

11 December 2013

Club Representatives
2014 Competitions

Via email

2014 Competition Regulations

Dear Club Representatives,

I write to communicate the final Competition Regulations for the 2014 competitions.

During July and September 2013 Football NSW invited Applicant Clubs to the 2014 Competitions to provide feedback on the draft Equipment and Commercial Regulations. This process was conducted to provide the Clubs an opportunity to contribute to the development of the regulations that govern the competition they participate in, and enable Football NSW to issue regulations that better reflect the experience of the stakeholders.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the clubs for their submissions in review of the draft regulations. Please find following a link to the final regulations. Attached as annexures 1 and 2 is a table of amendments to the draft regulations and a table identifying requested amendments that were considered but declined.

Final Competition Regulations

Please find following a link to the final Competition Regulations located on the Football NSW website:

[2014 Competition Regulations](#)

Should you have any questions relating to the Competitions Regulations please contact your relevant Competitions Coordinator in the first instance.

Coordinator	Leagues	Email	Phone
Stacey Saggus	Men's NPL 1 & 2	staceys@footballnsw.com.au	8814 4411
Debbie Abboud	Women's NPL 1 & 2 Women's State League	debbiea@footballnsw.com.au	8814 4410
Andrew Fathers	Men's State League 1 & 2 Regional League SAP	andrewf@footballnsw.com.au	8814 4461

Kind Regards,



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Head of Football

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Annexure 1: Amendments to the Draft Regulations

Section 1: Organisation and Admission

Article 9: Special Consideration

Previous Text	Amended Text
No previous text	<p>a) The Executive will have the power to consider individual circumstances outside the prescribed limits of the regulations should it be clear those special considerations are in the interests of the game.</p> <p>b) The decision by the Executive to review and consider individual circumstances under this section is not subject to appeal or review.</p>
Rationale	
This article enables Football NSW to apply special consideration to ensure the best interests of players, coaches, referees and clubs are provided for should the regulations not accommodate their individual and unique circumstance	

Section 3: Eligibility

Article 3 and 4: Age Eligibility in Premiership Matches

Previous Text	Amended Text
<p>3. Up-grading of Players in Premiership Matches</p> <p>a) This article refers to;</p> <p>i. U15, U14, U13 & U12 of the National Premier Leagues NSW Men's 1 & 2</p> <p>ii. U15, U14, U13 & U12 of the Regional League</p> <p>iii. U17, U15 & U13 of the National Premier Leagues NSW Women's 1 & 2</p> <p>iv. U17, U15 and U13 of the Women's State League</p> <p>b) A Team must field at least seven (7) of its registered Players at the start of a match. A Team may field up to a maximum of four (4) registered players from lower age groups during a game. The team sheet must be endorsed with the borrowed Player's age group of registration alongside the Player's name</p> <p>c) Players are not permitted to play in an age Grade lower to that in which they are registered, regardless of the fact</p>	<p>3. Age Eligibility in Premiership Matches – Men's Competitions</p> <p>a) For the Men's 1st Grade, U20, U18 and U16 grades:</p> <p>i. As long as they are age eligible, players are permitted to play in any of the 1st Grade, U20, U18 and U16 age grades during the Premiership</p> <p>ii. Additionally, Clubs are permitted to play four (4) over age 1st Grade players in U20 in any given Match</p> <p>iii. Players registered to the 1st Grade, U20, U18 and U16 grades cannot play down into the U15-U12 age grades regardless of being age eligible</p> <p>b) For the Men's U15, U14, U13 and U12 age grades:</p> <p>i. Players are not permitted to play in an age Grade lower to that in which they are registered, regardless of the fact they may be age eligible</p> <p>ii. Players are permitted to play up in any higher age grades of their club,</p>

