

NEWCASTLE MAITLAND WOMEN'S RUGBY LEAGUE

2027 Competition By-Laws

Updated October 2026

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NEWCASTLE MAITLAND WOMEN'S RUGBY LEAGUE COMPETITION INFORMATION

These By-Laws set out the rules governing all Newcastle Maitland Women's Rugby League Competitions. The Newcastle Maitland Region Women's Competition Committee, in coordination with the NSWRL, will determine the team entry requirements for each competition.

These By-Laws are a living document and may be amended from time to time to reflect changes to policies, procedures and competition requirements. Clubs and participants should refer to the current online version of this document.

These By-Laws must be read in conjunction with the NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual.

Note: All correspondence regarding Women's Tackle Competition matters must be directed to NSWRL staff via hunter@nswrl.com.au.

COMPETITION BY-LAWS 2027

COMPETITIONS

1. Age Groups

1.1. Tackle: Open Age

1.1.1. Players must have turned seventeen (17) years of age before participating in Open Age competitions.

2. Match Durations

2.1. Community Premiership Grade 2 x 35-minute halves

2.2. Community Cup and Plate Grades 2 x 30-minute halves

2.3. Half-time breaks in all competitions must not exceed ten (10) minutes, measured from the half-time whistle to the whistle recommencing play.

3. Competition Points

3.1. Competition points are awarded as follows:

3.1.1. Win = 2 points (including where the team receives a forfeit)

3.1.2. Draw = 1 point

3.1.3. Loss = 0 points (including where the team forfeits)

3.1.4. Bye = 2 points (1 point during abandoned rounds)

3.1.5. Abandoned = 1 point (Foul-play abandonments are subject to NSWRL policy)

4. Facilities

4.1. NSWRL reserves the right to deem a venue unfit to play and to relocate or postpone any matches as required.

4.2. Some community rugby league venues may have site-specific conditions that require variations to the standard rules of play or the location of team benches and sin bins. Any such variations must be determined in consultation with and approved by NSWRL prior to the commencement of the season. Clubs will be advised of any applicable venue-specific arrangements.

4.3. Refer to the NRL League Preferred Facilities Guidelines for further information.

ADMINISTRATION

5. Registrations

5.1. All players and team staff must be registered with their participating club in MySideline in accordance with the National Registration Policy.

5.2. Returning players and team staff may participate in training, trials and competition matches once their registration for the current season has been completed in MySideline.

5.3. A player transferring to another club must not participate in training, trials or competition matches with their new club until their transfer or permit has been approved in MySideline and their registration with the new club has been completed.

5.4. New players and team staff must not participate in training, trials or competition matches until their pending registration has been approved by NSWRL.

5.5. Female players who participate in both League Tag and Tackle with the same club must complete separate registrations for each format.

5.5.1. Where a player participates in Tackle for one club and League Tag with another, their primary registration must be with the Tackle club, and they must have an approved Permit to participate with the League Tag club.

5.6. Clubs are responsible for ensuring that all players are correctly registered before participating in a competition match. If an unregistered player participates in a match, the club will forfeit the match. Fines may also be imposed in accordance with the applicable NSWRL Policies and Procedures.

6. De-registration of Players from a Team

6.1. A player who has registered with a club but has not participated in a trial or competition match may be de-registered from the club, subject to the National Registration Policy.

6.2. A player who has participated in a trial or competition match cannot be de-registered from their club but may be unassigned from their team. The player will remain registered with the club for the remainder of the season.

6.3. All requests for deregistration must be submitted by June 30th.

7. Representative Requirements

7.1. All players registered to participate in the Newcastle Maitland Region Women's Rugby League competitions must make themselves available for representative team selection.

7.2. Any player who declines representative team selection, withdraws from representative duties, or makes themselves unavailable for representative duties without an approved exemption will be ineligible to participate in any club match until all representative commitments for the relevant program have been completed.

7.3. Requests for exemption from representative duties must be submitted in writing to NSWRL no later than 5:00 pm on the Wednesday preceding the relevant representative commitment. The Women's Competition Committee will determine whether the exemption is approved.

7.4. All exemption requests must be accompanied by appropriate supporting evidence. Grounds for exemption may include, but are not limited to:

- 7.4.1. Injury or Illness
- 7.4.2. Employment or education commitments
- 7.4.3. Compassionate circumstances

7.5. A player granted an exemption from representative duties will continue to be classified as a Representative Player when calculating and managing a club's permitted Representative Player quota.

7.6. Players who take the field in any higher-level NSWRL representative competition, including NSW Women's Premiership or NRLW, must not participate in a Newcastle Maitland Region Women's Rugby League competition during the same week (Tuesday to Monday) without prior approval from NSWRL. Approval is at the discretion of NSWRL.

- 7.6.1. Requests for approval to participate in a Newcastle Maitland Region Women's Rugby League competition during the same week as a higher-level NSWRL representative commitment must be submitted in writing to NSWRL no later than 5:00 pm on the Wednesday preceding the scheduled club match.

8. Representative Placement Players

8.1. A Representative Placement Player is a Player who is contracted to an NSWRL Pathways Club and participates with a Newcastle Maitland Region Club under permit.

8.2. A Representative Placement Player remains primarily registered with their NSWRL Pathways Club and is not considered a member of the Newcastle Maitland Region Club with which they are placed for the purposes of the Player Transfer and Club Affiliation provisions of these By-Laws.

8.3. A Representative Placement Player who originates from a Newcastle Maitland Region Club participating in the Premiership competition, or that Club's local junior pathway, will be placed back with that Club.

8.4. A Representative Placement Player who originates from a junior Club that does not have a team participating in a Premiership competition, or who is recruited by an NSWRL Pathways Club from outside the Newcastle Maitland Region, will be placed by NSWRL with a Premiership Club, having regard to the following factors:

8.4.1. The Club's ladder position in the previous season.

8.4.2. The Club's current Representative Player quota.

8.4.3. The number of Players currently registered with the Club.

9. Player Transfers

9.1. The following Transfer Policy applies to Newcastle Maitland Region Women's Rugby League Competitions in accordance with the NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual.

9.2. The New Club is responsible for advising the applicant of the requirements involved in changing Clubs.

9.3. A player who has participated in five (5) or more competition matches across the previous two (2) competition seasons must obtain Transfer Permission before training or playing with another Club. Permission must be obtained, in accordance with the rules below, from the Existing Club, the Existing Club's League, NSWRL and, where applicable, the New Club's League.

9.3.1. A Player must not commence training with the New Club until Transfer Permission has been fully approved and the Player has completed the New Club's registration requirements. A breach of this provision may result in suspension or other sanctions being imposed on the Player, relevant Team Staff or the Club

9.4. NSWRL may refuse to grant Transfer Permission for a Player in any of the following circumstances:

Transfer Limits

9.4.1. The enforcement of the Transfer Limit restrictions is at the discretion of the Existing Club.

9.4.2. If two (2) or more Transfer Permissions have already been granted in respect of Players who played in the same team for the same Club during the previous season of Community Rugby League, to move to the same New Club for the next season.

