



FNT WOMEN'S CHALLENGE CUP REGULATIONS

2024

Football Northern Territory

CHAPTER 1: FNT WOMEN'S CHALLENGE CUP ADMISSION

1. Scope and Application

In 2019, Football Australia (FFA at the time) launched its Gender Equality Action Plan with a focus on closing the gap and transforming men's football and women's football into football.

In 2021, Football Queensland (FQ) launched the Kappa Women's Super Cup (KWSC), a state-wide knockout competition that ran concurrently with all FQ sanctioned competitions and Zone affiliated competitions throughout Queensland.

In the spirit of achieving equality which will secure a brighter, stronger and more prosperous future for football in Australia, Football Northern Territory (FNT) launched its inaugural Women's Challenge Cup (the Cup) in 2021.

- a) All clubs participating in the Cup are bound by and required to adhere to FNT's 2024 Rules of Competition as promulgated by FNT.
- b) These Cup Regulations (regulations) shall apply to all Cup fixtures administered by FNT and may be amended by FNT at any time.
- c) The Cup is open for nomination by any club who fields a senior women's team in a FNT sanctioned competition. Invitational teams or teams that do not play in a season long sanctioned competition are not eligible for entry.

2. Control of Competitions

- a) The administrative control and conduct of the Cup are vested in the Executive subject to any resolution by the Board to the contrary.

3. Consequences for Breach

- a) Any breach of these regulations or failure to comply with any direction therein may result in a fine issued by FNT or other sanction pursuant to the FNT Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

4. Outstanding Debts

- a) Management of outstanding debts will be in accordance with the FNT By-laws.
- b) Failure to comply with outstanding debts in accordance with the FNT By-Laws may result in ineligibility to participate in the Cup or forfeiture of completed Cup matches.
- c) This applies to all Cup matches conducted by FNT.

5. Special Consideration

- a) The Executive will have the power to consider individual circumstances outside the prescribed limits of the regulations should it be clear those special considerations are in the interests of the game.

- b) The decision by the Executive to review and consider individual circumstances under this section is not subject to appeal or review.

6. Disciplinary Sanctions and Proceedings

- a) All clubs, players, team officials, match officials, spectators, or any person participating in any manner at a Cup match during the preliminary rounds, or any associated event, will submit exclusively to the jurisdiction of the Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations as applicable.
- b) The Disciplinary Committee will be convened by the Competitions Administrator in accordance with the FNT Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

7. Unforeseeable Circumstance

- a) Nothing in these regulations will prevent the Board from approving a course of action to meet unforeseeable circumstances not covered by the regulations.

8. Cup Format and Information

- a) North Zone clubs that win the championship and premiership in the previous year of the competition will seed directly to next round.
 - i. Southern Zone clubs will be placed into the same draw.
- b) FNT may amend the seeding of any club within the draw as it deems necessary.
- c) All round winners will proceed to the next round.
- d) Where required, a bye round will fill any vacant slots in the draw process.
- e) FNT may alter fixture kickoff times and dates as it deems necessary.
- f) A random draw is done at the start of the initial round for all the rounds in a format prepared by FNT.

CHAPTER 2: TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

1. Matches Played in Accordance with the Laws of the Game

- a) These regulations are to be read in conjunction with the FNT 2024 Rules of Competition, relevant FNT Regulations, Policies and By Laws and FA's Statutes and Regulations (including National Disciplinary Regulations, National Registration Regulations and FNT's Disciplinary Regulations). In the event of an omission or inconsistency between these regulations and the FNT 2024 Rules of Competition, FNT will determine and rule on the interpretation.
- b) Only one team per club is permitted to participate in the Cup competition, and as such, any player that is registered with that club is deemed eligible to play, provided they are registered in accordance with the FNT 2024 Rules of Competition and the National Registration Regulations.
- c) The team entered is deemed to be the highest eligible team within that club.
- d) Players are only eligible to play for one club/team during the Cup competition. In the event a player changes clubs, they will be cup-tied to their previous club. FNT reserves the right to determine the outcome in the event of any confusion or exceptional circumstances pertaining to a player's eligibility.
- e) To be eligible to participate in the Cup, players must be at least (2010 child) 14 years (or older) in 2024, unless an exemption request to FNT is made by the player's club on behalf of the player and has been approved by FNT.
- f) Semi Finals - 4 teams

Four (4) teams will be randomly drawn to play two (2) matches. The winner of the regional zones will enter at the semi-final stage alongside the final 3 (three) Norzone teams. The first drawn team in each match will be nominated as the home team. The winner of each semi-final will proceed to the Cup final.
- g) Final - 2 Teams

The final will be played at a venue to be determined by FNT. The winner of the first semi-final (as drawn) will be deemed the home team in the event of a clash of colours.
- h) A team entry fee of \$395 will be administered for the 2024 competition. This fee will assist in any travel costs incurred by clubs in the semi-finals and Cup final, as well as the administration of the Cup.

