



Competition Rules

National Premier Leagues WA 2025

This document must be read in conjunction with the following documents.

FIFA Documents

- FIFA Laws of the Game
- FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players
- FIFA Disciplinary Code

FA Documents

- National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations
- National Disciplinary Regulations
- National Grievance Procedure By-Law
- National Judicial Bodies By-Law
- National Arbitration Tribunal Regulations
- National Club Identity Policy
- National Code of Conduct and Ethics
- National Member Protection Policy
- National Privacy Policy
- National Anti-Doping Policy
- NPL Playing Strip Guidelines
- NPL Branding Guidelines
- NPL Communications & Marketing Guidelines

Football West Documents

- Football West Club Licensing Manual
- Football West Match Scheduling Policy
- Football West Disciplinary & Grievance Regulations
- Football West Competition Management Regulations
- Football West Code of Conduct
- Spectator Code of Behaviour

All Matches will be played in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game in force at the time of publication of these rules and as laid down by the International Football Association Board, unless otherwise stated in these rules.

A Club which affiliates with FA and enters Teams into the National Premier Leagues WA Competition is deemed to accept these Competition Rules.

Definitions & Interpretation

The definitions set out in the Disciplinary and Grievance Regulations apply to this document except for those definitions set out below:

In these Rules, the following words have the meaning ascribed to them:

- a) **Application** means the application lodged by each Club seeking inclusion in the NPLWA Competition;
- b) **Business Day** means a day other than a Saturday, a Sunday or a public holiday in Western Australia;
- c) **Club** means a Club registered with FA in accordance with the National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations and accepted by Football West into the NPL-WA Competition;
- d) **Competition Season** means any series of competitive Matches in the NPL-WA Competition within one calendar year;
- e) **D&G Tribunal or Tribunal** means the means the tribunal established by Football West pursuant to the Disciplinary & Grievance Regulations;
- f) **FA** means Football Australia;
- g) **FIFA** means Fédération Internationale de Football Association;
- h) **Football West Constitution** means the means the constitution of Football West in force from time to time and published on the Football West website.
- i) **League Season** refers to the Home and Away league seasons of both the NPL Men's and NPL Women's Competitions
- j) **Match** means any game of football conducted by or under the control of Football West which is part of the NPLWA Competition;
- k) **NPL Seniors** means the First Teams, Men's Under 23s, Female Under 21s, and Men's Under 18s of any one Club.
- l) **NPLWA Competition** means the National Premier Leagues – WA Competition operated and administered by Football West and consisting of the NPLWA-M and NPLWA-W.
- m) **NPLWA-M** means the National Premier Leagues – WA Men's Competition operated and administered by Football West;
- n) **NPLWA-W** means the National Premier Leagues – WA Women's Competition operated and administered by Football West;
- o) **National Second Tier (NST) also referred to as the National Second Division (NSD)**, means the National Competition conducted by FA between National Premier League sides and Foundation Teams from across Australia;
- p) **NST Club** means any entity admitted by FA to field a team in the National Second Tier Competition.
- q) **NST Club Participation Agreement** means the agreement setting out the terms on which FA grants, and Clubs accept, the right to participate in the National Second Tier Competition.
- r) **NST Foundation Club** means one of the eight original Clubs admitted to the National Second Tier Competition by FA.
- s) **NPL Premiers** refers to the team with the most amount of competition points at the completion of the League season
- t) **NPL Champions** refers to winners of the NPL Top 4 Cup Competition
- u) **Regular Season** means the home and away league season and the Night Series Competition. It does not include any other pre-season, friendly, cup games or finals series.

- v) **Representative Match** means representative games for State Teams, including School Sport WA.
- w) **Team** means any one or more of the group of Players, which represents the Club (whether formally or informally) in the NPLWA Competition, as determined by Football West;
- x) **Top Four Cup** means the end of season finals Competition set out in Part 3 for the NPLWA-M and Part 5 for the NPLWA-W;
- y) **Promotion and Relegation Playoff** means the playoff series set out in Article 23.
- z) **Player Roster** means the list of Players registered to an NPLWA-M Team as eligible to play for that Team in compliance with the Player Points System and other requirements;
- aa) **Player Roster Composition** means the list of Players registered to an NPLWA-W Team as eligible to play for that Team and complying with the various requirements of that list.

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Part 1 – Common Rules

Article 1 - General

1. Football West may at any time alter, add to, clarify or delete any of these Rules at its discretion. Any changes to these Rules will be communicated to each Club.
2. The Rules contained within this document apply to and are valid for all Football West National Premier Leagues Competitions.
3. Where a Rule in this document appears to be in conflict with a Rule in an Annexure, the Rule in the Annexure will take precedence.
4. Where a Rule in this Part 1 appears to be in conflict with a Rule in any other Part of this document which deals with a specific Competition then the Part dealing with the specific Competition takes precedence.
5. In order to maintain competition integrity, any action, direction or decision that Football West may undertake under these Rules (including but not limited to any action, direction, determination or decision) may be done, given or made, as the case may be, in Football West's sole and absolute discretion unless explicitly stated to the contrary.
6. For the purposes of these Rules, the term “Senior Teams” refers to the NPLWA-M First Team, the Under 23s Team and the Under 18s Team and the NPLWA-W First Team and Under 21s Team.
7. Notwithstanding any other Rule in any Competition, Football West may investigate any alleged breach of these Rules, and in doing so may rely on any information or document that it deems relevant in its absolute discretion. Whether a matter is investigated or not is entirely at the discretion of Football West.
8. A participant who breaches any of these Rules or those Rules in the accompanying Annexures is liable to a Penalty. Football West reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion to:
 - a) issue a warning for any breach of a Rule prior to the imposition of any Penalties;
 - b) impose a Penalty or not; or
 - c) reduce or vary a Penaltyby written notification to the relevant participant under this paragraph. Any decision to impose a Penalty may not be appealed to the Tribunal on the basis that Football West has exercised this discretion.
9. Football West may vary, revoke or rescind any decision it makes under paragraph 8 at its discretion and for any reason, including if new evidence that was not available to Football West at the time that the decision was made arises and this may only occur within 5 Business Days of the decision being made under paragraph 8.
10. Where a Penalty is not specified in these Rules, Football West reserves the right to use its discretion to determine and impose a Penalty.

11. Where a Rule is capable of more than one interpretation, Football West reserves the right (in its sole discretion) to determine which interpretation applies and accordingly, whether to impose a Penalty or not. Any such determination is final.
12. Football West reserves the right (in its sole direction) to make a ruling on any circumstance or scenario that is not governed by these Rules. Any ruling made by Football West pursuant to this paragraph 12 is final.
13. A Club may apply for, and Football West will consider an application by a Club, for an exemption to these rules where it can demonstrate that exceptional circumstances exist. Football West will determine (in its sole discretion) whether or not the circumstances warrant any exemption applied for. Any such determination is final and not subject to any further review or challenge.
14. A Club's identity may not comprise of any part of a Player's attire, or a uniform worn by a Club Official which incorporates national flags, slogans or emblems which, in the opinion of Football West, breach the Inclusivity Principles (as published by Football Australia) or offend the spirit of the Inclusivity Principles or bring the FA or Football West into disrepute.
15. Football West may, from time to time, organise Matches outside the normal league and cup seasons between the winning Team of any division and another Team from Western Australia, another Member Federation or another National Association. Additionally, Football West may organise Regional Rounds or other special promotional rounds during the regular season. It is a condition of entry into the NPLWA that if such a Match is organised, the Team chosen must participate in that Match. Failure to do so may incur a Penalty as set out in Appendix A.
16. Should a vacant position for an additional Team arise in any Division of any Competition for any reason prior to the commencement of a Competition Season the vacancy may be filled through a process to be determined by Football West in consultation with the relevant Standing Committee.
17. The right to enter a Team in a certain Division belongs to the Club rather than the Players of any particular Team.
18. In the event any Competition Season, including the NPL seasons, must be cancelled for any reason at any point Football West has complete discretion to declare a Team the winner of that Competition or declare that there is no winner of the relevant Competition for that Season.
19. In the event any Competition Season, including the NPL seasons, must be modified at any point in time and for any reason, Football West may, and in its complete discretion declare that the Competitions are to be conducted under a modified set of Rules or fixtures published by Football West at that time.
20. Each Club acknowledges that it is not entitled to rely upon a Match Official's interpretation of these Rules, and that these Rules are distinct from and in addition to the FIFA Laws of the Game.
21. A Club is not able to compete in the NPLWA Competition if that Club has not been granted a licence in accordance with the National Club Licencing Manual. The NPL Eligibility Criteria, and the date by which each criterion must be met, are listed in the Football West Club Licencing Manual.

Article 2 - Competition Points

1. Three (3) points will be awarded to the Team who wins a Match, one (1) point each for Teams who end a Match in a draw and no points are awarded to a Team for a defeat.
2. If two or more Teams are equal on points on completion of the Competition Season, the following criteria will be applied to determine the higher-ranking Team in the following order:
 - a) superior goal difference;
 - b) higher number of goals scored;
 - c) number of points gained in Matches between the Teams concerned;
 - d) superior goal difference in Matches between the Teams concerned;
 - e) greater number of goals scored away from home in Matches between the Teams concerned;
 - f) lower number of Red Cards;
 - g) lower number of Yellow Cards; or
 - h) drawing of lots in accordance with a procedure to be determined by Football West in its absolute discretion.

Article 3 - Matches

1. All NPLWA Matches must be played on grass or an artificial surface that has been approved in writing by Football West.
2. Subject to paragraph 4, the venues, dates and times of Matches will be fixed and published by Football West as soon as practicable prior to the commencement of each Competition Season, and except as otherwise provided in these Rules, Matches will be played at those venues and on those dates as published on Football West's website.
3. Each Club is required to participate in its allocated Matches unless otherwise specified in these Rules. Penalty for a breach of this Article is as set out in Appendix A.
4. Football West reserves the right to change the date, time and venue of any Match. Football West may consult with and take into account any representations made by a Club participating in the Match in question, and with any other Club or Clubs which may be affected before doing so.
5. In the event that a Team is not ready to commence the Match within 15 minutes following the scheduled kick-off time, the Match must not proceed. Penalty for a breach of this Article is as set out in Appendix A.
6. A Match may be played wholly or partly under floodlights if the floodlight installation has been approved by Football West as suitable for the conduct of Matches in the Competition in which the Match will take place. The Match Official may determine at any point immediately prior to or during the Match whether the lighting is adequate for the relevant Match (including Player safety) and may determine whether the Match is to proceed on this basis.
7. In the event of inclement weather:

The Match Official must determine whether the safety of the Players, Club Officials, Match Officials and spectators will be compromised by commencing or continuing a Match. The match official will exercise his or her discretion as to whether the match will proceed.

