to report results (U8 and above). The fine will not be subject to waiver exemptions made for non-competition teams or for the three-week season introductory period as is the practice with general Match Sheet errors.
- d. Clubs are responsible for checking the published results and ensuring that all their teams have entered results.
- e. Club officials must advise the Association's office of any discrepancies of results via email on [Prescribed Form 19 Protest Form](#). **(NB:** Time restrictions may apply for the consideration of discrepancy reporting, depending upon competition deadlines.)
- f. Protests on scores will be verified using the submitted Match Sheets and other methods of investigation employed by Association Staff.

16. DETERMINING COMPETITION WINNERS AND REPRESENTATIVES TO CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

16.1 POINTS AND LEAGUE WINNERS

- a. Points are awarded as follows
 - i. A win – three points
 - ii. A draw – one point
 - iii. A loss – no points.
- b. In all cases where teams end the regular season on equal points, the following methods shall be used to determine league position:
 - i. Goal difference (goals scored minus goals conceded)
 - ii. Greatest number of wins in the competition being decided.
 - iii. Greatest number of draws in the competition being decided.
 - iv. Team that has scored the most goals in the competition being decided.
 - v. Team that has scored the most goals in any single game in the competition being decided.
 - vi. Head-to-head results between the teams being separated. (wins, goals scored, goals conceded)
- c. In all league competitions, the league competition winner is the team finishing with the most points at the end of regular competition, prior to the semi-finals and finals.

16.2 SEMI FINALS OR CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT SERIES

- a. In Semi Finals and Championship Tournament Series, where teams end the semi-finals competition on equal points, the following methods shall be used to determine semi-finals competition positions:
 - i. Goal difference (goals scored minus goals conceded)
 - ii. Greatest number of wins in the competition being decided.
 - iii. Greatest number of draws in the competition being decided.
 - iv. Team that has scored the most goals in the competition being decided.
 - v. Team that has scored the most goals in any single game in the competition being decided.
 - vi. Head-to-head results between the teams being separated. (wins, goals scored, goals conceded)
 - vii. Highest position in the regular season

16.3 FNSW CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS REPRESENTATION

- a. Division one competition league winners are usually the teams invited by the Association to play in the Champion of Champions, except in All-Age men and All Age Women, where the Association will invite the winner of the Men's Waratah (1st grade) and Women's Ruby League divisions.
- b. Should division 1 teams finish in equal first place on points, the sequence in point 6 shall be used to determine who will be invited to represent the Association in the Champion of Champions. If a winner cannot be found using this method, a play-off shall be organised by the Competition Manager to decide the outcome.
- c. In the Over 35 Mens competitions the Champion of Champions representative team will be the competition winner of the Friday night Div. 1 competition.
- d. Representing the Association at Champion of Champions is a privilege, not an automatic right. The privilege may be withdrawn by the Board if the behaviour or disciplinary record of the team demonstrates to the board that such action is warranted. The place may be offered to another team in these circumstances.

17. WET WEATHER & EMERGENCY REGULATIONS

- a. These Rules Apply To All Age Groups And Divisions
- b. Emergency Regulations Definition – The rules contained in this section of the regulations are applied at times when it is considered imperative that as many games as possible take place and are not postponed. This will mainly be due to lack of available dates to reschedule games to.
- c. If the CEO, or delegated assistant is not available to undertake duties, the board shall nominate a replacement person to carry out the required duties.

17.1 WET WEATHER

- a. In the event of wet weather causing any number of fields to be closed, the Competition Manager, or nominated replacement, shall be empowered to transfer matches to alternative fields at extremely short notice.
- b. The Competition Manager, or nominated replacement, shall advise the original host club as to where the match has been re-scheduled and at what time the game will kick off.
- c. Team officials arriving at a venue and finding it unavailable shall contact a committee member of the host club to find out if the scheduled game has been re-scheduled by the Association.
- d. The Chief Executive Officer or in their absence, the Chairperson of the Association must be advised by the Competition Manager of the proposed emergency arrangements before such action is taken.
- e. At times of prolonged inclement weather affecting the district, the Competition Manager or the CEO or the Board may declare emergency regulations to be in force for a specified period of time.

