



**NORTHERN NSW**  
**FOOTBALL**

**NORTHERN INLAND**

**2023**

**Northern NSW Football**

**Northern Inland**

**Competition Rules**

**Tamworth Senior**

**Tamworth Youth**



**NORTHERN  
NSW**  
**FOOTBALL**  
**NORTHERN INLAND**



# NORTHERN NSW FOOTBALL

## NORTHERN INLAND

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### 1. SCOPE & DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. These Northern Inland Competition Rules are to be read in conjunction with the Northern NSW Football – Northern Inland Competition Regulations.
- 1.2. All definitions in the Northern NSW Football – Northern Inland Competition Regulations will apply in this document.
- 1.3. These Competition Rules cover:
  - (a) Tamworth Senior Competitions
  - (b) Tamworth Youth Competitions

### 2. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

#### 2.1. Women's Senior Competitions

- (a) Women's Premier League
  - (i) The competition is comprised of 4 teams.
  - (ii) Teams will play each other 5 times over 15 rounds before the finals series commence.
- (b) Women's 2<sup>nd</sup> Division
  - (i) The competition is comprised of 4 teams.
  - (ii) Teams will play each other 5 times over 15 rounds before the finals series commence.

#### 2.2. Tamworth Senior Competition

- (a) Division 3
  - (i) The competition is comprised of 10 teams.
  - (ii) Teams will play each other either once or twice over 14 rounds before the finals series commences.
- (b) Division 4
  - (i) The competition is comprised of 5 teams.
  - (ii) Teams will play each other 3 times over 15 rounds before the finals series commences.

#### 2.3. Tamworth Youth Competition

- (a) The competition format and structure for each age grade / division will be determined by the number of teams nominated in each competition.
- (b) Under 12



- (i) The competition is comprised of 10 teams.
  - (ii) Teams will play each other once or twice over 14 rounds before the finals series commences.
- (c) Under 13
- (i) The competition is comprised of 7 teams.
  - (ii) Teams will play each other twice over 14 rounds before the finals series commences.
- (d) Under 14
- (i) The competition is made up of 8 teams.
  - (ii) Teams will play each other twice over 14 rounds before the finals series commence.
- (e) Under 16
- (i) The competition is made up of 9 teams.
  - (ii) Teams will play each other once or twice over 14 rounds before the finals series commence.

### 3. PLAYER REGISTRATIONS

- 3.1. Players and Team Officials must be registered in accordance with Northern NSW Football – Northern Inland Competition Regulations 2023.
- 3.2. A team list must be submitted to NNSWF NI before Round 1 of all Competition Fixtures.
- 3.3. Clubs must fill the minimum number of players per team:

Age Group / Division	Minimum Number of Players
Entry level 5-7 years	4
Junior 8-9 years	7
Junior 10-11 years	9
Youth 12-18 years	11
Senior (Men & Women)	11

### 4. AGE RESTRICTIONS

- 4.1. A youth players age eligibility will be determined by the age they are turning during the calendar year of competition.
- 4.2. A player must be turning 15 in the year of competition to play senior men's grades. Players born in 2007 may play senior men's grades in 2023.



**4.3.** A player must have turned 14 years of age to play senior women's grades.

### 4.4. Tamworth Youth Competitions

**(a)** A youth player may register to participate in a team that is a maximum of two (2) years above the normal eligible age grade for that player.

**(b)** A youth player may request to register to participate in a team that is a lower grade than the normal eligible grade for the player (overage player). Application to be made to Competition Administrator.

**(i)** Each application will be judged on its own merit at the discretion of NNSWF.

**(c)** A youth player that is approved to participate in a team as an overage player cannot subsequently participate in either;

**(i)** An older age grade (even if the player is age eligible);

**(ii)** A senior division.

**(d)** If a player is registered in an older age group for which they are eligible (i.e a player that turns 11 in the calendar year is registered to an under 12 team) they are not eligible to play for their normal age grade without being officially transferred back to that age grade.