9.4.3. If four (4) or more Transfer Permissions have already been granted in respect of Players who played for any Club within the Newcastle Maitland Region competitions during the previous season of Community Rugby League, to transfer to the same age group at the same New Club for the next season.

9.4.4. If four (4) or more Transfer Permissions have already been granted in respect of Players, who played for any Club outside of the Newcastle Maitland Region in the last Season of Community Rugby League, to move to the same New Club for the next Season.

9.4.5. In summary, and subject to the other provisions of this Transfer Policy, a Club may recruit a maximum of eight (8) Players through Transfer Permission, comprising:

9.4.5.1. A maximum of four (4) Internal Transfers from Clubs within the Newcastle Maitland Region, with a maximum of two (2) players transferring from the same Club; and

9.4.5.2. A maximum of four (4) External Transfers from outside the Newcastle Maitland Region, with a maximum of two (2) Players transferring from the same Club.

Transfer Restrictions

9.4.6. If a Player was registered with a team that participated in the Women's Premiership competition, or either team that contested the Women's Community Cup Grand Final, during the previous competition season and seeks to transfer to a New Club whose team qualified for the Women's Premiership Grand Final in that same season.

Transfer of Representative Players

9.4.7. For the purposes of these By-Laws, a Representative Player is a Player who has, within the previous two (2) competition seasons:

9.4.7.1. Participated in an accumulated five (5) or more matches in a Junior Pathways Competition, including the Lisa Fiaola Cup, Tarsha Gale Cup or an equivalent junior representative rugby league competition; or

9.4.7.2. Participated in two (2) or more matches in the NRLW, NSW Women's Premiership, BMD Premiership or an equivalent senior representative rugby league competition.

9.4.8. Where a Player is classified as a Representative Player and the destination club has already reached its Representative Player quota, Transfer Permission will not be granted.

9.4.9. The Representative Player Quota for each team will be six (6) for the current season.

9.4.9.1. A Placement Player whose primary registration is held with a NSWRL Major Competitions club will not be counted towards the club's Representative Player quota.

9.4.10. Any Player who has participated in Representative Football outside of the Newcastle Maitland Region within the previous two (2) competition seasons must, upon returning to competitions conducted within the Newcastle Maitland Region, register with their last club of registration, provided that club continues to participate in the Women's Premiership competition.

Junior Players Transferring to Senior Clubs

9.4.11. Junior Players progressing to Senior Rugby League through their recognised community club pathway will be granted Transfer Permission, even where this results in the destination club exceeding its Representative Player quota.

9.4.11.1. Any movement outside of the recognised pathway will be assessed in accordance with all other Player Transfer provisions contained within these By-Laws.

9.4.12. For the purposes of these By-Laws, a Junior Player is defined as a Player who meets either of the following criteria:

9.4.12.1. A Player who has been registered for more than half of their total seasons of Junior International Rugby League (Under 13s and above) with the relevant Club's junior pathway.

9.4.12.2. A Player who has been registered for an equal number of seasons of Junior International Rugby League (Under 13s and above) with the relevant Club's junior pathway and one other club, and who is registering for their first season of Senior Rugby League with the relevant Club.

9.4.13. Where a Player has been registered for an equal number of seasons of Junior International Rugby League (Under 13s and above) with the junior pathways of two clubs within the same competition, and has not yet registered for their first season of Senior Rugby League, the Player may be recognised as a Junior Player with either Club.

9.4.14. Where a Player has been registered for the greatest number of seasons of Junior International Rugby League (Under 13s and above) with a club that does not field a Senior team in the relevant competition, the Player's recognised senior club pathway will be determined by the Competition Committee in collaboration with NSWRL.

Transfer Reviews

9.5. An application for a Transfer Review may be submitted to the NSWRL Area Manager where a transfer request breaches any of the Player Transfer provisions set out in these By-Laws.

9.6. NSWRL may grant Transfer Permission in circumstances that would otherwise breach these By-Laws where Exceptional Circumstances are established.

9.6.1. All applications for consideration under Exceptional Circumstances will be assessed in the best interests of the Game. This discretion is intended to provide flexibility in managing player movement in lower divisions without undermining the application of the Transfer Restrictions or the provisions relating to the Transfer of Representative Players.

9.7. Where an application for Exceptional Circumstances involves the mental health of a Player, the application must include a mental health plan prepared by a qualified mental health professional, such as a psychologist, psychiatrist or mental health nurse. A medical certificate from the treating specialist confirming the Player is fit to return to play must also be provided.

9.8. Where an application for Exceptional Circumstances involves the relocation of a Player, Transfer Permission will only be considered where the Player meets the definition of Unreasonable Distance under the NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual.

9.8.1. For the purposes of this provision, travel must exceed forty-five (45) minutes from the Player's residence to the ground for home games and training.

9.9. A Player who transfers due to their team folding may return to their previous Club, exempt from the Player Transfer rules in these By-Laws, in the first season that Club fields a team in the relevant competition again.

Transfer Appeals

9.10. Requests for Leave to Appeal will be assessed by the Women's Competition Committee.

9.11. An appeal fee of $500 may be charged for a Request for Leave to Appeal.

9.12. For a Request for Leave to Appeal to be granted, the Request must demonstrate one of the following:

9.12.1. There was an error in application of the transfer rules.

9.12.2. There is now additional supporting evidence available that was not present at the time of the Transfer Review.

9.13. A Request for Leave to Appeal submission may take up to fourteen (14) days to be processed.

9.14. All decisions of the Women's Competition Committee in relation to Transfer Appeals are final and binding.

10. Accreditation Requirements

10.1. Coaches must hold the appropriate accreditation in accordance with NRL Community Coach Framework.

10.2. Sports Trainers must hold the appropriate accreditation for their role in accordance with the NRL On Field Policy.

10.3. All Team Staff and volunteers must complete the Patrons of the Game child safety course and hold a current Working With Children Check where applicable.

10.4. All teams must comply with the NRL On Field Policy and meet the minimum personnel and accreditation requirements before a match can commence.

10.5. All Sports Trainers must comply with the NRL On Field Policy and applicable concussion management policies and procedures.

10.6. All Team Staff must comply with the directions given by the Ground Manager and/or Match Officials.

10.7. All team staff must comply with the NRL National Code of Conduct.

10.8. Only registered and appropriately accredited Team Staff are permitted to enter or remain within the playing area.

10.9. Any team found to have participated in a match with an unaccredited or inappropriately accredited Team Staff member may be subject to fines, suspension and/or loss of competition points.

10.10. Clubs will be reminded periodically throughout the season of any Team Staff who do not meet the accreditation requirements. Clubs must ensure all Team Staff meet the applicable requirements by 30th June. After this date, Squad Management will be locked in MySideline, and any unaccredited Team Staff will be removed from their team squads. Removal from a team squad does not remove the requirement to comply with all accreditation and personnel requirements before participating in any match.