8. A Club must use all reasonable endeavours to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure that its home venue (including stadiums, change facilities and grounds) can facilitate the safe conduct of a scheduled Match during adverse weather conditions.
9. It is the responsibility of the home Club to ensure that its home venue (including stadiums, change facilities and grounds) can facilitate the safe conduct of a scheduled Match. The home Club must also ensure that prior to the Match, the Match Official has sufficient time to conduct a ground inspection, which may include but is not limited to inspection of the goal nets, the line markings and the state of repair of the ground more generally. The Match Official may, in that Match Official's discretion, deem a ground not fit for purpose and elect to abandon the Match. In such a scenario, the Match Official must inform Football West of this occurrence to which Football West may propose remedial action, including but not limited to imposition of sanctions on the relevant Club.
10. In the event that a Match is ended in a manner inconsistent with Competition Rules, (including for example, by extra time rather than proceeding directly to kicks from the Penalty mark, or vice versa, Football West reserves the right to allow the Match result to stand, as long as Football West is satisfied (in its absolute discretion) that the Match was concluded in a manner consistent with the FIFA Laws of the Game. If Football West determines that allowing the Match result to stand would result in an unfair result, the entire Match will be replayed. The decision of Football West in these circumstances is final and cannot be challenged.
11. Nets affixed to goalposts must be used in all NPLWA Matches. The Match Official must not allow the Match to proceed without nets.
12. The Club whose name appears first in any Match is deemed to be the home Team regardless of the venue at which the Match is played. Any reference in these Rules to a "Home Club" is to be interpreted in accordance with this Article.
13. A Match must not proceed or continue if either Team is reduced to fewer than 7 Players.
14. Football West may designate Matches to be livestreamed by Football West or by a third-party with approval from Football West. Football West may impose such conditions as it sees fit on the livestreaming of any Match.
15. The livestreaming of any Match must:
 - a) not promote unhealthy dietary choices;
 - b) comply with state or federal laws (such as tobacco advertising);
 - c) comply with Football West Rules, Regulations and By-Laws; or
 - d) not relate or refer to products, brands or companies which are, in Football West's sole opinion, in conflict with Football West sponsors or damage the reputation of the league or Football West.
16. All footage supplied to Football West post-streaming must not include watermarks or any other graphical overlays.
17. Commentary used in any livestream must not breach the Football West or FA Code of Conduct and Ethics.
18. At any venue where Football West matches are being conducted, a person may not smoke tobacco or use vaping devices within 20 metres of the Field of Play.
19. Glassware, glass bottles, or cans are not allowed on the field of play or in any area surrounding it

including any designated spectator areas.

20. The only jewellery that is permitted to be worn by players is a medical alert bracelet or necklace. The bracelet or necklace must be taped or bandaged to the body, covered by a wrist band, or otherwise appropriately padded.
21. Players are permitted to wear sports goggles, sports glasses and sports sunglasses as long as, in the Match Official's opinion, the glasses pose no danger to the player wearing the glasses or to any other player on the field of play.

Article 4 – Postponed, Delayed, Suspended or Abandoned Matches

1. A Match must not be postponed except with the prior written consent of Football West.
2. A Match must not be suspended except:
 - a) on the instructions of the Match Official;
 - b) by order of the police or other relevant authority exercising its statutory powers to that effect;
or
 - c) on the instructions of, or with the prior written consent of Football West.
3. A Match must not be delayed or abandoned except on the instructions of the Match Official.
4. If the appointed Match Official delays, suspends or abandons a Match, the Match Official must, within 30 minutes of making such a decision, inform:
 - a) the home Club;
 - b) the visiting Club; and
 - c) the Football West Match Officials Department.
5. A Match postponed in accordance with paragraph 1 may only be replayed at a date and time mutually agreed by both Clubs except in the circumstances specified in paragraphs 7 and 8. The details of the rearranged Match must be communicated to Football West at least 3 Business Days prior to the Match.
6. If a Club requests the postponement of a Match, Football West reserves the right to require that an alternative date, time and venue are agreed before any such request is granted.
7. If a Match is postponed and the Clubs involved are not able to reach an agreement as to when the Match will be played, Football West will determine the date, time and venue of the Match and any such decision is final. If the rescheduled Match incurs a cost, Football West may pass on that cost to either one or both participating Clubs depending on the circumstances which led to the postponement.
8. If a postponed Match cannot be rescheduled in accordance with paragraph 7, or cannot be completed for any other reason, Football West reserves the right to declare the Match a 0-0 draw.
9. If a Match is abandoned for any reason prior to half time, then the Match will be replayed, unless, in the opinion of the Match Official, one or both of the participating Teams have caused or contributed to the abandonment of the Match or unless otherwise specified in these Rules.

10. If a Match is abandoned at half time or after the commencement of the second half, then the score at the time of the abandonment of the Match will be deemed to be the Match result, unless, in the opinion of the Match Official, one or both of the participating Teams or a Club Associate from one of the participating Teams caused or contributed to the abandonment of the Match. If the Match Official does not express an opinion on the party responsible for the abandonment, Football West may make a decision as to which party or parties are responsible for the abandonment and may impose a penalty on one or both Clubs, or Players or impose some other remedial action for the offending party.
11. If a Match is abandoned, and that Match is one where an outcome must be determined (for example a knock out cup Match) and at the time of the abandonment scores are level, then that Match will be replayed in full, unless in the opinion of the Match Official, one or both of the participating Teams or a Club Associate from one or both of the participating Teams caused or contributed to the abandonment of the Match. If the Match Official does not express an opinion on the party responsible for the abandonment, Football West may make a decision as to which party or parties are responsible for the abandonment and may impose a penalty on one or both Clubs, or Players or impose some other remedial action for the offending party.
12. An abandoned Match which is to be replayed may be arranged at a mutually convenient time and venue by the participating Clubs. Football West must be notified in writing of the date, time and venue of the rescheduled Match at least 3 Business Days prior to the rescheduled kick-off time.
13. If an abandoned Match cannot be rescheduled through mutual agreement within a reasonable time determined by Football West, Football West will determine the new date, time and venue of the Match and any such decision will be final. If the rescheduled Match incurs a cost, Football West may pass on that cost to either one or both of the participating Clubs depending on the circumstances which led to the abandonment.
14. If an abandoned Match cannot be rescheduled in accordance with paragraph 13, Football West reserves the right to declare the Match a 0-0 draw. If the abandoned Match is one where an outcome must be determined, Football West reserves the right to determine the outcome of the Match using any method it chooses.

Article 5 - Forfeited Matches

1. A Team that forfeits a Match (or is deemed to have forfeited) may be sanctioned with a Penalty specified in Appendix A at the discretion of Football West.
2. All Clubs participating in the NPLWA-M competition are required to field a First Team, an Under 23s Team and an Under 18s Team. All Clubs participating in the NPLWA-W competition are required to field a First Team and an Under 21s Team. A Club that fails to field a Team in 3 consecutive Matches in any NPLWA division as set out above, or any 4 Matches in any NPLWA division as set out above in a Regular Season will be considered to have breached this rule.

Penalty for Breach Deduction of 10 competition points from the First Team and the Club to which that Team belongs is ineligible for participation in any finals series.

3. The result of a forfeited Match will be awarded to the opposition Team by a margin of 3-0, unless that score disadvantages the non-offending Team, for example in circumstances where the non-offending Team has a margin of goals greater than three (3).

4. If a Team that forfeits three (3) consecutive Matches or any four (4) Matches during a Competition Season, Football West may at its absolute discretion, deem that relevant Team to have withdrawn from the Competition.
5. In circumstances in which Football West determines that both Teams participating in a Match commit a breach of any Rule which carry the sanction of a forfeit, Football West reserves the right to declare the Match played, and award each Team zero points and zero goals, or if that Match occurs in a knockout Competition, disqualify both Teams from that Competition.
6. In circumstances where a Team is retrospectively penalised with forfeiting a Match or forfeits during the Match, all Match data resulting from the Match will be retained. This data includes, but is not limited to:
 - a) goals scored (with the exception of those scored by an ineligible Player);
 - b) Fairest and Best votes (with the exception of those earned by an ineligible Player);
 - c) substitutions;
 - d) Yellow cards; and
 - e) Red cards.
7. Notwithstanding paragraph 6, Match data directly related to the conduct of a Player will not be retained if Football West determines that the relevant player caused or contributed to the relevant Team forfeiting the Match will not be retained. For example, if a Player who is under suspension scores a goal in a Match, and that Player is responsible for conduct which leads to that Team forfeiting the Match, that goal will not be counted towards that Player's Season goal tally.

Article 6 - Playing Strip

1. Each Player's playing shirt, including the goalkeeper's shirt, must display on its back a unique number which is clearly distinguishable from a reasonable distance. The number must be a whole number between 1 and 99. Penalty per breach of this Article is as set out in Appendix A.
2. The number 1 may only be worn by a goalkeeper. A substitute goalkeeper must have a unique number on the back of their shirt. That is, where a Team has a substitute goalkeeper, the substitute goalkeeper must not have the same number as the starting goalkeeper.
3. Each Player's shirt must display the NPL Logo on the right chest in accordance with instructions issued by Football West. For the avoidance of doubt, this requirement applies to both the home strip and the change strip for NPLWA-M and NPLWA-W First Teams only.
4. Nothing may be placed on a Player's playing shirt that covers any part of the NPL Logo. This particularly applies to captain's armbands or black armbands.
5. No part of the Player's attire or the uniform worn by a Club Official may incorporate national flags, slogans, or emblems.
6. The home Team will wear its designated home strip unless an exemption is granted by Football West in writing or if otherwise provided for in these Rules.
7. Advertising on a strip is permitted except for:
 - a) advertisements which contravene state or federal laws (such as tobacco advertising);
 - b) advertisements which contravene Football West or Football Australia Rules, Regulations and By-

Laws; or

c) or advertisements which relate or refer to products, brands or companies which are, in Football West's sole opinion, in direct conflict with Football West sponsors or damage the reputation of the league or Football West or Football Australia.

8. In respect of any strip worn by Players under the age of 18, no advertising relating to alcoholic beverages may appear on the playing strip of those Players. Football West reserves the right to require that any such sponsorship advertising is removed from a playing strip if it deems the advertisement breaches this Rule.
9. All NPL clubs are required to adhere to the NPL Playing Strip Guidelines as distributed by Football Australia. These guidelines must be followed for all official National Premier Leagues (NPL) fixtures and events to ensure consistency, fairness, and professionalism across the competition. Clubs must ensure that their playing strips, including jerseys, shorts, socks, and all associated apparel, meet the specifications outlined in the guidelines provided by Football Australia.

Article 7 - Match Officials

1. The allocation of Match Officials will be determined by Football West. No Club may request the attendance or non-attendance of any particular Match Official.
2. A Club must not refuse to allow an allocated Match Official to officiate at that allocated Match.
3. In the absence of one or both assistant Match Officials, each Team will provide a Club assistant Match Official to assist the Match Official. If either Club does not comply, then the Match may not proceed.
4. No NPL First Team match can proceed without a Football West match official present.
5. A Match Official arranged by the home Club in accordance with these Rules in the absence of an officially appointed Match Official assumes the same powers and responsibilities as an official Match Official for the duration of the Match.
6. A Match Official or assistant Match Official arranged by the home Club in accordance with these rules in the absence of an officially appointed Match Official, must be at least as old as the youngest eligible Player for the Competition.
7. Players and Technical Area occupants must identify themselves to the Match Officials upon request during, immediately before and immediately after a Match. Penalty per breach is as set out in Appendix A
8. Players and Team Officials must comply with any lawful instruction given to them by a Match Official officiating at an NPLWA Match. Penalty per breach is as set out in Appendix A
9. Neither Players nor Team Officials may approach a Match Official at any time before, during or after the Match unless invited to do so by the relevant Match Official.
10. Football West Match officials must not officiate a Match in cases where the Match Official has an existing or potential conflict of interest in respect of that Match, or the Teams or Players involved in it. Any such conflict must be immediately disclosed to Football West prior to commencement of a Match. If there is any doubt as to whether or not any such conflict exists, the Match Official must declare it.