17.2 OTHER EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

- a. In the event of any other emergency which may include, but is not limited to, flood, fire, acts of vandalism, closure by public authority, the Competition Manager or nominated replacement shall be empowered to transfer matches to other fields or re-schedule games as per Regulation 17.1.
- b. If, because of a disciplinary hearing, a competition match must be cancelled, forfeited or altered where notice would be less than 48 hours, the Competition Manager is empowered to make the necessary changes to the competition and notify affected clubs using emergency powers.
- c. Such an emergency decision is binding on both teams.

18. SECONDARY COMPETITIONS

18.1 NEPEAN CUP - APPLIES TO ALL NEPEAN CUP COMPETITION AGE GROUPS

- a. Details of the competition shall be determined each season by the Competition Manager and published by the association at least four weeks prior to the commencement of the Nepean Cup competition/s.
- b. League competition matches must always take priority over the Nepean Cup competition and if the season is affected by wet weather, the competition may be held post season or at the conclusion of the regular season.
- c. Entry is optional.
- d. Competition regulations are the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer and will be published each season in a separate document.

19. SPONSORSHIP

- a. All matters governing sponsorship at Association and Club level will be determined and published in the Association's Sponsorship Policy document.

20. TROPHIES & AWARDS

- a. Clubs with league winning teams shall be awarded a commemorative item by the Association.
- b. Where a shield or cup or other such trophy is in existence for annual competition, the appropriate winner, or runners-up, will be announced at the conclusion of the season or as soon as possible thereafter.
- c. All perpetual trophies shall remain in the care of the Association.
- d. Play off winners and runners-up shall be awarded such recognition as determined by the Board.
- e. All teams who progress to finals of any Nepean FA competition are required to attend the after-match presentation. Failure to do so will result in the offending team's club being fined \$200. In addition, the offending team, or part thereof, who register to play at any club in the Nepean FA in the following year, will be ineligible to participate in any competition final in the following year.

20.1 REFEREE'S TROPHY

- a. The Referee's Trophy is awarded to a club as the Best & Fairest for the season.
- b. To qualify for the trophy, a club must have at least three (3) junior teams and at least three (3) All-Age teams.
- c. The trophy will be awarded to the club with the best disciplinary record calculated on an average based on overall player numbers. Disciplinary matters considered in the tally will include Red & Yellow Cards issued during a match, Team Misconduct Charges, Guilty findings from General Purposes Tribunals. Letters of Caution issued to clubs which relate to on field matters.

20.2 SID HORLEY ANNUAL JUNIOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

- a. Awarded on the highest percentage of points won by a club during the league season, for Under 12 to Under 16 age groups.
- b. Deductions of ten points are made for each
 - i. send-off that is upheld by the Disciplinary Committee.
 - ii. successful team misconduct charge brought against a team in the qualifying age groups.
 - iii. guilty finding against a team in the qualifying age group at a GPT
- c. A club must field a minimum of five junior teams, U12 to U16 to qualify.

20.3 BILL MORRIS CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

- a. Awarded annually to the highest performing club during the league season, for teams Under 12 and above.
- b. Points are awarded as follows:
 - a. Five points for each win,
 - b. two points for each draw,
 - c. plus five points for each goal scored.
 - d. Minus one point for each forfeited match
- c. Total number of points for each club is divided by the number of games played by the club.
- d. A club shall field at least three eligible junior and senior competition teams to qualify.

