



**NORTHERN  
SUBURBS  
FOOTBALL**  
EST. 1957

## COMPETITION REGULATIONS

### 1. PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION

2023

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## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

- a) These regulations pertain to the registration of players, coaches, managers and other officials in Competition football and MiniRoos.
- b) These regulations apply in conjunction with FA National Registration Regulations as amended from time to time (“the NRR”).
- c) Where there is any inconsistency between NSFA Regulations or Competition Regulations and any provision in the NRR then to the extent of such inconsistency, the NRR shall prevail.
- d) A player registered with a football club cannot move to another football club other than in accordance with these Regulations, and any regulation in force from time to time.
- e) A player registered with a football club can only play for that football club for the period of the registration, unless granted dispensation under **Section 1.3.5 clause b) vi)** of these Regulations.
- f) The NSFA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) shall maintain a database of participants containing the required details. **BOD 03/23**
- g) The CEO may refuse to accept the registration of a participant who fails to provide the required details at the time of registration.
- h) NSFA and/or the football club shall only use information contained in the required details for administrative purposes relating to conduct, control, fostering, developing, promoting and regulating the objectives, competitions and members of NSFA.
- i) Where usage of the required details is for a purpose other than **clause h)** above, NSFA and/or the club must obtain the participant’s express consent to such usage beforehand.
- j) De-registration of a participant is as per the NRR and is the sole prerogative of the CEO; clubs may not de-register a participant.

## 1.2 GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- **Accident Support Scheme** – compulsory scheme to cover injury sustained while participating in football
- **Association** – Northern Suburbs Football Association Ltd. **BOD 03/23**
- **Association’s player registration database** – Dribl (as of the 2023 Winter Season) **BOD 03/23**
- **Capitation Fee** – annual fee collected by FNSW from every registered player in FNSW.
- **Competitions Department** – NSFA staff who manage all competitions and MiniRoos football
- **Dual Registration** – registration with two or more football clubs at the same time
- **FA** – Football Australia
- **FA Levy** – annual levy collected by FA from every registered player in Australia
- **FA National online self-registration system** – Play Football (as of the 2023 Winter season) **BOD 03/23**
- **FNSW** – Football New South Wales
- **MiniRoos** – small-sided non-competition football for Under 6 to Under 11 **BOD 03/23**
- **NRR** – National Registration Regulations
- **NSFA** – Northern Suburbs Football Association Ltd.
- **WWC** – Working with Children

## 1.3 REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

### 1.3.1 Freedom of Choice

- a) A player may apply to register with any club of his or her choice.

## NSFA Regulations

- b) The Association reserves the right to refuse an application from a player based on legitimate competition reasons, including number of players, available fields or coaches.

### 1.3.2 Mandatory Registration

- a) Any person wishing to play in competitions or other matches conducted by the Association must register with FA via the FA National online self-registration system.
- b) Players become eligible to play in Association-sanctioned matches when the player's club has approved the registration, made the participant "Active", and placed him/her into a team.

### 1.3.3 Proof of Age

Every player must provide proof of his/her age to the satisfaction of the club registrar at the time of registration. The Association may call upon clubs to provide such documentation for verification. Failure to provide proof of age will nullify the player's registration and the team(s) will forfeit any match in which the player participated as an unregistered player (as per the relevant Competition Regulation(s)). **BOD 03/23**

### 1.3.4 Period of Registration

- a) The FA National online self-registration system opens on the first working day in January each year.
- b) All registrations are valid from the date the player submits his or her registration on the FA National online self-registration system until December 31 of that year.
- c) An amateur player registered with a club may move to any other club during the registration period by following the procedure set out in **Section 1.3.8** of these Regulations.
- d) Any amateur player who requests a clearance from a club and that club does not provide such clearance within seven (7) days of the request made, may request the NSFA to process that request.

### 1.3.5 Dual Registration

- a) Players cannot be dual registered with any other club either from within the Association or outside.
- b) A player registered with FA can only play for the club nominated on the prescribed form unless the player is playing:
  - i) For a representative or development team (does not include clubs competing in FNSW National Premier Leagues and Youth Leagues and Mixed Skills Acquisition Program); or
  - ii) For a Futsal club for which that player is also registered; or
  - iii) For a school's team that is not a club; or
  - iv) In a trial match provided the player has the written permission of his/her club; or
  - v) Any other exceptional circumstances approved by FA in its absolute discretion; or
  - vi) Another NSFA club has borrowed the player under **Section 2.7.1 of NSFA Competition Regulation 2 – Competition Football**.
- c) A player may only register for a maximum of three (3) clubs during the period from January 1 to December 31. During this period, the player may only play in matches for two (2) of those clubs.