11. Each Club acknowledges and agrees that actual or perceived conflicts of interest arise if Match Officials have, or appear to have, private or personal interests that detract from their ability to perform their duties as Match Officials with integrity in an independent and purposeful manner. Private or personal interests include gaining any possible advantage for himself or herself, his or her family, relatives, friends or acquaintances.
12. If a Club believes that a Match Official has an actual or perceived conflict of interest it may report the matter to Football West and if the Club chooses to report it, the Club must provide detailed reasons for the alleged conflict of interest. Any reports of alleged conflict which do not contain detailed reasons for the allegation will be dismissed immediately.
13. In the event that a conflict of interest, either actual or perceived, comes to the attention of Football West, Football West may make a determination (in its absolute discretion) on whether that conflict of interest exists. If Football West determines that a conflict of interest exists or has existed, Football West may make any directive or determination that it sees fit in the circumstances, including that it may order the replay of the Match or determine that a forfeit is to be imposed (but is not limited to these outcomes). Football West may determine the action or direction to be taken or made at its own and final discretion.
14. The decisions of the Match Official regarding facts connected with play, including whether or not a goal is scored and the result of the Match, are final, even if the decision(s) of the Match Official represents a technical error in the Laws of the Game.

Article 8 - Match Documentation

1. All NPLWA Competitions will use Electronic Match Cards.
2. An Electronic Match Card must be completed accurately 15 minutes prior to the commencement of the Match and the penalties set out in Appendix A apply to a breach of this requirement.
3. A Player whose name appears on an Electronic Match Card is deemed to have participated in the Match as either a Player or a named substitute. Players that are named substitutes but do not take the field are still participants but do not count as having taken the field for the purposes of any other Competition Rule.
4. The Team List received by Football West in respect of a Match will be accepted facts relating to that Match.
5. A Club may contact Football West if it believes that the details on the Match documentation have misidentified a goal scorer or substitute.
6. The Goal scorer(s) for a particular fixture as set out on the Electronic Match Card cannot be contested following the commencement of a subsequent round.
7. Any contest of goal scorers or substitutes should be submitted to Football West by the relevant Club prior to the commencement of the subsequent round with evidence of video footage and must include the following details:
 - a) fixture details;
 - b) time of goal scored/substitution;
 - c) name and shirt number of misidentified goal scorer/substitute; and
 - d) name and shirt number of alleged goal scorer/substitute.

8. If there are technical difficulties or other circumstances which require a change to the Electronic Match Card system a Team must email Football West Club Support (clubsupport@footballwest.com.au) with the details of the participants in the Match prior to the Match's scheduled kick off time and Football West may at its discretion accept this as a valid Electronic Match Card. The Team must also advise the Match Official and present proof to the Match Official that a Match Card has been emailed to Football West.

Article 9 - Player Registration & Eligibility

1. If any Player in NPLWA-M or NPLWA-W First Team is a Professional, then that league's registration rules will be conducted in accordance with Professional Registration requirements.
2. Subject to Article 10 paragraph 1, Football West may deem that even if the requirement in paragraph 1 above is not met, a league's registration rules will be conducted in accordance with Professional Registration requirements.
3. Subject to paragraphs 1, 2 or 4 and the relevant Player Rosters rules, an amateur Player may register with an NPLWA Club before **5:00 pm WST on 3 July 2025** in accordance with the National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations and the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.
4. An Australian amateur Player who has not previously been registered with an Australian Club in 2025, may register with any Club in accordance with the National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations and the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and the relevant Player Roster rules.
5. A Player must be registered with FA in accordance with the National Registration and Status Regulations to be considered eligible to participate in any competitive Match.
6. A registered Player must not participate in any Match approved by Football West if he or she is suspended or otherwise deemed ineligible by Football West, another Australian Member Federation, FA, AFC or FIFA.
7. It is the responsibility of the Club to ensure that each Player participating in a Match is eligible to do so.
8. The authorised representative of each Club participating in the Match is responsible for satisfying themselves that the opposition Players are properly registered with Football West.
9. Football West reserves the right to allow elite female Players to participate in any male Competition appropriate to their skill level regardless of age or normal eligibility criteria otherwise described in these Rules. In such cases, Football West will determine the most appropriate Competition for those Players on a case-by-case basis.
10. A Player is ineligible to play if that Player:
 - a) is not registered in accordance with the National Registration Regulations; or
 - b) plays for a Club with which the Player is not registered; or
 - c) plays without an ITC (International Transfer Certificate) where one is required; or
 - d) plays within a Stand-Down Period due to a change of status; or

- e) plays while under suspension; or
 - f) plays while registered for two Clubs at the same time without seeking an exemption to do so (note that the Player is eligible to play for the Club with which he was registered first in these circumstances); or
 - g) does not have proof of registration as described in these rules; or
 - h) plays for a Club, Team or in a Competition when not permitted to do so under these Rules including breaches of the player roster requirements; or
 - i) plays in a Match when not listed on a Team list; or
 - j) plays in a Match in which his or her name has been added to the Team list after the Match has commenced; or
 - k) plays for a Team which causes the maximum number of Players allowed to be listed on a Team list is exceeded; or
 - l) plays under an assumed identity; or
 - m) plays while not eligible to do so for any other reason.
11. If a Player plays in a Match while ineligible, the Club will be liable for a sanction as described in Appendix B of this document. In certain circumstances, as determined by the Football West (in its absolute discretion), a Player may also be sanctioned.

Article 10 - Professional Player Registration Deadlines

1. Professional Players may only be registered during the prescribed registration periods as follows and in accordance with the National Registration Regulations and the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players:
- a) Men:
 - i. Between **16 January 2025** and **12 February 2025**;
 - ii. Between **24 June 2025** and **3 July 2025**;
 - iii. As prescribed by FIFA.
 - b) Women:
 - i. Between **3rd September 2024** and **26th November 2024**;
 - ii. Between **30 April 2025** and **27 May 2025**;
 - iii. As prescribed by FIFA.
2. A professional Player may be registered outside a prescribed registration period if the Player is a goalkeeper, and the Club can supply evidence from a certified medical practitioner declaring that the usual goalkeeper is unfit to play at the time of the registration or in accordance with Article 2.2 of the Long Term Injury Replacement Policy.

Article 11 - Non-Player Registration

1. All coaches, assistant coaches, goalkeeper coaches, Team managers, sports trainers, physiotherapists, or other medical staff in all age groups of all NPLWA Clubs must be registered on PlayFootball. The penalty for breach is as set out in Appendix A.

2. Other Team Officials who sit in the Technical Area during any NPLWA Match must be registered on PlayFootball. Where no Technical Area is marked, Team Officials who are actively involved in any NPLWA Match must be registered on PlayFootball. Penalty for breach is as set out in Appendix A.

Article 12 - Proof of Registration

1. PlayFootball must be used to generate proof of registration including a Player photograph for every Player participating in a Match.
2. Evidence of registration without a Player's photograph is not acceptable as proof of registration. The Player must be able to be identified from the photograph. A registration without a valid photograph renders the Player ineligible until a valid photograph is added.
3. Each Team must produce proof of registration for any or each of its Players on request from the opposition Club prior to kick-off. This may be produced electronically but must be in a format that allows the opposition Club to verify the Players identities. For clarity, the preferred format is a pdf version of the Player ID Cards being sent electronically to the opposition Club.
4. If a Club is unable to produce proof of registration for any Player prior to kick-off after being requested to do so by the opposition Club, the Match may proceed. However, the proof of registration must be produced before the end of the Match for that Player(s) to be deemed eligible to participate. If the Club is unable to produce the proof by the end of the Match, that Player(s) will be deemed ineligible.
5. The failure of a Club to produce proof of registration to the opposition Club must be reported to the Match Official who must note that failure on the Team List.
6. Proof of registration MAY NOT be requested after the Match has commenced.
7. If a Club has complied with all necessary requirements and wishes to subsequently lodge a protest based on Player eligibility, it must do so in accordance with the conditions specified in the Disciplinary & Grievance Regulations.

Article 13 - Venue

1. The home venue of all Senior NPLWA Clubs must meet the relevant criteria set down by Football West in the Competition Management Regulations and the Football West NPL Club Licensing Manual
2. Four parking spaces inside the venue must be provided free of charge for Match Officials on Match day for all Matches.
3. Spectators are not permitted inside the barrier which separates the field of play from the rest of the venue while a Match is in progress.
4. A Club may request to change its home ground venue but may do so only by written application to Football West. Football West reserves the right to refuse any application if the facilities do not meet the specified criteria.
5. The home Club, at its own expense, must ensure that a nominated groundskeeper is on duty during all scheduled home Senior NPLWA Matches, commencing at least one hour prior to the first scheduled Match. The penalty for breach is as set out in Appendix A.

6. Football West reserves the right to require that its, FA and the NPL's sponsors' signage is prominently displayed at the venue at which any Match is played. A Club and each Team must comply with any lawful direction given by Football West in connection with this paragraph.
7. Football West reserves the right to take whatever action is deemed necessary in the event that NPLWA Matches are affected by changes to the availability of any venue or venues. A Club and each Team must comply with any lawful direction given by Football West in connection with this paragraph.

Article 14 - Technical Areas, Substitutes and Non-Playing Officials

1. A Technical Area must be clearly marked for each Senior NPLWA Match in accordance with the Laws of the Game. Each technical area must have seating for 12 people.
2. All substitutes, substituted Players and non-playing officials must remain in the Technical Area while the Match is in progress with the exception of substitutes who are warming up. For the avoidance of doubt, any person who is named on the Team List as either a Player or a non-playing Team Official is required to occupy the Technical Area unless directed otherwise by the Match Official or unless warming up if that person is a substitute.
3. Substitutes who are warming up must:
 - a) warm up inside the confines of the perimeter fence;
 - b) wear a bib which is a different colour to both Teams and the Match Officials; and
 - c) not warm up with a football.
4. Each Senior NPLWA Team may nominate a maximum of 7 substitutes.
5. The 2025 Senior NPLWA Competition Season will be conducted under temporarily amended version of the Laws of the Game allowing for 5 substitutes to be made. In Senior NPLWA Matches:
 - a) Each team will be permitted to use a maximum of 5 substitutes.
 - b) To reduce disruption to the match, each team will have a maximum of 3 opportunities to make substitutions during the game; substitutions may also be made at half-time.
 - c) If both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as 1 of the 3 opportunities for each team.
 - d) Unused substitutions and opportunities are carried forward into extra time.
 - e) Where competition rules allow an additional substitution in extra time, Teams will each have 1 additional substitution opportunity; substitutions may also be made before the start of extra time and at half-time in extra time.
6. Each Team may nominate a maximum of 5 non-playing Team Officials.