11. On Field Playing Apparel (Uniforms)

11.1. All clubs and teams must comply with the NSWRL Licensing Program, as outlined in the NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual.

Registered Playing Uniforms

11.2. Each Club must register its official playing colours and playing uniform with NSWRL for approval.

11.3. All players must participate in competition matches wearing the Club's approved and registered playing uniform, consisting of matching jerseys, shorts and socks in the Club's registered colours.

11.4. Where team colours clash, the away team is responsible for arranging an alternative set of jerseys that clearly distinguishes the teams.

Alternate and Special Occasion Uniforms

11.5. Any variation to a Club's registered playing uniform, including uniforms proposed for Indigenous Round, Women in League Round, Mental Health Round, Charity Rounds, heritage rounds, fundraising initiatives or other special occasions, must be submitted to NSWRL for approval prior to use.

Uniform Compliance

11.6. All players within the same team must wear the same approved playing uniform.

11.7. All jerseys must be clearly and uniquely numbered from one (1) to twenty-five (25), with no duplicate numbers within the same team. Any application to use jersey numbers outside this range must be submitted to the NSWRL for approval prior to use.

11.8. Players who do not comply with approved uniform requirements may be deemed ineligible to participate until the non-compliance is rectified.

12. Team Nominations

12.1. New clubs entering the Newcastle Maitland Region Women's Tackle competitions must operate as a single club entity, governed by one Board or Committee and operating under one constitution.

12.2. Each club may nominate a maximum of two (2) teams per season.

12.2.1. Applications from clubs to nominate more than one team will only be accepted where the club can demonstrate that the additional team is supported by the retention of existing participants, including through junior pathways, and/or the recruitment of new participants to rugby league.

12.2.2. The formation of an additional team must not unreasonably disadvantage an existing participating club through the recruitment or transfer of players.

12.2.2.1. In assessing an application, consideration will be given to the circumstances of the player movements and any impact on the affected club's ability to field a team.

12.2.2.2. NSWRL reserves the right to decline an application where it determines that the formation of the additional team would be detrimental to an existing participating club.

12.2.3. Where a club nominates two (2) teams, it must submit a squad list of fifteen (15) players for its highest-graded team by the Monday prior to Round 1.

12.2.3.1. Players on the nominated list must not play in the lower-graded team without prior NSWRL approval.

12.2.3.2. Players contracted to the NSW Women's Premiership who are on placement with the club must be excluded from the nominated list but remain ineligible to participate in the lower-graded team.

12.2.3.3. The Club must nominate its fifteen (15) strongest remaining players, with NSWRL to review the list to ensure the strongest available players are selected.

12.3. Clubs must submit team nominations to NSWRL by the specified date and time, using the nomination form provided by NSWRL.

12.4. The Women's Competition Committee, in collaboration with NSWRL, may approve additional team nominations up to the completion of Round 3, subject to competition requirements and operational considerations. Applications to nominate a team after Round 3 may be considered in exceptional circumstances, but approval is not guaranteed.

12.5. The Women's Competition Committee, in collaboration with NSWRL, reserves the right to impose conditions of entry on clubs nominating for a competition. Any such conditions will be communicated as part of the team nomination process.

12.6. The Women's Competition Committee, in collaboration with NSWRL, reserves the right to refuse any club's application to enter a competition.

13. Club Affiliations

13.1. Two (2) clubs participating in different competitions within the Newcastle Maitland Region Women's competitions may apply to enter into a Club Affiliation Agreement. Clubs participating in the same competition are not eligible to affiliate.

13.2. A Club Affiliation Agreement must be formally approved in writing by the Executive Committees of both clubs.

13.3. All Club Affiliation Agreements must be submitted in writing to NSWRL for approval prior to the commencement of each competition season.

13.4. Agreements apply for the relevant season only and must be resubmitted for approval each subsequent season.

13.5. NSWRL will notify all Clubs participating in the relevant competitions of approved Club Affiliation Agreements.

Application and Approval

13.6. A club may enter into a maximum of one (1) Club Affiliation Agreement per competition season.

13.7. Where a Club Affiliation Agreement is approved, the higher-graded club must submit a squad list of nineteen (19) players by the Monday prior to Round 1.

13.7.1. Players on the nominated list must not participate for the lower-graded affiliated club without prior NSWRL approval.

13.7.2. Players contracted to the NSW Women's Premiership who are on placement with the higher-graded club must be excluded from the nominated list but remain ineligible to participate for the lower-graded affiliated club.

13.7.3. The higher-graded club must nominate its nineteen (19) strongest remaining players, with NSWRL to review the list to ensure the strongest available players are selected.

13.8. A club that nominates two (2) teams in the Newcastle Maitland Region Women's competitions is ineligible to enter into a Club Affiliation Agreement.

13.9. The Women's Competition Committee will make the final decision on all Club Affiliation Agreements, having regard to the best interests of the competition.

13.10. Decisions made by the Women's Competition Committee in relation to Club Affiliation Agreements are final and not subject to appeal.

Player Participation Under Affiliation

13.11. Where a Club Affiliation Agreement has been approved, players may participate across both affiliated clubs under permit for the duration of the approved season.

13.12. All permits must be processed in accordance with NSWRL registration, clearance and permit requirements.

13.13. Players participating under a Club Affiliation Agreement must remain available for selection by their primary club. Subject to the primary club's permission, players may participate with the affiliated club when made available for a fixture.

13.13.1. Junior Players participating in Senior competitions must also comply with the applicable Playing Higher Age requirements of the Hunter JRL By-Laws.

13.14. Players must remain registered to their primary club of registration at all times.

13.15. Club Affiliation Agreements do not override, amend or exempt compliance with any provisions relating to playing higher grade limitations, player transfers (including future transfers), representative requirements, or the grading and regrading of teams, as set out in these By-Laws or the NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual.

Match Participation Limits

13.16. A maximum of three (3) players participating under a Club Affiliation Agreement may participate for the affiliated club in any one match, unless otherwise approved by the Women's Competition Committee.

Finals Series Eligibility – Affiliated Players

13.17. An affiliated player may participate in the Finals Series for only one (1) club per competition season.

13.18. Where both affiliated clubs qualify for the Finals Series, an affiliated player must only participate in the Finals Series for their primary club of registration and is ineligible to participate in the Finals Series for the other affiliated club.

13.19. In exceptional circumstances, a Club may apply to NSWRL for an exemption from the finals eligibility requirements for affiliated Players. Approval is at NSWRL's discretion and must be granted before the Player participates.

13.20. Clubs are responsible for ensuring compliance with these Finals Series eligibility requirements. Any breach may result in the offending team being deemed to have fielded an unqualified player, with penalties applied in accordance with these By-Laws and the NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual.

