

# WESTERN PREMIER LEAGUE COMPETITION REGULATIONS - 2024

## 1. Scope and Application

- a) These Regulations are made under Western NSW Football (Western Branch)
- b) These Regulations govern the Western Premier League
- c) The Competition Manager & Western NSW Football Chair will interpret and apply all articles of these Regulations and any such interpretation or application will be final and binding on all parties and not subject to challenge or appeal.

## 2. Consequences for Breach

- a) Any breach of these Regulations or failure to comply with any direction therein may at our discretion result in a fine issued by the Competition Manager & Western NSW Football Chair on behalf of Western NSW Football or other sanction pursuant to the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations

## 3. Admission / Application to Western NSW Football Competitions

- a) Participation in the Competitions is on an annual basis with a limit of 3 Club per Association, upon approval from the Home Association, unless directly specified by the Competition Manager & Western NSW Football Chair.

## 4. Confirmation of Leagues / Competitions

- a) Western NSW Football will conduct Competitions in the following Leagues and grades:

League	Grades
Western Premier League	1st Grade

- b) Western NSW Football may conduct Cup Competitions. Notification and invitation for participation in these Competitions will be made prior to any Competitions, should they be conducted.

## 5. Outstanding Debts

- a) Failure to comply with outstanding debts may result in ineligibility for competition points while the debt remains unpaid, and that those points will not be reinstated once the debt is cleared. It may also result in ineligibility to participate in future Matches.

## 6. Alteration

- a) The Competition Manager & Western NSW Football Chair will have the power from time to time to make, alter or rescind the Regulations. Any changes must be made in writing.

## 7. Special Consideration

- a) The Competition Manager & Western NSW Football Chair will have the power to consider special circumstances outside the prescribed limits of the Regulations should it be clear those special considerations are in the interests of the game.

## **8. Venues**

- a) The Venues for the Matches in the Competition will be nominated by Clubs, and subject to confirmation by the Competition Manager & Western NSW Football Chair.
- b) the Competition Manager & Western NSW Football Chair must approve the use of any Venue for Matches.
- c) Should any Venue be deemed unacceptable for use for any reason during a Season the Competition Manager & Western NSW Football Chair reserves the right to set the most appropriate course of action to conclude the Season, including rescheduling Matches to the "Away Club" venue or to a neutral venue.

## **9. Disciplinary Sanctions and Proceedings**

- a) All Clubs, Players, Team Officials, Match Officials, spectators or any person participating in any manner at a FNSW Fixture, Match, or event will submit exclusively to the jurisdiction of the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations

## **10. Unforeseeable Circumstance**

- a) Nothing in these Regulations will prevent the Competition Manager & Western NSW Football Chair from approving a course of action to meet unforeseeable circumstances not covered by the Regulations.

## **11. Control of Competitions**

- a) The administrative control and conduct of the Competitions are vested in Western NSW Football who may make an appointment to take control of the Competition with a Competition Administrator.
- b) The Competition Manager has the power to make the decisions for the Competition in consultation with the Chair of Western NSW Football.

## **12. Council Of Clubs**

- a) Each club will nominate one person to represent their Club on a Western Premier League Council of Clubs as a consultative Committee.
- b) This group can meet, or discuss through communication, throughout the season.

## **13. Meetings**

- a) The Competition Manager & Western NSW Football Chair may schedule meetings pre-season and during Season to update Clubs on administrative and coaching matters.

- b) Attendance at meetings is compulsory for each Club participating in the competition. Failure to attend without satisfactory reason will result in a fine of \$250.

#### **14. Matches Played in Accordance with the Laws of the Game**

- a) All Fixtures and Matches will be played in compliance with the Regulations in force at the time and in accordance with FFA and Western NSW Football and Western Premier League regulations, codes and directives, and under the FIFA laws of the game.

#### **15. Duration of Match**

- a) Duration of Premiership Matches will be Two Periods of 45 minutes and 15 minutes for half-time.

