



# SEASON 2026 TOURNAMENT RULES

U14 Boys & U14 Girls Nepean FA Cups  
U16 Boys & U16 Girls Nepean FA Cups  
U21 Mens Nepean FA Cup  
O35 Mens Nepean FA Cup  
O30 Womens FA Cup  
Womens Nepean FA Cup  
Mens Nepean FA Cup



## RULES AND INFORMATION

The 2025 Nepean FA Cup Tournaments will be played within the date ranges advised in the table below. The final where possible will be held at Jamison Park.

DAY	DATE	NFA Cup
TUES/WED/THURS	Late April	NFA Cup Elimination Round
TUES/WED/THURS	Early May	R1 NFA Cup
TUES/WED/THURS	Early June	R2 NFA Cup
TUES/WED/THURS	Mid July	R3 NFA Cup (Q.Final)
TUES/WED/THURS	Early August	R4 NFA Cup (SemiFinal)
SATURDAY	5 <sup>th</sup> September	ALL FINALS

### RULES

1. Entry in the Nepean FA Cup tournaments is free.
2. Winners of the Men's Nepean FA Cup will receive an automatic entry, subsidized by the Association into the following year's Australia Cup.
3. Winners of the Women's Nepean FA Cup will receive an automatic entry, subsidized by the Association into the following year's Sapphire Cup.
4. The winner of the Under 21 Men's Nepean FA Cup, which can be made up of whole teams from within a club or a composite team/s from within a club, will be the U21 Champion of Champions representative.
  - a. All Players must have attained the age of 16 and turning no older than 21 in the current year.
  - b. No exemptions.
5. Normal competition rules apply unless stipulated otherwise hereunder.
6. Any eventuality that is not addressed in these rules or in the regular competition rules of the Association will be settled by the Association in consultation with the Board of Directors.
7. Fixtures will not be re-arranged to accommodate other team/player engagements in other social or external competitions, including State Cups.
8. Competition dates will not be varied unless wet weather or venue difficulties require change.
9. All kick off times for senior games will be at 7.00pm except if a junior match precedes it, in which case the junior fixture will kick off at 6.30 and the senior fixture will kick off at 7.40pm.
10. The Association reserves the right to amend kick off times in order to ensure completion of competition.

# NEPEAN FA CUPS - TOURNAMENT RULES

## TEAM ENTRIES

11. Clubs may enter one team in the age groups offered by the Association.
  - a. In *all* competitions, the 2nd and subsequent teams from a club will only be given a spot once each club who have entered a team have an opportunity to take part in the competition.
12. Clubs entering more than one team from a division shall be known by their club name and an identifying letter (such as A, B, C).
13. Team Nominations must be submitted to the association by the advertised closing dates.
  - a. Player nominations are dealt with in Player Eligibility section of these rules.
14. Squad sizes;
  - a. In *Junior* Nepean FA Cups, a squad of 16 players maximum is permitted.
  - b. In *Senior* Nepean FA Cups (U21 Men, Men's, Women's, O30 Women & O35 Men), a squad of 23 players maximum is permitted.
  - c. A maximum of 16 players may appear on a team sheet and take part in a fixture in both junior & senior tournaments.
15. A Nepean FA Cup team may be a composite team consisting of players from mixed divisions. In the case of a composite team the team will be graded to the division of the highest graded player.

## TEAM WITHDRAWALS

16. Once entered into the competition, teams are expected to fulfill the commitment to participate.
17. It is the responsibility of both the club and the team to stay informed on fixtures and fixture changes.
18. Nepean Cups are a knockout competition.
19. There are no forfeits in a knockout competition.
  - a. If a team does not intend to play, it is considered a withdrawal irrespective of the amount of notice provided.
  - b. The club will be penalised as per rule 20 and in addition will be invoiced for any match official fees if a fixture has been scheduled and a match officials have been appointed.
20. *Penalty for withdrawal from competition \$300.*

## PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

21. In *Senior* competitions, any player taking part must have attained the age of 16 years and must be registered in a Nepean FA sanctioned senior competition in Intermediate Men's or Women's or above.
22. In *Junior* competitions, only players registered to play in U13 Boys or Girls, U14 Boys or Girls, U15 Boys or Girls or U16 Boys or Girls competitions may be nominated to play in the respective competition.
23. Player nominations must be lodged with the association by submitting the team to the Nepean FA Cup Competition through Dribl.
24. *Changes and updates to player nominations for a squads will close 48hrs prior to the kick off of the first fixture for that age group.*

# NEPEAN FA CUPS - TOURNAMENT RULES

## MEMBER SUSPENSIONS

25. Any member suspended in a regular competition match may not take part in a Nepean FA Cup match.
26. Any suspension received when participating in the Nepean FA Cup tournament will be served in the player's next fixture/s be that a Nepean Cup match or a regular competition match or a finals series match.
27. If a player under suspension (excluding long term suspensions of 4 or more matches) has been registered in a Nepean FA Cup squad, the Nepean FA Cup match will count towards their suspension, provided they are listed on the team sheet as one of the team's 16 players.