14. Trial/Event Sanctioning

14.1. All trial matches must be approved by NSWRL through submission of the NSWRL Event Sanctioning Form.

14.2. The host club is responsible for submitting the trial sanctioning application.

14.3. Trial sanctioning requests must be submitted at least fourteen (14) days before the scheduled trial date to allow sufficient time for processing and referee scheduling.

14.4. Clubs are encouraged to submit trial nominations as early as possible during the planning process.

14.5. A trial match will not be approved unless the participating clubs have obtained sufficient player registrations to meet the minimum number of players required to commence a match under the applicable Laws of the Game.

14.6. Approval of trial matches is subject to referee and venue availability.

14.7. For all trial matches, clubs must submit team lists and match results to NSWRL following the match.

14.8. Trial match results may be considered by the Women's Competition Committee as part of the grading process for the regular competition season.

14.9. NSWRL may arrange pre-season events from time to time, to which clubs may be invited to participate.

15. Grading / Re-Grading

15.1. The Women's Competition Committee will determine the grading of all teams.

15.2. In determining team grading, consideration will be given to previous season results and player movements.

15.3. Clubs may nominate a preferred division for their teams, but placement in that division is not guaranteed. Clubs requesting placement in a lower division than the previous season may be required to provide supporting evidence.

15.4. Clubs may submit requests for re-grading before the Monday of the week of Round Five.

15.5. The Women's Competition Committee, in collaboration with the NSWRL, may move teams from their current division at any time up to the commencement of Round 6.

15.6. Once the re-grading period has concluded, no further club requests for re-grading will be accepted, and no further re-grading will occur.

15.7. Where a team is promoted to a higher division, it will be placed in fourth (4th) position on the competition ladder, with the same competition points and points for and against as the team currently occupying fourth (4th) position in that division.

15.8. Where a team is relegated to a lower division, its competition points and points for and against will carry across to the lower division.

16. Playing Higher Grade Competitions

16.1. A Player who is not nominated for the highest graded team within their Club (see Team Nominations) may participate in a higher division for a maximum of seven (7) matches during the competition season.

16.1.1. Upon participating in an eighth (8th) match in the higher division, the Player will be permanently regraded to that division and will not be eligible to return to the lower division without prior written approval from NSWRL.

16.1.2. Any request for a Player to be regraded back to their original division must be submitted to NSWRL by 5:00 pm on the Wednesday preceding the Player's eighth (8th) match in the higher division.

16.2. Players participating across affiliated clubs must comply with the requirements set out in the Club Affiliations section.

16.3. Players participating in Representative fixtures must comply with the requirements set out in the Representative Requirements section.

16.4. Any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in breach of this Section will be deemed to have fielded an unqualified Player and may be subject to fines and/or forfeiture of the match in accordance with the NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual.

17. Draws and Times

17.1. NSWRL will distribute an annual season calendar outlining the dates of regular season and finals series rounds to all participating Clubs prior to the commencement of the season.

17.2. Draws will be generated by NSWRL.

17.3. NSWRL will allocate matches to participating Clubs, who will be responsible for nominating the times and venues for their allocated matches. NSWRL will set deadlines for the submission of match times and venues to ensure the draw can be published in advance.

17.4. Once fixture dates and times have been confirmed, any request to change a fixture must be submitted to NSWRL at least twenty-eight (28) days prior to the scheduled fixture date.

18. Match Deferments

18.1. Where a team has fourteen (14) or fewer players available for selection, including any players available to participate from an approved Affiliate, due to representative commitments, the Club may submit a written application to NSWRL for a deferment of the scheduled match.

18.2. For the purposes of this policy, a Representative match is any rugby league fixture under the governance of NSWRL.

18.3. A deferment will only be granted after NSWRL has reviewed the number of players available for selection and confirmed that the match cannot reasonably proceed due to player unavailability arising from representative commitments.

18.4. Any request for a deferment must be submitted to NSWRL no later than 5:00 pm on the Wednesday preceding the scheduled fixture.

18.5. Where a deferment is approved, NSWRL will advise both Clubs. The Clubs must agree on a rescheduled match date within seven (7) days of the original fixture date and, where practicable, the match must be played within twenty-eight (28) days of the original fixture date.

18.6. If the Clubs cannot agree on a suitable time, date and venue for the deferred match, NSWRL will determine these arrangements. NSWRL's determination will be final and binding on both Clubs.

18.7. In exceptional circumstances, and upon written application from both Clubs involved in a deferred match, the Women's Competition Committee reserves the right to award one (1) competition point to each team.

19. Forfeits

19.1. A Club intending to forfeit a match must notify both the opposing Club and NSWRL in writing as soon as possible through its Club Secretary.

19.2. Teams that initially notify their intention to forfeit a match at or before 8:00 pm on the Thursday preceding the scheduled weekend round of fixtures will be required to pay a forfeit fee of $600.00 for an away fixture or $200.00 for a home fixture.

19.3. Teams that initially notify their intention to forfeit a match after 8:00 pm on the Thursday preceding the scheduled weekend round of fixtures will be required to pay a forfeit fee of $1,000.00 for an away fixture or $400.00 for a home fixture.

19.4. The forfeit fee may be used to offset expenses claimed by the Club receiving the forfeit. NSWRL will determine the distribution of collected fees to the Club affected by the forfeit.

19.5. All forfeit fees must be paid to NSWRL within seven (7) days of the forfeit. Failure to pay within this timeframe will result in the team being required to forfeit its next scheduled match.

19.6. The result of a forfeited match will be recorded as 60–0 in favour of the team receiving the forfeit.

19.7. A forfeit will remain in effect if the scheduled match or round is subsequently abandoned or washed out.

19.8. Any team that forfeits a match during the final three (3) matches of the regular season and is a contender for the finals series must show cause to the Women's Competition Committee as to why the team should not be disqualified from the competition. The Club must provide supporting evidence, and the response will only be accepted where all of the following requirements are met:

19.8.1. The cause directly prevented the team from meeting the minimum player requirements for its age group, despite utilising its original players and all other Club players eligible and available to play up.

19.8.2. The cause was unforeseen and unavoidable.

19.9. For medical reasons, official medical records for all affected players must be provided by a doctor, specialist, hospital or medical clinic. Records must identify each player by first and last name and date of birth or address matching their NRL profile, and state the consultation date, specific injury and dates the player was unable to play.

19.10. For conflicting player commitments, the Club must demonstrate reasonable attempts to reschedule or relocate the match through contact with NSWRL, or provide official records from the organising entity. Records must identify the player by first and last name and date of birth or address matching their NRL profile, specify the conflicting commitment and its notification date, and establish why rescheduling or relocation was not possible.

19.11. Where circumstances physically prevented the team from arriving at the match, such as a major traffic incident or extreme local weather event, the Club must provide reasonable supporting evidence.

19.12. Any team that forfeits three (3) matches during the regular season will be disqualified from the competition.

19.13. For finals eligibility purposes, a match will count towards participation requirements for all players selected in the team list of the team receiving the forfeit in MySideline.