<p>they may be age eligible</p> <p>4. Age Eligibility in Premiership Matches</p> <p>a) This article refers to;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. 1st Grade, U20, U18 & U16 of the National Premier Leagues NSW Men's 1 & 2 ii. 1st Grade, U20, U18 & U16 of the Men's State League 1 iii. 1st Grade & U20 of Men's State League 2 <p>b) As long as they are age eligible, players are permitted to play in any of the grades referred to in this article during the Premiership</p> <p>c) Additionally, Clubs are permitted to play four (4) over age 1st Grade players in U20 in any given Match</p> <p>d) Any over age player required to be stood down in a U20 match as they received a sanction when playing in the U20 competition will be counted in the maximum four (4) players. For clarity, one (1) over age player stood down in a U20 Match will result in a maximum three (3) over age players permitted to participate on the field</p> <p>e) Fielding players in the Championships Series is governed by Section 3 article 5</p>	<p>including across different divisions of NPL 1 and 2</p> <p>4. Age Eligibility in Premiership Matches – Women's Competitions</p> <p>a) For the Women's 1st Grade and Reserve grade:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. As long as they are eligible, players are permitted to play in 1st Grade and reserve Grade during the Premiership ii. Players registered to the 1st Grade and Reserve grade cannot play down into the U17-U13 age grades regardless of being age eligible <p>b) For the Women's U17, U15, and U13 age grades:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Players are not permitted to play in an age Grade lower to that in which they are registered, regardless of the fact they may be age eligible ii. Players are permitted to play up in any higher age grades of their club during the Premiership
<p>Rationale</p>	
<p>The amendments above seek to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow clubs to more easily manage the movement of their players during the season • Support upgrading of players to foster development • Protect the integrity of the "youth" age grades by limiting the ability of a player registered to a higher age grade from playing down an age grade to seek a competitive advantage • Present the information in an more easily discernable manner 	

Section 3: Eligibility

Article 5: Eligibility of Players in Championship Fixtures

Previous Text	Amended Text
<p>a) Men's Competitions</p> <p>i. 1st grade:</p> <p>As long as a player is eligible they will be available for selection for a Club in Championship Matches</p> <p>ii. U20:</p> <p>a. No over age player other than a goalkeeper will be eligible to play in a U20 Championship Match if he has actually taken the field for 1st Grade in two (2) of his last three (3) Premiership matches in which his Club has played</p> <p>b. In determining overage players participating in U20 matches, playing two (2) grades on the one (1) day is evaluated on the higher grade. A non-playing substitute, which is one who has been listed on the team sheet and does not actually take the field of play in a Match, is deemed to have not participated in the Match for the purposes of eligibility for U20 Championship Matches</p> <p>c. As long as a player is age eligible they will be available for selection for a Club in Championship Matches</p> <p>iii. U18, U16, U15, U14, U13 and U12:</p> <p>a. No Player will be eligible to play in their registered age group Championship Series matches if they have played three (3) of their last four (4) Premiership Matches in a higher age grade. For clarity, this includes any U12 – U18 players playing up in any age grade of the club, including in the U20 and 1st grades</p> <p>b. Playing two (2) grades on the one day is evaluated as the</p>	<p><u>Men's Competitions:</u></p> <p>a) For the Men's 1st Grade, U20, U18 and U16 grades:</p> <p>i. As long as a player is age eligible they are permitted to play in any of the 1st Grade, U20, U18 and U16 grades of their club during the Championship</p> <p>ii. Other than the goal keeper, no overage player is eligible to play in a U20 grade Championship Match if he has actually taken the field for 1st Grade in two (2) of his last three (3) Premiership matches in which his Club has played</p> <p>b) For the Men's U15, U14, U13 and U12 age grades:</p> <p>i. Players are permitted to play in their registered age grade regardless of appearing in higher age grades as a replacement player during the Premiership</p> <p>ii. Players in the U12 – U15 age groups can play in any higher age grade at their club during the championship series without it effecting their eligibility to play in their registered age grade matches</p> <p><u>Women's Competitions:</u></p> <p>c) 1st Grade:</p> <p>i. As long as a player is eligible they will be available for selection for a Club in Championship Matches</p> <p>d) Reserve Grade:</p> <p>ii. No player other than a goalkeeper will be eligible to play in a reserve grade Championship Match if she has actually taken the field for 1st Grade in two (2) of her last three (3) Premiership matches in which her Club has played</p> <p>e) U17, U15 and U13:</p> <p>i. Players in the U17 – U13 age</p>