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### 1.3.6 Procedure for Registration with NSFA

- a) Adult players must complete registration in the FA National online self-registration system personally (PlayFootball).
- b) Where the player is under the age of eighteen (18), the player's parent or guardian must complete registration in the FA National online self-registration system personally on behalf of the player.
- c) Players must provide all details at the time of registration, including an up-to-date photograph if he or she is playing in a competition age group.
- d) Once the player has completed his/her online registration, the details will automatically upload to the Association's player registration database.
- e) The club registrar must accept a player's application via the FA National online self-registration system before a player is eligible to participate in any match. Once accepted, the player's registration status must be marked as 'Active' in the FA National online self-registration system.
- f) Once the player has completed online registration, his/her details will automatically upload to the Association's player registration database [Dribl] as "Active".
- g) Once the player is "Active" in the FA national online self-registration system, the club must allocate the player to a team via the Association player registration system in order to finalise his/her registration with the Association. A player is not eligible to play in any match until allocated to a team within the Association's player registration database [Dribl].
  - a. The club must also mark the player as "Active" within the Association player registration system [Dribl] in order for the registration to be approved and for the player to be eligible for matches.
  - b. The club must also approve the players registration within Dribl for the player to be eligible for competition fixtures.
- h) Clubs must approve a registration no later than 11:59pm on the day before the scheduled date of any match the player wishes to play in.
- i) Registrations for competition age groups are not valid if the player has not attached a suitable photograph to the Association's player registration database. NSFA reserves the right to reject any photograph that does not clearly identify the player, or it deems the photograph is offensive.
- j) Players who have not correctly registered at the time of a match in which they participate are ineligible and the provisions of **Section 2.23.1 of NSFA Regulation 2 – Competition Football** may apply.
- k) NSFA will not accept registrations after 11:59pm on July 31, without specific approval of the Competitions Department.

### 1.3.7 Change of Club within NSFA

Any player wishing to move from one NSFA club to another NSFA club must do the following, in the order indicated:

- a) De-register in FA National online self-registration system.
- b) Inform his/her current club which then must confirm that the de-registration request has been approved.
- c) The club then sends a request to NSFA for approval.
- d) Once approved the player must re-register with the new club using the FA National online self-registration system.;
- e) The player's first club must refund to the player the FA Levy, FNSW Capitation fee, FNSW Accident Support Scheme payment and any NSFA levies that the Board may apply. Any further refunds are at the discretion of the first club.
- f) The player must pay the fees described in **clause e)** above to his/her new club at the time of registering with the new club.

### 1.3.8 De-registration

Any player wishing to deregister from an NSFA club must do the following, in the order indicated:

- a) De-register in the FA National online self-registration system.
- b) Inform his/her current club which then must confirm that the de-registration request has been approved.
- c) The club then sends a request to NSFA for approval.
- d) The club must refund to the player the FA Levy, FNSW Capitation fee, FNSW Accident Support Scheme payment and any NSFA levies that the Board may apply. Any further refunds are at the discretion of the club.

## 1.4 REGISTRATION OF COACHES AND TEAM OFFICIALS

- a) All coaches and assistant coaches (hereafter called "coaches") in all football conducted by NSFA must register as a coach on the FA National online self-registration system.
- b) All managers, assistant managers and other team officials (hereafter called "team officials") in all football conducted by NSFA must register as a volunteer using the FA National online self-registration system.
- c) All coaches and team officials must complete registration in the FA National online self-registration system personally.
- d) Coaches and team officials must provide all required details at the time of registration, including an up-to-date photograph uploaded to the FA National online self-registration system, if the applicant is intending to act as a coach or team official in any age group. Coaches in Junior Mixed and Girls' age groups must provide their current FA Coach ID number if they have one.
- e) All coaches and team officials that are eighteen years of age and older must obtain a Working with Children (WWC) number and enter it into the National online self-registration system. **There are no exceptions.** Clubs may not employ any person in a role that requires working or volunteering with children under 18 years of age unless they have provided a verified WWC number.
- f) Clubs must assign a coach and/or team official to all teams via the Association's player registration database. Clubs must also verify the WWC numbers of all coaches and team officials and record the details in the appropriate place. The Competitions Department will not allow any team to participate in NSFA-sanctioned matches until the team complies with this clause.

Northern Suburbs Football Association  
4 Bridge Street Pymble, NSW, 2073  
Phone: 02 94494933