19.13.1. The team list must be submitted through MySideline Manager before the match result is finalised at 9:00 am on the Monday following the scheduled fixture.

19.14. Refer to the NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual for requirements relating to forfeits and minimum player numbers.

20. Fines

20.1. NSWRL is the only entity authorised to issue fines for breaches of the Rules and By-Laws by Clubs or teams participating in Newcastle Maitland Women's Rugby League competitions.

20.2. Fines must be paid within seven (7) days of the Club receiving the fine invoice. Failure to pay within this timeframe will result in the offending team being required to forfeit its next scheduled competition match.

20.3. Fines will be issued in accordance with the NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual and the appendices of these By-Laws.

21. Competition Protests

21.1. A Club may lodge a protest where it believes the Newcastle Maitland Women's Rugby League Competition Rules or By-Laws have not been adhered to, unless protests are expressly prohibited under the relevant provisions.

21.2. Only Clubs may lodge a protest under these By-Laws. Individual players, officials or other persons are not permitted to lodge a protest.

21.3. A Club lodging a protest must pay a fee of $500.00 to NSWRL. If the protest is upheld, the fee will be refunded to the Club lodging the protest.

21.4. All protests must be submitted in writing to NSWRL via email no later than 4:00 pm on the Tuesday following the match to which the protest relates.

21.5. For all finals series matches, a protest will only be accepted if the words "Intention to Protest" are recorded on the Official Match Sheet within fifteen (15) minutes of the completion of the match. The name of the protesting Club and the Team Official lodging the protest must be included. The Club must subsequently submit the details and grounds of the protest in writing to NSWRL in accordance with these By-Laws.

21.6. Decisions made by the Women's Competition Committee in relation to competition protests are final and binding and cannot be further appealed.

22. Code of Conduct and Judiciary Procedures

22.1. Clubs are responsible for the conduct of their players, coaches, officials and Club supporters.

22.2. All Judiciary, Code of Conduct and appeal procedures will be conducted in accordance with the NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual and NRL Code of Conduct.

22.3. All Code of Conduct and judiciary incidents arising within Newcastle Maitland Women's Rugby League competitions will be reviewed by the NSWRL Incident Review Committee in accordance with NSWRL Policy.

22.4. The NSWRL Tough Love in League Policy will apply across all competitions.

22.5. Breaches of the NRL Code of Conduct or NSWRL Tough Love in League Policy may result in penalties, including but not limited to:

22.5.1. Termination or abandonment of a match.

22.5.2. The loss of competition points.

22.5.3. Monetary fines.

22.5.4. Temporary or permanent suspension of a participant.

22.5.5. Temporary or permanent suspension of a team or Club.

22.6. The Judiciary and Code of Conduct Panel may impose further penalties in accordance with the applicable NSWRL policies and procedures.

22.7. All Judiciary or Code of Conduct Hearings will be conducted online using a platform determined by NSWRL, including Microsoft Teams, Zoom or other suitable technology.

GAME DAY RULES

23. Ground Managers, Match Operations Officials and Interchange Officials

Premiership Competition

23.1. Match Operations Officials (MOO) and Interchange Officials for all Premiership matches, including the Finals Series, shall be appointed by the Newcastle RL.

23.2. The Home team will be responsible for providing adequate security/crowd control.

23.3. Under no circumstances are match officials to be approached, questioned or harassed in any way by a club official, coach, trainer, player or spectator either during or after a match.

23.4. Match Operations Officials are responsible for managing the match day operations at each venue and fixture. Further and without limitation, the Match Operations Official is ultimately responsible for:

23.4.1. Ensuring compliance in all respects with the requirements of these rules; and

23.4.2. The formal recording of all compliance reporting, as required by these rules and as otherwise directed; and

23.4.3. Post-game day reporting on all matters required by these rules and as otherwise directed.

23.5. Under no circumstances may a match commence where the Match Operations Official has directed that it must not proceed. Any conduct contrary to this requirement will be dealt with in accordance with these By-Laws and other applicable NSWRL rules and policies.

23.6. If a Match Operations Official or Interchange Official has not arrived at the venue 90 minutes prior to kick-off, please contact the Newcastle RL General Manager Adam Devcich on 0410 413 332.

Community Competitions

23.7. Home clubs are responsible for appointing Ground Managers to venues during matches.

23.8. Ground Managers are responsible for:

23.8.1. Ensuring sign on processes are adhered to,

23.8.2. Liaising with match officials when required,

23.8.3. Enforcing correct trainer/manager/coach and spectator behaviour,

23.8.4. Ensuring results sheets are filled in correctly and in a timely manner after each match,

23.8.5. Ensuring appropriate judiciary report forms/sheets are available to the match officials and provided to all parties concerned in the event of an incident.

23.8.6. General control of matches in accordance with NSWRL Policies and Procedures.

23.9. Ground Managers are required to be visible at all times during matches either at the officials table or on the sideline and wearing the NSWRL provided purple Ground Manager vest.

23.10. They will be heavily involved in the enforcement of the NRL Code of Conduct for off-field concerns, in particular being aware of these Newcastle Maitland Women's Rugby League Competition By-Laws and reporting of incidents.

24. Recording and Live Streaming of Matches

24.1. All Women's Premiership matches will be live streamed, with recordings made available to relevant clubs following the conclusion of the match. Selected Community Matches may also be live streamed, with access to recordings determined by NSWRL.

24.2. All Women's Premiership Competition matches will be subject to the Match Officials' On Report system. Match review and judiciary proceedings will be conducted in accordance with NSWRL Policies and Procedures.

25. Sign on Sheets / Results Sheets

25.1. All clubs must use Match Sheets as generated from MySideline.

25.2. A player may be signed on at any time during a match but must complete the sign-on process before taking the field of play.

25.3. If a player does not sign on, they will not be deemed to have played in that match for finals eligibility purposes.

25.4. All sin bins and send offs must be recorded on the sign on sheet.

25.5. Players who have completed the sign-on process may resume warm-ups or return to the change rooms.

Women's Premiership

25.6. Initial submission of Women's Premiership team lists must be completed in MySideline no later than 5:00pm on the Wednesday preceding the scheduled match to accommodate the inclusion of returning pathways players.

25.7. The MOO will be responsible for ensuring digital sign on procedures are completed in a timely manner.

25.7.1. For Premiership matches, all team sheets must be presented to the MOO at least one (1) hour prior to kick off.

25.8. The MOO will be responsible for ensuring result sheets are collected and entered onto MySideline.

Community Competitions

25.9. Team lists for Community competitions can be submitted on the day of the scheduled fixture.

25.10. The Ground Manager (Community) will be responsible for ensuring digital sign on procedures are completed by the team managers in a timely manner.

25.11. Both teams must follow the same sign-on process, regardless of whether they are the home or away team.

25.12. The home team manager is responsible for ensuring result sheets are collected and entered onto MySideline.

25.13. If match scores have not been updated in MySideline by 9:00 am on the Monday following the scheduled match, the offending Club may be subject to fines in accordance with these By-Laws.

