



2018 TAMWORTH FOOTBALL COMPETITION RULES

1. COMPETITION FEES

Team Nomination Fees \$50 (per team)

2. FINAL SERIES FORMAT (COMPETITIVE GRADES)

SEMI-FINALS (Week 1) –loser from Matches (A) eliminated

(A) 4th v 3rd

(B) 1st v 2nd

PRELIMINARY FINAL (Week 2) –

(C) Winner A vs Loser B

GRAND FINAL (Week 3)

Winner (B) v Winner (C)

Competition Venues

- (a) The venue for all competition and finals matches for all age groups will normally be the Gipps St Sporting Fields, Gipps St, West Tamworth. Other grounds can be used if there are not enough grounds available at Gipps St for any particular competition. In Men's and Women's divisions, other grounds will be used from time to time across the Tamworth region on a home and away basis where applicable.
- (b) Where the Gipps St Sporting Fields are not available due to weather, or other reasons beyond the control NIF, the Competition Administrator will choose either an alternate venue, notifying Clubs, on social media and in the local media, or defer or abandon the match or matches effected.

Drawn Fixtures – Final Series Including Grand Final

If the scores are level at the end of normal time (90 minutes):

- (a) Extra time of two (2) equal periods of fifteen (15) minutes will be played in accordance with FIFA Law 8.
- (b) 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 the winner.
- (c) The Grand Final will be played in Tamworth on a date set by the competition administrator. Home semi finals only can be played at other venues if applicable.

Junior Competitive will play under a summarised format.



3. AGE RESTRICTIONS

Age restrictions for local Tamworth Football competitions are:

- (a) Male or female player playing in Men's T-League competition: Minimum age - player must turn 15 Years of age in the year of competition.
- (b) Female player playing in Women's T-League competition: Minimum age – player must be turning 14 years of age in the year of competition.

4. ANNUAL REGISTRATION PERIODS

Local Amateur players - 1st January – 31st December.

To be eligible to play in the final series, players must have played a minimum of 5 matches for the Club in their respective competition. Clubs may seek special dispensation for a player returning from injury who has played less than 5 division matches. All requests for players returning from injury will be considered on an individual basis by NIF.

5. REGISTRATION FEES

Player registration fees will be determined annually by Northern Inland Football for participation in all Competitions.

Youth is classified as 18 Years and below as at 31 December each year.

Competition registrations are refundable up until 30th June each year provided that the de-registering player has not played during their time of registration nor lodged an insurance claim for that same period. The player cannot be listed on team sheet for any competition fixture as either a starting player or a substitute/interchange player.

6. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- (a) What age group a player must or can play in shall be determined by the age they turn during the calendar year that the competition is being held.
- (b) **Minimum age** - a player may play as long as they will have passed their 5th birthday by the end of the calendar year in which they are playing.
- (c) **Females Playing Down an Age Group** - In all Mini Roo, Junior and Youth age groups females may be registered and play in a team one (1) age group below what they would normally be expected to be registered in, based on their age. (eg a female who would normally play in the Under 13 competition can be registered and play for a team in the U12 competition.



Finals Eligibility

Subject to any disciplinary restriction, a player is eligible player to compete in his team's final series fixtures as per below;

- (a) In a Men's T-League Grade competition fixture, a player who has played in at least 66% of their fixtures (provided that they have not been named in the starting line up for a higher grade for that round) during the premiership competition is eligible to play in that grade's final series.
- (b) In a Women's T-League Grade competition fixture, a player who is named in that side as per requirements prior to the season and/or has not exceed the 5-game fill in rule applied to the women's competition.**
- (c) Goalkeeper - Clubs may seek special dispensation for the specialist position of goalkeeper. All requests will be considered on an individual basis by NIF.

7. NUMBER OF PLAYERS REGISTERED

There are no restrictions to the number of players that a Club may register for their respective squads (provided all players are minimum age as per the above age restrictions).

8. MATCH DURATION

The following match times shall apply:

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| All senior fixtures | 45 minutes each half |
|---------------------|----------------------|

For match times, please refer to the annual fixture draw on the NIF website.

- (a) A minimum of ten (10) minute interval will be taken at the end of the half time and a maximum of 15 (fifteen). Extra or injury time (in first grade) may be added at the discretion of the referee.
- (b) A fixture which falls short of the stipulated playing time may be deemed to have been completed or may be replayed at the absolute discretion of NIF. Provided that the Competition Administrator, in addition, may impose other Penalties as is deemed fit.
- (c) In extremely hot or humid conditions (in the interest of player safety) the match officials may provide a drink break for players at the mid-way point of each half. Extra time will be added for such drink break periods which should not exceed 2 minutes. Clubs should prepare for such breaks by having water bottles filled and ready on the side line for their players. Match officials will confer with team officials and captains before the fixture to organise drinks breaks.