<p>higher grade. The goalkeeper will be the exception to this rule</p> <p>c. Players from a lower age grade may be promoted to replace injured players or bring Team numbers up to the allowable sixteen (16) members, but not to replace existing Team members</p> <p>b) Women's Competitions:</p> <p>i. 1st grade: As long as a player is eligible they will be available for selection for a Club in Championship Matches</p> <p>ii. Reserve Grade: No player other than a goalkeeper will be eligible to play in a reserve grade Championship Match if she has actually taken the field for 1st Grade in two (2) of her last three (3) Premiership matches in which her Club has played</p> <p>iii. U17, U15 and U13: No Player will be eligible to play in their registered age group Championship Series matches if they have played three (3) of their last four (4) Premiership Matches in a higher age grade. For clarity, this includes any U13, U15, or U17 players playing up in any age grade of the club, including in the senior age grades</p>	<p>groups can play in any higher age grade at their club during the championship series without it affecting their eligibility to play in their registered age grade matches.</p> <p>ii. Players registered to 1st Grade and Reserve Grade are not permitted to play down into the U17 – U13 age grades regardless of being age eligible.</p>
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Rationale

The amendments for eligibility to Championships Series matches seek to:

- Allow clubs to more easily manage the eligibility of their players from the Premiership to Championship
- Support players from younger age groups playing up age grades to promote development and squad depth without impacting on their registered age grade team
- Protect the integrity of the women's Reserve Grade competitions by limiting 1st grade players playing down
- Develop principles that are applicable to all leagues equally
- Present the information in an more easily discernable manner

Section 3: Eligibility

Article 7: Relative Age Effect (RAE)

Previous Text	Amended Text
<p>...</p> <p>b) RAE will be implemented in the U9 to U15 age groups of FNSW Competitions</p> <p>...</p> <p>f) For the applicable age grades of the National Premier Leagues NSW Men's 1 & 2, National Premier Leagues NSW Women's 1 & 2 and Women's State Leagues;</p> <p>i. Each applicable Team in a Club is limited to one (1) approved RAE Player</p> <p>...</p>	<p>...</p> <p>b) RAE will be implemented in the U9 to U16 age groups of FNSW Competitions</p> <p>...</p> <p>f) For the applicable age grades of the National Premier Leagues NSW Men's 1 & 2, Men's State League 1, Regional League, National Premier Leagues NSW Women's 1 & 2 and Women's State Leagues;</p> <p>i. Each applicable Team in a Club is limited to one (1) approved RAE Player unless a special exemption is provided by FNSW on a case by case basis</p> <p>...</p>
Rationale	
<p>This amendment has been made to be consistent with the communication from the Football NSW Technical director relating to RAE.</p> <p>Special exemption has been introduced in 2014 to consider cases where more than 1 RAE player can be considered and to evaluate players born prior to October that demonstrate height and weight measurements below the 50th percentile for their age group.</p>	

Section 3: Eligibility

Article 9: Player Points System (PPS) National Premier Leagues NSW Men's 1 and 2

Previous Text	Amended Text
<p>a) The PPS applies to the 1st Grade squads of the Men's Premier League 1 & 2 Competitions</p> <p>b) The maximum points total for a twenty (20) Player 1st Grade squad in the 2014 FNSW Men's National Premier Leagues 1 & 2 Competition is 280</p> <p>c) Should a Club register less than twenty (20) players; the cap will be reduced by 14.5 points (the average per Player) for each Player under the maximum of twenty (20) players</p> <p>d) All Players born prior to 1994 must be included in the nominated 1st grade squad of twenty (20) players</p> <p>e) A Club newly entering at the level of National Premier Leagues NSW Men's</p>	<p>a) The PPS applies to the 1st Grade squads of the Men's Premier League 1 & 2 Competitions</p> <p>b) The maximum points total for a twenty (20) Player 1st Grade squad in the 2014 FNSW Men's National Premier Leagues 1 & 2 Competition is 280</p> <p>c) Should a Club register less than twenty (20) players; the cap will be reduced by 14 points (the average per Player) for each Player under the maximum of twenty (20) players</p> <p>d) All Players born prior to 1994 must be included in the nominated 1st grade squad of twenty (20) players</p> <p>e) Any player born from 1994 onward that is registered as a professional player</p>

