



NSWFA COMPETITION REGULATIONS

CLUB COMPETITIONS

INDEX

- 1.0 GENERAL
- 2.0 QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
 - 2.1 TEAMS
 - 2.2 PLAYERS
 - 2.3 OFFICIALS
- 3.0 PLAYING SYSTEM
- 4.0 UNIFORMS
 - 4.1 PLAYERS
 - 4.2 REFEREES
- 5.0 PROTESTS
- 6.0 ANTI DOPING
- 7.0 DISCIPLINARY MATTERS
- 8.0 FORFEITS
- 9.0 RINK
- 10.0 COMPETITION RULES

1.0 GENERAL

- 1.1 These Competition Regulations (Regulations) will apply to the following competitions;
 - 1.1.1 Elite Series
 - 1.1.2 State Leagues
 - 1.1.3 Any other competitions involving the regular playing of games between NSWFA clubs involving the awarding of a trophy
- 1.2 Any request to vary these Regulations for a competition involving 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 and 1.1.3 must be submitted in writing to the NSWFA at least 2 weeks before the competition commences requesting approval for the variations.
- 1.3 All applicable NSWFA, AFA and IFF Codes of Conduct and Policies will apply to these competitions.

2.0 QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

2.1 CLUBS

- 2.1.1 Must be registered with NSWFA.
- 2.1.2 Can have no more than 30 players listed to play in the competition unless they have 2 or more teams competing.
- 2.1.3 Can have no more than 20 players, playing in any single game

2.2 PLAYERS

- 2.2.1 Must be current members of the AFA/ NSWFA based on filled membership form.
- 2.2.2 If playing in a senior competition the player must be at least 15 years of age at the commencement of the competition unless approved by the NSWFA and with parental approval.
- 2.2.3 All players must be registered with a club to play any game for that club. Absolutely no fill-ins will be allowed for any fixture without the approval of the NSWFA and/or the opposing team captain and the referees.
- 2.2.4 Every club must provide the NSWFA with a list of registered players by no later than 2 weeks prior to the commencement of the season which is the final Saturday of October.
- 2.2.5 New players may be added to a club's registered players list up until 4 days before a match, but only by email or by supplying the NSWFA with a complete new registered players list or unless otherwise determined by NSWFA. This will allow time for Membership status and insurance coverage to be confirmed.
- 2.2.6 A team fielding a non-registered player in a fixture shall be deemed as having forfeited that fixture.
- 2.2.7 Captains or managers must have team sheet filled out at least 15mins prior to match to help organisation and uninterrupted warm-up. The team that has not completed the team sheet before the game cannot take the court until having done so; the game clock will start on time. Clause 8.6 will apply if the team sheet has

not been completed within the 20 minutes of the scheduled start time.

- 2.2.8 Players remain registered under club until official transfer is submitted by AFA or State Association. Players become free agents and are able to register for another club if has moved from interstate or overseas or didn't attend any official AFA or State Association game for a last 12 months.

2.3 OFFICIALS

- 2.3.1 As a minimum a competition to be sanctioned by the NSWFA shall have at least 2 persons who have completed a referee course to oversee the refereeing of the competition
- 2.3.2 Referees must be a minimum of 18 years of age before the start of the tournament or series unless approved by the NSWFA.
- 2.3.3 Every team must provide the NSWFA with the names of at least 2 referees
- 2.3.4 The referees must attend the education lessons organised by the AFA or any other State Association.
- 2.3.5 Referees can't whistle their own team.
- 2.3.6 Each game must be refereed by two referees.
- 2.3.7 Each referee as a guide should receive a minimum of \$15 per game or other amount approved by the NSWFA.

3.0 PLAYING SYSTEM

- 3.1 The competition should involve a qualification/preliminary rounds and a finals round.
- 3.2 Points awarded are 2 points for a win, 1 point for a draw and 0 points for a loss
- 3.3 Ranking for finals shall be based on the following
- Total number of points
 - If teams have the same number of points then the team with the highest goal difference between those teams that are equal will rank higher
 - If ranking is still not decided the team with the most scored goals amongst the equal teams will be ranked higher
 - If ranking is still not decided then the team with the highest goal difference for the whole competition will be ranked higher
 - If ranking is still not decided the team that has scored the most goals in the whole competition will be ranked higher
 - If the ranking is still not decided the winner of the game(s) between the 2 equal teams in the preliminary rounds will be ranked higher, if more than 2 teams are equal this ranking is not to be used.
 - If ranking is still not decided lots shall be drawn

- 3.4 Elite Series season

- 3.4.1 Season starts in October and ends in April or unless otherwise determined by NSWFA. The final duration of the season is determined by the numbers of teams. Annually the season shall be reviewed dependent on international commitments for that year.
- 3.4.2 From season 2009-2010 there will be a break in December to allow the national teams to participate at the World Championships or unless otherwise determined by NSWFA.