#### **16. Added Time**

- a) Referees will play additional “injury and stoppage time” at the conclusion of each half in all matches of the Western Premier League
- b) In a match, should delay be experienced (e.g., a serious injury to a Player that requires suspension of play while the player is treated or transported from the Stadium) the referee will record the lapsed time and ensure it is added to the match duration. If the elapsed time between suspension of play and recommencement of play is longer than 45 minutes the referee can abandon the match and it will be replayed/re-commenced at a date in accordance with these regulations.

#### **17. Extra Time**

- a) Should scores be equal at the conclusion of a Championship Match, extra time will be played as 2 periods of 15 minutes.
- b) It will then involve Penalty Kicks if the score remains even at the end of extra time.

#### **18. Benches**

- a) All substitutes in the technical area must remain seated unless moving to and from warm-up.
- b) The bench may have 6 reserve players and 4 registered officials.
- c) Only players listed for the match sheet and registered officials on the match sheet may be in the technical area.
- d) Only one (1) person at a time is authorized to convey tactical instructions from the technical area.

#### **19. Footballs**

- a) The home Team (that being the first team listed on the draw) will supply three (3) first class footballs of the same brand, color and weight for all Premiership Matches.

- b) Western NSW Football will supply footballs for the Grand Final
- c) Western NSW Football may from time to time stipulate a particular make of football to be used in a particular League or grade.
- d) Match balls are to be provided to the Match Officials no later than thirty (30) minutes before the match.

## **20. Competition Points**

- a) Points will be allocated as follows for all Premiership Matches:
  - i. Win - 3 points.
  - ii. Draw - 1 point each Team.
  - iii. Bye - no points.
  - iv. Loss - no points
  - v. Forfeit - 3 points to the Team receiving the forfeit plus 3-0 scoreline.
  - vi. Forfeit – Loss of 3 points to the Team forfeiting plus a 0-3 scoreline.

## **21. Competition System**

- a) The competition will consist of two (2) stages.
  - i. Premiership consisting of home and away Matches or any League format as approved by Western NSW Football.
    - and
  - ii. Championship consisting of knockout Matches in a format approved by Western NSW Football, which will be a Top 5 format for 2024.

## **22. Technical Rules for the Championship**

- a) For purposes of allocating a home Team, the Team appearing first in the finals format will be considered the home Team for each respective match in the Championship series.
- b) Teams will play a single Match and the Team having scored most goals in the Match will win the Match.
- c) If extra time or penalty kicks are required to determine the winner of a Championship Match, they will be conducted as per these Regulations.

## **23. Cautions, Send-Offs and Suspensions**

- a) Players who receive 5 Yellow Cards in the Western Premier League will receive a 1 Match Suspension from the Western Premier League regular season.
- b) Players who receive 8 Yellow Cards in the Western Premier League will receive a 2 Match Suspension from the Western Premier League regular season.
- c) Players who receive 10 Yellow Cards in the Western Premier League will receive a 2 Match Suspension, and extends for 12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> Yellow Cards.
- d) Players who receive a Red Card will receive a minimum 1 Match Suspension, plus any additional suspension based on the Minimum Suspension Terms as per the Football NSW Disciplinary Regulations
- e) In the Championship (Finals), players who receive 2 Yellow Cards will receive a 1 Match Suspension

- from the Western Premier League
- f) In the Championship (Finals), players who receive a Red Card will receive a minimum 1 Match Suspension, plus any additional suspension based on the Minimum Suspension Terms as per the Football NSW Disciplinary Regulations.
  - g) At the conclusion of the premierships rounds yellow cards will revert to Nil and recommence in the championship rounds. All red cards + suspensions will stay in effect.

## **24. Colours/Clash of Colours**

- a) Clubs are required to wear their first-choice kit colours for all Matches unless there is a clash of colours & the referee has determined one team must change.
- b) In the case of a clash of colours the visiting team will be required to wear their alternate playing kit
- c) In the case of goal keeper's colours clashing with either the opponent's field Players, goalkeeper or the Match Official's kit, the referee will determine which keeper will change, always keeping in mind the principle that the visiting team should change.
- d) In the case of a combination of first choice and reserve kit colours of both teams clashing with the Match Officials, the referee will determine the final colours to be worn by all players and Match Officials
- e) Failure to comply may result in a fine of \$200.

