



## 2018 NORTHERN INLAND PREMIER DIVISION COMPETITION RULES

### 1. COMPETITION FEES

Team Nomination Fees (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Division) \$50 (per team)

### 2. FINAL SERIES FORMAT

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

(A) 4<sup>th</sup> v 3<sup>rd</sup>

(B) 1<sup>st</sup> v 2<sup>nd</sup>

**PRELIMINARY FINAL** (Week 2) –

(C) Winner A vs Loser B

**GRAND FINAL** (Week 3)

Winner (B) v Winner (C)

### **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.

### 3. AGE RESTRICTIONS

Age restrictions for NIF Premier League Competitions are:

Minimum age - player must turn 15 Years of age in the year of competition.

### 4. ANNUAL REGISTRATION PERIODS

Local Amateur players - 1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> December.

To be eligible to play in final series, players must have played a minimum of 5 matches for the Club in the Premier League Competition. Clubs may seek special dispensation for a player returning from injury who has played less than 5 Premier League 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 Premier Competitions.

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

Premier League competition registrations are refundable up until 30<sup>th</sup> 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 sheets for any competition fixture as either a starting player nor a substitute/interchange player.

## 6. ELIGIBLE PLAYER FOR FINAL SERIES

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

In a Reserve 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 premierships competition is eligible to play Reserve Grade. The above rule is not applicable whilst all grades are still participating in the finals series.

### 6.1 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 the Premier League (provided that all players are 15 years and over during the competition season).

## 8. ADMISSION CHARGES

The maximum admission charges for each competition, including a fee for cars if permitted to the ground, will be determined by NIF from time to time and this charge shall be the same at all grounds for the same competition.

Scheduled Fixture	Adults \$5.00	Concession	\$3.00	Cars	\$2.00
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Rescheduled Fixture

(a) Where 1<sup>st</sup> Grade team participates:

Adults \$5.00	Concession	\$3.00	Cars	\$2.00
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No charge will apply where only one lower grade participates.

## 9. MATCH DURATION

The following match times shall apply:

1<sup>st</sup> and Reserve Grade 45 minutes each half

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

- (a) A minimum 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 drink 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:

- i) Cancel all or any premiership fixtures and all or any final series fixtures.
- ii) Reschedule fixtures to complete as many fixtures as possible in the premiership.
- iii) 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 the home club 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. SUBSTITUTION / INTERCHANGE OF A PLAYER**

The substitution rule will apply for all 1<sup>st</sup> Grade fixtures. A maximum of 16 players may be listed on the card.

Unlimited interchange will apply to Reserve Grade fixtures (with a maximum of 16 players to be recorded on the match sheet/card.)

#### **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:

- a) A home club official and a senior referee (if available) are to inspect the ground on the day of the fixture and decide whether play can take place during the day and such decision is to be given to the Competition Administrator no later than 9.00 am. In addition, the home club official shall advise the visiting team(s) and the appointed match official(s).



- b) In the event of wet weather, the visiting team and/or appointed match official(s) should check with the home club secretary and/or team official before departing for any doubtful fixture venue.
- c) Advice of a postponed fixture, where practical, will be conveyed to the appropriate radio stations and if no later than 10.00 am by the Competition Administrator or other person authorised to give such advice.
- d) In the event of a ground being declared unfit for play that ground shall not be used for any fixtures during that day.
- e) A club shall advise the Competition Administrator of the names, addresses and telephone numbers of its officials who have the authority to declare a ground unfit for play.

### **13. RESULTS PROCEDURES**

It is the responsibility of the host club to advise the competition administrator of all match day results no later than two hours after the conclusion of the last fixture.

### **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.

Fourteen (14) yellow cards during the competition equals a four (4) match suspension.

The suspension(s) must be served in the next round or rounds of the competition.

At the conclusion of the regular 1<sup>st</sup> and Reserve Grade 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 clubs' responsibility to record and monitor all player infringements and impose player sanctions.**



### **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 in addition to the levied period awarded via FFA rules or Judiciary Chair.

#### **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.

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

#### **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