20.4 (LINDA CERONE) EXCELLENCE IN CLUB ADMINISTRATION AWARD

- a. This award was established in 2012 to acknowledge the club who in the opinion of Administration Staff, have displayed Excellence in the many facets of club administration.
- b. The winning club is awarded a \$1000 prize.
- c. The award is judged by the paid employees of the Association using the following governance principals and/or elements;
 - i. Club attends all club meetings.
 - ii. Club actively attends and supports workshops and information sessions that benefit and/or enrich the knowledge of their volunteers or improves conditions for their members.
 - iii. Club actively supports the coaching philosophy of the Association by hosting, co-hosting or actively promoting our Coaching Initiatives and opportunities.
 - iv. Club displays innovative or strategic planning concepts to develop improved delivery of services or products to their members.
 - v. Club accounts are paid within trading terms.
 - vi. Club members actively volunteer at Association events or when called upon by the Assoc.
 - vii. Club actively works towards venue excellence.
 - viii. Club volunteers co-operate with the directions issued by the association and are courteous to association staff.
 - ix. Club demonstrates fair play and courtesy to other clubs.
 - x. Club does not act in a manner that is prejudicial to the associations aims and objectives.
 - xi. Club shows respect for protocols and timelines.

20.5 CLUB VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

- a. The association values our volunteers and the importance of acknowledging their contribution to our sport and our operations.
- b. From March to August each year, Clubs will be asked to nominate their volunteer of the month and provide a short bio of the nominee and why they've been nominated. Clubs should also submit a photo of their nominee.
- c. The nominee can hold any type of voluntary position within the club.
- d. The Association will acknowledge each club's nominee each month.
- e. By the 30th of August each year, clubs will be asked to nominate their overall Volunteer of the Year recipient. They should submit a bio and photo of their nominee in the format provided by the Association.
- f. Each club Volunteer of the Year will be invited to the Association's Annual Awards Dinner as a paid guest of the association.
- g. Each club Volunteer of the Year will be acknowledged at the Awards Dinner and on the Association's social media platforms.

20.6 OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

- a. Each year the Association will acknowledge the services of an individual or group who they believe have contributed significantly to football in our district.
- b. The award will be made at the discretion of the Board of Directors and the CEO.
- c. The recipient will be invited, as a guest of the association, to our Annual Awards night, where their award will be announced.
- d. The award winner will also be acknowledged in the Association's social media platforms.

20.7 FAIR PLAY AWARD

- a. Nominations for the Fair Play Award will be received throughout the year from any club or their members via an online form submission.
- b. The object of the Fair Play Award will be to bring to the attention of the Association, teams or individuals who have demonstrated fair play and good sportsmanship above and beyond reasonable or normal expectations.
- c. Nominations will be open from March to August each year, and nominees will be announced on our Social Media platforms.
- d. At the end of each season, Association representatives will review all nominees to declare an overall winner.
- e. If that winner is an individual, they will be invited, as a guest of the Association to attend the Annual Awards Dinner.
- f. If the winner is a group or team, a representative from that group or team will be invited to represent them at the Association's Annual Awards Dinner.
- g. The overall winner will also be put forward for consideration for the Football NSW Fair Play Award each year for the duration that FNSW offer this acknowledgment and award.

20.8 FUTURE LEADER AWARD

- a. This award has been established to support the award by the same name awarded each year by Football NSW. The inaugural Award will be presented in 2024.
- b. The Future Leader Award recognises an individual, aged between 16 and 25, who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment to football at any level of the game (club, association, or state).
- c. The Future Leader Award recipient will be someone who has shown enthusiasm, determination, innovation, and direction in giving back to football and who is passionate about harnessing the power of football in their local community.
- d. In addition to displaying exemplary leadership, the recipient will have driven change and improvement at their level of the game.
- e. The recipient will be chosen at the discretion of the Nepean FA Board of Directors and the CEO.
- f. The recipient will be invited, as a guest of the association, to our Annual Awards night, where their award will be announced.
- g. The award winner will also be acknowledged in the Association's social media platforms.
- h. The overall winner will also be put forward for consideration for the Football NSW Future Leader Awards each year for the duration that FNSW offer this acknowledgment and award.
- i. A perpetual record of the award will be kept by the Association.

20.9 OTHER AWARDS

- a. The Association may, from time to time, award individuals or groups for various contributions to the Association's endeavours or for services to football.
- b. Such awards will generally be publicly acknowledged and may or may not be accompanied with an award prize or memento.
- c. Such awards will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors and/or the CEO.

APPENDIX

NEPEAN F.A. GOVERNANCE DOCUMENTS GLOSSARY OF TERMS, DEFINITIONS & INTERPRETATIONS

Reviewed 7th August, 2024

DEFINITIONS

Unless the contrary intention appears:

“Act” means the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW).