## TEAM MISCONDUCTS RECEIVED IN NEPEAN CUPS

28. Where a team receives a team misconduct charge in accordance with the Grievance & Disciplinary Regulations in a Nepean Cup Match, the following penalties will apply:
29. On the first occurrence the Association will issue a Letter of Reprimand outlining that a second incident of team misconduct in a Nepean Cup Match will result in the team being withdrawn from the tournament. The club will also receive a \$200 penalty.
30. On the second occurrence, the team will be withdrawn from the competition, will receive a \$200 penalty and will incur the standard \$300 withdrawal fee.

## HANDICAPS

31. The competition will use a handicap system as follows;
  - a. **MEN'S NEPEAN FA CUP:** a one (1) goal handicap will be applied when a Non-Waratah League team (either W1st or WRes) is drawn against a Waratah League (1<sup>st</sup> or Res) team.
  - b. **WOMEN'S NEPEAN FA CUP:** a one (1) goal handicap will be applied when a Non-Ruby League team is drawn against a Ruby League team.
  - c. **U21 MEN'S NEPEAN FA CUP:** there is no handicap in this competition.
  - d. For the purposes of clarity, IM, IW, O35 & O45 Division 1 teams are all viewed as lower in Division to their All Age counterparts and will therefore not be subjected to a -1 goal handicap.
  - e. In all other age group competitions: a one (1) goal handicap will be applied when a team from Div. 2 or lower is draw against a Division 1 side
32. For the purposes of handicapping, the side will be handicapped according to the division of the highest graded player nominated in the team, e.g. If a mixed team comprising of 1 Div. 1 player and 13 Div. 4 players is entered, the team will be graded as a Div. 1 team and all non Div. 1 teams drawn against this team will receive a 1 goal handicap.
33. Handicaps will form part of the reported final score.
34. Both teams will add the handicap to the scores they report via EMS

# NEPEAN FA CUPS - TOURNAMENT RULES

## ALL MATCHES MUST HAVE A RESULT

35. There are no draws in a knock-out tournament.
36. If the game is a draw at the end of normal time, then two periods of extra time shall be played as per the durations below
  - a. 5 minutes extra time for junior competitions U16 and below
  - b. 10 minutes extra time for senior competitions U21 & above, shall be played.
37. If still a draw at end of extra time, then the game shall be decided on Penalties as per Laws of the Game.
38. In the event of a night fixture losing light, the balance of time remaining in the fixture will be noted and only the balance will be rescheduled to be played and concluded at the first available opportunity following the fixture.
39. The Finals, will, wherever possible, be played at Jamison Park.
40. The association reserves the right to change the venue of finals due to operational or other reasons. The location of a final is not open for debate.

## MATCH SHEETS

41. Nepean FA endorsed electronic match sheets shall be used for all fixtures and shall be produced in the normal fashion by the team listed as the home team in the fixture list.
42. If a proven failure of the EMS portal occurs, the home team must supply a paper match sheet as per normal competition rules. If the home team fails to produce a paper match sheet, they shall be deemed to have forfeited their fixture.
43. Clubs will not improvise team sheets.
44. Both teams must submit and confirm the match sheet prior to scheduled kick off.
45. The score recorded on the sheet shall reflect the score at the completion of the game including handicaps.
46. If a game requires a penalty shootout, note the score at the end of extra time, and then the score in the penalty shootout.
47. The HOME TEAM club is responsible for forwarding a paper team sheet to the association within 24 hours of the fixture.

## RESULT REPORTING

48. Both teams are responsible for entering the results into the EMS portal in the usual method employed for regular competitions.
49. Results must be recorded by 9.00am on the day following the match. Regulation penalties apply for failure to report results.
50. Clubs should ensure their teams have recorded their results.

# NEPEAN FA CUPS - TOURNAMENT RULES

## REFEREES FEES

51. Referee's fees for the games will be invoiced to the clubs of competing teams accordingly. This applies to all games except for the final.
52. The Association will pay for Referee's fees for Finals.
53. Normal Referees fees will apply to Nepean FA Cup matches except:
  - a. In Nepean FA Cup competitions, if either team is a Ruby or Waratah League team, the Referees fees will be set at the higher level and not the all age level.
54. If both senior teams are Non-Ruby or Waratah league teams, the lower All Age Referees fee will apply.

## RIGHT TO AMEND

55. The association reserves the right to make amendments to the tournament rules in order to bring about a complete competition.