2. Match Balls

- a) All the match balls for the Cup preliminary rounds will be provided by FNT as required.

3. Duration of Match

- a) Each Cup match must consist of two (2) equal halves of forty-five (45) minutes to total a full regular period Cup match time of ninety (90) minutes, excluding any injury time played as determined by the referee.
- b) The half-time break for each Cup match will be fifteen (15) minutes.

4. Extra Time and Penalties

- a) At the conclusion of the regular period in any Cup match (including injury time), if the scores between the two (2) Clubs are tied, then extra time of two (2) equal periods of fifteen (15) minutes will be played. The conditions of Law 8 of the FIFA/IFAB Laws of the Game will apply.

5. Substitution Rules

- a) For preliminary round matches, a Club may select up to six (6) players as substitutes including at least one (1) nominated goalkeeper. For clarification the reserve goalkeeper may only take the field to replace the starting goalkeeper and may not take the field as an outfield player.
- b) A maximum of six (6) players (including a goalkeeper) may be replaced at one (1) of three (3) permitted substitution opportunities to make a substitution during a match, up until the conclusion of normal playing time, time lost or extra time, if played.
- c) One (1) additional player (outfield player or goalkeeper) may be replaced, and each team will have one (1) additional substitution opportunity during extra time of a match up until the conclusion of extra time. The replacement player must be one of the substitutes selected on the team sheet.
- d) A substitution can be made upon a match official being notified. A substitute player must only enter the field of play:
 - I. after the player being replaced has left the field of play
 - II. after he receives a signal from the referee; and
 - III. at the half-way line and during a stoppage in the Cup match
- e) The player leaving the field must leave the field at the nearest point on the boundary line, unless otherwise directed by the referee.

6. Colours

- a) Where colours clash in the opinion of the referee, the away team must change.
- b) The away team is the second team indicated in the draw unless otherwise advised by FNT.
- c) All teams must wear numbered strips with no duplication of numbers.
- d) All teams must have with them at each match, a complete official and reserve playing strip.

7. Postponed Matches and Fixtures

- a) If a Cup match is abandoned due to adverse weather conditions or a cause outside the reasonable control of either club (including its players and officials) at or after sixty (60) minutes of the regular period being played and where, at the time of the Cup match being abandoned, the scores are not level, the result at the time of abandonment will be declared the final result.
- b) If a Cup match is abandoned due to adverse weather conditions or a cause outside the reasonable control of either club (including its players and officials) either:
 - i. at the time of the Cup match being abandoned, the scores are level; or
 - ii. prior to sixty (60) minutes of the regular period having been played, the Cup match must be rescheduled by FNT. Such rescheduling will require the Cup match to either restart or recommence at the minute at which play was interrupted (to be determined at the sole and absolute discretion of FNT).
 - iii. The following principles will apply to the recommencement of the Cup match:

The match will recommence with the same players on the pitch and substitutes available as when the Cup match was initially postponed unless a player has received a suspension in matches conducted between the postponed match and the rescheduling of that match.
 - iv. Should a player receive a suspension in a match between the postponed match and the rescheduling, the following will apply:
 - a. The player will not be eligible to participate in the rescheduled match.
 - b. The player will not be able to count the match as a stand down in relation to any fixture suspension.
 - c. The club will not be permitted to replace the player on the team sheet.
 - d. If the player was on the field of play at the time of the postponement the player may be replaced by a substitute listed on the team sheet as long as the team has available substitutions as per the regulations
 - e. If the player was a substitute the number of available players to substitute will decrease as the player cannot be replaced
- c) No additional substitutes may be added to the list of players on the team sheet.
- d) The teams can make only the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the match was postponed.

- e) Players sent off during the abandoned match cannot be replaced.
- f) FNT will endeavor to appoint the same match officials to the completion of the match, however, may appoint replacements should any or all of the match officials be unavailable
- g) The referee is the sole arbiter of elapsed time, and no protest may be lodged against the actual elapsed time as recorded by the referee.
- h) Should a match be abandoned due to the fault of one (1) team, or should it be determined by FNT that one (1) team/ club is responsible for the delay to the match, the remaining minutes will not be rescheduled for completion, and the match will be determined as a forfeit against the team/ club that abandoned the match or is responsible for the delay.
- i) Where a fixture is incorrectly reported as abandoned by the referee where circumstances show clearly that the match was actually postponed, FNT will treat the match as postponed.