<p>1 or 2, either through promotion / relegation or at the invitation of FNSW independent of the previous season's results, will be afforded an additional thirty (30) points to the PPS cap in their first season of entry</p> <p>f) The following table details the PPS structure;</p>	<p>must be included in the 1st grade squad of 20 ahead of an amateur player born from 1994 onward</p> <p>f) A Club newly entering at the level of National Premier Leagues NSW Men's 1 or 2, either through promotion / relegation or at the invitation of FNSW independent of the previous season's results, will be afforded an additional thirty (30) points to the PPS cap in their first season of entry</p> <p>g) Each player has a base score of 10 points. The following table details the points adjustment depending on the players history;</p>
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Rationale

The amendments seek to:

- Correct a typographic error that retained the average player points from 2013
- Correct the absence of reference to the 10 point base for every player in the salary cap
- Define the requirement to include U20 professional players in the 1st grade squad ahead of U20 amateur players, limiting the scope for abuse of loop holes

Section 3: Eligibility

Article 10: Player Points System (PPS) National Premier Leagues NSW Women's 1 and 2

Previous Text	Amended Text																
<p>f) The following table details the PPS structure;</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="229 1317 743 1384"> <tr> <td>xxx</td> <td>xxx</td> <td>xxx</td> <td>xxx</td> </tr> <tr> <td>xxx</td> <td>xxx</td> <td>xxx</td> <td>xxx</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>Detail of tables not included in memo, please refer to the regulations for information</i></p>	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	<p>f) Each player has a base score of 10 points. The following table details the points adjustment depending on the players history;</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="849 1397 1362 1464"> <tr> <td>xxx</td> <td>xxx</td> <td>xxx</td> <td>xxx</td> </tr> <tr> <td>xxx</td> <td>xxx</td> <td>xxx</td> <td>xxx</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>Detail of tables not included in memo, please refer to the regulations for information</i></p>	xxx							
xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx														
xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx														
xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx														
xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx														

Rationale

Correcting the absence of reference to the 10 point base for every player in the salary cap

Section 4: Registration
Article 8: Registration Periods

Previous Text	Amended Text						
<p>a) FNSW registration periods for 2014 season will be communicated following the declaration of leagues and announcement of the respective competition start dates</p>	<p>a) A Professional Player Loan to a FNSW Club may only occur within the registration period. FNSW registration periods for season 2014 will be as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="820 546 1401 703"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #d9e1f2;">League</th> <th style="background-color: #d9e1f2;">Opening Date – Closing Date & Time</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>xxx</td> <td>xxx – xxx</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>xxx – xxx</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Detail of tables not included in memo, please refer to the regulations for information</i></p>	League	Opening Date – Closing Date & Time	xxx	xxx – xxx		xxx – xxx
League	Opening Date – Closing Date & Time						
xxx	xxx – xxx						
	xxx – xxx						
Rationale							
<p>Provision of more detail re: registrations periods to clubs in advance of the 2014 competition commencing</p>							

Section 4: Registration
Article 13: Loan Players

Previous Text	Amended Text
<p>b) Loans are only permitted for Professional Players between professional Clubs</p>	<p>b) Loans are only permitted for Professional Players</p>
Rationale	
<p>Only Clubs in NPL Men’s 1 & 2, NPL Women’s 1 & 2 and MSL 1 are able to sign professional players. Clubs in other leagues may identify themselves as “professional clubs” but be limited in the registration criteria to be unable to register a professional player on loan. This amendment is adopted to remove potential confusion.</p>	

