



# **Supplementary Rules for Joint PLM and SLM Competitions**

February 2026

## **1.0 SCOPE**

---

- a) These Supplementary Rules for Joint Competitions (**the Rules**) apply to the following competitions (**the Joint Competitions**) in the 2026 season that are being delivered in cooperation by North West Sydney Football (**NWSF**) and the Hills Football Limited (**HFL**)
- Premier League Men (**PLM**)
  - Super League Men (**SLM**)

## **2.0 APPLICATION**

---

- a) These Rules supersede the respective competition regulations of NWSF and HFL for the Joint Competitions only
- b) All other aspects of competition delivery (such as but not limited to regulations for registration of players and coaches, affiliation with the respective Associations) remain as per the current competition regulations of NWSF and HFL
- c) Where these rules are silent on a matter that relates to the Joint Competitions, NWSF and HFL will adjudicate on the outcome. The decision of NWSF and HFL is not subject to protest or appeal, regardless of what provisions for protest or appeal exist in the separate competition regulations

## **3.0 ADMINISTRATION**

---

- a) NWSF will administer the Joint Competitions

## **4.0 COMPETITION FORMAT**

---

The PLM and SLM competition format comprises of;

- a) Premiership
- i. The Premiership is a twelve 12 team league format with “home and away” fixtures, with each team playing each other twice across 22 rounds
  - ii. At the completion of the Premiership the top six (6) teams of each competition will qualify to the Championship

- iii. The following process will be used to determine team ranking at conclusion of the Premiership to qualify for the Championship;
  1. Team with the highest number of points in the Premiership; if equal then
  2. Team with the highest total goal difference in the Premiership; if equal then
  3. Team with the greatest number of wins; if equal then
  4. Team with the highest total goals scored in the Premiership; if equal then
  5. Head-to-head results between the teams in the Premiership, applying points 1 to 4 above, considering only the results of the fixtures between the teams; if equal then
  6. Drawing of lots by the administering Association

b) Championship

- i. The Championship will comprise of the following matches;
  1. Week 1 – Elimination Semi Final
    - Match 1 – 3<sup>rd</sup> placed v 6<sup>th</sup> placed
    - Match 2 – 4<sup>th</sup> placed v 5<sup>th</sup> placed
  2. Week 2 – Semi Finals
    - Match 3 – 1st placed vs lowest place winner week 1
    - Match 4 – 2nd placed vs highest placed winner week 1
  3. Week 3 – Grand Final
    - Match 4 – winner match 3 v winner match 4
- ii. Determining the Winner of Championship Fixtures
  1. The team with the most goals at the end of 90 minutes (plus any stoppage time per article 5 of these Rules) is determined the winner

2. If scores are equal at the end of normal time (plus any stoppage time), extra time of twenty (20) minutes is played. Extra time is comprised of two (2) periods of ten (10) minutes with a break of no longer than two (2) minutes between the periods
  3. . If at the end of extra time the score is still drawn, a penalty shoot-out per the FIFA regulations will be used to determine the winner
- iii. Where inclement weather results in the shortening of the season, the administering Association will determine how the Championship will be conducted

## **5.0 FIXTURE DURATION AND STOPPAGE TIME**

---

- a) All fixtures in the Joint competitions will have a duration of 90 minutes, comprised of two 45-minute halves, with a half time that does not exceed 5 minutes
- b) Stoppage Time in Premiership Fixtures
  - i. Stoppage time will be played in PLM First Grade and SLM Grade Premiership fixtures
  - ii. Stoppage time will not be played PLM and SLM Reserve Grade fixtures
- c) Stoppage Time in Championship Fixtures
  - i. Stoppage time will be played in PLM and SLM First and Reserve Grade Championship Fixtures

## **6.0 ABANDONED FIXTURES**

---

- a) A fixture which has commenced, then play is suspended (e.g., to attend to a player injury, attend to ground issues) and play is NOT recommenced prior to declaration of full time, is considered an abandoned fixture
- b) The replaying of the fixture is as per the abandoned fixture regulations of the Association that is administering the competition

## **7.0 PROMOTION AND RELEGATION**

---

- a) NWSF and HFL clubs will promote and relegate independently between PLM and SLM, maintaining ten (10) NWSF squads and two (2) HFL squads in each of the PLM and SLM competitions each season
- b) NWSF clubs will promote and relegate, one (1) club up (highest placed NWSF club in SLM) and one (1) club down (lowest placed NWSF club in PLM), based on the 1st grade premiership results
- c) HFL clubs will promote and relegate, with a system to be proposed by HFL in consultation with their clubs

## **8.0 PLAYER ROSTER**

---

### **8.1. Maximum Registrations**

- a) There is no maximum number of players that can be registered to a squad in the Joint Competitions

### **8.2 Players on a Team sheet**

- a) No more than 16 players can be listed on a team sheet for any single fixture in the Joint Competitions

