



SUMMARY DOCUMENT: NSWRL Conference Competitions Handbook (Rules and By-Laws) 2020 changes

The NSWRL Conference Competitions Handbook provides a consistent and uniform set of Rules and By-Laws for all teams participating in any NSWRL Conference Competition from U/13's to Open Age Football including male, female, contact and non-contact competitions. The following summary document provides an overview of key additions and amendments to the Handbook that have changed for the 2020 season from the previous season.

1. ADMISSION CHARGES

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Modification to U/14's and U/20's and U/23's number of players who receive free admission to venues during finals series.• Addition of Blues Tag teams number of players who can receive free admission to venues during finals series.	
2019	2020
1.2 Gate sheets for players and team officials for free admission can be provided for finals matches: 1.2.2 PLAYERS (U/13's): 20 1.2.3 PLAYERS (U/14's – U/23's): 25 1.2.4 PLAYERS (Open Age): 28	1.2 Gate sheets for players and team officials for free admission can be provided for finals matches: 1.2.2 PLAYERS (U/13's – U/14's): 20 1.2.3 PLAYERS (U/14's – U/23's): 25 1.2.4 PLAYERS (Open Age): 28 1.2.5 BLUES TAG: PLAYERS (U/9's – U/11's): 15 1.2.6 BLUES TAG: PLAYERS (U/13's – Over 35's): 20

2. FORFEITS

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Time of late forfeit notification changed from 10am to 5pm• Addition of new rule for non-finals contending teams forfeiting in final three rounds	
2019	2020
6.6 Forfeits must be notified to your Junior League Administrator and the NSWRL Club and Competitions Coordinator in writing by no later than 10am of the Friday before the match	6.6 Forfeits must be notified to your Junior League Administrator and the NSWRL Club and Competitions Coordinator in writing by no later than 5pm of the Friday before the match 6.10 Any team that forfeits / withdraws in the final three (3) rounds of the season, and are not finals series contenders will need to show cause to the NSWRL Community Competitions Coordinator as to why they should not incur a \$400 fine payable to NSWRL, regardless of the time of notification specified in Section 6.6 above

3. MATCH DURATIONS

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Change to Girls U/14, U/16 and U/18 Tackle competitions match durations	
2019	2020
6.21 Under 12's, 14's, 16's and 18's (Female) 2 x 20 minute halves	6.21 Under 14's, 16's and 18's (Female) 2 x 25 minute halves



4. GRADING / RE-GRADING

<ul style="list-style-type: none">A change has been made as to how competition points and for and against points are calculated for teams moving down a Division in the re-grade process	
2019	2020
<p>6.31 If a team is promoted/relegated to a higher/lower division, they will be placed in 4th position on the competition ladder with equal points and for and against as the current 4th placed team</p> <p>6.32 If there are multiple teams in 4th position an average for and against points will be calculated.</p>	<p>6.33 If a team is promoted to a higher division, they will be placed in 4th position on the competition ladder with equal points and for and against as the current 4th placed team</p> <p>6.34 If there are multiple teams in 4th position an average for and against points will be calculated</p> <p>6.35 If a team is relegated to a lower division, their points will carry across along with for and against points.</p>

5. TEAM NOMINATIONS

<ul style="list-style-type: none">Amendment to Girls tackle competition minimum numbers required to nominate a teamAmendment to Under 9's and 11's Blues Tag competition minimum numbers required to nominate a team	
2019	2020
<p>6.36 Minimum number of players required to be registered for a team to be nominated is the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Under 13's to Open Age (Male) – Thirteen (13)Open Age (Female) – Thirteen (13)Under 12's, 14's, 16's and 18's (Girls) – NineUnder 11's, 13's, 15's, 17's and Over 35's League Tag – 11 (Eleven)	<p>6.39 Minimum number of players required to be registered for a team to be nominated is the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Under 13's to Open Age (Male) – Thirteen (13)Open Age (Female) – Thirteen (13)Under 14's, 16's and 18's (Girls) – Eleven (11)Under 9's and 11's Blues Tag – Eight (8)Under 13's, 15's, 17's, Open Age and Over 35's Blues Tag – Eleven (11)