Article 15 – Match Scheduling

1. A schedule of Matches which comprise the NPLWA in each Division will be developed and published by Football West on its website. Football West will not review or consider any dispute in relation to a Match schedule which arises by virtue of a Club making a claim of perceived unfairness.
2. With the exception of abandoned Matches, each period of a Senior NPLWA Match must last for a

minimum of 35 minutes in order for a result to be recorded.

3. Subject to paragraph 4, the duration of the half time interval is to be 15 minutes.
4. The Match Official must adjust the duration of an Under 21s, Under 23s or Under 18s Match where necessary to ensure that the First Team Match commences at the scheduled kick-off time. The half time interval is to be first shortened. The half time interval must be at least eight (8) minutes long.
5. When a Match is shortened in accordance with paragraph 2, each Match Official is entitled to receive the full amount of their normal Match fee.
6. In the event that a NPLWA-W Club does not have sufficient Players to field an Under 21s and a First Team, the First Team will take priority.
7. In the event that a NPLWA-M Club does not have sufficient Players to field an Under 23s and a First Team, the First Team will take priority.
8. In the event that a NPLWA-M Club does not have sufficient Players to field an Under 18s and an Under 23s Team, the Under 23s Team will take priority.
9. Once Match schedules have been published, no changes may be made unless otherwise provided for in these Rules. A Club may request a Match change if it can demonstrate exceptional circumstances in writing. This request may or may not be approved by Football West in its discretion. Any request for a Match change must be accompanied by written consent from the opposition Club.
10. A Club which has been granted a Match change in accordance with paragraph 10 is responsible for all costs associated with the rescheduled Match.
11. The home Club must provide one stretcher which is to be placed between the Technical Areas in a safe and accessible position. The stretcher must be in position before the commencement of the first Match of the day until the conclusion of the final Match of the day unless being utilised. A penalty for breach is as set out in Appendix A.
12. Football West reserves the right to instruct home Clubs to increase the minimum-security arrangements for any Match at any time. The cost of any additional security arrangements is to be borne by the home Club.
13. Football West may appoint a Match commissioner at any NPLWA Match as its representative.
14. The Match commissioner must submit a report to Football West following each Match attended.
15. Should the Match commissioner report that a Club has breached any rules or regulations of Football West, then the Club may be sanctioned accordingly. A Match commissioner is classified as a Match Official with the same status as a Match Official, assistant Match Official, fourth official and Match Official inspector.

Article 16 - Ground Marshals

1. The home Club must appoint ground marshals who are at least 18 years of age whose duties are:
 - a) to provide an escort for the Match Officials to and from the field of play at the start and finish

- of each playing period; and
 - b) to liaise with Club Officials and emergency services if required.
 - c) to supervise the conduct of ball persons if provided;
- 2. The home Club in a NPLWA-W fixture must provide at least two (2) ground marshals for the Under 21s and First Team Match. The penalty for breach is as set out in Appendix A.
- 3. The home Club in a NPLWA-M fixture must provide at least two (2) ground marshals for each Under 18s and Under 23s Match. The penalty for breach is as set out in Appendix A.
- 4. The home Club in a NPLWA-M fixture must provide at least four (4) ground marshals for each First Team Match. The penalty for breach is as set out in Appendix A.
- 5. It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that the ground marshals are fully briefed on their responsibilities during a Match.
- 6. All ground marshals must have access to all areas of the ground, at all times. Ground marshals may not be limited to a specific location (for example, the person collecting gate fees may not be a ground marshal).
- 7. Each ground marshal must wear the vests which have been supplied by Football West. Ground marshals must be present and visible at all times for the duration of the match.
- 8. Lost vests may be purchased from Football West
- 9. Ground marshals may not smoke or drink alcohol while on duty.
- 10. If no ground marshals are present or the number of ground marshals are not met in relation to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4, the Match Official has sole discretion not to commence the match. Home clubs will have 15 minutes following the scheduled kick-off time to appoint the required ground marshals or the match may not proceed. In such cases clubs will be penalised in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 6 of the community competition rules.

Article 17 - Playing Kit Allocation

1. Each Club must nominate a home and alternative playing strip. The colours of the home strip's shirts and socks must be significantly different from those of the alternative strip.
2. Each Club must ensure that they have access to both a home and an alternative playing strip prior to the commencement of every Match.
3. In any Match, if the shirts or socks of the participating Teams are alike or similar or are in the opinion of the Match Official likely to cause confusion, then Players of the away Team will be required to change its shirts or socks or both. In the event of any dispute regarding the strip to be worn by either Team, the Match Official's decision is final.

Article 18 - Match Balls

1. The home Club in each Senior NPLWA Match must provide the Match Official with a minimum of three (3) Match balls no later than ten minutes prior to the commencement of the Match. All Senior NPLWA Matches must use the Football West designated ball. Three (3) Match balls will be provided free of charge to each Senior NPL Club for use by its senior Teams. Penalty for breach is as set out in Appendix A.

Article 19 - Match Officials Fees

1. The home Club is responsible for the payment of all Match Official fees. Football West will determine the fees payable and publish the rates prior to the commencement of each Competition Season.
2. When a Match is forfeited by a Club, the Match Officials are entitled to receive 100% of the prescribed Match fee to be paid by the Club which forfeited the Match, unless the forfeiting Club informed Football West in writing at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled kick-off.
3. When a Match is abandoned, the Match Officials are entitled to receive 100% of the Match fee.

Article 20 - Representative Teams

1. If a Club has four (4) or more outfield Players or two (2) goalkeepers from one Team participating in a representative Match (all being “**Representative Players**”), it may seek the postponement of any Club Match which clashes with the representative Match or falls within the period during which the selected players are unavailable due to official preparation or travel commitments related to the representative Match. This request must be submitted within seven (7) days of the players being selected for the representative team.
2. To be considered as a qualifying Representative Player under paragraph 1, and subject to the conditions of paragraph 3, the relevant Representative Player must have been recorded on that Team’s Electronic Match Cards for a minimum of 80% of all Matches up to and including the date of the request to postpone.
3. If a Representative Player is required to participate in a representative Match prior to round six of the Competitive Season, Football West may determine the Team that a Player is deemed to be registered with from the Electronic Match Cards available. Football West’s decision in determining the Team of a Player is final.
4. Players must be released for training, preparation and participation for representative Matches when requested in writing to do so by Football West.
5. Football West may select a Player for a State Representative Team. A selected Player who has accepted selection who misses a State Representative Team session without a valid medical certificate (or other extenuating circumstances to be determined by Football West) will be suspended from his or her Club Team's next game. Football West reserves the right to determine the validity of any extenuating circumstances and any such decision is final.

Part 2 – NPLWA Men’s Competition

Article 21 - Qualification for Top Four Cup and NST

This Part 2 applies only to the NPLWA Men’s Competition

1. Teams will be ranked in their Divisions of the NPLWA Competition according to the number of Competition points that Team accrues over the Competitive Season as specified in Article 2.
2. The Teams which occupy the highest 4 positions in the First, Under 23s and Under 18s Divisions will compete in “The Top Four Cup”.
3. A team who have been penalised under Article 5 paragraph 2 will not be permitted to compete in the “Top Four Cup” and will be replaced by the next highest placed team.
4. The NPLWA Men’s Premiers shall be determined as the First Team who have accrued the most competition points in accordance with Article 2 during the regular season
5. Subject to compliance with Article 4, the NPLWA Men’s Premiers shall be eligible to represent Football West in the National Second Tier Competition.
6. The Club qualifying for the National Second Tier Competitions must, by the dates prescribed by Football Australia: Submit to Football Australia a duly executed NST Club Participation Agreement; and Meet Football Australia’s minimum club licensing standards for Member Federation Clubs participating in the National Second Tier Competition.
7. In the event that:
 - a) A Foundation Club finishes as the NPL Men’s Premiers; or
 - b) An A League Club’s NPL Team finishes as the NPL Men’s Premier; or
 - c) The Club that finishes as NPL Men’s Premiers fails to comply with Paragraph 6 as above

the allocated slot for the National Second Tier Competition shall be awarded to the next-best placed Club, as determined under Article 2.

8. Football Australia reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to make determinations regarding any aspect of the awarding of National Second Tier Competition slots.

Article 22 - Promotion and Relegation to State League

1. One (1) automatic promotion position will be awarded to the team finishing in first place in State League Division 1. This team will replace the last-placed team in the NPLWA-M, who will be relegated to State League Division 1.
2. The Club whose First Team finishes in second last position in the NPLWA-M and the Clubs whose First Teams finish in second, third and fourth positions in State League Division 1 will compete in a Play-Off tournament to determine which Club will play in the NPLWA-M in the following season.
3. Promotion via these methods is subject to a Club’s eligibility to be promoted or participate in the NPLWA Competition, in accordance with the Football West Competition Management Regulations and the Football West NPLWA Club Licensing Manual.

4. Football West will in its sole discretion determine whether a Club meets the NPL Promotion Eligibility Criteria.
5. In the event that a Club's First Team attains promotion to the NPLWA-M Competition through sporting merit but does not fulfill the NPL Promotion Eligibility Criteria, a vacancy will arise. This vacancy will be addressed in accordance with Article 1, paragraph 16.

Article 23 - Promotion and Relegation Play-Off

1. The Club whose First Team finishes in second last position in the NPLWA-M and the Clubs whose First Teams finish in second, third and fourth positions in State League Division 1 will compete in a Play-Off tournament to determine which Club will play in the NPLWA-M in the following season.
2. Two semi-final ties (Play-Offs) will be played over two Matches. One semi-final Match will be played between the Team that finished second last in the NPLWA-M and the Team that finished fourth in State League Division 1. The other semi-final Match will be played by the Team that finished second in State League Division 1 and the Team that finished third in State League Division 1.
3. The losing Team from each semi-final Match will play in State League Division 1 in the following season.
4. The winners of each semi-final Match will play each other in the Final Match, which is to take place over a single leg at a venue determined by Football West.
5. The winning Team of the Final Match will play in the NPLWA-M the following season. The losing Team of the final Match will play in State League Division 1 in the following season.
6. The Play-Off Competition Format is as follows:
 - a) Each Play-Off Semi Final will comprise of two Matches – one Match at each Club's home venue. Should a Club's home venue not be available, that Club will be responsible for sourcing an alternative venue at its own cost.
 - b) The dates and times of the Matches will be determined by Football West and may not be challenged by either Club.
 - c) The highest ranked team in the Semi Final play off tie will be offered the choice of playing their home match first or second.
 - d) The Play-Off Final will be held at a venue determined by Football West at its sole discretion.
 - e) A Player Roster must be provided to Football West at least three (3) Business Days prior to each scheduled Play-Off. If a new roster is not provided the previous roster will be deemed still in effect.
 - (i) a Player Roster must comprise at least 16 Players and no more than 25 Players. Player Rosters that do not comprise a number of Players in this range will not be accepted and will be deemed to be invalid.
 - (ii) to be eligible to play in First Team Matches a Player must be on the Club's Player Roster or have played five (5) Football West competition matches for the club during the Regular Season.
 - (iii) a Player must be registered on Play Football in accordance with the National Registration Regulations before he can be named on a Player Roster;
 - (iv) a Player Roster is not official until it has been approved by Football West;

(v) For each non-Visa Player on the Player Roster, the Club must, upon request by Football West provide a copy of:

1. Australian Passport; or
2. foreign Passport and permanent residency visa; or
3. certificate of Australian Citizenship

7. The winner of the Play-Off Semi Final will be:

- a) The Club that scores the most goals over the two legs.
- b) Should both Teams score an equal number of goals over the two legs, the winner of the tie will be the Club that scores the most goals in its away leg. For the avoidance of doubt, the Club playing its away leg is the second-named Club in the Match, regardless of the venue at which the Match is played.
- c) If a winner cannot be determined in accordance with paragraphs (a) and (b), then two periods of extra time of 15 minutes per period will be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game at the conclusion of the second leg.
- d) At the end of the second period of extra time, the provisions of paragraph (a) will be applied to determine the winner of the tie. The provisions of paragraph (b) do not apply once the Match moves into extra time.
- e) If a winner cannot be determined through the application of paragraph (d) after extra time, the winner of the tie will be decided by a penalty shootout as described in the FIFA Laws of the Game.

