



**NORTHERN
SUBURBS
FOOTBALL**
EST. 1957

COMPETITION REGULATIONS

5. KNOCKOUT TOURNAMENTS

2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

5.1 INTRODUCTION..... 2

5.2 GLOSSARY OF TERMS 2

5.3 COMPETITIONS DEPARTMENT 2

5.4 TOURNAMENTS 2

5.5 TEAM NOMINATION..... 2

5.6 LATE TEAM ENTRY OR WITHDRAWAL..... 3

5.7 AGE ELIGIBILITY..... 3

5.8 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY 3

5.9 DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS..... 4

5.10 TOURNAMENT DRAWS..... 4

5.11 MATCH CARDS 5

5.12 DUTIES OF TEAM MANAGERS 5

5.13 FORFEITS 5

5.14 ABANDONED MATCHES..... 6

5.15 REFEREES 6

5.16 LAWS OF THE GAME - MODICATIONS 6

5.17 CLUB STRIPS..... 7

5.18 TROPHIES 7

5.19 SCHEDULE OF FEES, FINES & PENALTIES 7

5.20 ISSUING OF FINES & PENALTIES 8

5.1 INTRODUCTION

These regulations apply equally to all NSFA knockout tournaments unless otherwise noted.

5.2 GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- **CEO** – Chief Executive Officer
- Competitions Department – NSFA staff who manage tournaments
- **FIFA** – Federation de International Football Associations
- **FA** – Football Australia
- **FNSW** – Football New South Wales
- **KDFRA** – Ku-ring-gai & District Football Referees Association
- **NSFA** – Northern Suburbs Football Association Ltd.
- **State Cup** – FNSW tournament open to all association teams in FNSW area
- **Tournament** – knock-out competition
- **WWC** – Working with Children

5.3 COMPETITIONS DEPARTMENT

The Competitions Department shall deal with all competition matters pertaining to knockout tournaments (subject to the authority of the Board).

5.4 TOURNAMENTS

The following tournaments are open for entry:

- a) NSFA Cup – Senior Mixed All Age, Over 35 and O45 teams;
- b) Rick Close Cup – Senior Mixed Over 35 and Over 45 teams;
- c) Mark Bryant Cup – Senior Mixed Over 45 teams; **BOD 03/21**
- d) Under 21 Challenge Cup – Senior Mixed Under 21 teams;
- e) President's Shield – Junior Mixed Under 17 and Under 18 teams;
- f) Vice-President's Shield – Junior Mixed Under 15 and Under 16 teams;
- g) Treasurer's Shield – Junior Mixed Under 13 and Under 14 teams;
- h) NSFA Women's Shield – Girls' Under 18 and Women's teams.

Junior Mixed and Girl's teams may enter a team in a higher age group than they qualify for at the absolute discretion of the Competitions Department.

The Competitions Department will schedule matches in **clauses a) to g)** above on Sundays. **BOD 03/21**

The Competitions Department may schedule matches in **clause g)** above on Friday nights or Saturdays, or on Sundays when State Cup matches are scheduled.

The Competitions Department may approve an alteration to a fixture on agreement from the two teams involved.

5.5 TEAM NOMINATION

- a) The Competitions Department shall publish a closing date for the entry of teams into tournaments.
- b) Clubs may enter existing teams or composite teams in a tournament. Clubs may enter more than one (1) team in a tournament.
- c) Clubs must generate a new team identity using the naming protocols as advised by the Competitions Department and nominate these teams into the appropriate knockout tournament.
- d) the name and contact details of team/squad manager, coach and any assistants. All team officials must register on the FA National online registration system for clubs to appoint them to a team. The Competitions Department will not schedule any matches for teams until they have complied with this clause.
- e) Clubs must verify the WWC number of all team officials in teams in the Treasurer's Shield, Vice President's Shield and President's Shield. Clubs must also verify the

NSFA Regulations

WWC number of team officials in NSFA Cup teams that may from time to time include players under the age of eighteen (18). The Competitions Department will not schedule any matches for teams until they have complied with this clause.

- f) Following the closing date for entries, the Competitions Department shall finalise each tournament. The Competitions Department shall publish details of the structure of each tournament and publish the dates for each round no later than 14 (fourteen) days prior to the first round of that tournament.
- g) All teams must nominate at least fourteen (14) players in the NSFA Player Registration System prior to the first round of the relevant tournament. Nominated players cannot be withdrawn once the relevant tournament has commenced. Clubs may add extra players to the team at any time up until the semi-finals. The maximum number of players a team is permitted to use is:
 - i) NSFA Cup, Rick Close Cup and Mark Bryant Cup – twenty-four (24);
 - ii) President's Shield, Vice President's Shield and Treasurer's Shield – twenty (20); **BOD 03/21**
 - iii) NSFA Women's Shield – twenty (20).