6. TIME OFF AND SCHEDULED TIME DELAYS

<ul style="list-style-type: none">Amendment to time limit for teams not ready at kick off to align with NSWRL Policies and Procedure ManualAmendment to minimum game times when making changes due to injury/weather for Girls tackle competitions	
2019	2020
<p>6.43 A team shall be allowed a maximum of 10 minutes after a match's scheduled starting time to</p>	<p>6.46 A team shall be allowed a maximum of 15 minutes after a match's scheduled starting time to</p>



<p>take the field without any prior confirmation of delay. After 10 minutes the match will be deemed a forfeit</p> <p>6.46 Should a match be unable to commence at the scheduled time for any unforeseeable reason, injury or extraordinary event the following needs to be applied: f. Girls Under 12's, 14's, 16's and 18's: 10 minute halves with 2 minutes half time break</p>	<p>take the field without any prior confirmation of delay. After 15 minutes the match will be deemed a forfeit</p> <p>6.49 Should a match be unable to commence at the scheduled time for any unforeseeable reason, injury or extraordinary event the following needs to be applied: f. Girls Under 14's, 16's and 18's: 12 minute halves with 5 minutes half time break</p>
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7. REGISTRATION

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendment to maximum registration numbers for Male U/14's age group • Amendment to maximum registration numbers for Male Under 20's and 23's age groups • Addition of maximum registration numbers for Blues Tag Under 9's and Open Age groups 	
2019	2020
<p>6.50 Under 13's: maximum registration numbers per team in all competitions in this age group is twenty (20) players (see interchange section for numbers who can participate during any given match)</p> <p>6.51 Under 14's to 23's: maximum registration numbers per team in all competitions in this age group is twenty-five (25) players (see interchange section for numbers who can participate during any given match)</p> <p>6.52 Open Age: maximum registration numbers per team in all competitions in Open Age is twenty eight (28) players (see interchange section for numbers who can participate during any given match)</p> <p>6.53 Any player from a "Higher Level" NSWRL Major Competition (i.e. Sydney Shield, ISP Premiership, Ron Massey Cup, Women's Premiership, Jersey Flegg) on a portability agreement with a team in a NSWRL Conference Competition will be exempt from the maximum registration number quota</p> <p>6.55 League Tag Under 11's to 17's maximum registration numbers per team in all competitions in these age groups is twenty (20) players</p>	<p>6.53 Under 13's and 14's: maximum registration numbers per team in all competitions in this age group is twenty (20) players (see interchange section for numbers who can participate during any given match)</p> <p>6.54 Under 15's to 18's: maximum registration numbers per team in all competitions in this age group is twenty-five (25) players (see interchange section for numbers who can participate during any given match)</p> <p>6.55 Under 20's, 23's and Open Age: maximum registration numbers per team in all competitions in Under 20's, 23's and Open Age is twenty eight (28) players (see interchange section for numbers who can participate during any given match)</p> <p>6.56 Players from a NSWRL Major Competition (Sydney Shield, Ron Massey Cup, Jersey Flegg or Harvey Norman Women's Premiership) on a portability agreement with a team in a NSWRL Conference Competition will be included in the maximum registration number quota up to a maximum of five (5) positions within the quota however, there are no restrictions on the number of players that can be used on a portability agreement during the regular season</p> <p>6.58 Blues Tag Under 9's and 11's maximum registration numbers per team in all competitions is fifteen (15) players</p> <p>6.59 Blues Tag Under 13's to Open Age maximum registration numbers per team in all competitions in these age groups is twenty (20) players</p>



8. DE-REGISTRATION

• Amendment to maximum number of unassigning players for Under 20's and 23's age groups	
2019	2020
6.61 Open Age (male and female) maximum number of un-assigning players prior to June 30 is seven (7) players. Players remain registered participants for insurance purposes but ineligible to participate for that club for the remainder of the season	6.65 Under 20's, 23's and Open Age (male and female) maximum number of players that can be unassigned prior to June 30 is seven (7) players. Players remain registered participants for insurance purposes but ineligible to participate for that club for the remainder of the season