10. RESCHEDULED FIXTURES

A fixture not played owing to inclement weather, or other causes, over which neither team has any control can be played on another date mutually agreed between the two (2) teams not later than twenty one (21) days from the schedule date of the original fixture. Provided that the Zone is notified, within three (3) days of the original fixture date, of the rescheduled fixture date. In the event that suitable arrangements have not been made within prescribed time the Zone may reschedule the fixture or determine the result of the fixture.

In the event that the weather or other causes disrupt a competition to such an extent that it will not be completed in the stipulated time, the Zone may either within the 21 days above, or after it:

- (a) Cancel all or any premierships fixtures and all or any final series fixtures.
- (b) Reschedule fixtures to complete as many fixtures as possible in the premiership.
- (c) Should a fixture be declared cancelled by the Zone each competing team shall be awarded a draw result. The goal score shall be recorded as one (1) goal each.

Should inclement weather persist and cause the postponement of rescheduled fixtures NIF will liaise with Tamworth Regional Council to determine new fixture dates.

The availability of players or team officials will not be taken into consideration when determining rescheduled fixtures. NIF reserves the right to determine changes to the above.

11. INTERCHANGE OF A PLAYER

Unlimited interchange will apply to all fixtures (with a maximum of 16 players to be recorded on the match sheet/card, except for Women's T-League which has provision for a maximum of 18).

12. WET WEATHER OR DOUBTFUL FIXTURES PROCEDURES

In all instances where inclement weather or other incidentals preceding a fixture raise fair doubt as to the possibility of play taking place, the following rules shall apply:

NIF officials and Tamworth Regional Council staff are to inspect the ground on the day of the fixture and decide whether play can take place during the day. In addition, the home club official shall advise the visiting team(s) and the appointed match official(s). If the fields are then closed they will be sign posted and the Competition Administrator will notify the Media, Clubs and update the TDF website and the Football Tamworth Facebook page.



Wash Outs

- (a) Under normal circumstances for non-competitive age groups when a round is washed out this round will not be replayed.
- (b) Wash outs will be at the discretion of the competitions administrator**
- (c) For competitive age groups washed out rounds of the competition will be played on a date determined by the competitions administrator pending circumstances**
- (d) Where a round of competition is washed out, or fields are unavailable for any reason, all Clubs will be informed of the date that the round will be played.**
- (e) If the reallocated day is washed out, or the grounds are not available, all matches will be declared 0-0 draws.
- (f) All competitive competition teams are required to turn up to play on the allocated day.
- (g) Any team that does not turn up or does not have enough players to take the field, in accordance with Table 1 on page 10, will forfeit their match, no exceptions.
- (h) If required, due to continued wet weather, extra days will be allocated, to play all matches, where possible.**
- (i) If there is a prolonged period of wet weather, or field unavailability, then the Competition Administrator, will determine which rounds of the competition will be abandoned. Where this happens all matches affected will be declared to be a 0-0 draw.
- (j) Teams/Clubs are not required to play washout games on any day that would cause a contravention of their religious beliefs or principles.

Closing of Grounds

- (a) In all instances of inclement weather and/or other incidents, if fair doubt exists as to the possibility of play taking place, the following shall apply:
- (b) Before the day of the fixtures:
 - 1. The Competition Administrator and/or a Tamworth Regional Council (TRC) official shall inspect the fields and decide if matches will go ahead.
 - 2. If the fields are then closed they will be sign posted and the Competition Administrator will notify the Media, Clubs and update the TDF website and the Football Tamworth Facebook page.



(c) On the day of the fixtures:

1. The Competition Administrator, at least one member of the Tamworth grounds committee and, if available a TRC official, will inspect the fields by no later than 7:00 AM and decide whether play can take place during the day.
2. If the fields are then closed they will be sign posted and the Competition Administrator will notify the Media, Clubs and update the TDF website and the Football Tamworth Facebook page.
3. In the event of a ground being declared unfit for play that ground shall not be used for any fixtures or training activities that day.

Deferred Matches

(a) Wash out dates will be subject to requirements and at the discretion of the competitions administrator.

(b) Applications for individual deferred matches must be submitted to the Competition Administrator at least fourteen (14) days before the match is scheduled – no exceptions

School Excursions/Leave Weekends

Where there is a school leave weekend or a school excursion, the Club of the team(s) effected **must** apply for deferment fourteen (14) days before the match is scheduled. If the request is inside the fourteen (14) days then the deferment will be denied.