## **9.0 SUBSTITUTION AND INTERCHANGE**

---

- a) Unlimited interchange is applied to all Joint Competitions

## **10.0 BORROWING PLAYERS**

---

### **10.1 Borrowing players in general**

- a) Limitations on the borrowing of players is relaxed for Joint Competitions, with unlimited borrowing of age eligible players into PLM and SLM teams from U16-U18, All Age, and Over-Age competitions, of players from the same club
- b) This includes there being no limit to the number of players being borrowed in a fixture, and no threshold number of fixtures requiring the player to be regraded into PLM or SLM
- c) Where a club has teams participating in both PLM and SLM, players registered to SLM cannot be borrowed into the club's PLM, or vice-versa

## **10.2 Borrowing players in final 5 Fixtures of the Premiership and Eligibility to the Championship**

- a) Any player that is listed on the First Grade team sheet for three (3) of the final five (5) fixtures of the Premiership is ineligible to play in the subsequent Reserve Grade Premiership and Championship fixtures
- b) Goal Keepers are excluded from this restriction, and can play freely across the First Grade and Reserve Grade teams for their club in the Premiership and Championship, only in the Goal Keeper position

## **11.0 REFEREES**

---

### **11.1 Appointments**

- a) Appointment of referees is controlled by the Association in which the fixture is being played (i.e., if the fixture is being played on a NWSF ground, the appointments is managed by NWSF)

### **11.2 Games Uncovered**

- a) Where a fixture in the Joint Competitions is not covered by an official referee, the clubs will first engage with the relevant Association and attending referees on a solution to appoint an official referee
- b) If a solution cannot be found, it shall be the duty of the two (2) team managers to reach a decision and appoint a substitute “club referee” to officiate the fixture
- c) The “club referee” retains the authority normally provided to official referees to control the fixture and issue disciplinary sanctions

## **12.0 BREACH AND DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS**

---

### **12.1 Application**

- a) Breaches of these Rules will be considered within the disciplinary processes of the Association that is administering the competition
- b) Breaches of other policies, rules, or regulations will be considered within the disciplinary process of the Association the club is affiliated to, or in the case of a participant, registered to
- c) In all scenarios, the Associations agree to jointly apply the disciplinary sanctions determined for any participant or club found guilty of an offence.

## 12.2 Yellow and Red Cards

### a) Yellow Cards

The rules relating to yellow cards, including the number of cards that can be accumulated in a competition before a suspension is issued, are as below;

- i. A player who accumulates five (5) yellow cards in the Premiership shall serve a mandatory one (1) fixture suspension and any player receiving seven (7) yellow cards in the Premiership shall serve a mandatory two (2) fixture suspension
- ii. A player who accumulates nine (9) or more yellow cards in the Premiership shall be referred by the NWSF Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) to the NWSF General Purposes Tribunal (**GPT**)
- iii. A Player who accumulates two (2) yellow cards in the Championship shall serve a mandatory one (1) fixture suspension

### b) Red cards

- i. There is no specific rule regarding the accumulation of red cards in the Premiership or Championship
- ii. For the Joint Competitions, the sanctions in the table of offences in the [NWSF Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations](#) define increased minimum and maximum ranges for the second and subsequent red cards received in a season

### c) Temporary Dismissals

- i. Temporary dismissals are issued by referees in all Joint Competitions for Y2 dissent by word or action offences
- ii. The issuing of a temporary dismissal results in the player being required to leave the field of play for a 10-minute period
- iii. For all Joint Competitions, temporary dismissals are considered a yellow card for the purpose of accumulating cautions
- iv. This in application means that any combination of two (2) yellow cards or temporary dismissals in a single fixture results in an R7 red card

- v. Yellow cards and temporary dismissals also accumulate for the purpose of applying additional suspensions where an individual accumulates more than the allowed yellow cards in the Premiership or Championship

### **12.3 Serving of Suspensions**

- a) Where a player is suspended from participating in football (fixture suspension) they remain ineligible to play in any other fixture, in any other competition, in either Association's competitions, until the fixture suspension has been served in the team in which they received the suspension
- b) Where an official is suspended from participating in football (fixture suspension) they remain ineligible to participate in any other fixture, in any other competition, in either Association's competitions, until the fixture suspension has been served for the team in which they received the suspension
- c) Where a player or official is suspended from participating in football (time suspension) they remain ineligible to participate in any football activities, in both Associations, until the time suspension has been served
- d) "Football Activities" is as defined in the respective Association's disciplinary regulations
- e) The application of any suspensions that remain following the conclusion of the 2026 season will be applied per the respective Association's disciplinary regulations

### **13.0 ANNUAL REVIEW**

---

- a) These supplementary regulations are subject to annual review between NWSF, HFL, and the clubs at the conclusion of each season