



2026 NSWCIS FOOTBALL CUP RULES & REGULATIONS

1. NAME OF CUP COMPETITIONS

- i. The competitions shall be known as The NSWCIS Football Cup (Boys) and The NSWCIS Football Cup (Girls). In addition to this, the NSWCIS Football Plate (Boys & Girls) will provide an opportunity for schools who are eliminated in round 1 or 2. They will be administered by The NSW Combined Independent Schools Sports Council (NSWCIS).
- ii. Each competition will be contested by 1st XI Football Teams from schools who are members of an existing school sporting association affiliated to NSWCIS.

2. OWNERSHIP OF TROPHIES

- (i) The Trophies are the property of NSWCIS.
- (ii) When the winning School in each competition has been determined, NSWCIS shall deliver the Trophy to such School, which shall be responsible for its return to NSWCIS on or before the first day in March in the ensuing year in good order and condition.
- (iii) Should a Trophy be lost, destroyed or damaged whilst under the care or custody of the School, the latter shall refund to NSWCIS the amount of its current insured value or the cost of thorough repair in addition to any other penalty that Football NSW may impose.

3. MEDALS

- (i) In addition to the Trophy, NSWCIS shall present medals to the players, substitutes and officials in the Final.
- (ii) If a player is ordered to leave the field of play for misconduct in the Final, the medal to which he may be entitled may be withheld at the discretion of NSWCIS Football Committee.

4. CONTROL OF COMPETITIONS

- (i) The management of the Competitions shall be vested in the NSWCIS Football Cup Convener or his/her appointed delegate.
- (ii) The NSWCIS Football Committee shall have the power to formulate the Rules of the Competitions and to alter or add to the Regulations as from time to time, deem expedient.

5. ELIGIBILITY

- (i) The Cup Competitions will be contested by 1st XI Football Teams from Schools who are members of an existing school sporting association affiliated to NSWCIS.
- (ii) There are two distinct Cup Competitions: The Boys' Competition in which players in the team entered will only be male; The Girls' Competition in which the players in the team entered will only be female.

6. DATES OF ENTRY

- (i) Each School wishing to compete shall complete the online entry form, submitting it by the closing date, 5th December 2025.
- (ii) An entrance fee (\$120 including GST) will be levied and billed to each School by NSWCIS.
- (iii) Details of playing strip colours should be submitted along with the entry form.



7. FORMAT

Each Competition is in a “knock-out” format, with the winning school proceeding to the next round and the losing school eliminated in each game.

8. THE DRAW

- (i) The schools after having been placed by NSWCIS into each Competition shall be drawn in pairs. The pairs shall compete, and the winners shall be drawn and shall compete in the same manner and this shall be continued until the end of the Competition when the winning School shall hold the Trophy.
- (ii) In the initial rounds, as far as is possible, schools will be paired on a regional basis until the Semi Finals when the draw will be made on a completely random basis.
- (iii) In Rounds 1 and 2, the first named school in the Draw has the privilege of playing at home.
- (iv) In subsequent rounds, the School which has played the least number of home games to that point will have the privilege of playing at home. However, in the event that both schools have played the same number of home games, the first named School will play at home.
- (v) The Semi-Finals and Final will be played at a neutral venue or venues, as arranged by the CIS Football Cup Convener. In the case that regional schools progress to the semi-finals of the championships, Sydney based schools will be required to travel to a regional venue.
- (vi) Immediately after each round is drawn, details of the deadline date for completion and the home team for each match will be published on the CIS Football Cup Link, which will be available to all schools and will also be placed on the CIS website.
- (vii) The Hosting (Home) school must provide a minimum of two kick off times to the away school within 4 days of the draw announcement. The kick off times provided must have one which is during school time and one which is out of school time. The away team chooses the fixture date and time from the options provided by the hosting school.
- (viii) Failure of a hosting/home school to provide both options (during and after school hours kick off times) will result in escalation to the CIS Cup Convener to make a final decision.