Teams/Clubs are not required to play deferred games on any day that would cause a contravention of their religious beliefs or principles.

14. DISCIPLINARY

Accumulation of Yellow Cards

A player who accumulates the following number of yellow cards during the course of the competition must serve the following mandatory match suspensions.

Pre-Season Competition (if applicable)

Three (3) yellow cards during the competition equals one (1) match suspension.

Premiership

Five (5) yellow cards during the competition equals a one (1) match suspension.

Eight (8) yellow cards during the competition equals a two (2) match suspension.

Eleven (11) yellow cards during the competition equals a three (3) match suspension.



Please note the yellow card count is cumulative throughout the regular competition and does not reset after each suspension. **At the conclusion of the regular season competitive** competition rounds, all cautions are cleared with the exception of players already under suspension.

Final Series

Two (2) yellow cards during the competition equals a one (1) match suspension.

Players may be subject to further disciplinary action as determined by the Competition Administrator.

It is the club's responsibility to record and monitor all player infringements, NIF will administer these sanctions as required

Accumulation of Red Cards

A player who accumulates the following number of red cards during the course of the competition must serve the following mandatory match suspensions.

Pre-Season Competition

One (1) red card during the competition equals a one (1) match suspension.

Two (2) red cards during the competition equals a two (2) match suspension.

Premiership

One (1) red card during the competition equals one (1) match suspension.

Two (2) red cards during the competition equals a two (2) match suspension.

Three (3) red cards during the competition equals a three (3) match suspension.

Four (4) red cards during the competition equals a four (4) match suspension.

Five (5) red cards during the competition equals a five (5) match suspension.

Final Series

One (1) red card during the competition equals a one (1) match suspension.

Two (2) red cards during the competition equals a two (2) match suspension.

Please note the red card count is cumulative throughout the regular competition and does not reset after each suspension.

Players may be subject to further disciplinary action as determined by the Competition Administrator.

It is the club's responsibility to record and monitor all player infringements, NIF will monitor and impose player sanctions.



Misconduct of a Team

Disciplinary sanctions may be placed on a club for the misconduct of a team, for any part of the competition season proper, including when:

- (a) Five (5) players are cautioned or sent off during one (1) match;
- (b) Three (3) players are sent off during one (1) match or;
- (c) Several players together make threats or show force against a Match Official

15. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

Mens T-League Football Competition

- (a) In 2018 the Mens T-League will consist of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Grade Competitions. 3rd grade may be split at the discretion of the competitions administrator pending nominations.**
- (b) To play in the 1st and 2nd Grade Competitions a Club must be able to field a squad with sufficient players to play in **both** the 1st and 2nd Grade competitions with no maximum amount of players. If a club has only enough players to field one side then that side can only play in the 3rd Grade Competition.
- (c) It is not compulsory to enter the local 1st/2ndGrade competition. If a club has enough for two (2) teams but only wants to enter both teams in 3rd grade this is allowed.
- (d) Where a Club has more than one side entered in the 3rd Grade Competition then once a player plays in one of those 3rd grade sides they are not permitted to play in any of their Clubs other 3rd Grade sides in the current season.

Movement Between Grades

- (a) Players can be promoted from any grade in either the Northern Inland Premier League or T-League competition, however they can only be relegated one grade per week.
- (b) Youth players (16 years and below) can move freely between grades without penalty, Finals eligibility as per rules above.**

Junior Player Movement

- (a) A junior player can play up in a higher age group anytime without penalty, however they must play the minimum amount of matches to qualify for finals in that age group.
- (b) A junior female player may play one age group below the age they are turning in that calendar year, however once registered in a team, may not fill in for a team an age group below.**



Youth Players

While players registered in youth teams are required to play in their own age competitions as a priority, youth players shall be allowed to play in Senior Football matches without penalty, as long as they are old enough.

All youth players filling in for senior teams, MUST be marked on the Match Card with a J next to their name for record keeping purposes.

Women's T-League Competition

- (a) In 2018 the Tamworth Women's T-League Competition will be a One grade, competition.
- (b) After Playing each team once, the competition will split as even as possible at the competition administrators discretion.
- (c) Prior to season commencement, each club with multiple entered teams must submit a team listing to the competitions administrator. Players may "fill in" for their club's other side/s no greater than 5 games total. Juniors are not subject to this rule.**
- (d) **Clubs may enter more than one team in the 2018 Women's Competition.**
- (e) Female juniors may fill in for their club's side, however are subject to finals rules and requirements.
- (f) Women are to be registered exclusively to a womens comp or a mens comp exclusively and if registered in the womens comp may not fill in for mens sides.**