“Affiliate Member” means an individual who is an Official who is associated with the Association but who is not an Individual Member.

“Annual General Meeting” means the annual general meeting of the Association.

“Association” means Nepean Football Association Inc.

“Association Official” means any person involved with the administration, management or organisation of the Association (whether paid or unpaid) including employees and volunteers.

“Board” means the body consisting of the Directors.

“CEO” means the Chief Executive Officer of the Association for the time being appointed under the Constitution. Where the Association does not have a CEO, subject to confirmation by the Board, an officer shall be temporarily appointed by the Board and assume the functions of the CEO under the Constitution.

“Club” means a football club which is a Member, or is otherwise affiliated with the Association.

“Club Official” means any person involved with the administration, management or organisation of a Club (whether paid or unpaid) including employees and volunteers.

“Constitution” means this Constitution of the Association.

“Delegate” means the person(s) appointed from time to time to act for and on behalf of a Club and to represent the Club at General Meetings.

“Director” means a member of the Board and includes any person acting in that capacity from time to time appointed in accordance with this Constitution but does not include the Chief Executive Officer.

“Expulsion Ground” exists for a Member if:

- (a) The Member breaches:
 - (i) The Constitution or Regulations;
 - (ii) FNSW’s constitution, by-laws, regulations, policies or directives;
 - (iii) FA’s constitution, by-laws, regulations, policies or directives; or
 - (iv) FIFA Laws of the Game;
- (b) The Member wilfully disobeys the rules or instructions of the Association or permits or counsels any Club or individual under its jurisdiction or control to do so;

- (c) The Member engages in, condones or does not take effective measures to prevent conduct that is injurious or prejudicial to the Association, its character or interests or the sport of football generally;
- (d) The Member brings the sport of football into disrepute; or
- (e) The Member is not a fit and proper person or entity to be a Member of the Association.

“FA” means the Football Australia, Australia’s football governing body.

“FIFA” means the Federation Internationale de Football Association, the worlds football governing body.

“Financial Inducement/s” A Financial Inducement is defined for the purposes of the regulations as;

- a) the gifting, payment or awarding of a sum of money or an item/s or goods or service to an individual player or some individual players in a team, and not to all members of the team.
- b) It is given for the purpose of, but not limited to, securing the registration and/or services of a player to a team/club.
- c) A financial inducement can also take the form of a reward payment for performance, such as number of goals scored or saved, or for winning a game either to an individual or to a whole team.

“Financial year” means the year ending on the next [30 June] following incorporation and thereafter a period of 12 months commencing on [1 July] and ending on [30 June] each year.

“FNSW” means Football New South Wales, the New South Wales state governing body.

“General Meeting” means the annual or any special general meeting of the Association.

“Individual Member” means a registered, financial member of a Club or a natural person who is otherwise recognised by the Association as an Individual Member.

“Intellectual Property” means all rights subsisting in copyright, business names, names, trademarks (or signs), logos, designs, equipment including computer software, images (including photographs, videos or films) or service marks relating to the Association or any activity of or conducted, promoted or administered by the Association in the Nepean region.

“Life Member” means an individual appointed as a Life Member of the Association under clause 5.2.

“Match Official” means a referee, assistant referee, match commissioner, referee inspector, selector, any person in charge of safety or any other person appointed by the Association to assume responsibility in connection with a football match or competition;

“Member” means a member for the time being of the Association under Constitution clause 5.

“Official” means an Association Official, Club Official or Match Official;

“Objects” means the objects of the Association in Constitution clause 3.

“Poll” means the process of voting to reach a decision. A poll may be taken by a show of hands (or similar), or a secret ballot whereby the opinion of the voter is recorded on a voting slip or ballot paper. The results of such

ballots are counted to reach an outcome of a matter being considered by a vote, or to determine the outcome of an election of candidates.

“Public Officer” means the person appointed to be the public officer of the Association in accordance with the Act.

“NFA” means Nepean Football Association Inc.

“Nepean Region and/or Nepean District” means the geographical area for which the Association is responsible as recognised by FNSW.

