



# **Registration Regulations**

**V. 2026.1**

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## 1. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- a. All new players must attain the minimum age of 5 years by 31 December of the year for which they are registering before a registration will be accepted.
- b. In all "Under" age groups (eg. U7 to U18), the age that the player will attain during the year for which they are registering, shall determine the age groups they shall be eligible to play in.
- c. A player aged 5 years or above, may after consultation between the club and the player's parents or guardians, register into an age group a maximum of two years above the age they are turning in the current year, taking into consideration 1.a. which indicates the minimum age of a registered play to be 5 years. Before doing so, due care and consideration must be given by both the club administrators and the minors guardians to the welfare of the child with regard to skill, statue, and maturity levels before challenging a child to play above their natural age. No allowances or considerations will be made for a player who is playing above their natural age.
- d. In all "Over" age groups (eg. Over 35's) the player must have attained that age prior to taking the field in any NFA fixture and no later than 30<sup>th</sup> June of the competition year they are registering in order to qualify to be registered in these age groups. Exemptions apply in Over's competitions as stipulated in clause e. and f.
- e. Over 45 Men's team may carry three (3) players, who must be a permanent team member, not an upgraded player, aged 40-45 in the year of competition. Clubs who submit teams with underaged players do so acknowledging that the underaged players may not take part in any team competitions or activities run externally to the Association, such as, but not limited to FNSW State Cups, Champion of Champions or other age relevant competitions or tournaments.
- f. Over 30 Women's team may carry three (3) players, who must be a permanent team member, not an upgraded player, aged 27-30 in the year of competition. Clubs who submit teams with underaged players do so acknowledging that the underaged players may not take part in any team competitions or activities run externally to the Association, such as, but not limited to FNSW State Cups, Champion of Champions or other age relevant competitions or tournaments.
- g. To be eligible to play in any All Aged competition a player shall have attained the age of 16 years.
- h. To be eligible to register in the Intermediate Men's competition, a player shall, as a minimum, be turning 16 years in the year of competition and shall be no older than 19 years in the year of competition to qualify to play.
- i. To be eligible to register in the Intermediate Women's competition, a player shall have attained the age of 15 years in the year of competition and shall be no older than 21 years in the year of competition to qualify to play.
- j. To be eligible to register in the Association's competitions or activities, the following proof of age must be sighted by the registering club:
  - i) Players aged 5–17 years - Birth Certificate, Passport, Letter of Confirmation of identity from a recognized government department, Driver's Licence, Proof of Age Card, or School Student Photo Identity Card.
  - ii) Players aged 18 years and over must produce photo ID in the form of Passport, Drivers Licence, Proof of Age/Identity Card.
  - iii) All forms of ID must state the date of birth of the player in order to be considered eligible proof.
- k. Players may register in either mixed gender or single gender teams where they are offered up to and including the U12 age group.
- l. Players will register in single gender age groups from U13 and above.
- m. A player shall be deemed a veteran player having reached the age of 50 years. A veteran player, once registered with a club, may be upgraded from their original team an unlimited number of times during the season.
- n. Any senior player, male or female, returning from playing in State League or higher, in the previous year or current year of registration, may only play in the highest division available at the club they are registering with in the season immediately following their Representative appearance/s. The only exception to this rule will apply if the player is aged over 35, in which case the player may elect to play in the highest over 35 division available at the club. Loss of Points/Fines apply if this rule is breached.