5.6 LATE TEAM ENTRY OR WITHDRAWAL

- a) The Competitions Department will only accept late entries if the draw of the relevant tournament has not yet been published.
- b) Clubs withdrawing a team must advise the Competitions Department in writing. The Competitions Department will fine any club withdrawing a team, including forfeits, after publication of the draw as per **Section 5.19** of these Regulations.

5.7 AGE ELIGIBILITY

- a) NSFA Cup – all players who are sixteen (16) years of age or older on the day of the match.
- b) Rick Close (Over 35) Cup - all players who were born before December 31, 1986.
- c) Mark Bryant (Over 45) Cup – all players born before December 31, 1976. **BOD 03/21**
- d) Under 21 Challenge Cup - all players born after December 31, 1999 and at least 16 (sixteen) years of age on the day of the match, unless granted dispensation.
- e) President's Shield – all players born after December 31, 2002 and before December 31, 2006, unless granted prior dispensation to play competition matches in a younger age-group.
- f) Vice President's Shield - all players born after December 31, 2004 and before December 31, 2007.
- g) Treasurer's Shield - all players born after December 31, 2006 and before December 31, 2009.
- h) NSFA Women's Shield - all players who are sixteen (16) years of age or older on the day of the match.

5.8 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

The following criteria define player eligibility:

- a) Players must register, in accordance with the provisions of **NSFA Competition Regulations 1 – Participant Registration**.
- b) All players must also register in a competition team in order to play in a tournament.
- c) All players must meet the age criteria of the tournament in which they are playing, as defined in **Section 5.7** of these Regulations.
- d) No junior player shall play in an age group more than two (2) years higher than that for which they are age-eligible.
- e) No player shall play in the NSFA Cup if he/she is fifteen (15) years of age or younger on the day of the game.
- f) Players may play in any tournament, provided they meet the age requirements and irrespective of which competition age group in which they are registered.
- g) Where clubs have more than one (1) team in a knockout tournament, players may not play for more than one (1) team in that tournament.
- h) Players may play in more than one (1) tournament, provided they are age-eligible.

NSFA Regulations

- i) Players under suspension are not eligible to play until they have served their suspension.
- j) Only players that have played in at least one (1) earlier round of a tournament are eligible to play in the final of that tournament.

5.8.1 Penalties

In the event the Competitions Department finds that a team has used an ineligible player in a match the following will occur:

- a) The Competitions Department will disqualify the team from further participation in the tournament; and
- b) The Competitions Department will award the match to the non-offending team, which will then progress to the next round of the competition. It will enter a 3-0 forfeit in the draw to update.
- c) The Competitions Department will also issue a fine in accordance with **Section 5.19.2 clause a)** of these Regulations to the offending team.
- d) If the offending team lost the match in question, the Competitions Department club will fine the club as per **Section 5.19.2 clause a)** of these Regulations.

5.8.2 Dispensation

- a) All dispensations that the Competitions Department has previously approved for competition matches shall apply to tournament matches.
- b) The Competitions Department may grant further dispensations for an alteration to the conditions described in **Section 5.8** of these Regulations upon written application.
- c) Clubs must submit applications for dispensation in writing using the **CF15A Special Dispensation Form**, which stakeholders can find on the NSFA website – [click here](#)

5.8.3 Relative Age Effect

Relative Age Effect (RAE) will only apply to players already granted permission under RAE to play in a lower competition age group than that for which they are eligible.

5.9 DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

NSFA Competition Regulation 4 – Disciplinary & Grievance Regulations shall apply with the following variations:

- a) A player who receives two (2) cautions in a tournament (not in the same match) will receive a one (1)-match suspension in that tournament. If the player's team is no longer participating in the tournament then the player must serve the suspension in the next competition match in his/her main competition team/squad.
- b) A player whom the referee sends from the field for the offences of R4, R5 or R7 will receive a one (1)-match suspension in that tournament. If the player's team is no longer participating in the tournament then the player must serve the suspension in the next competition match in his/her main competition team/squad.
- c) A player sent from the field for the offences of R1, R2, R3 or R6 who receives a suspension of two (2) matches or more must serve the suspension in his/her next competition match in his/her principal competition team/squad and/or next tournament match.