26. First Aid / Sports Trainers

26.1. All trainers must comply with the NRL On Field Policy.

26.2. All trainers who enter the field of play must possess proof of accreditation in the form of NRL Trainers accreditation and have it available for inspection when requested.

26.2.1. At a minimum, a League Safe accreditation is required to enter the field of play.

26.3. Each team must meet the minimum Sports Trainer requirements set out in the NRL On Field Policy, including having at least one (1) Level 1 Sports Trainer per team.

26.4. If a team does not meet the minimum requirements set out in the NRL On Field Policy, the match must not commence.

26.5. Coaches and players cannot act as a trainer in any match.

26.6. First Responders (Level 1 or Level 2) may access the field to attend to injured players as required but must not deliver messages or instructions that distract from their primary player-safety responsibilities.

26.7. Trainers responsible for conducting interchanges may enter the field to assist with an interchange only when the player entering the field is positioned with the Interchange Official and ready to take the field.

26.8. LeagueSafe trainers may access the field at goal line drop out stoppages and after a try is scored.

26.9. Trainers must not enter the field of play in the line of sight of a player or interfere with an opposition player.

26.10. Trainers must monitor players from the sideline and must not remain on the field for this purpose.

26.11. Trainers must comply with any direction or instruction from the match officials or ground manager.

26.12. Trainers must not make argumentative, disparaging, derogatory or offensive comments to any Match Official, Ground Manager or Match Operations Official.

27. Head Injury and Concussion Management

27.1. All head injury and concussion management procedures must comply with the NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual, the NRL Concussion Policy and Management Guidelines, and the NRL On Field Policy.

27.2. The online Head Injury and Referral Report Form available through the NRL MySideline platform must be completed for all players suspected of having sustained a head injury or concussion, in accordance with the NRL Concussion Policy.

27.3. Any player suspected of having suffered a concussion must complete the required Medical Clearance Form before returning to full-contact training or match play.

27.4. Additional information and resources can be found on the Play Rugby League Concussion Hub.

28. Time Keeping

28.1. The home team, in conjunction with the away team if they so wish, will be responsible for the keeping of match time.

28.1.1. If the away team does not nominate anyone for this purpose, they must accept the timekeeping of the home team.

28.2. All decisions of the official timekeeper shall be final and not open to review or appeal unless the Women's Competition Committee determines so.

28.3. In all cases, the referee will be the sole judge of when play shall cease after the half-time or full-time siren has sounded. The referee may extend the match to award a penalty or to complete the play currently underway at their discretion.

29. Time Off and Scheduled Time Delays

Time Off

29.1. Time off is permitted only during the final ten (10) minutes of the second half, at the discretion of the referee.

Start Delays

29.2. The match clock will commence at the scheduled match start time, regardless of whether both teams have taken the field, unless a delay has been confirmed beforehand by the Match Operations Official (MOO) or Ground Manager.

29.3. A team will be allowed a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled match start time to take the field. If the team has not taken the field within this period, the match will be deemed a forfeit.

29.4. Scheduled match times will remain unchanged unless otherwise approved by the MOO or Ground Manager. The half-time break may be shortened to maximise match play.

30. Sideline Area / Bench Locations

30.1. Both the home and away team benches must be located on the same side of the field.

30.2. Where team benches are located within the playing area, e.g. inside the fence, the following provisions must be adhered to:

30.2.1. Under no circumstances is barracking, abuse or criticism of match officials permitted from the bench. This includes providing unsolicited advice or commenting on their performance or the performance of their duties.

30.2.2. Only personnel directly involved in the conduct of the match may be present on the bench, including coaches, reserve players, trainers and team managers.

30.2.3. Under no circumstances is a suspended player permitted inside the playing area, including on the bench.

30.2.4. The MOO or Ground Manager may direct any person on the bench to leave the playing area at any time.

30.2.5. Only the MOO or Ground Manager may approach the match referees during a match.

30.2.6. Players must remain at their team's allocated bench, except when undertaking warm-ups.

30.2.7. Team staff must remain within the immediate bench area and must not approach the field of play, except when performing duties permitted under the NRL On Field Policy.

30.2.8. No members of the general public are permitted within the playing area.

31. Interchange

Policy

31.1. Subject to the Laws of the Game, teams participating in Newcastle Maitland Women's Rugby League competition matches or Finals Series matches are permitted the following interchanges:

31.1.1. Premiership: A maximum of fourteen (14) interchanges, with a maximum of six (6) reserve players.

31.1.2. Community Cup and Plate: Unlimited interchanges, with a maximum of six (6) reserve players.

31.2. Teams must not have more than the maximum permitted number of players dressed and available to participate in a match (i.e. where the maximum number of players is 19, a team cannot dress 20 players for a match).

Process (All Competitions)

31.3. Interchanges may only occur during general play, including:

31.3.1. when the ball is in motion,

31.3.2. after any scoring has been completed or

31.3.3. if play has been temporarily suspended by the referee due to an injury or caution.

31.4. A maximum of 2 interchanges may take place at any one time.

31.5. Interchanges must not be made after the referee has ordered a scrum, until the scrum has been completed, unless it is to replace a bleeding player and the referee has:

31.5.1. signalled a stoppage in play; and

31.5.2. the trainer has advised the referee that an interchange is to take place.

31.6. A player being replaced must have exited the field of play by crossing the touchline or dead ball line prior to their replacement taking the field of play.

31.7. Any player removed from the field for a suspected concussion cannot return to the field and must follow the NRL Return-To-Sport Protocols before returning to contact training and match play.

Variations For Premiership

31.8. Interchange Officials shall be operational in all Premiership matches.

31.9. Interchange Officials will use interchange cards under the Interchange provisions contained herein.

31.10. NSWRL will provide each Club with a set of interchange cards at the commencement of each season. These cards will comprise standard interchange cards numbered one through fourteen, and an additional Free Interchange card.

31.11. NSWRL may impose a fine of up to $250.00 per match on any Club that fails to present its interchange cards or make them available to Match Officials for any Premiership match.

31.12. In Premiership competition matches, the player entering the field must hand the interchange card to the Interchange Official. The player may only enter the field once the official has received the card.

31.13. If the player throws the card on the ground, they will be asked to come back and hand it to the official.

31.14. If the player does not comply, the Interchange Official will notify the Touch Judge, who will inform the Referee. The player will then be sent to the Sin Bin for an illegal interchange, and may also be charged with re-entering the field of play without the permission of the Referee or a Touch Judge.

31.15. If a team elects to interchange a bleeding player, who leaves the field, this interchange will be included for the purposes of calculating the number of interchanges.

31.16. Any player removed from the field for a suspected concussion will be allowed to be interchanged without being counted as part of the number of allowable interchanges (free). This player must follow the NRL Return-To-Sport Protocols before returning to contact training and match play.