8. The winner of the Play-Off Final will be:

- a) The Club that scores the most goals.
- b) If a winner cannot be determined in accordance with paragraph (a), then two periods of extra time of fifteen (15) minutes per period will be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- c) If a winner cannot be determined through the application of paragraph (b) after extra time, the winner of the Play-Off Final will be decided by a penalty shootout as described in the FIFA Laws of the Game.

Article 24 - Player Rosters and Periods

1. Every Club must submit a draft of their Player Roster to Football West no later **than 10:00am WST on 30 January 2025**. Penalty for breach is as set out in Appendix A.
2. Every Club must submit a valid Player Roster to Football West no later **than 10:00am WST on 7 February 2025**. Penalties for breach are as set out in Appendix A.
3. A Player Roster must comprise of at least 20 Players and no more than 23 Players. Football West will not accept Player Rosters that do not comprise of a number of Players within this range and those Player Roster's will be deemed to be invalid.
4. All Players who have signed a professional contract must be placed onto the Player Roster.
5. All players on the Player Roster who have not signed a professional contract, will need to have the club return a signed Amateur Declaration (Football West Prescribed form 18) and as per Article 9 paragraph 1, will need to be signed within the National Registration Window.

6. To be eligible to play in First Team Matches a Player must be on a Club's Player Roster, subject to the exemption in paragraph 17.
7. Each Player on the Player Roster will be assigned a points value in accordance with the Player Points System as promulgated by Football Australia from time to time.
8. The total points value of all Players on the Player Roster as calculated in accordance with the Player Points System must not exceed 200. Rosters that have Player Points totalling more than 200 will not be accepted and will be deemed to be invalid.
9. A Player must be registered on PlayFootball in accordance with the National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations before that Player can be named on a Player Roster. Football West may grant an exemption to this in exceptional circumstances.
10. If a Player has multiple FFA numbers or accounts on PlayFootball, their first created account's registration with a Club will be deemed to be the valid registration. If a Player intends to register with a later account they must inform Football West in writing or that account will not be considered valid until that Player do so.
11. A Player Roster is not official until it has been approved in writing by Football West.
12. For each non-Visa Player on the Player Roster, the Club must, upon request by Football West provide a copy of either:
 - a) an Australian Passport; or
 - b) a foreign Passport and permanent residency visa; or
 - c) a Certificate of Australian Citizenship.
13. Other forms of proof of citizenship or permanent residency status may be accepted by Football West in its absolute discretion.
14. Once submitted and approved by Football West, no Player may be added to a Club's Player Roster except:
 - a) before **10:00am WST on Wednesday 12 February 2025;**
15. Between **24 June and 3 July 5:00 pm WST**
 - a) in the case of an amateur Player born in 2005 or later;
 - b) in the case of an amateur Player whose last registration is with a Club in Western Australia that does not have a Senior Team competing in the NPLWA Men's Competition and the Player has played at least 5 Matches for that Club in the current Competitive Season. Player Point System value will be determined by Football West;
 - c) in the case of an amateur Player previously registered outside Western Australia;
 - d) in the case of an amateur player who has not been registered with any Club in the current calendar year;
 - e) in accordance with the Long-Term Injury Policy; and
 - f) in the case where a Player originally listed on the Player Roster is removed in accordance with Paragraph 15, the Club may replace the Player with another age eligible Player registered for the Club's Under 23's or Under 18's as long as the replacement Player is already registered with the same Club.
16. Once submitted to and approved by Football West, no Player may be removed from a Club's Player

Roster except:

17. before **10:00am WST on Wednesday 12 February 2025;**
18. Between **24 June and 3 July 2025 5:00pm WST**
19. between when the Player is no longer registered with the Club they must be removed;
 - a) in the case of a Player who is unable to play in the NPL due to a change in work or personal circumstances accompanied by evidence acceptable to Football West; and
 - b) in accordance with the Long-Term Injury Policy.
20. A Player removed from a Club's Player Roster in accordance with paragraph 15(d) may not be added onto any Club's Player Roster later in the same season.
21. Players born in 2002 or later may play for the First Team for an unlimited number of games during the season even if they are not on the Player Roster.

Article 25 - Visa Players

1. For the purpose of this Article, an Australian Player is any Player who is:
 - a) a citizen of Australia; or
 - b) a Permanent Resident of Australia (where Permanent Resident means a person resident in Australia on a "permanent" visa class issued by the Australian Government, evidenced by either the person's Visa Grant Notice or as a listed entitlement on the person's online Visa Entitlement Verification); or
 - c) the holder of a refugee visa, humanitarian visa or protection visa issued by the Australian Government.
2. A Visa Player is a Player who is not an Australian Player.
3. Each Club may name a maximum of 2 outfield Visa Players on its Player Roster. These players will attract 20 points on the PPS as Visa players. A Goalkeeper cannot be a visa player unless there is an exemption approved by Football West.
4. Each club may name one additional visa player whose country of origin is a member of the Asian Football Confederation or Oceania Football Confederation. These players will not attract 20 points.
5. For each Visa Player on the Player Roster, the Club must provide Football West with a copy of the Foreign Passport with the Player's entry visa into Australia.

Article 26 - Match Documentation

1. Each Club must make available a Team List to the Match Official on Match day. A copy of the Team List should be retained by the Club. Copies of the Team List must also be made available to:
 - a) the Opposition Club;
 - b) the home Club Media Officer;
 - c) the Football West Match Reporter; and
 - d) Football West's Videographer.
2. The Team List must contain the full names of each Player and non-playing officials who intend

to occupy the Technical Area. For the avoidance of doubt, a Player or non-playing official whose name does not appear on the Team List may not enter the field of play, the surrounds of the field of play or the Technical Area while the Match is in progress.

3. All sections of the Team List must be completed including FA numbers, Team Officials and Team formation if applicable.
4. Non-playing officials who sit in the Technical Area during any NPLWA-M Match must be registered on PlayFootball. Penalty for breach is as set out in Appendix A.
5. Only Players whose names appear on the Club's Player Roster may be listed on the Team List for the First Team with the exception of the circumstances detailed in Article 24 paragraph 17. Penalty for breach is as set out in Appendix A.

Article 27 - Players

1. To be eligible to play in the NPLWA Men's Competition for any Club except Perth Glory, a Player must meet the following age criteria.
 - a) Under 18s Division – born in, 2007, 2008, 2009 or 2010.
 - b) Under 23s Division – born 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 or 2009 (subject to paragraph 2);
 - c) First Team Division – born in 2009 or earlier.
2. An Under 23s Team may include a maximum of 4 Players on the Team List who were born in 2001 or earlier for any Match. Each of these Players must be so denoted on the Team List with an asterisk next to each overage Player's name. Penalties for breach are as set out in Appendix A.
3. An overage Player playing for the Under 23's under paragraph 2 must be registered on the First Team Player Roster during the Registration Window before they are eligible to participate in First Team Matches.
4. Once a Player has started in nine (9) Matches of NPLWA-M, in the Under 18s, Under 23s/Reserves or First Team, they are no longer eligible to participate in the JDL and the JCL during the same season.
 - a) In the NPLWA-M these Senior Matches may comprise any combination of First Team, Under 23s and 18s Team Matches as long as no more than nine (9) Under 18s Matches, no more than five (5) Under 23s/Reserves Matches and no more than one (1) first Team NPL Match is played.
 - b) Following reaching the limits on Matches described in (a) or the ninth (9th) Match for the senior Teams, a Player must choose to play in either the NPL Seniors or JDL and the JCL team(s) for which they are eligible.

Article 28 - Perth Glory Players

1. To be eligible to play in the NPLWA Men's Competition, every Perth Glory Player must meet the following age criteria.

- a) Under 18s Division – born in 2007, 2008, 2009 or 2010.
 - b) Under 23s Division – born in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 or 2009
 - c) First Team Division – born in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 or 2009 (subject to paragraph 3)
- 2. All Players on the Perth Glory First Team Player Roster must have a relationship between the Player and Club that complies with the National League Player Contracting Regulations.
 - 3. A Player born in 2003 or earlier must be contracted to Perth Glory on their First Team or as a Scholarship Player. Penalty for breach is as set out in Appendix A.
 - 4. The Perth Glory First Team may additionally include a maximum of 1 goalkeeper who was born in 2002 or later on the Team List for any Match, regardless of the goalkeeper being listed on the player roster. Written approval will also need to be granted by both Australian Professional Leagues and Football West.

Article 29 - Admission

- 1. A maximum of 23 people from each Team will be provided with a free entry pass to the venue for any one Match Day for use by the Players, Club officials or a Club's official guests only. The visiting Club must inform the host Club in writing the names to be granted free entry by 12:00pm on the last Business Day prior to the Match.
- 2. The Football West videographer and Match reporter for a NPLWA-M Match must be permitted to park inside the venue free of charge.
- 3. Any person, including a Match Official who is not appointed to the Match, who produces an official Football West pass must be granted free entry into any venue for any Match.
- 4. All Football West passes are valid only for Football West Matches and may be revoked by Football West at any time.
- 5. General entry admission fees may be charged up to the maximum amounts listed below:
 - a) General Entry - \$10
 - b) Students, Pensioners or concession holders with evidence of status - \$5
 - c) People under the age of 15 – Free
- 6. Any person who produces official accreditation must be granted free entry into any venue for any Match. No Club may refuse admission to a person with the correct accreditation. Penalty for breach is as set out in Appendix A.
- 7. Football West reserve the right to charge an admission fee for any matches and competitions at the Sam Kerr Football Centre at a rate determined by Football West.

Article 30 - Prize Money

- 1. The Club whose First Team in the NPLWA Men's Competition finishes in first position will receive \$12,000 prize money.

2. The Club whose First Team in the NPLWA Men's Competition finishes in second position will receive \$4,000 prize money.
3. The Club whose First Team in the NPLWA Men's Competition finishes in third position will receive \$2,000 prize money.
4. The Club whose First Team in the NPLWA Men's Competition finishes in fourth position will receive \$1,000 prize money.
5. Perth Glory FC is not eligible to win prize money. In the event that Perth Glory FC finishes in one of the top 4 positions, the prize money will be redistributed to include the 5th placed Team in the NPLWA Men's Competition.