## 2. REGISTRATION REGULATIONS

### 2.1 PLAYER REGISTRATIONS

- a. The **Nepean FA** Inc has adopted the FA National Registration Regulations and all below must be read in concert with those regulations.
- b. Any person wishing to play in any game conducted by the **Nepean FA** Inc. must first be a member of an Affiliated Club and must be a duly registered player in accordance with the current procedures of the Association.
- c. The final date of registration for all competitions will be in accordance with notice given in the Registration Guidelines issued to Club Registrars.
- d. A person cannot register for two clubs/associations without first being deregistered in the same season.
  - i. Exceptions to this regulation apply in instances where Football NSW conducts competitions in which dual registration is permitted.
  - ii. Where a parent/guardian of a junior registered player applies to Football NSW and is given exemption to dual register the minor in two associations in order to address child custody matters.
- e. Players must register using FA's Play Football web site ([www.playfootball.com.au](http://www.playfootball.com.au))
- f. A person is not registered with a club until such time as the Affiliated Club accepts the registration.
- g. A person is not registered to play until such time as the Association has authorized and processed their registration and produced and provided the registered club with a current player ID.
- h. All registering players must ensure the photograph on PlayFootball.com.au is up to date and is a clear likeness.
- i. In all cases, if a player no longer resembles his photograph a new photograph must be uploaded and the Club and Association informed.
- j. The onus is on the Club to verify the date of birth and identity of all players in accordance with instructions in the Registrar's Guidelines, issued annually by the Nepean FA.
  - i. Any such Club subsequently found guilty of supplying the Association with false or misleading information may be fined \$500 and the associated team may incur loss of points penalties.
- k. Registered persons serving suspensions in "matches" must register to serve their suspension.
- l. Registered persons serving suspensions in "time" may register once that "time" is served.
- m. All registrations, de-registrations and player re-grades will cease on the date notified to registrars in the Registrar's Guidelines.

### 2.2 REGISTRATIONS OF OFFICIALS, COACHES, MANAGERS AND VOLUNTEERS

- a. Any person wishing to work with Children within the Association must be aware of and meet the criteria set down by Football NSW and/or FA and the NSW State Government for Working with Children.
- b. All persons performing a duty that may come within the Working with Children legislation must comply with the requisites of the Law.
- c. FNSW policies relating to Member Protection must be adhered to in accordance with instructions provided in the Club Registrar's Guidelines.
- d. Acceptance of and compliance with the FA, FNSW & NFA Codes of Conduct is a condition of participation in all NFA sanctioned activities.
- e. Coaches, Managers, Marshals, Officials and volunteers must register using the FA [www.playfootball.com.au](http://www.playfootball.com.au) web site, or whatever other mechanism is mandated by FA.
- f. The "Required Details" must be provided when registering.
- g. A current photograph must be uploaded during the registration process.

- h. Officials serving suspensions in “matches” must register to serve their suspension.
- i. Officials serving suspensions in “time” may register once that “time” is served.
- j. Persons under suspension or disqualification from another Association, Federation or Club shall not be accepted for registration until cleared by that body.

## 2.3 GENDER RESTRICTIONS RELATING TO TEAMS & THEIR OFFICIALS

- a. For single gender teams of any age or grade, at least one registered team official holding the position of either Coach, Manager, Assistant Coach or Assistant Manager must be the same gender as the team.
- b. Male Officials of female teams are not permitted to enter the female dressing room alone and not without the express permission of and in the presence of the female official.
- c. Female Officials of male teams are not permitted to enter the male dressing room alone and not without the express permission of and in the presence of the male official.

## 3. ACCREDITATION OF COACHES

- a. MiniRoos Coaches (U5 to U12 Teams), including Assistant Coaches are required to hold a MiniRoos Certificate Accreditation. This level of accreditation is free of charge to obtain.
- b. Division 1 coaches for all competition teams, (U13 to U17 and Waratah & Ruby League grades) must hold a minimum Foundation of Football Certificate.
- c. Division 1 Coaches must hold the minimum Foundation of Football Accreditation, or show that they have registered for a course. Failure to do so will result in their team playing for zero points.
- d. In the case of 3.c. competition points will not be reinstated retrospectively upon qualification of their coach.
- e. In the event that a club wishes to register multiple Coaches to competition teams, those individuals must be registered as an Assistant Coach and hold the stipulated accreditation as per points 3.a & 3.b.
- f. Accredited coaches are expected, within reason, to be at most fixtures for their team. Repeated appearances of “Acting Coach” on team sheets will require investigation and possible penalties being imposed by the Association.