**(e)** Failure to comply with these regulations may result incur fines and/or penalties.

## 5. FINALS SERIES

### 5.1. Tamworth Senior / Youth Competitions

**(a)** Finals Series Fixtures:

WEEK 1				
SF1	Qualifying Final	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Team	V	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Team
SF2	Elimination Final	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Team	V	4 <sup>th</sup> Placed Team
		Loser Eliminated		
WEEK 2				
EF	Elimination Final	Loser SF1	V	Winner SF2
		Loser Eliminated		
WEEK 3				
GF	Grand Final	Winner SF1	v	Winner EF



**(b)** NNSWF reserve the right to determine the venue for Tamworth Competition Finals Series Fixtures.

**(c)** NNSWF reserves the right to schedule Tamworth Competition Finals Series at their sole discretion taking into account, all other Matches in Northern Inland Competitions.

**(d)** If winners for Senior Finals Series Matches outlined in Rule 5.2(a), Weeks 1-3 cannot be determined at the conclusion of normal time, then the following will occur immediately after the conclusion of the match:

- (i)** Extra time of 2 equal periods will be played in accordance with FIFA Law 8;
- (ii)** If at the conclusion of both periods of extra time, a winner has not been determined, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game to determine a winner.

**(e)** The periods of extra time for each age grade / division in regard to Rule 5.2(d,i) are as follows:

Competition	Periods of Extra Time
Women's League	2x 10-minute periods
Division 3 / 4	2x 10-minute periods
Under 18	2x 10-minute periods
Under 16	2x 10-minute periods
Under 14	2x 7.5-minute periods
Under 13	2x 7.5-minute periods
Under 12	2x 7.5-minute periods

**(f)** NNSWF will determine the Venue, kick-off time and playing date of all Tamworth Competition Grand Finals at its sole discretion.

## 6. FINALS ELIGIBILITY

### 6.1. Senior Finals Eligibility

**(a)** The grade a Player has played their highest percentage of their Matches in is the lowest grade in which they are eligible to participate in the Final's Series.

- (i)** A Player is eligible to participate in the lowest grade they qualify for in accordance with rule 6.1(a) and grades above.
- (ii)** For the avoidance of doubt, percentage is calculated based on the number of individual games the Player has played, and not the number of games the Team has participated in.
- (iii)** Should a player have played an equal percentage of their Matches in all grades they participated in, they will be considered eligible to participate in those grades.



- (b)** The highest grade in which a Player is named as a starting Player, will be considered to be the grade in which that Player has participated in for that round.
- (c)** Subject to any suspension and/or age eligibility a Player is eligible to participate in the grade they have qualified for and grades above.
- (d)** Club may seek special dispensation for the specialist position of Goalkeeper. All requests will be considered on an individual basis by NNSWF.
- (e)** Youth players playing into senior competitions are subject to the same final's eligibility as senior players for senior competitions. Playing in a senior competition does not affect their ability to play their youth finals series fixtures.

### 6.2. Youth Finals Eligibility

- (a)** Players shall be eligible to participate in the final series in:
  - (i)** The team that they are registered;
  - (ii)** Any higher age youth team, from the same club;
- (b)** Youth players playing into senior competitions are subject to the same final's eligibility as senior players for senior competitions. Playing in a senior competition does not affect their ability to play their youth finals series fixtures.

## 7. MOVEMENT BETWEEN AGE GRADES / DIVISIONS

**7.1.** Where clubs have teams competing in different age grades / divisions players may fill in for these teams during the season.

### 7.2. Tamworth Youth Competitions

- (a)** A youth player may not play across the divisions within the one age grade (i.e. between U13A and U13B, or vice versa);
- (b)** A youth player may play up, to fill in for a club team, a maximum of two (2) age grades (i.e. a 12-year-old player may fill in for their club's team in the 13 years and 14 years competition).

### 7.3. Tamworth Senior Competitions

- (a)** Players may fill in for other teams, in other divisions, for their club during the season but are reminded that finals eligibility applies.
- (b)** When a player plays for a club team in a division with more than one team from the same Club, they are considered a member of that team and may not play for any other of their Club's teams in that same division.
- (c)** A player must not play back more than one division per round.
  - (i)** Where a club does not have a team in the division immediately below, players may play back into the next available division.





(d) A player registered to a women's team may play into their club's team in a men's competition. Subject to any restrictions that otherwise apply.

### 8. YOUTH PLAYING INTO SENIOR COMPETITIONS

**8.1.** Playing into a senior competition does not affect a youth players eligibility to play in their youth team.

**8.2.** A youth player may play into a senior team and will be considered a senior player for that team. They will be subject to the same restrictions (finals eligibility and movement between grades) that apply to senior players in that competition.