Section 4: Registration

Article 19: Minimum Coaching Qualifications

Previous Text	Amended Text									
No previous text	a) .. iv. Community courses for the 2014 seasons or their equivalent are acceptable. The equivalency is detailed in the following table: <table border="1" data-bbox="906 533 1401 882"><thead><tr><th>Previous Course Name</th><th></th><th>New Course Name</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Youth Licence</td><td>=</td><td>Game Training Certificate</td></tr><tr><td>Junior Licence</td><td>=</td><td>Skill Training Certificate</td></tr></tbody></table>	Previous Course Name		New Course Name	Youth Licence	=	Game Training Certificate	Junior Licence	=	Skill Training Certificate
Previous Course Name		New Course Name								
Youth Licence	=	Game Training Certificate								
Junior Licence	=	Skill Training Certificate								
Rationale										
This article is provided as information to the nomenclature change in community coach education										

Definitions

“Fixture”

Previous Text	Amended Text
“Fixture” means a meeting of two (2) clubs as scheduled in all grades applicable.	“Fixture” means a meeting of clubs as scheduled in all grades applicable.
Rationale	
The definition has been amended to cater for competitions where a club may be playing matches against multiple opponents on a given weekend (i.e. NPL NSW Men’s 1 and 2 where clubs may be in NPL1 “Senior” and NPL2 “Junior” competitions). By example, a player serving his last fixture suspension in U15 of a club in NPL2 cannot take the field for the U16 team of that Club participating in NPL1 on the same weekend.	

Annexure 2: Feedback that was considered but not adopted

Section 2: Technical Regulations

Article 3: Added Time

Current Text	Proposed Amendment
c) For clarity, in all grades other than 1 st Grade, should a delay be experienced (e.g. a serious injury to a Player that requires the suspension of play while the Player is treated or transported from the Stadium), the referee will continue to keep the official time of the match and blow full time when the match duration has expired. At this point the result of the Match will stand	Point of clarification, should the injury occur in the first half and play is suspended the referee cannot recommence the second half until the injured player is removed from the field therefore the match is abandoned
Rationale for declining the proposal	
Football NSW interpretation and application of section 2 article 3 is: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Should the injury occur in the first half the referee continues to record elapsed time• This includes concluding the first half and recommences “time” for the second half following the halt time period elapsing• This occurs should the injured player remain on the pitch until being safely removed for qualified medical persons (i.e. ambulance)	

Section 2: Technical Regulations

Article 6: Technical Area

Current Text	Proposed Amendment
h) In Competitions except for SAP: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. For all Competitions except the SAP a maximum of nine (9) people are permitted in the technical area. These nine (9) people are to be five (5) substitute Players and four (4) other registered Team Officials	That the number of substitutes be increased to 6 in U12 – U16 to accommodate the allowance for 17 players should the club apply RAE
Rationale for declining the proposal	
In providing a level playing field for teams, regardless of registration of RAE players, any team will be limited to 16 players on the team sheet. In competitions where the interchange rule is applied, providing one team an additional interchange over another is not supported.	

Section 2: Technical Regulations
Article 11: Club Championship Ranking

Current Text	Proposed Amendment
<p>b) FNSW will use the following process to determine the ranking of Clubs in the club championship:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Greater number of points obtained in all Premiership matches, in all applicable grades, using the relevant points multipliers ii. If two (2) or more Clubs are equal on the basis of the above criteria, their place will be determined as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Greater goal difference resulting from Premiership Matches in all applicable grades. b. Greater goals scored from Premiership Matches in all applicable grades. iii. For clarity, applicable grades are for the purpose of this article does not include any grades whose Points Multiplier is zero (0). Additionally, points and goals scored against the FNSWI are not included in the calculation 	<p>That the number of wins from premiership matches (excluding FNSWI) in all applicable grades be a step before goal difference</p>
Rationale for declining the proposal	
<p>In bench marking Football NSW competition regulations against others in football, the current process to determine standings in a league format is consistent with FIFA and AFC standards.</p>	

Section 6: Team Sheets, Reporting and Match Officials
Article 4: Match Officials Fees

