



Supplementary Rules for Joint PLW and SLW Competitions

March 2026

1. 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 Northern Suburbs Football Association (**NSFA**)
 - i. Premier League Women (**PLW**)
 - ii. Super League Women (**SLW**)

2. APPLICATION

- a) These Rules supersede the respective competition regulations of NWSF and NSFA 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 NSFA
- c) Where these rules are silent on a matter that relates to the Joint Competitions, NWSF and NSFA will adjudicate on the outcome. The decision of NWSF and NSFA is not subject to protest or appeal, regardless of what provisions for protest or appeal exist in the separate competition regulations

3. ADMINISTRATION

- a) NWSF will administer the PLW competition
- b) NSFA will administer the SLW competition

4. COMPETITION FORMAT

The PLW and SLW competition format comprises of;

- a) PLW Premiership
 - i. The Premiership is a 14-team league format where teams play each other once then split into a top and bottom half (PLW1 with seven (7) teams and PLW2 with seven (7) teams)
 - ii. Teams in the PLW1 and PLW2 then play the other teams in their respective divisions once each

b) SLW Premiership

- i. The Premiership is a 12-team league format where teams play each other once then split into a top and bottom half (SLW1 with six (6) teams and SLW2 with six (6) teams)
- ii. Teams in the SLW1 and SLW2 then play the other teams in their respective divisions once each

c) League Table Positions

- i. For the PLW and SLW, the points table at the conclusion of the first round of matches (that is the table from the matches before the split in PW1 / PLW2 and SLW1 / SLW2) continues through to the second round of matches (i.e., teams carry their league table points into the Premiership after the split)
- ii. The following process will be used to determine team ranking at the conclusion of both stages of the Premiership (i.e., to determine league tables for the split, and to determine qualification to the Championship) for both the PLW and SLW competitions;
 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 highest total goals scored in the Premiership; if equal then
 4. Head-to-head between the teams in the Premiership; if equal then
 5. Drawing of lots by the administering Association

d) Championship

- i. Four (4) Championships will be delivered. One (1) each for PLW1, PLW2, SLW1, and SLW2

- ii. Each Championships will comprise of the following matches
 1. Week 1 – Semi Finals
 - o Match 1 – 1st placed v 4th placed – winner to grand final
 - o Match 2 – 2nd placed v 3rd placed – winner to the grand final
 2. Week 2 – Grand final –
 - o Match 3 – winner match 1 v winner match 2
- iii. 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. 5.0
 4. Where inclement weather results in the shortening of the season, the administering Association will determine how the Championship will be conducted

5. 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 will be played in all PLW and SLW Premiership fixtures
- c) Stoppage time will be played in all PLW and SLW Championship fixtures

6. ABANDONED FIXTURES

- a) A match which has commenced, then play is suspended (e.g. to attend to a player injury, fix ground issues) and play is NOT recommenced prior to declaration of full time, is an abandoned fixture
- b) The playing out of the remaining time of the fixture will be determined in consultation between NWSF and NSFA, taking into consideration the impact the result of the match will have on qualification to the second date of the Premiership, the Championships, and promotion and relegation
- c) The decision of NWSF and NSFA is not subject to protest or appeal, regardless of what provisions for protest or appeal exist in the separate competition regulations

7. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

2026 to 2027

- a) The two (2) teams at the bottom of the 2026 PLW2 league table at the end of the Premiership (effectively teams placed 12th and 13th in the PLW) will be relegated to SLW in 2027
- b) The team at the top of the 2026 SLW1 league table at the end of the Premiership will be promoted to PLW 2027
- c) Where the team at the top of the 2026 SLW1 league table at the end of the Premiership already has a team in PLW, and that team is not be relegated from PLW, the SLW team will not be promoted. This will result in only one team being relegated from PLW to SLW
- d) This process of Promotion and Relegation will establish a twelve (12) team PLW in 2027
- e) The 2027 SLW competition will also comprise twelve (12) teams. Application to the 2027 SLW will take into consideration;
 - i. League table position in the 2026 PLW and SLW
 - ii. Representation of clubs (i.e., by Association, providing opportunities for clubs that do not already have a team in PLW)

2027 to 2028

- a) The format for promotion and relegation from the 2027 to 2028 season will be developed in consultation with the clubs at the annual review of the 2026 PLW and SLW competition

8. PLAYER ROSTER

8.1. Maximum Registrations

- a) There is no maximum number of players that can be registered to a team 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 match in the joint Competitions

9. SUBSTITUTION AND INTERCHANGE

- a) Unlimited interchange is applied to all Joint Competitions.

10. BORROWING PLAYERS

10.1 Borrowing players in general

- a) Limitations on the borrowing of players is relaxed for Joint Competitions, with unlimited borrowing into PLW and SLW teams from U16-U18, All Age and Over-Age competitions
- 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 PLW or SLW
- c) Where a club has teams participating in both PLW and SLW, players registered to SLW are permitted to be borrowed up into the Clubs PLW

10.2 Borrowing players in final 5 games of the premierships and in the championship series

- a) There is no minimum number of fixtures a player needs to play (including an upgraded borrowed player) to be eligible to play in the Championship of the Joint Competitions
- b) Any player that is listed on a PLW or SLW team sheet for three (3) of the final five (5) fixtures of the Premiership is ineligible to play in any fixtures of lower grades for the balance of the Premiership and

Championship (i.e. that player is permanently re-graded into the team they were listed on a team sheet for the third time in the final five (5) matches, and cannot be borrowed down to their original team).

- c) Goal Keepers are excluded from this restriction, and can be borrowed as an upgraded player any number of times during the Premiership and Championship, but only as a Goalkeeper

11. 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. 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 relevant 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 or official 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 or official who accumulates nine (9) or more yellow cards in the Premiership shall be referred by the CEO to the relevant Association's disciplinary body
- iii. A Player or official 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 NWSF administered 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
- iii. For NSFA administered competitions, the sanctions in the table of offences in the [NSFA 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 Associations 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. ANNUAL REVIEW

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