**8.3.** When a youth player plays for a club team in a division with more than one team from the same Club, they are considered a member of that team and may not play for any other of their Club's teams in that same division.

### 9. MATCH DURATION

#### 9.1. Tamworth Senior Competitions

Competition	Match Duration	Half-Time Interval
Division 3	2x 45-minute halves	10-minutes (max)
Division 4	2x 45-minute halves	10-minutes (max)

#### 9.2. Tamworth Youth Competitions

Competition	Match Duration	Half-Time Interval
Under 18	2x 40-minute halves	10-minute (max)
Under 16	2x 35-minute halves	10-minute (max)
Under 14	2x 30-minute halves	10-minute (max)
Under 13	2x 30-minute halves	10-minute (max)
Under 12	2x 25-minute halves	10-minute (max)

### 10. MATCH BALLS

#### 10.1. Match ball sizes:

Age Group	Match Ball Size
8-9 Years	Size 3
10-13 Years	Size 4
14yrs +	Size 5

#### 10.2. Tamworth Youth / Senior Competitions

(a) Each participating team is required to provide a match ball to the Match Official for the fixture.





### 11. TEAM OFFICIAL & TECHNICAL AREA

#### 11.1. All Competitions

**(a)** Clubs will be permitted to allow a maximum three (3) registered Team Officials and five (5) registered substitute Players in the Technical Area during the fixture:

**(i)** All Team Officials and substitute Players must be named on the Official Match Card.

**(b)** A Player or Team Official who has been expelled or is serving a suspension is not permitted in the Technical Area during a fixture in accordance with Regulation 33 of 2022 Northern NSW Football – Northern Inland Competition Regulations.

### 12. INTERCHANGE OF PLAYERS

#### 12.1. Unlimited Interchange

**(a)** A team is permitted to list a maximum of five (5) interchange Players on the match card and may make an unlimited number of interchanges during a fixture.

### 13. RESCHEDULED FIXTURES

#### 13.1. Tamworth Senior Competitions

**(a)** Where practical in the view of Northern NSW Football, matches will be rescheduled as midweek matches as priority, or a Sunday agreed upon by clubs and Northern NSW Football.

**(b)** If no practical alternative is available to play the match, NNSWF at its discretion may declare the match cancelled in line with Regulation 25.2.

**(c)** Postponed fixtures for any other causes must be rescheduled and replayed within 3 weeks of the original postponement:

**(i)** It is the responsibility of the 'Home' Club to liaise with the away Club to determine reschedule dates for all postponed fixtures and notify the Competition Administrator.

**(ii)** The Competition Administrator must be notified of the rescheduled date 7 days prior.

**(iii)** Should the clubs involved in postponed fixtures be unable to agree on a suitable playing date and time NNSWF will determine the playing date and time of the fixture at its discretion.

#### 13.2. Tamworth Youth Competitions

**(a)** Fixtures postponed due to inclement weather in the first instance be rescheduled to the next available catch-up round. Scheduled catch up rounds include:



(i) 5<sup>th</sup> August

(b) Should the catch-up round already be in use where practical in the view of Northern NSW Football, matches will be rescheduled as midweek matches as priority, or a Sunday agreed upon by clubs and Northern NSW Football.

(c) If no practical alternative is available to play the match, NNSWF at its discretion may declare the match cancelled in line with Regulation 25.2.

(d) Postponed fixtures for any other causes must be rescheduled and replayed within 3 weeks of the original postponement:

(i) It is the responsibility of the 'Home' Club to liaise with the away Club to determine reschedule dates for all postponed fixtures and notify the Competition Administrator.

(ii) The Competition Administrator must be notified of the rescheduled date 7 days prior.

(iii) Should the clubs involved in postponed fixtures be unable to agree on a suitable playing date and time NNSWF will determine the playing date and time of the fixture at its discretion.

## 14. WINNERS MEDALLIONS

### 14.1. Tamworth Youth / Senior Competition

(a) The winner of the Minor Premiership will be awarded a set of 18 medallions per grade.

(b) The winner of the grand final will be awarded a set of 18 medallions per grade.

(c) The runner up of the grand final will be awarded a set of 18 medallions per grade.

(d) Further medallions may be purchased from NSNWF by a qualifying team, at their own cost.