9. WASHOUT POLICY

• Amendment to washout rule which will allow for the replay of up to two washed out matches in the final two rounds of season	
2019	2020
6.71 No washed out rounds will be replayed	6.75 In the event of a round being washed out, that round will then be replayed in the final allocated washout rounds of the competition. This will be done for two rounds only. The first two washed out rounds will be moved back till the last two rounds of the season (i.e. if round 4 is washed out then it will be replayed in the second last round. If then Round 8 is washed out, then it will be replayed in the final round). If there are no washouts, then another round of the draw will be added for the final two or one rounds remaining

10. PLAYER MOVEMENT (U/12's to U/18's)

• Amendment to player movement rules between teams within a club where a player can play up an age and back one division (excluding Junior Rep players) allowing additional ability for younger teams to support older teams when short of players	
2019	2020
6.78 Players cannot play in a lower division in their age group to which they hold their primary registration. This also includes moving up an age group. They must be in an equivalent or higher division to their primary team (they cannot play in lower divisions).	6.81 When playing up an age group, players may play in a team that is an equivalent, higher or one division lower to that of their primary team with the following conditions: <ol style="list-style-type: none">i. If playing up an age group in an equivalent or higher division, a player may play up in a higher AGE GROUP a maximum of four (4) matches. On the fifth occasion, a player will be considered to be part of the secondary team (no longer permitted to play in the primary team) however, if the player also plays for their primary team the same day/weekend, this WILL NOT count towards the quota of four (4) matchesii. If playing up an age group and down one division, a player can do this to a maximum of



	<p>four (4) matches. On the fifth occasion, a player will be considered to be part of the secondary team (the higher age group team) and are no longer permitted to play in their primary team regardless of whether the player also plays for their primary team on the same day/weekend</p> <p>iii. If playing up an age group and down a division, the limit is three players (3) per match during the regular season</p> <p>iv. Junior Representative players (Harold Matthews, SG Ball, Johns and Daley Cup Competitions) are an exception to the above rule and can only play in an equivalent or higher division when playing up an age group (excluding SG Ball and Daley players playing up in U/20's, U/23's and Open Age Competitions)</p>
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11. PLAYER MOVEMENT (U/20's, U/23's, Emerging Cup and Open Age)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendment to player movement rules between teams within a club that restricts Gold Division players playing in Bronze competitions for Senior Age Football teams 	
2019	2020
<p>6.84 Players are free to move from their primary team to their secondary team up and down divisions where necessary with no restrictions</p>	<p>6.90 Players are free to move from their primary team to a secondary team that is either an equivalent, higher or one division lower where necessary however, players cannot play in a team that is two divisions lower than their primary team</p>

12. PLAYER MOVEMENT (Higher Level Competitions)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendment to number of games a player must play before they are considered a major competitions player from three to four 	
2019	2020
<p>6.91 A player will be considered a "higher level" player once they have played three (3) or more combined matches in a higher level competition in that season. In reference to rule 6.90, if a player on portability has played less than three matches in a "Higher Level" competition, they will not be considered as part of the five (5) player quota when playing in the relevant Conference Competition</p>	<p>6.97 A player will be considered a 'Major Competition' player once they have played four (4) or more combined matches in any Major competition in that season. In reference to rule 6.96, if a player on portability has played less than four 'Major Competition' matches, they will not be considered as part of the five (5) player quota when playing in the relevant Conference Competition</p>

13. DISMISSED PLAYERS (Temporarily Dismissed Players - Sin Binned)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendment to duration of temporary dismissal for Girls U/14's, U/16's and U/18's competitions due to increase in match duration 	
2019	2020
<p>8.6 Periods of temporary suspension: 8.6.2 Girls U/14's, U/16's and U/18's: 5 minutes</p>	<p>8.6 Periods of temporary suspension: 8.6.2 Girls U/14's, U/16's and U/18's: 10 minutes</p>



14. FINALS SERIES (Conference Competitions)

<ul style="list-style-type: none">Amendment to making changes to the day of play during finals series matches	
2019	2020
10.4 Any type of Finals matches may be played across Friday, Saturday and Sunday pending availability and how many matches are drawn to play in any given District	10.4 Grand Final matches only may be played across Friday, Saturday and Sunday pending availability and how many matches are drawn to play in any given District. In exceptional circumstances, application must be submitted to the NSWRL Community Competitions Coordinator for approval