8. Forfeits

- a) Should a Cup match not commence within 10 minutes of the start time in the match schedule or amended by FNT, the Cup match will be forfeited by the team that has caused the delay to the start of the Cup match.
- b) Forfeits prior to the scheduled match day will result in a fine of \$500.
- c) Forfeits on the day of the scheduled match or without notice will result in a fine of \$500 per forfeited match plus relevant match officials' fees.

CHAPTER 3: ELIGIBILITY & DISCIPLINARY

1. Player Eligibility

a) Eligible Players:

- I. An eligible player is one who has completed an online registration on Play Football direct with FNT and has been activated by the club.
- II. No player shall be permitted to play for more than one club in the Cup and can only represent the club which she is currently registered to.

b) Ineligible Players:

An ineligible player is defined as:

- I. Unregistered players.
- II. Suspended players.
- III. Football NT may decide, in its absolute discretion, whether a suspension or part thereof may be served in an abandon, cancelled or forfeited match and any such decision is final and not subject to any challenge or appeal.
- IV. A player that has been expelled from a match on the day/s prior to a Cup match, but after the regular Disciplinary Committee hearing date.
- V. A player that has been expelled from a match on the same day as the Cup match but played earlier in the day.
- VI. A player that is deemed ineligible due to any article of these regulations, the FNT Rules of Competition and/or FNT Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

c) Any team that fields an ineligible player will automatically lose that Cup match on forfeit and be fined \$250.

d) Additionally, the club, team officials and/ or player may receive additional sanctions in accordance with the FNT Rules of Competition and these regulations.

e) For clarity, it is the club's responsibility to ensure it fields eligible players in a Cup match.

2. Maximum Player Rosters

- a) The maximum number of players permitted for registration in the preliminary rounds of the Cup is:

Squad Total	Team Sheet
Maximum of 25 players	17 players on the team sheet per match.

- b) A club may add players to the squad total however a club may not remove a player from the submitted squad total.

3. Disciplinary Matters

- a) Yellow Cards:

- a For the preliminary rounds, three (3) yellow cards equate to a one match suspension. Suspensions incurred due to the accumulation of Yellow Cards from the preliminary rounds will apply to the next Cup match in which the suspended player's club competes in.
- b If a club is eliminated from the Cup and a player has received her third yellow card in the match that the club was eliminated, the suspension will apply for the player's next Cup match in which the player competes in. Yellow Card suspensions are Cup specific and are required to be served in the Cup.

- b) Red Cards:

- a For the preliminary rounds, the minimum sanctions set out in the Table of Offences (as outlined in Schedule B of the Cup Regulations) must be applied by FNT to Red Card offences and to expulsion offences.
- b Red Card suspensions incurred in a Cup match are to be served in the club's next competitive fixture(s). Red Card suspensions incurred in a local competition fixture will apply to the next match in which the suspended player's club competes in, including the Cup.

CHAPTER 4: TEAM SHEETS, RESULTS, MATCH

1. Team Sheets

- a) Official Cup team sheets must be used for all Cup matches. Team sheets must be completed by both teams and handed to the referee 20 minutes prior to commencement of the Cup match.
- b) Team sheets must be entered online 48 hours prior to kick off.
- c) Each player's name & FA number is to be printed on the team sheet corresponding with the number on the playing strip.
- d) A maximum of 17 players only may be listed on the teamsheet.
- e) Failure to comply with any section of this regulation may result in a fine of \$100.
- f) Maximum of ten (10) persons are permitted to be within the technical area at any given time during a competition fixture. Those persons may only include 6 substitutes listed, and 4 team officials, of which one must be a sports trainer (coach, manager, physio etc). All technical staff must be registered as a team official.

2. Results of Matches

- a) For all Cup matches, FNT will enter the results into SportsTG.

3. Match Official Appointments

- a) The appointment of all match officials will be made by FNT, who may call on other persons as deemed necessary to assist in officiating a match.

4. Referee's Fees

- a) FNT is responsible for the payment of match official fees in accordance with the match official fees determined by FNT.

5. Admittance to Preliminary Round Fixtures

a) Admittance prices for the Cup preliminary rounds will be:

	Adult	Student or Concession	Child Under 14	Player
All Matches	\$8	\$5	Free	\$5

b) FNT and FA's conditions of entry to venues apply to all matches in the preliminary rounds.