## **25. Interchange**

- a) Unlimited interchange applies.

## **26. Clubs Removed or Withdrawn from Competitions**

- a) In the event of any Team withdrawing or being removed from the Competitions.
  - i. Removed or withdrawing before Competition has started; Bye result will apply in Competitions.
  - ii. Removed or withdrawing during first rounds; For all opposing Teams that have played the removed or withdrawn Team (for the complete first round), points and goals against the withdrawn Team will be deleted from their records and will be credited with a bye result. Teams that have not played the removed or withdrawn Team will obtain a bye result.
  - iii. Removed or withdraw during the second round; All points and goals acquired will be retained by the opposition Teams for the completed first round. Points and goals acquired against such withdrawn Team will be lost and a bye will be credited for the second half of Competition.

## **27. Club Officials and Match Coordinators**

- a) All Home Clubs must supply three (3) jacketed officials for all Matches, who must be 18 years of age or older and must have their names recorded on the match sheet in dribl prior to the commencement of the game.
- b) All Away Clubs must supply one (1) jacketed official for all Matches and must be recorded

on the match sheet in dribl prior to the commencement of the game.

- c) All jacketed officials are to wear clothing that easily identifies them as Club Officials. (i.e., brightly coloured bibs) and have been instructed by their Club of their duties.
- d) Failure by the Home and Away Club to supply and identify the nominated jacketed officials as per 27a, 27b, 27c for each Match will result in a fine of \$200 per offence.
- e) Jacketed Officials - <https://footballnsw.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/20210222-OPS-Jacketed-Officials-Roles-and-Responsibilities-2021-TMc.pdf>

## **28. Match Schedule and Kick-Off Times**

- a) The Competition Manager & Western Football Chair will communicate the official match schedule for all Competitions.
- b) The Competition Manager & Western Football Chair will determine the venue of all Premiership, Championship and Cup matches.
- c) Final match dates and kick-off times for all Matches will be determined by the Competition Manager & Western Football Chair.
- d) All matches must be conducted on the scheduled day and commence at the stipulated kick-off time unless approved by the Competition Manager & Western Football Chair at least 24 hours prior to the original kick-off time.
- e) Failure to do so may result in a fine of \$200.
- f) Any disputes between two (2) or more Clubs as to the arrangement of Fixtures will be referred to and decided by the Competition Manager & Western Football Chair.
- g) Changes to the official match schedule for all Leagues will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Any application for a change of venue, fixture and or match must be submitted to the Competition Manager & Western NSW Football Chair along with reasoning documentary proof of the “exceptional circumstance” validating the requirements for a venue change, fixture and or match change along with details of the rescheduled venue, fixture and or match.

- h) Any application for a change to the official match schedule within seven (7) days will only be considered by the Competition Manager & Western NSW Football Chair. If in its absolute discretion that it is satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist, including if a venue has become unavailable at no fault of the club. Details of the rescheduled venue, fixture and or match must be submitted at the time of the request for a change to the official match schedule.

## **29. Inclement Weather Affected Fixtures**

In all instances, where rain or other weather conditions preceding a Fixture raises fair doubt as to the possibility of play taking place, the following rules are to apply, so that Players, Match Officials and the public can be given correct notice of intentions:

- i. The Home Club coordinator or his/her nominee is to advise the Away Club coordinator immediately after the decision is made for a Venue to be closed.
- ii. The Competition Manager & Western Football Chair will communicate any field closures to

the respective referee appointment officer who will in turn inform the Match Officials

- iii. All Away Clubs and Match Officials should check with the Home Club before departing for the venue.