31.17. If a player is fouled by an opponent, who is then dismissed from the field or sin-binned, and the fouled player is caused to leave the field as a direct result of that incident, this interchange will not be included for the purposes of calculating the number of interchanges (free), provided that it is made without delay and by the time the referee has acted on the incident.

31.17.1. The phrase "caused to leave the field as a direct result of that incident" means without having taken any further part in the game after the incident before they leave the field. If play continues while the player is still out of play being treated, this does not affect eligibility for a free interchange.

31.17.2. In addition to this, the next available interchange after the foul play, will not be included for the purposes of calculating the number of interchanges (free). This allows two free interchanges in relation to the incident.

31.17.3. In situations where a player is being interchanged without counting towards the allowable interchange limit, the Interchange Official will display the Free Interchange card.

31.18. All other interchanges will be acknowledged using the appropriately numbered interchange card that relates to the number of interchanges used by that team within the match.

32. Dismissed Players

Temporarily Dismissed Players (Sin Binned)

32.1. Periods of temporary suspension (sin bin) will be ten (10) minutes across all competitions.

32.2. A player who is temporarily suspended (sin binned) must immediately leave the playing field and proceed to an area designated by the MOO or Ground Manager, where they must remain until the period of temporary suspension has expired.

32.3. The period of temporary suspension commences when the referee restarts play or indicates time on.

32.4. The suspension period is calculated in actual playing time. Time off and half-time do not count towards the period of temporary suspension.

32.5. If more than one player is temporarily suspended in relation to the same incident, their periods of temporary suspension commence at the same time and players will return to the field together.

32.6. When the temporary suspension expires, players must enter the field of play from an onside position.

Permanently Dismissed Players (Sent Off)

32.7. A player who is permanently dismissed (sent off) must immediately proceed to the team's dressing room or an area outside the playing area designated by the MOO or Ground Manager. The player must remain there until they have changed out of their playing uniform.

32.8. After changing out of their playing uniform, the player must not re-enter the playing area under any circumstances and will be deemed to be a spectator.

32.9. Permanently dismissed players will be subject to the disciplinary process outlined in the NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual.

33. Match Disruptions and Abandonments

Emergency Circumstances

33.1. Emergency circumstances may include any circumstances deemed to be an emergency by the MOO or Ground Manager, or as stipulated in the NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual.

33.2. Where an emergency arises, the participating Clubs, Match Officials and MOO/Ground Manager shall work collaboratively to determine whether the match can continue.

33.3. Where a match is delayed due to severe weather conditions, the MOO/Ground Manager, in conjunction with the Match Officials, will determine the length of the delay and whether the match can proceed, be postponed or be abandoned.

33.4. All decisions relating to emergency circumstances must be consistent with the NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures Manual.

Ground Changes

33.5. Any change to the originally scheduled match venue must be approved by NSWRL.

33.6. Where unforeseen ground unavailability requires changes to multiple fixtures, the changes must be finalised and communicated by 4:00pm on the Friday preceding the scheduled matches.

33.7. NSWRL may approve venue changes after this deadline in exceptional circumstances arising from unforeseen events.

Match Abandonments

33.8. Matches abandoned due to foul play will be dealt with in accordance with the relevant NSWRL Policy and will not be replayed.

33.9. For all other abandoned matches, including those abandoned due to wet weather or ground closure, the following provisions apply:

33.9.1. Where a match is abandoned before the equivalent of half a match has been completed, it will be replayed during the first available scheduled Washout Round, where available, unless NSWRL and the Women's Competition Committee determine that the match cannot be rescheduled.

33.9.2. Where a match is abandoned after the equivalent of half a match has been completed, the result will be recorded as the score at the time of abandonment.

33.10. Where a match cannot be rescheduled, its result will be determined in accordance with the Washout Policy.

33.11. The Hosting Club is responsible for notifying NSWRL by email of any match abandoned at its venue before 9:00am on the Monday following the scheduled match.

34. Washout Policy

34.1. Every reasonable effort will be made to minimise the impact of wet weather on competitions. This may include relocating matches to alternative or neutral venues to maximise the number of games played.

34.2. For Community Premiership fixtures, no changes to match venues or kick-off times will be made after 5:00pm on the Friday preceding the scheduled round, except where NSWRL approves a change due to unforeseen circumstances.

34.3. For Community Cup and Plate fixtures, no changes to match venues or kick-off times will be made after 5:00pm on the Thursday preceding the scheduled round, except where NSWRL approves a change due to unforeseen circumstances.

Rescheduling of Matches

34.4. Any matches unable to proceed as scheduled due to wet weather or ground closure will be rescheduled to the first available designated washout round where available.

34.5. When allocating matches to a scheduled washout round, priority will be given to the round with the highest number of postponed fixtures.

34.6. NSWRL reserves the right to schedule mid-week fixtures for rounds partially affected by weather. Clubs involved in the affected match must make reasonable efforts to mutually agree on a rescheduled date and notify NSWRL of the agreed date within fourteen (14) days of the original fixture date.

34.7. Where agreement cannot be reached within fourteen (14) days of the original fixture date, NSWRL will determine the rescheduled date at its discretion. Any fixture rescheduled by NSWRL under this clause is compulsory, and failure to fulfil the fixture will result in a forfeit.

34.8. Where a washed-out match cannot be rescheduled, NSWRL and the Women's Competition Committee will determine whether the match is to be abandoned. Where the match is abandoned, the result will be recorded in accordance with the following provisions:

34.8.1. Where a match is abandoned before half of the scheduled playing time has been completed, it will be recorded as a Wash Out Draw (0–0), with each team receiving one (1) competition point.

34.8.2. Where the match is abandoned after the equivalent of half a match has been completed, the result will be recorded as the score at the time of abandonment.

34.9. Where a washed-out match falls within fourteen (14) days of the commencement of the Finals Series and cannot be rescheduled before the Finals Series commences, NSWRL and the Women's Competition Committee may determine that the match be abandoned in accordance with these By-Laws.

34.10. In extreme circumstances, the Women's Competition Committee, in collaboration with NSWRL, retains the right to extend the season as required, in consultation with participating Clubs.

Abandoned Rounds and Washout Draws

34.11. In extreme circumstances, the Women's Competition Committee, in consultation with NSWRL, reserves the right to abandon individual matches or an entire round. Where an entire round is abandoned, no matches may take place under any circumstances.

34.12. Any match where a result has not been determined and the match cannot be rescheduled following a washout will be recorded as a Wash Out Draw (0–0), with each team receiving one (1) competition point.

34.13. All teams scheduled for a Bye during a washed-out round will receive one (1) competition point.

34.14. Any forfeits submitted in a round affected by washouts shall stand and will not be rescheduled, even if the round is subsequently replayed.

Regraded or Withdrawn Teams

34.15. Where a washed-out match involves a team that is subsequently regraded or withdrawn from the competition, the result shall be recorded as follows:

34.15.1. Where a team is regraded to a higher division, the match will be recorded as a 0–0 draw, with each team receiving one (1) competition point.

