



MANLY WARRINGAH
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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8 Team Round Robin Competition

Teams play each other twice during the regular season, totalling 14 rounds. Following the regular season, the competition progresses to a Round Robin Finals Series.

- The top four teams from the regular season enter the A Competition, where they play each other once (3 games).
- The bottom four teams enter the B Competition, where they also play each other once (3 games).

At the conclusion of the Round Robin:

- The top two teams from the A Competition progress to the Grand Final.
- The B Competition does not progress to a Grand Final.

Please note that competition points do not carry over from the regular season to the Finals Series — all teams begin the Round Robin with zero points.

12 Team Split Competition

Teams play each other once during the regular season, totalling 11 rounds. After these rounds, the competition will split into two divisions:

- The top six teams will form the 'A' Competition.
- The bottom six teams will form the 'B' Competition.

All competition points, goal difference, and other statistics earned during the initial 11 rounds will carry over into the Split Competition.

Only the 'A' Competition will proceed to Semi Finals and a Grand Final.

Forfeit Process & Compliance

Teams must notify their club prior to 5pm the day before their fixture of the need to forfeit, this is usually the Club Secretary. In addition to notifying your club, Team Managers & Coaches can also submit a forfeit request via the Dribl Match Sheet.

**Rules are changing for offences*

If a competition team forfeits two matches, the team will be issued a formal written warning.

If a competition team forfeits three matches, the team will lose three Competition Points.

If a competition team forfeits four matches, the Club will be required to show cause to the MWFA Board as to why the team should not be removed from the Competition. If permitted to remain, the team will lose a further six Competition Points.

U12 competition

The Under 12 competition is played in a 9v9 format on a small-sided pitch. This age group is classified as competitive and includes a competition table and finals series. For specific rules, please review the below link:

<https://www.mwfa.com.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2025/04/2025-Under-12-Competition-Rules.pdf> (UPDATED LINK)



Wet Weather Procedure

Northern Beaches Council grounds staff contact the MWFA Competition Manager early each Saturday and Sunday morning to advise which fields are available for use on weather affected weekends. During this time, all fixtures are temporarily taken offline in Dribl while updates are made. Once changes are complete, fixtures are republished — typically before 7:30am.

For midweek fixtures (Monday–Friday), Northern Beaches Council provides updates at 3:00pm, and night match schedules are adjusted accordingly.

The Association's priority is to ensure that all age groups and divisions complete their full schedule of fixtures, maintaining fairness across competitions. Every effort is made to utilise all available timeslots on open pitches, which may occasionally result in fixture times or fields being changed on the day of play.

Regardless of whether a team's match is scheduled on an open or closed pitch, teams are advised to check Dribl on the day of their fixture for the most up-to-date information. This process ensures that all competitions have an equal and fair number of completed fixtures by the end of the season.

MWFA will consider all below points to determine which leagues will go ahead:

- Ground availability – how many fields are open and how to maximise their use.
- Synthetic pitches are not always allocated to MWFA Clubs. We share these with other codes like AFL and Rugby. Lionel Watts is shared every other weekend & Narrabeen Sports High and Melwood Oval are often allocated to other codes during the week.
- The likelihood of further wet weather and cancellation throughout the day. If rain continues throughout the day the fields become unsafe for play and clubs/referees are forced to abandoned matches.
- Does a League have a Wash Out round later in the season that we can utilise.
- Do we have enough grounds open to schedule an entire league e.g. 6 team leagues = 3 matches vs 12 team leagues = 6 matches.
- How many rounds do you have in the league e.g. some leagues are allocated 22 rounds vs some leagues are scheduled 17 rounds (this is determined by how many teams in each league). We have always aimed for teams to play the same number of rounds by the end of the season.
- Finishing competitions where promotion and relegation is in play.



Borrowing Players

A player may not be borrowed by a team if a registered member of that team is available and would therefore play less than half a match as a result of the borrowed player's inclusion (except in cases where an injury occurs during the match).

The maximum number of borrowed players permitted in any team for any match is four (4), except for matches played in a Round Robin, Knockout Semi-Final, or Final Series, where the maximum number of borrowed players is two (2).

Teams participating in the Over 35, Over 40, and Over 45 competitions may borrow up to six (6) players per match.