4.0 UNIFORMS

4.1 PLAYERS

- 4.1.1 Clubs should aim that uniforms are to meet IFF regulations (as outlined below). Each team must have matching shirts and shorts with numbers. Teams will be penalized if all players are not in correct uniform in regards to IFF game rules.
- 4.1.2 Players must be in correct uniform to take part in a match.
- 4.1.3 Teams to register their playing colours with the state association by no later than 12th October each year or other approved time by the NSWFA.
- 4.1.4 Any teams who are having difficulty with this requirement due to extenuating circumstances (e.g. problems with a supplier) must notify the NSWFA ASAP!
- 4.1.5 Where two teams in a fixture have clashing uniforms, the away team is to wear an alternate strip. (It is not necessary for the alternate strip to meet all uniform requirements, but shirts must be at least of a similar colour and shade; bibs are acceptable.)

4.2 REFEREES

- 4.2.1 Referees shall wear a polo shirt in a predominantly grey colour and the word referee on the rear of the shirt. Their shorts shall be the same colour.

5.0 PROTESTS

- 5.1 Refereeing - if a team objects to certain referees they must lodge a \$100 bond to the NSWFA for them to convene a meeting and consider the dispute.
- 5.2 Other disputes will be decided on by the NSWFA or Tournament organisers.
- 5.3 A protest concerning the Qualification of players must be lodged before the start of the match or when the team sheet has been submitted whichever is the latest.
- 5.4 A protest must be written, signed and followed by the amount of \$100 which will be returned only if the protest is approved. The protest must be lodged within 48 hours of the completion of the match concerned.
- 5.5 A protest should be dealt with within 48 hours of the lodging of the protest.
- 5.6 If there is a protest against the NSWFA decision this will be heard and decided by the AFA Disciplinary Committee.

6.0 ANTI DOPING

- 6.1 The AFA and IFF Doping policy must be followed.

- 6.2 All players in the competition shall agree to undergo drug testing if required. Refusal to take a drug test will be treated the same as a positive result.
- 6.3 If a player returns a positive drug test they will be suspended from playing during the investigation until a decision is made.

7.0 DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

- 7.1 All fines are payable to NSWFA and go direct to the NSWFA development fund pool for junior development.
- 7.2 No team will be allowed to play a match with any money owing on fines and fees - absolutely no exceptions.
- 7.3 Fines and fees are in multiples of \$20 and \$100. Where any actual damage is caused then the person(s) responsible for the damage will be required to pay for the actual cost of repairs.
- 7.4 The AFA disciplinary committee will be the final arbitrator in the event of any disputes regarding disciplinary matters.

8.0 FORFEITS

- 8.1 Any team not fielding the minimum allowed players for a match or fielding an invalid player shall be deemed to have forfeited the match.
- 8.2 For the referee to start a match, each team must have at least 5 field players and a properly equipped goalkeeper.
- 8.3 A team forfeiting a match shall be required to pay all fees relevant to the match.
- 8.4 The opposing team in a forfeited match shall be awarded a 5-0 walkover.
- 8.5 During play each team must be able to play with at least 4 players, or the match shall be stopped and the final score shall be 5-0 to the non offending team or the actual score at the time whichever is the best result for the non offending team
- 8.6 Teams must be ready to commence within 20 minutes of the scheduled start time or a forfeit will be recorded against the offending team.

9.0 RINK

- 9.1 IFF court size between 18 x 36 and 22 x 44 metres - with IFF court markings/dimensions, (note: the rinks are not required to be IFF certified but must meet their minimum safety requirements).
- 9.2 Minimum court markings are to include lines marked for the boxes along with the crosses for face-off marks (according to IFF rules.).
- 9.3 Ideally, court markings are also to include corner perimeters to help show where the rink should be set up to provide the 20m x 40m distance.
- 9.4 If the area is not big enough to host the approved court size then the club/venue can apply to the NSWFA for approval and the approval of the opposing team. Any such request is to be lodged with the NSWFA at least 4 weeks before the scheduled game.
- 9.5 In the case permanent / pre-existing lines aren't marked on the floor then host club needs to have lines marked before warm-up occurs.

