

Finals Procedures (ALL Finals fixtures – including Grand Finals)

Grades 12 - 14: If matches are drawn at fulltime there will be 10 minutes extra time each way.

There are NO penalty shoot-outs in Grade 12 – 14.

For Grade 12-14 semi-finals: if the match is still drawn at the end of extra-time, the team which finished highest on the point score shall advance AND be advised by FFNC. *We ask that referees do NOT make comment or get involved in stating which team advances.*

For Grand Finals: If the match is still drawn at the end of extra-time, Joint Premiers will be declared. There are NO penalty shoot-outs in Grade 12-14, even for Grand Finals.

Grades 15 and 16: If matches are drawn at fulltime there will be 10 minutes extra time each way.

If the match is still drawn at the end of extra-time there will be a penalty shoot-out to determine the winner of the match. <https://www.theifab.com/laws/latest/determining-the-outcome-of-a-match/#kicks-from-the-penalty-mark>

All senior grades: If matches are drawn at fulltime there will be 10 minutes extra time each way.

If the match is still drawn at the end of extra-time there will be a penalty shoot-out to determine the winner of the match. <https://www.theifab.com/laws/latest/determining-the-outcome-of-a-match/#kicks-from-the-penalty-mark>

Match Sheets

For Semi Finals and Finals fixtures, BOTH match sheets are to be submitted to the HOME club/venue for all fixtures (consistent with the procedure during the pointscore competition).

For Grand Finals, match sheets will need to be submitted to the HOME club/venue in most instances (consistent with the procedure during the pointscore competition) OR to a FFNC representative at the ground (where one exists).

Assistant Referees

Please note that every effort will be made to appoint Assistant Referees for ALL Grand Final matches, where possible (Grade 12 – Seniors). If you can be available, please update your availability in Schedule.

Fourth Officials

The appointment of FOURTH officials will only occur in select grand finals (if availability of match officials permits this to occur).

Payment

Payment for all Finals (including Grand Finals) will be made via bank transfer into nominated bank accounts, as per the regular season.

Scheduling

Finals series matches will be scheduled as quickly as possible following the completion of the previous weekend's fixtures and published on the FFNC website (via GameDay).

Availability

Please remember that even if you will no longer be playing, you need to continue to UPDATE YOUR AVAILABILITY (and unavailability) in Schedula by 6pm every Sunday.

All match officials are again reminded to **UPDATE availability (and unavailability) in Schedula not later than 6pm on Sunday every week.** It is important that availability is up-to-date ON TIME until the end of the season (late September). Also remember that finals (and Grand Finals) MAY be scheduled on various days, so please update availability appropriately for EVERY day.

For those that are playing in finals, we understand that you will not be able to update the details on time in Schedula for when you are UNAVAILABLE due to playing commitments. Please update Schedula with your current availability and we will aim to take even more care in recognising your playing commitments (and feel free to email me as well to remind me that you're still playing). The schedule should be finalised by Monday morning every week, so those still playing should be able to check their playing schedule by Monday and then provide this information to me/update availability as soon as this information is published (not later than Monday evening).

If you have not confirmed your playing/coaching details previously or want to confirm these details with me, please email me at referees@ffnc.net.au

We also offer this important reminder of specific matters that ALL match officials need to be vigilant about;

- **Hard casts (e.g. plaster or hard plastic) are NOT permitted** under any circumstances (even if wrapped in padding). There are NO exceptions and FFNC has NOT given any concessions for any casts, regardless of any claims made to the contrary. Please call me on 0434 856 992 if there are any issues with this on the day. The NNSWF Plaster Casts And Rigid Supports Policy is attached, which supports FFNC's policy on this.
- **NO JEWELLERY** is permitted to be worn by players OR match officials (except a watch for match officials). Jewellery **CANNOT** be taped under any circumstances. If it cannot be removed, they cannot play. NO exceptions and again phone me if you encounter any issues?
- Team Officials must be noted on the match sheet to be permitted to occupy the Technical Area (TA). Match officials are reminded to CHECK how many team officials are noted on the match sheet of each team prior to the game and ensure the same number (no more) occupy the TA. A maximum of TWO team officials are permitted in all grades, except Men's Premier and Championship Leagues and Women's Premier League that is allowed three.
- ONLY team officials and interchange players who are listed on the match sheet are permitted to occupy the Technical Area.
- There is NO stoppage time allowed, unless otherwise approved by FFNC due to extraordinary circumstances.

Match officials are reminded to be vigilant about these points so that we are delivering a clear and CONSISTENT message.

Appointments will be completed for all Finals and Grand Finals based on individual match official availability, information received from Assessors throughout the season, participation at coaching meetings and other events and other relevant factors. Not everyone will necessarily get a Grand Final (or semi-final) and those who are appointed should feel honoured to receive an appointment. If you do miss out, please understand there are not enough games for everyone and some people will ultimately miss out for a variety of reasons.