### **30. Rescheduling of Matches or Fixtures Due to Adverse Weather and Unavailability**

- a) Rescheduling of Matches or Fixtures affected by adverse weather or unavailability will be arranged by the relevant Clubs in the first instance.
- b) Matches or Fixtures are to be rescheduled, subject to ground availability and weather conditions, to be played within fourteen (14) days of the original scheduled date.
- c) Clubs will be given 48 hours after the postponement to determine the venue and date.
- d) Failure to comply may result in the Competition Manager & Western NSW Football Chair rescheduling the Match or Fixture at a time and place of their choosing.
- e) A change of grounds is to be permitted for good reason up to the Thursday evening prior to normal weekend playing days. In circumstances where such a change occurs, or where cancellation becomes effective, it is the responsibility of the Home Club to notify the opposing contact, as well as Competition Manager & Western Football Chair as soon as practical.

### **31. Disruption of Fixture Due to Adverse Weather**

- a) When the Referee finds it necessary to stop play, owing to adverse weather, he/she will wait a reasonable length of time (30 minutes) before deciding to abandon or postpone the match

### **32. Abandoned Matches**

- a) When a Match is not played or abandoned for any reason over which neither Club was responsible, the Match will be replayed on a date to be arranged at the earliest reasonable opportunity by the Competition Manager & Western Football Chair, in accordance with these Regulations.
- b) When a Match is abandoned for any reason other than stated above the match may only be replayed by the authority of the Competition Manager & Western Football Chair.
- c) Should a Club, Club Official, its Players, or Spectators be found to have caused the abandonment of the Match, the Match will be forfeited by that Club to the opposition.
- d) Should both Clubs be found to have caused the abandonment of the match the match will not be replayed, and no match result will be applied.

### **33. Forfeits**

- a) Teams will be deemed to have forfeited a Match when:
  - i. They fail to fulfil an engagement to play a Match on the appointed date, time or venue; or
  - ii. They refuse or fail to begin a Match within ten (10) minutes of the stipulated kick-off time.
  - iii. They field less than seven (7) of their registered Players at the start of any Match; or

- iv. At any point during the Match, they cannot field at least seven (7) of their registered Players; or
  - v. An ineligible player as defined in these Regulations participates in the match.
  - vi. Any other scenario within the Regulations or the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary regulations that stipulates a forfeit of the Match.
- b) In the event of any Team forfeiting its Match, the following procedure will take effect.
- i. Full points allocated for the Match will be forfeited to the opponent Team and the goals recorded according to 3 goals scored by the Team getting the points and 0 by the Team who has infringed the regulation, unless the goal difference for the Team receiving the forfeit is greater than 3, in which case they will receive the number of goals for scored in the match, with the forfeiting Team receiving nil
  - ii. Offending Clubs will pay all appropriate Match Officials fees, whether the Match Officials were in attendance, and pay compensation to the opposing Club. Compensation will be determined by the Competition Manager & Western Football Chair.
  - iii. On a second forfeit, the Club involved will be required to show cause as to why they should not be expelled from the Competition, and the Team will, in addition to any fine imposed and loss of Match points should the result have been a win in their favor or a draw, forfeit six (6) additional Competition points.
- c) Fines for forfeited Matches in FNSW Competitions are:
- i. 1st forfeited match in a Season \$500
  - ii. Subsequent forfeited Match/s in the same football Season \$1000

### **34. Match Deferrals**

- a) A Club may seek Competition Manager & Western NSW Football Chair permission to have Matches deferred in the following cases.
- i. When an epidemic/pandemic affects the availability of Players (at least 7 players)
  - ii. When more than three (3) Players of a Team are involved in a FNSW or National Team representative Match/ duties (including training camps, official training sessions) at the time of the Fixture.
  - iii. In circumstances which the Competition Manager & Western NSW Football Chair at its discretion consider of sufficient weight to merit a deferral.
- b) Clubs seeking to defer Matches regarding items ii. and iii. above must submit their request in writing to the Competition Manager & Western NSW Football Chair giving a minimum of 14 days' notice of the date on which deferment will be sought.



### **35. Matches Conducted Under Artificial Light**

- a) A Fixture may be played wholly or in part under floodlights, provided that any alteration to starting times will have been given due approval and that the standard of lighting is suitable

### **36. Trial Matches**

- a) Clubs will need to have Trial Matches sanctioned via Football NSW or Competition Manager & Western Football Chair.
- b) The Match then can only be conducted upon receipt of written approval.