34.15.2. Where a team is regraded to a lower division or withdraws from the competition, the match will be recorded as a forfeit in line with the provisions outlined within these By-Laws.

Finals Eligibility and Suspensions

34.16. Any match recorded as a Wash Out Draw will count towards Finals Series qualification, provided the team has submitted a team list at the time the decision is made to record the match as a Wash Out Draw.

34.17. Any match deemed a Wash Out Draw shall count as a match served for any suspended participant.

FINALS SERIES

35. Finals Series Structure

35.1. The Competition Finals Series will comprise five (5) teams and be played over four (4) consecutive weekends in the following format:

5 Team, 4 Week Format

Week 1

Game 1 (Qualifying Final): 2nd v 3rd

Game 2 (Elimination Final): 4th v 5th

Week 2

Game 3 (Major Semi Final): 1st v Winner of Game 1

Game 4 (Minor Semi Final): Loser of Game 1 v Winner of Game 2

Week 3

Game 5 (Preliminary Final): Loser of Game 3 v Winner of Game 4

Week 4

Game 6 (Grand Final) – Winner of Game 3 v Winner of Game 5

35.2. Where two (2) or more teams are equal on competition points at the conclusion of the regular season, final standings will be determined by the following criteria, applied in order:

35.2.1. Highest points differential (points for minus points against).

35.2.2. If teams remain equal, the team with the highest points for.

35.2.3. If teams remain equal, the team with the lowest points against.

35.2.4. If teams remain equal, the result of the match or matches between the tied teams will be taken into account.

35.2.5. Where final standings cannot be determined following the application of the above criteria, the Women's Competition Committee will determine the final standings.

35.3. Any team that breaches these Competition By-Laws during a Finals Series match may have that match recorded as a forfeit. Teams will progress through the Finals Series as outlined above. NSWRL retains the right to disqualify a team from the Finals Series if warranted.

35.4. If a team withdraws from the Competition or is disqualified during the Finals Series, any subsequent match involving that team will be recorded as a forfeit. No adjustments will be made to the results of previous matches.

35.5. At all Finals Series matches, each participating Club must provide a Ground Manager to assist with crowd control on match day.

35.6. All Finals Series matches will be played in accordance with the NSWRL Community Rugby League Policies and Procedures and these Competition By-Laws.

36. Finals Eligibility

36.1. A player's eligibility to participate in any Finals Series match will be determined based on their participation record at the conclusion of the regular season.

36.2. In all competitions, a player must participate in a minimum of three (3) regular season fixtures to qualify for the Finals Series. This requirement applies to junior players playing up an age group and senior players from within the same Club playing up divisions.

36.3. Excluding affiliate players, a player will qualify for Finals in the team in which they have played the majority of their matches during the regular season.

36.3.1. Where a player has participated in more matches in the higher division, they are ineligible to play in a lower division. This includes Representative competitions, such as NSW Women's Premiership.

36.3.2. Where a player has participated in more matches in the lower division, they remain eligible to participate in a higher-grade competition within the same Club, provided they meet the minimum match requirement.

36.3.3. Where a player has played an equal number of matches across two divisions at the conclusion of the regular season, they will be eligible to participate in both the higher and lower divisions.

36.4. A junior player who has also qualified to participate in Senior Competition Finals must fulfil their commitment to their Junior team before participating in Senior Competition Finals.

36.5. A player who fails to meet the minimum match requirement due to serious injury may apply for consideration. Adequate medical evidence must be submitted to support the application.

36.5.1. An application will be denied where sufficient regular season fixtures remained following the player's injury for them to meet the minimum match requirement.

36.6. A player who was registered late and consequently had limited opportunities to participate in regular season fixtures may apply for consideration.

36.6.1. An application will be denied where sufficient regular season fixtures remained following the player's registration for them to meet the minimum match requirement.

36.7. For Finals Series qualification purposes, a match forfeited by the opposing team will count towards the minimum regular season match requirement for each player selected in MySideline for the team receiving the forfeit, provided the required team list was submitted within the applicable timeframe outlined in these By-Laws.

36.8. A team that fields an unregistered or unqualified player in any Finals Series match will forfeit the match and be disqualified from the Finals Series. Further disciplinary action may also apply.

36.9. Clubs are responsible for ensuring that all players participating in a Finals Series match have met the minimum qualification requirements.

37. Loss of Time and Time Off (Finals)

37.1. In all Finals Series matches, all time off shall be allowed in both halves.

37.2. In all Finals Series matches, where play cannot recommence within thirty (30) minutes of the initial stoppage due to injury or any other reason (excluding foul play), the following provisions will apply:

37.2.1. Where less than half of the scheduled playing time has been completed, the match will be terminated and replayed at a venue and time determined by the Women's Competition Committee in collaboration with NSWRL and the participating Clubs.

37.2.2. Where at least half of the scheduled playing time has been completed, the result at the time the match is ultimately terminated will stand.

37.3. Where play recommences within thirty (30) minutes of the initial stoppage, the match may resume and continue until at least half of the scheduled playing time has been completed.

38. Drawn Matches and Extra Time (Finals)

38.1. In all Finals Series matches, if scores are equal at the conclusion of normal time, golden point extra time will be played. Extra time will consist of two (2) periods, with a straight turnaround, as follows:

38.1.1. The first period of extra time will be five (5) minutes in length.

38.1.2. If scores remain equal at the conclusion of the first period, the teams shall immediately change ends and the second period will continue until a result is determined. The team that did not kick-off to commence the first period of extra time will kick-off to commence the second period.

38.2. If either team scores a try, penalty goal or field goal during extra time, the match will immediately conclude, and that team will be declared the winner. A conversion attempt following a try will not be permitted.

38.3. In Women's Premiership Finals Series matches, each team will receive two (2) additional interchanges during extra time, using interchange cards one (1) and two (2).

38.3.1. These additional interchanges are in addition to any remaining interchanges available to the team at the conclusion of normal time.

38.3.2. The normal interchange process and requirements outlined in these By-Laws will apply to all interchanges made during extra time.

SITUATIONS NOT COVERED

39. Determinations

39.1. The Women's Competition Committee's determination will be final in any situation not expressly provided for in these Competition By-Laws.

39.2. The Women's Competition Committee reserves the right to amend these Competition By-Laws at any time during the competition season, where deemed necessary. Any amendments will take effect immediately, with Clubs notified when amendments are made.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Breach of Conditions to Team Entry Fines

Offences accumulate per team throughout the season.

First Offence	$500
Second Offence	$1,000
Third Offence	Removal from the competition

Appendix 2 - Missing Match Data Entry Fines

The match data entry requirements and submission deadlines are outlined in these By-Laws.
Offences accumulate per team throughout the season.

First Offence	Warning
Second Offence	$100
Third Offence	$200
Subsequent Offences	The fine will double for each subsequent offence, based on the penalty for the preceding offence. NSWRL may also impose a loss of competition points on the offending team where warranted.