For the avoidance of doubt, no MWFA Competition team may borrow the same player more than four (4) times during the season, except for age eligible U18 / U21 players being borrowed into Premier League and Amateur League Division 1.

Match Sheet Compliance & Dribl Instructions

Both teams must submit and confirm team sheets before the match and report scores afterward. Failure to complete or submit the match sheet correctly results in escalating sanctions by the MWFA:

- 1st offence: Informal written warning.
- 2nd offence: Formal written warning, with notice that further breaches may result in loss of competition points.
- 3rd and subsequent offences: Loss of one competition point.

Competition Age Group Instructions: <https://www.mwfa.com.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2025/04/2025-Dribl-Instructions.pdf> (UNDATED LINK)

Non-Competition Instructions U8-U11 <https://www.mwfa.com.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2025/04/2025-Non-Competiton-Dribl-Instructions.pdf> (UPDATED LINK)



U8-U11 Regrading Process

Throughout the season, teams in the U8 to U11 competitions will be regraded into new divisions twice. Prior to the start of the season, clubs will allocate each team a strength rating.

Depending on the number of washed-out fixtures, the first round of regrading will take place after approximately five rounds of matches have been completed. Data from these fixtures will be used to rank teams based on performance, placing them into new divisions with teams of similar ability.

The second round of regrading will occur after a further seven to eight rounds of fixtures, depending on the season calendar and school holiday periods. This process will again use performance data to adjust divisions where necessary, ensuring teams continue to play against appropriately matched opponents.

Postponed Matches

If a match is stopped after starting, either due to injury, weather, lighting, pitch conditions, or another referee-approved reason, and the MWFA approves its rescheduling, the match will resume from the minute it was interrupted, not be replayed in full.

The Referee will submit a report to the MWFA outlining the details of the match. The Competitions Team will then contact both clubs to determine whether the fixture will be completed at a later date and, if so, confirm the rescheduled time and venue.

A postponed match will not be rescheduled if over 70% has been completed, unless the score is tied. When resumed, it restarts with the same players and available substitutes as before, except any player who has since been suspended. If the postponement was due to injury, the injured player may be replaced by another registered team member (not a borrowed player).

Team Referees

Nominations: Each team in the AL2 & below, O35 & O45 competitions must nominate a minimum of two team referees who are qualified members of the MWFA and registered players of the team. Teams without two qualified referees by Round 3 will not earn competition points for matches where the requirement is not met.

Match Officiating Duties: Away Teams: If playing at 3pm, a team referee must officiate the 1pm match at the same field. If playing at 1pm, a team referee must officiate the 3pm match at the same field. If no other options exist, a team referee from the away team must officiate.

Forfeits: Teams that forfeit a match are still responsible for providing a team referee for the paired match (1pm or 3pm), regardless of being home or away.



FAQ

Team Discipline Points

For each team in the MWFA disciplinary points will be applied for offences by players, team officials and spectators and accumulated over the season.

- Stage 1 – First Warning: The team receives a warning after reaching an initial threshold of points.
- Stage 2 – Loss of Match Points: Further points result in a loss of three competition points and possible forfeiture of the next match at the MWFA's discretion.
- Stage 3 – Team Withdrawal: Upon reaching the maximum points, the team may be expelled from the competition after review by the MWFA Board.

Accumulated Team Points	First Warning	Loss of Three Match Points	Team Withdrawal
All Open Competitions run as squads	18	26	36
WO30/35/W40/45 teams	9	13	18
U/16-AL single teams	9	13	18
U10-U15	9	13	18
U6-U9	5	8	11

Insurance

Activities covered by FNSW include:

- Playing in official club or representative matches
- Engaged in official club training activities
- Traveling directly to, from or between official matches or training and your home or work
- Staying away from your home district for the purpose of participating in sanctioned representative or club matches
- Engaged in administrative or organised social activities for your club or Football NSW (subject to Football NSW Sanctioning if required)

Link to FNSW Insurance Program - <https://www.gowgates.com.au/sport-programs/football-nsw>

Link to Summary of cover -

<https://res.cloudinary.com/gowgates/image/upload/Sports%20Website/FOOTBALL/2023/Coverage%20Summary/Football%20NSW> (UPDATED LINK)