15. FINALS SERIES (Drawn Matches and Extra Time)

<ul style="list-style-type: none">Amendment to extra time format to align with NSWRL Policies and Procedures Manual	
2019	2020
10.8 If scores are equal at the conclusion of normal time in any Finals Series match (including Grand Finals), then in such matches, a period of “Golden Point” extra time (after a 2-minute break) will follow in the form of a 5 minute first period and an unlimited second period until a team scores a point(s). Please note, on conclusion of the first five minute period, it will be a straight turn around (no break).	10.8 In semi-final and finals matches, if scores are equal at the conclusion of normal time, then a period of golden point extra time will follow in the form of two 10-minute periods (straight turnaround). If a team scores a try or kicks a goal / field goal at any stage within this extra time period, the referee will terminate the game with the team scoring the points declared the winner. If no points are scored at the conclusion of the 10-minute periods, the higher ranked team at the conclusion of the normal rounds will be declared the winner 10.9 In Grand Finals, if scores are equal at the conclusion of normal time, then a period of golden point extra time will follow in the form of two 10-minute periods (straight turnaround). If a team scores a try or kicks a goal / field goal at any stage within this extra time period, the referee will terminate the game with the team scoring the points declared the winner. If no points are scored at the conclusion of the two 10-minute periods, both teams will be declared joint premiers.

16. FINALS SERIES (All Competitions Conditions)

<ul style="list-style-type: none">Additional rule added regarding clubs’ responsibility to ensure their players are correctly qualified for finals matches	
2019	2020
	10.12.13 It is the responsibility of clubs to ensure that any player who participates in a finals series match has successfully met the minimum qualification requirements.



17. INTERCHANGE

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amendments to interchange in relation to head injury / concussion• Addition of interchange rules for female tackle and Blues Tag competitions• Addition of interchange rules in the event of extra time in finals series	
2019	2020
<p>13.13 Maximum of 20 players are allowed to be stripped and participate in each match. This includes the starting thirteen (13) and up to seven (7) reserves</p> <p>13.14 In ALL Divisions (GOLD, SILVER AND BRONZE) from U/13's to Open Age, a maximum number of ten (10) interchanges will be allowed only.</p>	<p>13.13 Male tackle and Women's Open Age tackle competitions: Up to a maximum of twenty (20) players are allowed to participate in each match. This includes the starting thirteen (13) and up to seven (7) reserves</p> <p>13.14 Girls U/14, U/16 and U/18's: Up to a maximum of eighteen (18) players are allowed to participate in each match. This includes the starting eleven (11) and up to seven (7) reserves</p> <p>13.15 Male competitions: In ALL Divisions (GOLD, SILVER AND BRONZE) from U/13's to Open Age, a maximum number of ten (10) interchanges will be allowed only</p> <p>13.16 Female tackle competitions: Unlimited interchange will apply for all female tackle competitions</p> <p>13.17 In the event of a head knock or concussion, a free interchange will be given for the player leaving the field however, that player will not be permitted to return to the field of play for the remainder of the match</p> <p>13.18 In periods of extra time during finals series matches, each team will receive two (2) additional interchanges. These are additional to any remaining interchanges a team may have at the conclusion of normal match time</p> <p>13.19 Blues Tag: The following numbers are allowed to participate in each match:</p> <p>13.19.1 U/9's and U/11's: Up to a maximum of fifteen (15) players are allowed to participate in each match. This includes the starting eight (8) and up to seven (7) reserves</p> <p>13.19.2 U/13's to Open Age: Up to a maximum of eighteen (18) players are allowed to participate in each match. This includes the starting eleven (11) and up to seven (7) reserves</p> <p>13.19.3 Over 35's: Up to a maximum of eighteen (18) players are allowed to participate in each</p>



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	<p>match. This includes the starting eleven (11) and up to seven (7) reserves</p> <p>13.20 Unlimited interchange will apply for all Blues Tag Competitions.</p>
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