Article 31 - Individual Awards

1. In accordance with paragraph 4, a Fairest and Best Award will be awarded to the best Player in each Division of the NPLWA Men's Competition.
2. A medal will be awarded to the Player born in 2004 or later who achieves the most votes in Senior First Team Matches, subject to the conditions set out in paragraph 6.
3. The Match Official for each Match will award votes. Three votes will be awarded to the best Player, two votes to the next best Player and one vote awarded to the third best Player.
4. The Player who receives the most votes over the course of a Competition Season will win the Fairest and Best Award for their Division.
5. If two or more Players tie for the highest number of votes, then a prize will be awarded to each of those Players.
6. If a Player or coach receives a suspension as a result of being shown a Red Card, or as a result of a sanction imposed by the Disciplinary & Grievance Tribunal or Football West during the Regular Season, he will be ineligible to win the Fairest and Best Award for that Competitive Season. For the avoidance of doubt, if that Player or coach receives a Red Card which is subsequently rescinded as a result of mistaken identity or an obvious error, the Player will be eligible to win the Fairest and Best Award in accordance with the Disciplinary & Grievance Regulations.
7. An award will be presented to the Player who scores the most goals in each Division of NPLWA Men's Competition league Matches throughout the Competition Season of the. If two or more Players score an equal number of goals, an award will be presented to each of those Players.
8. Subject to paragraph 6, an award will be presented to the best First Team goalkeeper of the year based on votes cast by the Match Officials at each game of First Teams of the NPL. If two or more goalkeepers have an equal number of votes, an award will be presented to each of those Players.
9. An award will be presented to the First Team coach who gains the highest amount of Competition points across all competitions throughout the season.

Article 32 - Fair Play Award

1. Football West will present a Fair Play Award to the Club(s) whose NPLWA-M First Teams receive the fewest number of Penalty points during the Regular Season as determined by Football West. In

addition to any other Penalty accrued for breaches of these Rules, Penalty points are accrued as follows:

- | | | |
|----|---|-----------|
| a) | Each single Yellow Card issued | 1 point |
| b) | Each indirect Red Card issued (two Yellow Cards to a single Player) | 3 points |
| c) | Each direct Red Card issued | 5 points |
| d) | Each non-playing official expelled from the Technical Area | 5 points |
| e) | Five or more Players cautioned or sent off in a single Match | 5 points |
| f) | Three or more Players sent off in a single Match | 10 points |
2. The winner of the Fair Play Award will receive \$2,000.
 3. In the event that two or more Clubs receive the fewest Penalty points, the prize money will be shared evenly across those Clubs.
 4. The Perth Glory FC Team competing in the NPLWA Men's Competition is not eligible to win the Fair Play Award. In the event that Perth Glory FC finishes the fewest number of Penalty points, the prize will be awarded to the 2nd placed Team.

Part 3 – NPLWA-M Top Four Cup

Article 33 – Competition Format

This Part applies to the Top Four Cup

1. The Teams that occupy the highest 4 positions in each of NPLWA-M Divisions, being the First Team Division, Under 23s Division and Under 18s Division, following the completion of the League Season will compete in the “Top Four Cup” subject to Article 5 Paragraph 2.
2. The Matches of each Division of Top Four Cup will be structured as follows:

Match Day 1			
Match A	Team finishing 1 st	vs	Team finishing 2 nd
Match B	Team finishing 3 rd	vs	Team finishing 4 th
Match Day 2			
Match C	Loser of Match A	vs	Winner of Match B
Losing Team is eliminated			
Match Day 3			
Grand Final	Winner of Match A	vs	Winner of Match C

3. The designated home Team of each Match is as follows:
 - a) Match A – the Team finishing 1st
 - b) Match B – the Team finishing 3rd
 - c) Match C – the losing Team of Match A
 - d) Grand Final – the winner of Match A
4. The venues and times of all Matches will be determined by Football West and communicated in writing to the participating Clubs.
5. For all Matches except the First Team Match, should scores be level at the full-time whistle, the outcome of the Matches will be decided by penalty shootout as described in the FIFA Laws of the Game.
6. In the First Team Matches, should scores be level at the full-time whistle, two periods of extra time of fifteen (15) minutes per period will be played in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game.
7. Should scores be level at the end of the second period of extra time, the outcome of the Match will be decided by penalty shootout as described in the FIFA Laws of the Game.
8. One additional substitute may be used when a Match goes into extra time (whether or not the Team has already used the full number of permitted substitutes).
9. The Grand Final winner in each age group will be known as Top Four Cup Winner.
10. The Club whose First Team wins the Grand Final of the Top Four Cup will receive \$10,000 prize money.

11. The Club whose First Team loses the Grand Final of the Top Four Cup will receive \$4,000 prize money.
12. The Club whose First Team loses Match C of the Top Four Cup will receive \$2,000 prize money.
13. The Club whose First Team loses Match B of the Top Four Cup will receive \$1,000 prize money.
14. No prize money will be awarded for the Under 23s or Under 18s.
15. Perth Glory FC is not eligible to win any prize money. Should Perth Glory qualify for the finals, Prize money will be distributed in a manner stipulated by Football West. Football West's decision on the redistribution of prize money under this paragraph is not subject to challenge.

Article 34 - Players

1. A Player must have played in a minimum of 5 Matches for a Club in the current season to be eligible to play in any of that Club's Teams in Top Four Cup, subject to other eligibility criteria.
2. A Player who has played in multiple age groups for a particular NPL Team in their Club is ineligible to participate in any Top Four Cup Matches in a lower age group than the highest age group Team for which he has played unless:
 - a) 50% or more of the Matches in which they have played are for a lower age group; or
 - b) They have played less than 5 Matches for a higher age group,

Penalties for breaches of each are as set out in Appendix A.

3. A Player will be exempt from the restrictions specified in paragraphs 1 and 2 if that Player is a goalkeeper, and the Club has applied in writing to Football West prior to the commencement of the Match and can establish in that application to the satisfaction of Football West that no other eligible goalkeeper is available to participate. Absence due to injury must be accompanied by a medical certificate at least 2 Business Days before the Match. Football West's decision on any application is final.
4. Once a Player has started for a Team in the Top Four Cup, they are no longer eligible to play in a lower age group Team other than the Team for which they have played for in the Top Four Cup.
5. In Senior Matches, an unused substitute is deemed not to have played.

Article 35 - Match Officials

1. The host Club will pay the Match Official fees for all of the Matches in the Top Four Cup except the Grand Finals where Football West will pay the Match Official fees.

Article 36 - Match Balls

1. The host Club will provide the Match balls for all Matches in the Top Four Cup except the Grand Finals. Football West will supply all Match balls for the Grand Finals.

Article 37 - Admission

1. A maximum of 23 people from each Team will be provided with a free entry pass to the venue for any one Match Day for use by the Players, Club officials or a Club's official guests only. The visiting Club must inform the host Club in writing the names to be granted free entry by 12:00pm on the last Business Day prior to the Match.
2. Football West reserve the right to charge an admission fee for any matches and competitions at the Sam Kerr Football Centre at a rate determined by Football West.

Article 38 - Squad Lists

1. Football West reserves the right to request a squad list for each competing Team in a Match. If requested by Football West, the relevant Club must provide said squad list in writing four (4) Business Days prior to the Match.

Part 4 – NPLWA Women's Competitions

Article 39 - Player Rosters and Periods

1. Every Club must submit a valid draft of their Player Roster Composition in writing to Football West no later than 10:00am WST on Wednesday 5 March 2025. Penalties for breach are as set out in Appendix A.
2. Every Club must submit a valid final copy of their Player Roster Composition in writing to Football West no later than 10:00am WST on Wednesday 12 March 2024. Penalties for breach are as set out in Appendix A.
3. A Player Roster Composition for any Team in the NPLWA Women's Competition must comply with the conditions set out in Appendix C of this document.
4. A Player must be registered on PlayFootball in accordance with the National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations before she can be named on a Player Roster Composition. Football West may grant an exemption to this requirement in exceptional circumstances.
5. All Players who have signed a professional contract must be placed onto the First Team roster.
6. A Player Roster Composition is not official until it has been approved in writing by Football West.
7. Once submitted to and approved by Football West, no Player may be added to a Club's Player Roster Composition except:
 - a) before 10:00am WST on **Wednesday 12 March 2025**;
 - b) between **30 April 2025** and **27 May 2025**;
 - c) in the case of an amateur Player previously registered with a different Club in Western Australia that does not have a NPLWA-W Team;
 - d) in the case of an amateur Player previously registered outside Western Australia;
 - e) in the case of an amateur player who has not been registered with any Club in the current calendar year;
 - f) in accordance with the Long-Term Injury Policy; and
 - g) in the case a Player originally listed on the Player Roster Composition is removed in accordance with Paragraph 8 the Club may replace the Player with another Player registered for the Club's Under 21's as long as the replacement Player is already registered with the same Club.
8. Once submitted and approved by Football West, no Players may be removed from a Club's Player Roster Composition except:
 - a) before 10:00am WST on **Wednesday 12 March 2025**;
 - b) between **30 April 2025** and **27 May 2025**;
 - c) when a player deregisters from the Club they must be removed;
 - d) in the case of a Player who is unable to play in the NPLWA-W due to a change in work or personal circumstances accompanied by evidence acceptable to Football West; and
 - e) in accordance with the Long-Term Injury Policy
9. A Player removed from a Club's Player Roster Composition in accordance with paragraph 8(d) may

not be added onto any Club's Player Roster Composition later in the same season.

10. A Player removed from a Club's Player Roster Composition in accordance with paragraph 8(e) may not play for an NPLWA-W Team until they have been placed on that Team's Player Roster Composition.
11. No Player born in 2003 or earlier may be added to a Clubs Player Roster Composition outside of the transfer windows if their previous registration is with another NPLWA-W Club, regardless of any exceptions.
12. A Club's Player Roster Composition may not include more than three (3) A-League Women's Players from the immediately preceding A-League Women's season.
13. Football West may grant an exemption to the limit set out in paragraph 12 on application in writing by a Club if that Club can show exceptional reasons (as determined by Football West, in its discretion) as to why this limit should not apply. A Hyundai Football West NTC Team will have a presumption that exceptional reasons exist in relation to this limit.

Article 40 – Team Lists

1. Each Club must submit a Team Sheet to the Match Official on Match day. A copy of the Team Sheet should be retained by the Club. Copies of the Team Sheet must also be provided to:
 - a) the opposition Club;
 - b) the home Club Media Officer;
 - c) Football West's Match Reporter; and
 - d) Football West's Videographer.
2. The Team Sheet must contain the full names of Players and non-playing officials who intend to occupy the Technical Area. For the avoidance of doubt, a Player or non-playing official whose name does not appear on the Team List may not enter the field of play, the surrounds of the field of play or the Technical Area while the Match is in progress.
3. All sections of the Team Sheet must be completed including FA numbers, Team Officials and Team formation if applicable.
4. Non-playing officials who sit in the Technical Area during any NPLWA-W Match must be registered on PlayFootball. Penalty for breach is as set out in Appendix A.
5. Only Players whose names appear on the Player Roster Composition may be listed on the Team list of the First Team with the exception of players from the same club's Under 21's or Under 18's team in accordance with the relevant player movement rules. Any such Player must meet the age eligibility criteria of the Team from which she is being promoted. Penalty for breach is as set out in Appendix A.
6. A Club may promote a Player from its NPLWA-W Under 21s Team to play for its First Team an unlimited number of matches throughout an NPLWA-W season without being required to include such a Player on the First Team Player Roster Composition in this season.