“Register” means a register of Members kept and maintained in accordance with constitution clause 7.

“Regulations” means any Regulations made by the Board under clause 36.

“Seal” means the common seal of the Association (if any).

“Special General Meeting” means a special general meeting of the Association held in accordance with constitution clause 22.

“Special Resolution” means a special resolution passed by 75% of votes cast by Members entitled to vote in the resolution at a General Meeting or such higher percentage if required under the Act.

INTERPRETATION

In the NFA Constitution and Regulations:

- a) a reference to a function includes a reference to a power, authority and duty;
- b) a reference to the exercise of a function includes, where the function is a power, authority or duty, a reference to the exercise of the power or authority of the performance of the duty;
- c) words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa;
- d) words importing any gender include the other genders;
- e) references to persons include corporations and bodies politic;
- f) references to a person include the legal personal representatives, successors and permitted assigns of that person;
- g) a reference to a statute, ordinance, code or other law includes regulations and other statutory instruments under it and consolidations, amendments, re-enactments or replacements of any of them (whether of the same or any legislative authority having jurisdiction); and
- h) a reference to "writing" shall unless the contrary intention appears, be construed as including references to printing, lithography, photography and other modes of representing or reproducing words in a visible form, including messages sent by electronic mail.

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL PENALTIES APPEARING IN THESE REGULATIONS

Reviewed 7th August, 2024

1. Withdrawal of teams after the publication of team grading will incur a fine of;
\$500 for Ruby and Waratah League teams,
\$300 for competition teams and a fine of
\$100 for non-competition teams.
2. Penalties for the consumption of alcohol contrary to the regulations:
 - a. Penalty for breach of this regulation is a \$300 fine to the offending club and a loss of 3 points to the team who the perpetrator can be identified as belonging to.
 - b. A second offence by the same club will result in a \$600 fine and loss of 6 to the team who the perpetrator can be identified as belonging to
 - c. A third offence by the same club will result in a \$1000, 12-month alcohol ban on the club and the offending team will be removed from the competition.
3. Teams withdrawn from competition: \$300
4. Teams withdrawn from field of play \$100
5. Failure to report an abandoned match by telephone at the time of abandonment \$50
6. Failure to lodge a written report (Prescribed form 21) within 48 hours of an abandoned match \$100
7. Any competition team forfeiting - Fine \$100
8. Any non competition team forfeiting - Fine \$25 if reported
9. Any non-competition team forfeiting and not reported by the forfeiting club - \$50
10. Not recording/reporting a result - a fine of \$10 will be imposed for non-compliance of this rule on all teams who are required to report results (U8 and above). (Not subject to waiver)
11. Failure of a team to attend a post match presentation \$200

MINIMUM & MAXIMUM TEAM NUMBERS

U5 to U12 Minimum number of players for a game to proceed, are strong recommendations from the Nepean FA.

These have not, as yet, been adopted into regulations and are subject to endorsement by the Board of Directors.

AGE GROUP	MINIMUM NO. OF REG. PLAYERS	MAXIMUM NO. OF REG. PLAYERS	MIN. NUMBER OF PLAYERS FOR GAME TO PROCEED	NUMBER OF PLAYERS ON THE FIELD
U5 & U6	4	7	4	4
U7	4	7	4	4
U8	7	11	5 including Goalkeeper	7 including Goalkeeper
U9	7	11	5 including Goalkeeper	7 including Goalkeeper
U10	9	14	6 including Goalkeeper	9 including Goalkeeper
U11	9	14	6 including Goalkeeper	9 including Goalkeeper
U12	9	14	6 including Goalkeeper	9 including Goalkeeper
U13 - U14	11	16	7 including Goalkeeper	11 including Goalkeeper
U15 to AM, AW, O35 & 45, O30W & IM & IW	11	No Maximum	7 including Goalkeeper	11 including Goalkeeper
Waratah League Squads (A squad = 2 teams) Registrations required per team	24 per squad. Must have a minimum of 7 x U23 Players	No Maximum	7 including Goal Keeper	11 including Goalkeeper