9. MATCH RULES

- (i) Duration - If possible, matches should be played with equal forty (40) minute halves in matches played in both competitions. If, in the opinion of the referee, this is unrealistic owing to lack of daylight time or other factor, the referee may choose to play a shortened match of equal length halves. In this determination, the referee should allow an additional time for a penalty shoot out, if necessary.
- (ii) Drawn Match - In all matches with the exception of the Semi-Finals and Final, if the scores are level at full time, the match shall be determined by the Penalty Kick method as prescribed by the International Football Association Board. In the Semi-Finals and Final, two periods of extra time each of ten minutes duration shall be played. If at the end of extra time the scores are still equal, kicks from the penalty mark will decide the winner.
- (iii) Interchange – Unlimited interchange will be applied throughout the competition, as long as players used are listed on the team sheet and are present on the bench at the



- (iv) commencement of the match.
- (v) Ground - the home team must provide a correctly dressed ground that complies with the Laws of the Game. i.e two goals of the correct dimensions and four corner flags, plus correct field dimensions and markings.
- (vi) Match Balls - The home team (that being the first team listed on the draw) shall supply three (3) first class footballs of the same brand, colour and weight for the match. The home team must present the footballs for inspection to the Referee not later than ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled kick off time.
- (vii) RED CARDS – will result in suspension from the next cup game if the school is still in the competition, subject to referee report. NSW CIS Football Convener/representative of NSW CIS is to be contacted/included in final discussions relating to any dispute in order to come up with an appropriate outcome.
- (viii) School Playing Strip - Where the colours (shirts, shorts or socks) of the two competing Schools are similar the away School (the School listed second on the draw) must change. The Referee shall be the arbiter on match day on the question of whether School playing strips clash. It is the responsibility of the home team to notify the visiting team of their School strip prior to match day. If a clash of playing colours occurs in the Semi-Finals or Final the School to change their playing strip will be determined by the toss of a coin prior to the day of the match.
- (ix) Schools entering the competition must be open to playing matches both during and after school. All efforts must be made between opposing schools to come to an appropriate compromise.

10. REFEREE APPOINTMENTS

The home school will be responsible for the appointment and payment of a neutral referee and qualified assistant referees. If the home school is unable to provide such officials the home school MIC or Coach must inform the away school at least two days prior to the date of the match. The away school MIC or Coach may then elect to:

- (i) Appoint a neutral referee, or
- (ii) Accept the appointment of a non-neutral referee, or
- (iii) Refuse to play. Please note that appointment and payment of the officials will be the responsibility of NSW CIS for the Semi-Finals and Finals.

11. DEADLINES

All matches must be played by the designated date set for each round. Failure to do this will result in the decision, made by the NSW CIS Football Cup Convener and NSW CIS Convener, to:

- (i) Eliminate both schools or
- (ii) Accept a later date, if this does not affect the playing of matches in subsequent rounds.

12. MATCH RESULT REPORTING

- (i) Results must be e-mailed by the MIC/Coach of the winning school in each match to NSW CIS Football Cup Convener: dhelene@moriah.nsw.edu.au within 24 hours of the completion of the match. In addition to the result the Home Team shall advise the goal scorers and provide a short report on the match. Digital photographs of the match would also be welcomed for publication on the website.
- (ii) Updated results can be viewed on the Football Cup page of the NSW CIS Website.



13. DISPUTES

Any dispute regarding any aspect of a match should be given in writing by e-mail to the NSWCIS Football Cup Convener and the NSWCIS Convener. The NSWCIS Football Cup Convener in consultation with the NSWCIS Convener will make decisions regarding disputes.

14. CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

- (i) Any breach of the NSWCIS Code of Behaviour will be reported to the NSWCIS Football Cup Convener and the NSWCIS Convener. The NSWCIS Football Cup Convener in consultation with the NSWCIS Convener will make decisions regarding action to be taken as a result of any breach of the Code of Behaviour.
- (ii) The NSWCIS Code of Behaviour can be viewed and downloaded from the NSWCIS website.

15. TEAM SHEETS

- (i) NSWCIS Cup Team Sheets must be used in all matches. Copies may be downloaded from the official website.
- (ii) Each school must complete a team sheet that must be correctly completed in ink, in a legible manner. The sheet must contain the names of the players taking part in the match, including the names of the nominated reserves.
- (iii) The original copy of the team sheet is to be handed to the Referee at least ten (10) minutes before the scheduled kick off time.
- (iv) The numbers on the back of the shirts shall correspond to the numbers on the team sheet handed to the Referee before the commencement of a match and there must be no change of numbers before or during a match except a change of goalkeeper.

N.B. Regulations have been approved by CIS.

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