## 4. TEAMS

### 4.1 NOMINATION OF TEAMS - COMPETITION

- a. Each season, clubs are required to complete affiliation and team nominations on the **Prescribed Form 25 Team Nomination Form**, in accordance with instructions contained in the form.
- b. The club must ensure that player nomination details are current and up to date at the time of team nominations.
- c. A player nomination report for each team nominated to take part in association activities will be produced by Association Staff at the time of team nominations.
- d. Clubs may submit additional information to support their team nominations which will be provided for the consideration of the Competition Committee. Additional information should be submitted with **Prescribed Form 25 Team Nomination Form** available from the Library of the Association website.
- e. The Competition Committee will grade teams in accordance with the Competition Regulations.
- f. All players registered after the initial team nomination deadline shall only be placed in an appropriate age group and division with the permission of the CEO or their delegated staff representative.
- g. Withholding the registration of returning players in order to attempt to influence the decision relating to grading may result in the upgrading or non-acceptance of players or a team.
- h. Where a club nominates, or has more than one team in the same League, Grade, and Division (e.g. U13.3 Black & U13.3 White),

- i. the names of the players shall be nominated for each team using the prescribed registration system, at team nomination time
- ii. shall not be interchangeable whilst they remain in the same competition and
- iii. may be transferred only with the written consent of the Association.
- i. Formation and composition of MiniRoos football teams shall be in accordance with Clause 4.2.
- j. Minimum and Maximum player numbers in teams shall be in accordance with Registration Guidelines issued to Club Registrar's annually.

## 4.2 NOMINATION OF TEAMS – NON-COMPETITION

- a. Clubs must nominate U5 to U7 teams to play in one of the following formats:
  - I. Home and away format with the fixtures prepared and distributed by the Association.
  - II. In a Hub with at least one other club. In Hubs, fixtures and activity formats are agreed to by the participating clubs.
    - i. An outline of the Hub's agreed operation format must be supplied to the Association prior to the start of each season.
    - ii. The outline must contain the clubs participating, day and times of operation and the activity format if not a simple game format.
    - iii. All Draws are produced by Nepean FA in the Dribl platform.
    - iv. All players in hubs must be registered with Nepean FA.
    - v. If this point is breached, the club's permission to participate in a hub will be immediately withdrawn and teams will be put into a home and away format
  - III. In House format. In this format, only the teams from the club take part in the activities.
    - i. Activities may take the form of training followed by a game, or games only, with training taking place during the week in the traditional way of team sports.
    - ii. It is strongly encouraged that clubs operating an In-House program have a person responsible for the direct supervision of their program, such as a MiniRoos Co-ordinator.
    - iii. An outline of the Club's In-House program format must be supplied to the Association before the start of each season.
    - iv. The outline must contain the clubs participating, day and times of operation and the activity format if not a simple game format.
    - v. All draws are produced by Nepean FA in the Dribl platform.
    - vi. All players participating in an In-House program must be registered with Nepean FA. If this point is breached, the club's permission to operate an In-House program will be immediately withdraw and teams will be put into a home and away format

## SENIOR TEAMS LEVY

The Association promotes the growth of junior football at all clubs. To discourage clubs from focusing only on senior teams, a levy is in place.

- a. Any club wishing to enter All-Age teams shall have a least one junior team, Under 17 and below, for each senior team. Intermediate Teams will be counted as senior teams for the purposes of this clause.
- b. Clubs unable to meet this requirement shall incur a levy of two hundred dollars (\$200) per senior team not matched by a junior team. The fee is to be used for the development of local junior divisional football within the Association's district.
- c. Newly affiliated clubs are exempt from the senior team levy for the first two seasons following affiliation.

REVISION TABLE:

VERSION #	DATE	VERSION & NOTES
V2017.1	13FEB17	ADD POINT 1.E. TO ADDRESS CRITERIA FOR NEW COMPETITIONS 2.1.D. REMOVED REFERENCES TO PLAYER TRANSFERS 3.1.B. CORRECT TYPO ERROR – REMOVED EXTRA WORDS (NO MEANING) CHANGE ALL REFERENCES FROM OPERATIONS MANAGER TO GENERAL MANAGER (3)
V2018.1	14DEC17 (DRAFT)	2.2 A & C ADDRESS CHANGES TO WWCC FROM FNSW
	08FEB18	1.L – CLARIFICATION ON DURATION THAT THE REGULATION WILL BE IN EFFECT.
	08FEB18	1.C & 2.2.Q ARE MANDATED CHANGES TO BE ADOPTED INTO THE NEXT ROUND OF REGULATION CHANGES. THEY HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THIS DOCUMENT FOR EASE OF REFERENCE FOR CLUBS.
V2018.2	04APR18	INSERT 1.C. AND RENUMBER REMAINING POINTS. INSERT MANDATED CHANGE TO BE ADOPTED INTO THE NEXT ROUND OF REGULATION CHANGES. THE AMENDMENT TO PLAYER ELIGIBILITY RULES HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THIS DOCUMENT FOR EASE OF REFERENCE FOR CLUBS. REFER FOOTNOTE 1.
V2021.1	03FEB21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CHANGED 1.D. IN ALL “OVER” AGE GROUPS THE PLAYER MUST HAVE ATTAINED THAT AGE PRIOR TO TAKING THE FIELD IN ANY NFA FIXTURE AND NO LATER THAN 30TH JUNE OF THE COMPETITION YEAR THEY ARE REGISTERING IN ORDER THAT THEY QUALIFY TO BE REGISTERED IN THESE AGE GROUPS.</li> <li>• CHANGED 1. G &amp; 1. H TO CREATE TWO SEPARATE CLAUSES FOR MEN’S AND WOMEN’S COMPETITIONS.</li> <li>• 1.G. CHANGED AGE CRITERIA FOR MEN FROM 16-21 TO 16-19</li> <li>• 1.H. CHANGED AGE CRITERIA FOR WOMEN FROM 16-21 TO 15-21 TO ADDRESS THE LACK OF OPTIONS FOR 15 YEAR OLD GIRLS IN WHERE THEY CAN PLAY IF THEIR CLUB DOESN’T HAVE AN U16G TEAM.</li> <li>• DELETE 1.M. – NO LONGER RELEVANT</li> <li>• 2.1.G. REMOVE REFERENCES TO PLAYER ID CARDS. REPLACE WITH PLAYER ID</li> <li>• 2.2.E. ADDED “or whatever other mechanism is mandated by FFA” in the event that PlayFootball is replaced. The replacement mechanism will be valid until Regulations are revised and updated.</li> <li>• INSERTED 2.3 SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR COACHES AND MANAGERS TO PROVIDE SEPARATE SECTION FOR SEPARATE SUBJECT MATTER. REORGANISED ORDER TO ALLOW SUBJECTS TO FOLLOW ON FROM EACH OTHER.</li> <li>• IN SECTION 2.3.B. (MULTIPLE PLACES), REFERENCES TO PREMIER LEAGUE HAVE BEEN CHANGED TO RUBY AND WARATAH LEAGUES.</li> <li>• 2.3.B.B. INSERT CRITERIA FOR ASSISTANT COACHES OF RUBY &amp; WARATAH LEAGUE TEAMS.</li> <li>• 2.3.D. &amp; E. REWORDED SENTENCES TO PROVIDE MORE CLARITY. NO CHANGE TO MEANING.</li> <li>• 3.1.F - CHANGED GENERAL MANAGER TO CEO AND MADE ALLOWANCES FOR DELEGATE TO OTHER APPROPRIATE STAFF MEMBERS.</li> <li>• 3.1.H.III INSERTED WORD “WRITTEN” AND CHANGED GENERAL MANAGER TO ASSOCIATION TO REMOVE PERSON/ROLE SPECIFIC DUTY.</li> <li>• 3.2.A. CHANGED AGE GROUP FROM U18 TO U17 AS U18 IS NO LONGER OFFERED BY THE ASSOCIATION. INCLUDED CLARIFICATION THAT FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE CLAUSE INTERMEDIATE TEAMS ARE COUNTED AS SENIOR TEAMS.</li> <li>• 3.2.D –REMOVED.</li> </ul>
V2026.1	21JAN26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• INSERT NEW CLAUSE. 3 – ACCREDITATION OF COACHES</li> <li>• INSERT NEW CLAUSE 4 – TEAMS, COVERING TEAM NOMINATIONS</li> </ul>