### **37. Protests**

- a) Protests must be lodged and received by the Competition Manager & Western NSW Football Chair no later than two (2) business days after the Match was played.
- b) Protests will only be considered by the Competition Manager & Western NSW Football Chair for obvious breaches/errors of the laws of the game that clearly had a material effect on the outcome of the Match.
- c) No protests as to the result of a Match will be considered by Competition Manager & Western NSW Football Chair in relation to disciplinary decisions of the Match Officials
- d) Protests must be accompanied by a \$250 administration fee in order to be considered. The administration fee must be lodged together with the written protest.

### **38. Eligibility and Ineligibility of Players**

- a) Eligible Players
  - i. An eligible Player is one that meets all registration requirements within these Regulations.
  - ii. Clubs must have a minimum of Fourteen (14) Players always registered into Play Football under "WPL" in their Club Profile.
  - iii. The Clubs must send to the Competition Manager & Western NSW Football Chair a minimum of 14 players registered into "WPL" in their Club profile by COB March 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - iv. Clubs can have a maximum of 30 players registered into Play Football under "WPL" in their Club Profile
  - v. Clubs can play players up from their local association teams for WPL matches on a maximum of TWELVE (12) Matches inclusive of Premiership and Championship Matches
  - vi. Upon playing TWELVE (12) Matches, the player must then be allocated into the Club's "WPL" registration in their Club profile.
  - vii. Players under the age of 18 are exempt from Point v and vi pending Local Association Regulations.
  - viii. Goalkeepers are an exemption to Point v and vi. above where they can play up from local association teams within the Club without restriction but only as a Goalkeeper. If the

Goalkeeper takes the field outside of being a Goalkeeper, then this will contribute towards a Match to a maximum of TWELVE (12) Matches

- b) Ineligible Players:
- i. Ineligible Players include.
    - Unregistered and Suspended Players including a player who is required to stand down for receiving the required number of cautions.
    - A Player that has been expelled from a Match on the day/s prior to a Match but after the regular Disciplinary Committee hearing date.
    - A Player that is deemed ineligible due to any article of these Regulations or pursuant to the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations
  - ii. The Competition Manager & Western NSW Football Chair may decide, in its absolute discretion, whether a Suspension or part thereof may be served in an abandoned, cancelled or forfeited Match and any such decision is final and not subject to any challenge or appeal.
- c) Any Team will automatically lose a match on forfeit and be fined \$250, if an ineligible player participates in the match or
- d) Additionally, the Club, Team Official/s and / or Player may be further sanctioned in accordance with the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations
- e) For clarity, it is the Clubs absolute responsibility to ensure that it fields eligible players in any Match.

### **39. Eligibility of Players in Championship Fixtures**

- i. Provided they are eligible as prescribed under Section 3, players are permitted to play in any of the Matches of their club during the Championship.

### **40. Player Identification Sheets**

- a) Player identification sheets are to be made available to the opposing Team manager for perusal prior to the commencement of the Match, and it will be his / her duty to return the sheets to the Club after checking that they are in order.
- b) Players for any Team that are not included on the player identification sheets are not permitted to take the field of play.
- c) Any Team who cannot produce at least seven (7) Players that appear on the Player identification sheets for any Match will not have enough eligible Players to commence the Match and will be deemed to have forfeited the Match.
- d) Opposing Team managers are responsible for sighting the Player identification sheets prior to the Match. Should a Team suspect the opposition of replacing any Player between the initial identification sheet check and the commencement of either the first or second half, the following procedure must be followed:

- i. The manager of the Team suspecting a breach informs the Manager of the opposing Team that he / she wishes to check the identity of the specific Player/s
  - ii. The Team managers of both Teams check the identity of the Player/s in question against the player identification sheet and the team sheet, on the field of play before the Player/s leaves the field of play at either the half time interval or conclusion of the Match.
  - iii. Should it be determined that the Team has fielded an ineligible Player, the Competition Manager & Western Chair is to be contacted immediately for further guidance to determine if the Match is to continue or if it will be immediately forfeited in favor of the Team that did not breach the regulation. If the Competition Manager & Western Football Chair is unable to be contacted the match should proceed and the match officials are to submit incident reports post- match through the incident report procedure.
  - iv. Should any Team Official or Player refuse to follow the above procedure, the Match will immediately be forfeited to the opposing Team to the Official or Player that has refused to co-operate?
- e) Any Club, Team Official and / or Player that is found to have breached this article may sanctioned pursuant to the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations
  - f) Failure of Teams to produce player identity sheets on request will result in a fine of \$250.

