

FOOTBALL FAR NORTH COAST COMPETITION POLICY

Operational document
Historical Policy issued October 2007
Reviewed December 2024

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to provide an outline of Football Far North Coast competition activities and provide reasonable disclosure to stakeholders.

AUTHORISATION

The General Manager is authorised to make decisions consistent with the principles outlined within this policy that is endorsed by the FFNC Board of Directors.

POLICY

1. CLUB MEMBERS

- 1.1. If a new Club wishes to participate in FFNC sanctioned competitions they must meet the eligibility criteria as specified below;
 - 1.1.1.They must have their application for membership approved by the Zone.
 - 1.1.2.They must be domiciled within the Zone.
 - 1.1.3.They must meet the classification for a club whether senior or junior as follows;
- 1.2. Club Classification:

For consideration as an affiliated member Club, it will typically be required to be able to;

 - 1.2.1.Nominate at least three teams into FFNC competitions, i.e. at least two senior and one junior team (three senior teams would also be acceptable).
 - 1.2.2.Be able to demonstrate reasonable strategies which will outline future growth strategies to ensure the long-term viability of the club.
 - 1.2.3.Have a home venue which meets the FFNC Facilities Standard.
 - 1.2.4.Submit details such as playing strip and any items that FFNC may variously require to be considered as an affiliated member club.
- 1.3. **In determining an application for a new club the Zone will consider the following criteria;**
 - 1.3.1.Club drawing area versus the current demand and the number of existing clubs
 - 1.3.2.Potential Growth
 - 1.3.3.Availability of ground and amenities in the region and current usage and load.
 - 1.3.4.Incorporation
 - 1.3.5.Committee personnel and structure
 - 1.3.6.Any other factors considered relevant to FFNC
- 1.4. Where a club from outside FFNC makes application to have a team(s) participate in the FFNC competition, it is required to provide evidence to FFNC that its member zone endorses such participation. FFNC will consider the acceptance or rejection of an application from a club outside the zone, at its absolute discretion.

2. NOMINATIONS

- 2.1. Nominations for all FFNC competitions will only be accepted on the correct form and must be received by the due date for nominations for that particular competition.
- 2.2. All nominations for senior leagues and junior grades will be considered by the Competition Administrator.
- 2.3. Final allocation of teams to divisions and grades will be at the discretion of the Competition Administrator.

3. GRADING OF TEAMS

- 3.1. **Pointscore** – Information taken into consideration during the grading process:
 - 3.1.1. the previous seasons point score standing,
 - 3.1.2. where the team nominated,
 - 3.1.3. the history of the club,
 - 3.1.4. pre-season game scores where applicable,
 - 3.1.5. Written submissions received with relevant nominations.
 - 3.1.6. A minimum of four teams is required for a competition to be played.
 - 3.1.7. When allocating teams to leagues/divisions, fill from the top divisions/leagues down, i.e., First Division before Second Division (in juniors) and Premier League to Championship to League 1, etc. in senior leagues where applicable.
- 3.2. **ANZAC Day Cup/Callan McMillan Memorial Shield**
 - 3.2.1. In accordance with ADC and CM Regulations applicable to each year.

4. GAME ALLOCATION

- 4.1. **Friday night games in the pointscore competition will ordinarily not be scheduled earlier than a 6pm kick-off and not later than an 8pm kick-off.**
- 4.2. **Saturday games** in the pointscore competition will ordinarily not be scheduled later than a 3pm kick-off.
- 4.3. Sunday games in the pointscore competition will ordinarily not be scheduled later than a 2:30pm kick-off.
- 4.4. Men's fixtures will ordinarily be scheduled on either Friday nights, Saturday afternoon or Sunday afternoon.
- 4.5. **Women's** fixtures will ordinarily be scheduled on Friday nights or Sunday afternoon.
- 4.6. **Junior pointscore games**
 - 4.6.1. Girls pointscore games are ordinarily scheduled for a Friday night or Sunday morning.
 - 4.6.2. Mixed gender pointscore games are ordinarily scheduled for a Saturday morning, however will be scheduled for a Friday night or Sunday morning if required.
- 4.7. Catch-up (or re-scheduled games) may be scheduled mid-week if required.

5. RESCHEDULED FIXTURES

- 5.1. If a fixture has to be transferred due to HOME ground closure, it may be re-scheduled/transferred to the away team's ground if available. Note that the re-scheduling of a fixture (generally due to the impact of adverse weather and field conditions) may mean that a team relinquishes its right to have a "round reversal game", meaning a home game is not guaranteed.
- 5.2. Washed out or postponed fixtures that are rescheduled, should be rescheduled to be played as soon as reasonably possible (ordinarily a minimum of seven days notice).
- 5.3. If teams have requests for fixtures to be played out of the normal day and time, they must be presented in writing prior to the draw being done at the beginning of the season. Any requests after the draw is completed must be considered a matter of priority and will be at the discretion of the **Zone**. (Coaches will not arrange to change fixtures).
- 5.4. All fixtures will be rescheduled by the Competition Administrator.

6. ALLOCATION OF CLUB GALA DAYS

- 6.1. FFNC will allocate/approve Gala Days carnivals annually at its discretion on a "first in, first served" basis.

7. INTERNAL COMPETITIONS

- 7.1. If any Clubs/teams/participants from outside the host club are intending to participate, they must have approval from FFNC.

8. APPLICATIONS FOR A JUNIOR PLAYER TO PLAY IN LOWER GRADE

- 8.1. The following must be taken into consideration to reach a decision for each application:-
- 8.1.1. A child will not be permitted to register and participate in an age group that is more than one year less than the child's age in the specific calendar year in which they are requested to participate as an over-age player.
 - 8.1.2. Any Medical conditions
 - 8.1.3. How many players are registered in the correct grade, the grade above and the grade below
 - 8.1.4. Past/Current team performance
 - 8.1.5. Do other approvals exist for the proposed team
 - 8.1.6. Guideline - no more than two per team, no more than 6 months overage
 - 8.1.7. How long has this player been with the Club
 - 8.1.8. Any conditions otherwise set by FFNC

9. APPLICATIONS FOR A JUNIOR PLAYER TO PLAY IN A HIGHER GRADE

- 9.1. The following must be taken into consideration to reach a decision for each application:-
- 9.1.1. A child will not be permitted to register or participate in an age group that is more than TWO (2) years above the child's eligible age in the specific calendar year in which they are requested to participate as a younger player than ordinarily applicable.

10. APPLICATIONS FOR A SENIOR PLAYER TO PLAY IN LOWER LEAGUE

- 10.1. A senior player will not be permitted to register and participate in a league that is more than TWO (2) leagues below the league in which the player was last graded in FFNC unless specific written application is submitted and contingent upon being subsequently approved in writing by FFNC.
- 1.1.1. Player build to be considered
 - 1.1.2. Any Medical conditions
 - 1.1.3. Any exceptional circumstances
 - 1.1.4. Playing experience to be considered
 - 1.1.5. Past/Current team performance
 - 1.1.6. Do other approvals exist for the proposed team/club
 - 1.1.7. Guideline - no more than two special exemptions per team.
 - 1.1.8. How long has this player been with the Club
 - 1.1.9. Any conditions otherwise set by FFNC