Please refer to **Section 4.7 of NSFA Competition Regulation 4 – Protests, Disputes & Disciplinary and Appeals** for an explanation of send-off offence codes.

5.10 TOURNAMENT DRAWS

- a) All tournament draws are progressive draws. Once entries have closed, the Competitions Department will place team in designated positions and generate a draw for round one. Subsequent rounds then follow a set progression until the final.

NSFA Regulations

- b) Positions in the draw are determined at random. There are no seeded teams. However, if one (1) or more matches are required to reduce the number of entries in the NSFA Cup and Rick Close Cup to a number divisible by four, the Competitions Department will place teams in order of final positions from the previous season's relevant age group competition, for allocating byes.
- c) Once the Competitions Department has published the draw, the draw is final and only the Competitions Department may alter it at its discretion.
- d) Clubs may request a change to a published fixture by completing a **CF11B Fixture Alteration Form**, which is available on the NSFA website – [click here](#). The club making the request must obtain written agreement to the proposed change from the opposition club. The Competitions Department may deny the request at its discretion. If both clubs cannot agree to the proposed change of fixture, then the fixture will take place at the time and place indicated in the published draw.
- e) The Competitions Department may change the date and/or time of a published fixture at any time. However, if the proposed change occurs within fourteen (14) days of the date of the published fixture both teams affected must agree to the change.
- f) The Competitions Department may change the venue of a fixture at any time without the agreement of both clubs. However, if the changed fixture is moved to a time when a club has booked the ground for a club activity (e.g. training), then the club that has booked the ground must give permission for the match to proceed.

5.11 MATCH CARDS

As per **Section 2.8** of **NSFA Competition Regulations 2 – Competition Football**

5.11.1 Matches in Dispute

As per **Section 2.8.1** of **NSFA Competition Regulations 2 – Competition Football**

5.12 DUTIES OF TEAM MANAGERS

As per **Section 2.9** of **NSFA Competition Regulation 2 – Competition Football**

5.13 FORFEITS

- a) Where a team forfeits a match, the Competitions Department will award a 3-0 win to the opposition.
- b) Where both teams forfeit a match, neither team shall progress to the next round of the tournament. A “BYE” will replace these teams in the ensuing draw.

5.13.1 Forfeit with Notice

- a) Clubs must notify the Association of all forfeits on the published on a **CF11A Forfeit Form** at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled commencement of the fixture. The form is available on the NSFA website – [click here](#).
- b) Clubs forfeiting after 4:00pm of the last working day in any week must advise the opposition Club Secretary, KDFRA and the Association.

5.13.2 Forfeit without Notice

- a) Where a team has not reported to the referee by the scheduled kick-off time or does not have the required minimum number of players present, that team may claim a ten (10) minute grace period, which the opposition must allow. After the 10-minutes grace period has passed, a team failing to report to the referee shall automatically forfeit to its opponents, if the opponents have reported in good order to the referee.
- b) Forfeiting teams will be penalised as per these Regulations.

5.14 ABANDONED MATCHES

- a) If the referee abandons a match due to an “Act of God” (including but not limited to weather events and lighting failure), and at least two thirds of the match has been completed, then the score at the time the match was cancelled will stand as the result of the match. If scores are level at that time, then the Competitions Department will replay the match.
- b) If the referee abandons a match during the taking of penalty kicks to decide which team progresses to the next round, then the referee shall toss a coin to determine which team will progress to the next round.
- c) If the referee abandons a match due to a serious injury or external interference at any time, then the Competitions Department will replay the match.
- d) If the referee abandons a match before two-thirds of the match has elapsed, then the Competitions Department will replay the match.

5.15 REFEREES

- a) All matches must have a referee and, where possible, two assistant referees.
- b) KDFRA appoints referees to matches. It may also appoint one or two assistant referees to a match.
- c) If KDFRA has not appointed a referee, then the ‘Home’ team must provide a referee and one (1) assistant referee, with the “Away” team providing one (1) assistant referee.
- d) Only one (1) person should referee the entire match, unless the KDFRA-appointed referee arrives after the match has commenced or the starting referee suffers an injury and is unable to continue through illness or injury.

5.16 LAWS OF THE GAME – MODIFICATIONS

FIFA Laws of the Game and **NSFA Competition Regulations 2 – Competition Football** apply to all matches with the following variations:

5.16.1 The Ball

All tournaments shall use an approved Size 5 ball in all matches.