#### **41. Process for Registration of Team Officials**

- a) Clubs are required to submit registrations for all Team Officials who they appoint to Teams including but not limited to Coaches, physiotherapists, team managers, and gear stewards.
- b) The registration can be affected through:
  - i. The Team Official self-registering via the National Registration System and the Club accepting the Team Officials registration.
- c) Failure to comply will result in non-eligibility.

#### **42. Submission of Registrations**

- a) All registrations must be submitted via the National Registration System, with allocation to the respective team, and a passport style photo (head and shoulders ONLY) is to be uploaded into the Player or Match Officials profile within the communicated registration period.
- b) All Clubs must submit registrations for all Players and Team Officials as listed in these Competition Regulations
- c) All registrations close on June 30<sup>th</sup> unless advised by the Competition Manager & Western NSW Football Chair.
- d) Players can only be eligible for the weekend match if they are registered by 11:00pm on the Thursday day prior to the weekends fixtures to be eligible for that weekend.

### **43. Minimum Coaching Qualifications**

- a) Coaches must have a minimum of a Game Training Certificate or Senior Coaching Certificate to be eligible to be registered as a Coach.

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### **44. Match Official Fees**

- a) Match Official fees for the Premiership Matches are payable by the Home Team.
- b) Match Official fees for the Championship Matches are payable by Western NSW Football
- c) Match Official Fees are.
  - i. Centre Referee - \$100
  - ii. Assistant Referee - \$50
  - iii. Travel - \$50

### **45. Welfare of Match Officials**

- a) The Home Team is to ensure the well-being and safety of the Match Officials at home games.

### **46. Non-attendance of Match Officials**

- a) Should appointed Match Officials not be in attendance by the scheduled time, it is the responsibility of the Home Club to provide Match Officials. The appointee must control the whole Match, except that a suitably qualified and identified Match Official, in uniform, from either side will take precedence over an unqualified person from the Home Club.
- b) Unless otherwise stated, Clubs are required to fulfil all Fixtures regardless of the attendance of Match Officials or not. Failure to fulfil any Fixture may result in sanction as per the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

### **47. Team Sheets**

- a) All team sheets for all matches are to be completed on the Dribl system prior to the commencement of the game.
- b) The match result must be entered into the Dribl system and should this not be able to be done the result must be advised to the Competition Manager & Western Football Chair within 20 minutes of the match ending.
- c) The Home Club will be responsible for printing and providing any team sheets on Match Day should the Dribl system not be working.
- d) The home Club is required to hand it to the referee's at least 30 minutes prior to kick off.
- e) Failure of the Home Club to provide printed team sheets on Match Day should the Dribl system not be working will result in a fine of \$50 per team sheet.
- f) Changes to the team sheet will be permitted any time until five (5) minutes prior to kick-off.

- g) The numbers on the back of the Player's jerseys will correspond to the numbers on the team sheet before the commencement of a Match. There must be no change of numbers from five (5) minutes prior to or during a Match (this includes goalkeepers)
- h) A maximum of seventeen (17) Players only may be listed on the team sheet, if it is deemed that the team played more than 17 players, the team will forfeit the match.
- i) Each Team must nominate jacketed officials whose names are to be entered on the team sheet prior to the commencement of the match.

#### **48. Result of Match**

- a) Once The Competition Manager & Western Football Chair declares the result of a Match or Competition after the conclusion of that Match or Competition then that result will stand.
- b) Each club is to sign the team sheet at the end of the Match signifying that all details are correct.

#### **49. Season Completion**

- c) For a Premiership to be awarded, all games must be finished, unless the leading team is uncatchable.