Article 41 – Promotion and Relegation to Women's Division 1

1. Should the Club whose Team finish in first place in the Women's League Division 1 be eligible for promotion to the NPLWA-W, the NPLWA-W Club whose First Team finishes in last position will be relegated to the Women's League Division 1. The first placed Women's League Division 1 Team will be promoted to the NPL WA-W.
2. Should the Club whose Team finish in first place in the Women's League Division 1 not be eligible for promotion the second placed Club, will compete in a Play-Off against the First Team of the last placed NPLWA-W Club as described in Article 42.
3. If neither Club in the top two positions in the Women's League Division 1 meets the Promotion Eligibility Criteria, then no promotion will take place from the Women's League Division 1 to the NPLWA-W and no relegation will take place from the NPLWA-W to the Women's League Division 1.

Article 42 – Promotion and Relegation Play-Offs

1. Subject to Article 41 paragraph 2 and this Article 42, a Club whose Team competes in the Women's League Division 1 and finishes in second position and meets the NPL Eligibility Criteria, may be promoted to the NPLWA-W if that Team wins the Play-Off.
2. The Club that wins the Play-Off will earn the right to compete in the NPLWA-W in the next Competitive Season. And the Club that loses the Play-Off will compete in Women's League Division 1.
3. The Play-Off will be played under the following conditions:
 - a) The Play-Off will be contested over a single Match.
 - b) The venue of the Play-Off will be determined by Football West at its absolute discretion.
 - c) A Player Roster must be provided to Football West at least three (3) Business Days prior to the scheduled Play-Off.
4. The winner of the Play-Off will be:
 - a) The Club that scores the most goals
 - b) If a winner cannot be determined in accordance with paragraph (a), then two periods of extra time of fifteen (15) minutes per period will be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
 - c) If a winner cannot be determined through the application of paragraph (b) after extra time, the winner of the Play-Off Final will be decided by penalty shootout as described in the FIFA Laws of the Game.

Article 43 - Players

1. To be eligible to play in the NPLWA-W for any Club, a Player must meet the following age criteria.
 - a) Under 21s – born 2004-2009 inclusive (subject to paragraph 2);
 - b) First Team – born in 2009 or earlier.
 - c) A Player who was born in 2010 or later may apply to Football West to be assessed as being competent to play in the NPLWA-W but is ineligible to play until such competency has been provided to the Club in writing.

2. Only female Players are eligible to compete in the NPLWA-W. Penalty for breach is as set out in Appendix A.
3. An Under 21s Team may include a maximum of four (4) Players who were born in 2003 or earlier on the Team list for any Match. Each of these Players must be so denoted on the Team list with an asterisk next to each overage Player's name. Penalties for breaches are as set out in Appendix A.
4. A Player on a A-League roster or who has a contract (full time or scholarship) may not play for any Team in the Women's League except for a Club's NPLWA-W Teams.
5. A player listed on a club's First Team NPLWA-W Roster or any NPLWA-W First team sheet that player must not appear on the team list of any team in the Women's League for the remainder of the competition season without submitting a request for an exemption in writing to and approved by Football West.

Penalty for Breach: Forfeit of Women's League match

6. Once a Player has been listed on a Team sheet of the NPLWA-W Under 21s, that Player must not appear on the Team List of any Team in the Women's League for the remainder of the Competition Season without submitting a request for an exemption in writing to and approved by Football West.

Penalty for Breach: Forfeit of Women's League match

7. If a club fields a team in the Under 18s Junior Girls League any players registered to that team can play an unlimited number of matches in the same club's Under 21's and First Team's subject to player age criteria as described in paragraph 1.
8. The Under 18's Junior Girls League will be allowed to field 3 overage players born in 2004 or later. These players can be from a club's NPLWA-W teams and may play an unlimited number of matches.

Article 44 - Admission

1. A maximum of 23 people from each team must be provided with free entry to the venue for any one Match day for use by the Players, Club officials or a Club's official guests. The visiting Club must inform the home Club in writing the names to be granted free entry by noon on the last working day prior to the Match.
2. The Football West videographer and Match reporter for an NPLWA-W Match must be permitted to park inside the venue free of charge.
3. Any person, including a Match Official who is not appointed to the Match, who produces an official Football West pass must be granted free entry into any venue for any Match.
4. All Football West passes are valid only for Football West Matches and may be revoked by Football West at any time.
5. General entry admission fees may be charged to the maximum amounts listed below:
 - a) General Entry - \$10.
 - b) Students, Pensioners or concession holders with evidence of status - \$5.
 - c) People under the age of 15 – Free entry.

6. Any person who produces an official accreditation must be granted free entry into any venue for any Match. No Club may refuse admission to a person with the correct accreditation. Penalty for breach is as set out in Appendix A.
7. Football West reserve the right to charge an admission fee for any matches and competitions at the Sam Kerr Football Centre at a rate determined by Football West.

Article 45 - Prize Money

1. The Club whose First Team in the NPLWA Women's Competition finishes in first position will receive \$12,000 prize money.
2. The Club whose First Team in the NPLWA Women's Competition finishes in second position will receive \$4,000 prize money.
3. The Club whose First Team in the NPLWA Women's Competition finishes in third position will receive \$2,000 prize money.
4. The Club whose First Team in the NPLWA Women's Competition finishes in fourth position will receive \$1,000 prize money.
5. Hyundai Football West Academy is not eligible to win any prize money. Should Hyundai Football West Academy qualify for the finals, prize money will be distributed in a manner stipulated by Football West towards Female Football development programs.

Article 46 - Individual Awards

1. In accordance with paragraph 6, a Fairest and Best prize will be awarded to the best Player in each of the First Team and Under 21s divisions.
2. The Match Official for each Match will award votes. Three votes will be awarded to the best Player, two votes to the next best Player and one vote awarded to the third best Player.
3. The Player who receives the most votes over the course of the season will win the Fairest and Best prize for their Division.
4. If two or more Players tie for the highest number of votes, then a prize will be awarded to each of those Players.
5. A medal will be awarded to the Player born in 2004 or later who achieves the most votes in Senior First Team Matches, subject to the conditions in paragraph 6.
6. If a Player or coach receives a suspension as a result of being shown a Red Card, or as a result of a sanction imposed by the Disciplinary & Grievance Tribunal during the Competitive Season, she will be ineligible to win the Fairest and Best Award for that Season. For the avoidance of doubt, if that Player or coach receives a Red Card which is subsequently rescinded as a result of mistaken identity, the Player will be eligible to win the Fairest and Best Award.
7. An award will be presented to the Player who scores the most goals in each Division in league Matches throughout the season of the NPLWA-W. If two or more Players score an equal number of goals, an award will be presented to each of those Players.

8. Subject to paragraph 6, an award will be presented to the best First Team goalkeeper of the year based on votes cast by the Match Officials at each game in the First Team of the NPLWA-W. If two or more goalkeepers have an equal number of votes, an award will be presented to each of those Players.

Article 47 - Fair Play Award

1. Football West will present a Fair Play Award to the Clubs whose NPLWA-W First Teams receive the fewest number of Penalty points during the regular season. In addition to any other Penalty accrued for breaches of these Rules, Penalty points are accrued according to the following:

a) Each single Yellow Card issued	1 point
b) Each indirect Red Card issued (two Yellow Cards to a single Player)	3 points
c) Each direct Red Card issued	5 points
d) Each non-playing official expelled from the technical area	5 points
e) Five or more Players cautioned or sent off in a single Match	5 points
f) Three or more Players sent off in a single Match	10 points
2. The winner of the Fair Play Award will receive \$2,000.
3. In the event that two or more Clubs receive the fewest Penalty points, the prize money will be shared evenly across those Clubs.
4. Hyundai Football West NTC is not eligible to win prize money. Should Hyundai Football West NTC win the Fair Play Award, prize money will be distributed in a manner stipulated by Football West. Football West's decision on the redistribution of prize money under this paragraph is not subject to challenge.

Part 5 – NPLWA-W Top Four Cup

Article 48 - Competition Format

1. The Teams that occupy the highest 4 positions of each NPLWA-W Division (First Team and Under 21s) following the completion of the league season will compete in the Top Four Cup. Subject to Article 5 Paragraph 2.
2. The Matches of each Division of Top Four Cup will be structured as follows:

Match Day 1			
Match A	Team finishing 1 st	vs	Team finishing 2 nd
Match B	Team finishing 3 rd	vs	Team finishing 4 th
Match Day 2			
Match C	Loser of Match A	vs	Winner of Match B
Losing Team is eliminated			
Match Day 3			
Grand Final	Winner of Match A	vs	Winner of Match C

3. The designated home Team of each Match is as follows:
 - a) Match A – the Team finishing 1st
 - b) Match B – the Team finishing 3rd
 - c) Match C – the losing Team of Match A
 - d) Grand Final – the winner of Match A
4. The venues and times of all Matches will be determined by Football West and communicated to the participating Clubs.
5. For all Matches in the Top Four Cup except the First Team Match, should scores be level at the full-time whistle, the outcome of the Matches will be decided penalty shoot-out as described in the FIFA Laws of the Game.
6. In the First Team Matches of the Top Four Cup, should scores be level at the full-time whistle, two periods of extra time of fifteen (15) minutes per period will be played in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game.
7. Should scores be level at the end of the second period of extra time, the outcome of the Match will be decided by penalty shoot-out as described in the FIFA Laws of the Game.
8. One additional substitute may be used when a Match goes into extra time (whether or not the Team has already used the full number of permitted substitutes).
9. The Grand Final winner will be known as Top Four Cup Winner.
10. The Club whose First Team in the Top Four Cup wins the Grand Final will receive \$10,000 prize

money.

11. The Club whose First Team in the Top Four Cup loses the Grand Final will receive \$4,000 prize money.
12. The Club whose First Team in the Top Four Cup loses Match C will receive \$2,000 prize money.
13. The Club whose First Team in the Top Four Cup loses Match B will receive \$1,000 prize money.
14. Hyundai Football West Academy is not eligible to win any prize money. Should Hyundai Football West Academy qualify for the finals, prize money will be distributed in a manner stipulated by Football West towards Female Football development programs.

Article 49 - Players

1. A Player must have played in a minimum of five (5) Matches for a Club in the current season to be eligible to play in any of that Club's Teams in the Top Four Cup, subject to other eligibility criteria set out in this Article 49.
2. A Player who has played in 6 or more Matches for the NPLWA-W First Team in her Club is ineligible to participate in any Top Four Cup Matches in the Under 21s Team unless they have played more than 50% of their matches for the Under 21s Team. Penalty for breach is as set out in Appendix A.
3. A Player will be exempt from the restrictions specified in paragraphs 1 and 2 if that Player is a goalkeeper, and the Club has applied in writing to Football West prior to the commencement of the Match and can establish in that application to the satisfaction of Football West that no other eligible goalkeeper is available to participate. Absence due to injury must be accompanied by a medical certificate at least two (2) Business Days before the Match. Football West's decision on any application is final.
4. Once a Player has started for the First Team in the Top Four Cup they are no longer eligible to play in the Under 21s Team for which they have previously played in the Top Four Cup.
5. An unused substitute during an NPLWA-W fixture is deemed NOT to have played.