9.6 It is the responsibility of the host club to ensure all lines are marked and placed correctly.

10.0 COMPETITION RULES

10.1 REFEREEING & MATCH RECORDING

- 10.1.1 Each club will be required to supply referees and match recorders (scorers and timekeepers) as required.
- 10.1.2 The state association to supply roster to clubs of when and how many people will be required with fixtures.
- 10.1.3 When rostered to referee and match record, the club is to provide its rostered allocation of competent referees and match recorder.
- 10.1.4 Clubs will be fined (monetary or points at NSWFA option) if referees or match recorders are not provided for any scheduled games.

10.2 MATCH SPECIFICATIONS

- 10.2.1 3 x 20 min periods non-effective time (if possible effective time is preferred) or unless otherwise determined by NSWFA.
- 10.2.2 Men and Women in separate teams although in same competition, this maybe altered by the NSWFA.
- 10.2.3 NSWFA registered players (each club is to be a registered NSWFA club, and each player is to be registered with a club.)

10.3 TIMES

- 10.3.1 Scheduled times are to strictly adhered to. The game clock is to start right on the time indicated in the draw.
- 10.3.2 Block hours will be 1.5hrs per game allowing 3x20min periods, 2x5min breaks and brief warm-up on court (2.5 hrs for effective game time).
- 10.3.3 Time for warm-up important to reduce injury and increase enjoyment of match for players and spectators.
- 10.3.4 By allowing for warm-ups that means no referees or other officials miss out on their chance to warm-up.

10.4 VENUES / HOST CLUBS

- 10.4.1 Clubs will be rostered an equal number of rounds as the “Host Club” (taking into account “away rounds” as listed below. The Host Club is designated for each game as the same club as are the referees and the match recorders for that game if the NSWFA won’t provide the organisation of the match day. If the competition venue is the same for home and away then the home team will be the host team.
- 10.4.2 Duties of the host club include (but are not limited to):
- 10.4.3 Ensuring the rink is set up correctly with plenty of time to spare prior to warm-up.

- 10.4.4 Ensuring goals and court markings are all correct and in place with plenty of time to spare prior to warm-up.
- 10.4.5 Supplying back-up support to scorers, time-keepers and referees.
- 10.4.6 Clubs may request rounds to be played at an alternate venue (“away rounds”) these rounds shall be fixtured at the discretion of the NSWFA competitions committee.
- 10.4.7 If a club is to be allocated an away round, that club will be rostered as the host club for that round. On top of regular duties, the host club for an “away round” is responsible for ensuring an NSWFA approved rink is available for that round, that the court size meets the required dimensions, and that the court is swept clean prior to the warm-up for the first game.

10.5 QUALIFICATIONS FOR FINALS

- 10.5.1 Players must meet one of the following criteria to play in a final series in any competition
 - 10.5.1.1 Play 1/5th of total qualifying games; or
 - 10.5.1.2 If less than 5 games in the series then they must play at least 3 qualifying round games.
 - 10.5.1.3 The State Association may allow at its discretion additional players to qualify for the finals if the following circumstances or similar applies;
 - 10.5.1.3.1 The player has within the last 4 weeks moved to the state from another state or country and is a member of AFA.
 - 10.5.1.3.2 A registered player who had played at least 1 qualifying game was injured and unable to play sufficient games due to the injury to qualify for the finals.

11.0 TRANSFERS

- 11.1 Transfers of players between clubs/teams cannot occur once the competition has commenced except for the times detailed below.
- 11.2 Transfers should only be allowed outside the nominated transfer periods in exceptional circumstances to be determined by the NSWFA, circumstances which may be considered are;
 - 11.2.1 The player has moved from interstate or overseas
 - 11.2.2 The club no longer fields a team in the competition
- 11.3 Players may only transfer between AFA clubs during either of the 2 transfer periods:
 - 11.3.1 Pre-season Transfer Period – Before 11th October
 - 11.3.2 Mid-season Transfer Period – 23rd December to 31st December N/A to NSWFA.
 - 11.3.3 This does not apply where players move interstate and wish to continue playing in the same Elite series or play in another States Elite series.

- 11.3.4 This does not apply for overseas players who arrive outside the transfer periods.
- 11.4 Transferred players must register for their new club, and be added to the club's registered players list.
- 11.5 The "new club" must provide relevant Transfer documents and inform the "old club" of the transfer before the end of the relevant transfer period.
- 11.6 The "old club" shall be allowed 3 days to appeal the transfer (by writing) to the "new club" and to the NSWFA, stating grounds for the appeal.
- 11.7 Grounds for appeal shall generally be limited to a player being unfinancial with their "old club". Other grounds will need to be deemed appropriate by the NSWFA competition committee.
- 11.8 Players can only play for one club, except where they transfer to a second club during the Mid-season Transfer Period.