Current Text	Proposed Amendment
<p>c) Match Officials Fees for Premiership Matches of the National Premier Leagues NSW Men's 1 U20 and 1st Grade will be paid directly to the Match Officials by FNSW</p>	<p>That FNSW also directly pay the U18 and U16 Referees</p>
Rationale for declining the proposal	
<p>Football NSW does not have the available resources to internalize direct payment for the U18 and U16 referee fees for NPL NSW Men's 1.</p>	

Section 6: Team Sheets, Reporting and Match Officials**Article 13: Caution and Expulsion Fines**

Current Text	Proposed Amendment
a) Clubs will receive the following automatic fines for cautions and expulsions received by their players in the Competitions for 1 st grade, reserve grade and U20s; ...	Remove U20's from the fines
Rationale for declining the proposal	
<p>Caution and expulsion fines are retained for the U20 competition as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registrations for 1st Grade and U20 are within the same 40 player squad • Over age players are permitted to play down in the U20 competitions and as such should be open to the same disciplinary sanctions • Football NSW believes the introduction of fines at U20 provides the players with an appreciation of the consequences of unacceptable behaviour in advance of participating the intense atmosphere of 1st Grade football • This program / regulation is aimed at motivating better on field behaviour by adding a financial consequence to the fixture sanction imposed for inappropriate conduct 	

Schedule 1: Additional rules Football NSW Institute**Article 4: Serving of Suspensions – Dual Registered Goalkeepers**

Current Text	Proposed Amendment
a) Should a FNSWI Player receive a suspension whilst representing the FNSWI Team or their Club Team the player will be required to serve the suspension in the player's next Fixtures. For clarity, the suspension must be served in the next sequence of fixtures including both FNSWI and Club matches that they would have been eligible to participate in	That dual registered goalkeepers only serve suspensions for the team they received the suspension for (i.e. Club or FNSWI)
Rationale for declining the proposal	
<p>The Disciplinary Code and Competition Regulations will retain the requirement for dual registered keepers to stand down in their next consecutive matches, (i.e. both for their club and FNSWI).</p> <p>The integrity of the disciplinary process would be undermined should a player be provided a sanction for 4 fixtures yet be able to continue to play while serving the suspension in their "dual registered" team.</p>	

Schedule 1: Additional rules Football NSW Institute**Article 7: Championship Matches**

Current Text	Proposed Amendment
a) NSWIS teams entered into FNSW	That FNSWI teams be ineligible to

Competitions will be eligible to compete in Championship Matches	participate in the Championship Series
Rationale for declining the proposal	
<p>The decision to include FNSWI teams in the championship series was to ensure a competitive match environment was provided for the FNSWI as part of their development program.</p> <p>A way to achieve this and protect the mechanism for promotion and relegation is to remove the FNSWI from the club Championship but include them in the respective age group league tables and championship series.</p>	

Schedule: Not Applicable

Article: Not Applicable

Current Text	Proposed Amendment
No current text	That SAP U11's be permitted to play in the U12 age grade of NPL
Rationale for declining the proposal	
<p>The structure of U11 SAP is non-competition which is consistent with the National Curriculum.</p> <p>Not all Clubs in NPL 1 and 2 have direct involvement in SAP. Adopting the proposal would result in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a supplemented U12 playing format for some clubs • a perceived market advantage for those SAP licenses linked directly to an NPL1 club against the NPL2 clubs and those programs delivered by Associations due to the "opportunity" to play in the U12 competition 1 year earlier 	

Football NSW Grievance and Disciplinary regulations

Article16.3: Accumulation of Yellow Cards - Championship

Current Text	Proposed Amendment
<p>A Player who accumulates two (2) Yellow Cards in the Championship shall serve a mandatory one (1)</p> <p>Fixture Suspension to be served immediately in the next Championship Fixture to be played by the Club in that Season.</p>	That the accumulated number of yellow cards in a championship series prior to suspension be raised from 2 to 3.
Rationale for declining the proposal	
In bench marking Football NSW competition regulations against others in football, application of 2 yellow cards in separate matches leading to a suspension is consistent with FIFA and AFC standards.	