Article 50 - Match Officials

1. The host Club will pay the Match Official fees of the Matches played in the Top Four Cup except for the Grand Finals where Football West will pay the Match Official fees.

Article 51 - Match Balls

1. The host Club will provide the Match balls for all senior Matches except the Grand Finals. Football West will supply all Match balls for the Grand Finals.

Article 52 - Admission

1. A maximum of 23 people from each Team will be provided with a free entry pass to the venue for any one Match Day for use by the Players, Club officials or a Club's official guests only. The visiting Clubs must inform the host Club in writing the names to be granted free entry by 12:00pm on the last working day prior to the Match.

2. Football West reserve the right to charge an admission fee for any matches and competitions at the Sam Kerr Football Centre at a rate determined by Football West.

Article 53 - Squad Lists

3. Football West reserves the right to request a squad list for each competing Team in a Match. If requested by Football West, the relevant Club must provide said squad list in writing four (4) Business Days prior to the Match.

Appendix A - Penalty Schedule

Rule	Penalty
Article 1 – paragraph 15	\$1,000 payable by the offending Club
Article 3 – paragraph 3	Forfeiture of a Match
Article 3 – paragraph 5	Forfeiture of a Match
Article 5 – paragraph 1	Senior Teams Written notice to Football West with at least one business days' notice - \$500 With no written notice or notice on a non-Business Day - \$1,000 Junior Teams Written notice to Football West with at least one business days' notice - \$200 With no written notice or notice on a non-Business Day - \$400
Article 6 – paragraph 1	\$50 per breach.
Article 7 – paragraph 7	\$100 per breach
Article 7 – paragraph 8	\$100 per breach
Article 8 – paragraph 2	If no Match Card is submitted – Forfeit and a \$200 fine. If any of the following are not completed accurately: i. All Player names; ii. All Players assigned a correct shirt number; iii. All Team Officials listed; iv. Eligible overage Players denoted; and v. Starting Players assigned. \$100 Fine
Article 11 – paragraph 1	\$100 per breach
Article 11 – paragraph 2	\$100 per breach
Article 13 – paragraph 5	\$300 per breach
Article 15 – paragraph 11	\$100 per breach
Article 16 – paragraph 2	\$200 per breach
Article 16 – paragraph 3	\$200 per breach
Article 16 – paragraph 4	\$200 per breach
Article 18 – paragraph 1	\$200 per breach
Article 24 – paragraph 1	\$100 per day of breach
Article 24 – paragraph 2	Penalty for Breach: invalid or late by less than one day - \$300 per day Penalty for Breach: no submission – Forfeiture of all fixtures until valid submission.
Article 26 – paragraph 4	\$300 fine per unregistered official in the Technical Area
Article 26 – paragraph 5	Forfeiture of the Match
Article 27 – paragraph 2	Penalty for Breach: no notification- \$200 Penalty for Breach: 5 or more overage Players – Forfeiture of the Match
Article 28 – paragraph 3	Forfeiture of the Match
Article 29 – paragraph 6	\$200 per breach

Article 34 – paragraph 2	Breach of 2(a) Forfeiture of the Match Breach of 2(b) Forfeiture of the Match
Article 39 – paragraph 1	Penalty for Breach: invalid or late by less than a day - \$300 per day. Penalty for Breach: no submission - Forfeit of Fixtures until valid submission
Article 39 – paragraph 2	Penalty for Breach: invalid or late by less than a day - \$300 per day. Penalty for Breach: no submission - Forfeit of Fixtures until valid submission
Article 40 – paragraph 4	\$300 per unregistered Official
Article 40 – paragraph 5	Forfeiture of the Match
Article 43 – paragraph 2	Forfeiture of the Match
Article 43 – paragraph 3	Penalty for Breach: no notification- \$200 Penalty for Breach: 5 or more overage Players – Forfeiture of the Match
Article 44 – paragraph 6	\$200 per breach
Article 49 – paragraph 2	Forfeiture of the Match

Appendix B – Ineligibility Penalties

The following table describes the sanctions associated with fielding an ineligible Player during a Football West Match.

Type of Ineligibility	Sanction
Not registered in accordance with the Registration Regulations	Forfeit and a fine of:
	Senior Teams - \$500
	Junior Teams - \$200
Plays or is listed on a Team list without an ITC (International Transfer Certificate) where one is required	Forfeit and a fine of:
	Senior Teams - \$500
	Junior Teams - \$200
Plays or is listed on a Team list within a stand-down period due to a change of status	Forfeit and a fine of:
	Senior Teams - \$500
	Junior Teams - \$200
Plays, is listed on a Team list or coaches while under suspension	Forfeit and a fine of:
	Senior Teams - \$500
	Junior Teams - \$200
Enters the field of play, the surrounds of the field of play, the technical area, the Players' race, or any other area within a venue where Club Associates are likely to assemble to prepare for a Match within 15 minutes of the beginning of a Match and 15 minutes after the Match has finished while under suspension.	Deduction of 1 championship point and a fine of:
	Senior Teams - \$500
	Junior Teams - \$200
Does not have proof of registration (but is otherwise validly registered and eligible to play) or presents proof of registration which does not include a photograph.	Forfeit and a fine of:
	Senior Teams - \$300
	Junior Teams - \$100
Plays or is listed on a Team list for a Team or in a knockout Match when not permitted to do so under Competition Rules but would otherwise be eligible to play for the Club in a league Match (for example if he is "cup tied")	Forfeit and a fine of:
	Senior Teams - \$300
	Junior Teams - \$100
Plays in a Match when not listed on a Team list but would otherwise be eligible to play	A fine of:
	Senior Teams - \$300
	Junior Teams - \$100

Plays in a Match in which their name has been added to the Team list after the Match has commenced but would otherwise be eligible to play	A fine of:
	Senior Teams - \$300
	Junior Teams - \$100
Plays or is listed on a Team list for a Team which causes the maximum number of Players allowed to be listed on a Team list to be exceeded	Forfeit and a fine of:
	Senior Teams - \$300
	Junior Teams - \$100
Plays or is listed on a Team list under a name other than their own	As per the Disciplinary & Grievance Regulations
Plays or is listed on a Team list while not eligible to do so for any other reason	At the discretion of Football West

Appendix C – NPLWA-W Player Roster Composition

Any club that does meet the players requirements for a specific category will have one less player slot on the roster. I.e., If a club has only four (4) loyalty players, they will only be allowed to field 20 players on the roster.

Category	No. Players	Criteria
First Team Roster	18-21	- The club must list a minimum of 18 players and a maximum of 21 players. - Any player classified as a professional player must be included on the PRC. - A player who has been previously listed on an NPLWA-W PRC in either the current season or previous season must be listed on the PRC regardless of age. - Players born after 2004 may play an unlimited number of first team matches without the need to be included on the first team roster, unless they have previously been listed on the PRC as per the point above. - Any player who has STARTED 9 or more NPLWA-W first team games in the previous season must be listed on the FIRST TEAM player roster regardless of age. - U21 players CAN be placed on the first team roster to fulfill minimum player numbers for the first team roster. - Any player who is on an A-League Women contract in the current season or was on an A-League Women contract in the preceding season, must be listed on your first-team roster regardless of age. - Any player who is 21 or older must be included on the First Team roster whether they play NPLW or NPLW U21. - Players older than 21 who are not listed on this roster will not be allowed to play without an exemption.
A-League Players	Maximum 3	Any player who was on an A-League contract (full time or scholarship) in the two preceding seasons is considered an A League Player.
Visa Players	Maximum 3	- Any player not considered an Australian citizen or Permanent resident. - A copy of the player's passport and visa must be provided to Football West - Football West may request a copy of a player's Australian Citizenship or Permanent Residency for any player listed an Australian Player.
Senior Matildas	Maximum 1	Any player who has appeared on the matchday card of a senior's women's Matildas game.
Maximum number of switching players	Maximum 3	The maximum number of players any club can recruit who were registered with the same club in the previous season.

NTC Graduates from previous season	Maximum 3	- The number of players a club can recruit from the NTC program in one calendar year. - Players that were registered with your club immediately before entering the NTC program will not count towards this total of 3 players. - Football West will provide a list of NTC graduates annually for the purposes of this rule
Home Grown Players (includes loyalty players)	Minimum 5	- To be home grown a player must have 3 seasons in the club youth teams including the U21s competition. - Club's youth teams are defined as Under 13s to Under 21s
Loyalty Players (includes home grown players)	Minimum 5	- A player is considered a loyalty player when they have played 3 seasons in succession up to and including the current season. - To be eligible for 2025 a player must have been registered in the club's first team in 2023,2024 with no break to be considered a loyalty player. E.g., A player that played in 2022,2024 would not be considered a loyalty player (A medical exemption may be given by Football West for players with injury/illness or medical condition such as Pregnancy)
Youth players (18 or under)	Maximum 5	Youth player is any player that is below 18 years old by the end of the calendar year e.g. For 2025 any player that is born in 2008 or later will be considered a youth player for the purposes of this rule.

NPLW WA Club First Team PRC Requirements

- At all times during the season, a NPLWA-W Club must include a minimum of 18 Players on its First Team Player Roster and may include a maximum of 21 Players on its First Team Player Roster. * Unless minimum number of Home Grown/ Loyalty Players is not met. The maximum number of roster positions which will be withheld is capped at 5.
- National Pathway Promotion – PRC Relief: Any player listed on a club's PRC in the preceding season who has now signed their first contract with an A-League W team will be classified as a National Pathway Promotion player. A club is eligible for relief of one player in either the homegrown or loyalty player category for each National Pathway Promotion player.
- Any player who is on the NPLWA-W Player Roster of a club cannot play in a competition outside of the NPLWA-W for that club except for the Under 18 Girls League
- Clubs can make changes to their Player Roster in the designated transfer windows and as per competition rules.
- Playing in a Match is defined as taking the field of play (i.e., in the starting 11 or entering the field as a substitute). For the avoidance of doubt, it will not constitute playing a match if the Player remains as a substitute and does not enter the field of play.
- NTC are exempt from Player Roster requirements.
- Football West has the right to determine in its sole and absolute discretion as to what category a Player falls under for the purposes of the Player Roster.

Notes and Definitions

Characteristics

- A Player may fulfil multiple categories simultaneously i.e. A player may be classified as a Home Grown and Loyalty Player on a Player Roster.

Age

- A Players age is based on their age as of 31st December in that NPLWA-W competition season.
- All Players on the Player Roster and competing in the NPLWA-W competition must as a minimum turn 15 years of age by 31 December in that competition season. This is subject to any exemption requirements set out in the NPLWA Competition Rules.

A-League Woman Players:

- For the purpose of the Player Roster, a player registered to a A-League club in the preceding A-League season will be classified as a A-League player.
- For the purpose of the Player Roster a A-League appearance is defined as a player who started or took the field as a substitute in at least 5 A-League fixtures in the preceding A-League season.
- For the purpose of the PRC the preceding A-League season refers to the 2023/2024 season.

National Pathway player

- A player that has signed for an A League-W Team in the preceding season.

Visa Players:

- Any player who is not an Australian Citizen or does not have Permanent Residency status is considered a Visa Player.