5.16.2 The Duration of Play

- a) Treasurer’s Shield – 60 minutes (30 minutes per half).
- b) Vice President’s Shield – 70 minutes (35 minutes per half).
- c) NSFA Women’s Shield – 90 minutes (45 minutes per half).
- d) President’s Shield – 90 minutes (45 minutes per half).
- e) Under 21 Challenge Shield – 90 minutes (45 minutes per half).
- f) NSFA Cup – 90 minutes (45 minutes per half).
- g) Rick Close Cup – 90 minutes (45 minutes per half).
- h) Mark Bryant Cup – 90 minutes (45 minutes per half). BOD 03/21
- i) The half-time interval shall not exceed five (5) minutes in any match.
- j) It may be necessary to reduce the halves of a delayed start game, so that it concludes within the allotted time.
- k) Allowance for time lost shall apply in all tournaments at the discretion of the referee.

5.16.3 Extra Time

- a) Where the scores are level at the conclusion of normal time, extra time will take place. The “golden goal” rule shall apply (i.e. the team scoring the first goal in extra time wins the match). However, if scores are still level after extra time then kicks from the penalty mark will decide which team progresses to the next round. (Please refer to **Section 5.14 clause b)** of these Regulations).
- b) Where matches are played entirely under floodlights, **clause a)** above only applies to those matches where there is at least two (2) hours and thirty (30) minutes of available time between kick-off and the scheduled shut down of

NSFA Regulations

floodlighting. In matches where there is not enough available time and the scores are level at the end of normal time there is no extra time, kicks from the penalty mark shall decide which team progresses to the next round. (Please refer to **Section 5.14 clause b)** of these Regulations).

- c) The length of each period of extra time depends on the normal duration of the match, as follows:
 - i) For games of 90-minute normal duration – two (2) periods of fifteen (15) minutes each;
 - ii) For games of less than 90 minutes normal duration – two (2) periods of ten (10) minutes each.

5.16.4 Number of Players

- a) The maximum number of eligible registered players to start and complete a match is seven (7).
- b) A maximum of sixteen (16) players from each team may take part in a match.
- c) In the NSFA Cup only, substitutions will apply in the semi-finals and final. Each team may make up to five (5) substitutions in a match. Interchange applies in all other matches.
- d) Interchange applies in all other tournaments. Players interchanged during a match may still take further part in the match, if the match referee has not sent him/her from the field of play.

5.17 CLUB STRIPS

As per **Section 2.17** of **NSFA Competition Regulation 2 – Competition Football**.

5.18 TROPHIES

- a) All perpetual cups and shields shall remain the property of the Association.
- b) NSFA shall present a cup or shield to the winning team immediately after the completion of the final. NSFA will present individual trophies to participants from both teams and the match officials immediately after the completion of the final.
- c) Clubs must return all cups and shields to the Association before May 1 each year, or upon demand by the Association. Failure to return trophies by any club by this date will render it liable to the penalties as prescribed in these Regulations.
- d) Clubs must return all cups and shields in good condition. The holders of trophies are responsible for the same whilst in their possession and shall be liable for full replacement value of the trophies damaged or lost whilst in their possession. The NSFA will engrave all trophies once clubs have returned them.

5.19 SCHEDULE OF FEES, FINES & PENALTIES

Section 2.23 of **NSFA Competition Regulations 2 – Competition Regulations** applies except for the following variations:

5.19.1 Withdrawals/Forfeits

- a) Late withdrawal or forfeit from Cups/Shields (after draw publication) – \$250.
- b) Late withdrawal or forfeit from Cups/Shields (after draw publication) and without notifying opposition team, KDFRA and NSFA office - \$500 plus ground and referee costs (varies depending on ground and tournament).

5.19.2 Players

- a) Ineligible players in a match – disqualification from tournament and/or \$50 fine per ineligible player deemed to have played in the match.
- b) Playing under an alias name – refer to P & D Committee.
- c) Incorrect strip – team not wearing approved strip:
 - i) First offence – \$100 & letter of reprimand.
 - ii) Second offence – \$300 & letter of warning.
 - iii) Third and subsequent offences – \$500 & disqualification from the tournament.

5.20 ISSUING OF FINES AND PENALTIES

- a) The NSFA office will issue fines and penalties within twenty-one (21) days of the offence or receipt of the match card.
- b) Clubs who wish to dispute a fine or penalty must apply in writing to the CEO within seven (7) days of receiving fine notice.

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