



**GNSW
OPERATING
HANDBOOK
2024**

Introduction

This Operating Handbook will form the basis for the ongoing successful running of the competition.

Responsibility for complying with the Operating Handbook lies with the clubs, their members and persons registered with GNSW.

The Operating Handbook applies to the Colts, Women's and Men's competitions. Any differences between the Colts, Women's and Men's competitions will be set out in the document.

Participating in any competition or game, run by or sanctioned by, or involving GNSW, means any club, its members and all persons registered with GNSW have agreed to;

- Abide by all of the GNSW Operating Handbook and the GNSW Constitution.
- Act in accordance with the GNSW Code of Conduct.
- Comply with all other GNSW policies.
- IFAF rules and regulations.
- GA governing rules and regulations.
- Meet the requirements of any applicable State or Federal legislation.

GNSW will send out additional information, amendments, clarifications, changes, and other documents to clubs from time to time as required. Clubs are required to ensure they keep GNSW updated on any changes to their club executive. A club can contact the GNSW Secretary (secretary@gridironnsw.org.au) if they need to update their contacts or find out who the current contacts on record are. This should be done on at least an annual basis following club AGMs.

Where there is a conflict between this document and the GNSW Constitution, the GNSW Constitution shall override any rule, regulation or penalty written herein.

i. 2024 GNSW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DIRECTORS	NAME	EMAIL
President	Kevin Manderson	president@gridironnsw.org.au
Secretary (Public Officer)	Peta Bortfield	secretary@gridironnsw.org.au
Treasurer	Peta Bortfield	treasurer@gridironnsw.org.au
Grants & Sponsorship	Megan Beddingfield	megan.bedingfield@gridironnsw.org.au
State Programs	Blake Jones	stateprograms@gridironnsw.org.au
Coaching Coordinator	Mitch Woellner	coaching@gridironnsw.org.au
Social Media	Courtney Scarth	courtney.scarth@gridironnsw.org.au

Contact numbers for Board Members will no longer be published on this document, presidents of each club have already been sent contact numbers.

ii.Clubs

Active Clubs

- Central Coast Sharks
- Nepean Ducks
- Northern Sydney Rebels
- Sydney University American Football Club
- UC Stars
- UNSW Raiders
- UTS Gridiron
- West Sydney Pirates
- Wollongong Mustangs

Affiliated League

- Hunter Gridiron League

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1. New in 2024

1.1 League Rep Role To be Reinstated

Refer 8.1

1.2 GNSW Coaching Requirements to Change

1.11 GNSW Logo on Uniforms

Refer 11.2

Conditions may be subject to change.

To all clubs - there have been many moving parts to this and goal posts moved many times. Ultimately in an attempt to grow the sport and provide a place for current players and not lose them to other sports.

**1.14 Colts Age Change

We have now changed the colts age group to 16-19 so players must be turning 16 in the year of the competition and must not be turning 20 in the year of the competition.

2. Schedule of Events

The Schedule of Events shall be released as early as possible each year and should not be altered unless extenuating circumstances apply.

The Schedule of Events will include:

- Payment deadlines
- Team entry deadlines
- Season start and end dates (fixtures)
- Coaching course information
- Coaches / Officials conferences
- Annual General Meeting
- Any representative games
- Any other important events involving GNSW

2.1 GNSW Annual General Meeting:

February of each year

2.2 Release of fixtures:

As soon as possible prior to the commencement of the season

2.3 Team nominations due date:

All teams no later than Friday 5th August 2024 - Refer to 4.2

2.4 Officials Training:

TO BE ADVISED

2.5 \$500 Team Fee deposit date: All teams no later than Friday 5th August 2024 (NON REFUNDABLE)

Invoices will be issued to clubs

2.6 Team Fee due date:

All teams no later than Week 3 (12th Oct 2024) of the Competition

***2.7 Season Start Date:**

21st of September 2024

2.8 League Bye :

1st/2nd/3rd October (Long weekend)

2.9 Players Registration Cut off date:

5pm Wednesday 13th November 2024 - Week 7 of the Competition. Any players registered after this date are not eligible for Finals.

Also must meet the minimum number of requirement of games

2.10 Championship(s) Date:

Saturday 14th December 2024

****3. Fees**

****3.1 Team Fees**

Team Deposit (per team)	- \$500
Men's Team Fee	- \$2750 (2023 was \$2750)
Women's Team Fee	- \$1925 (2023 was \$1925)
Colts Team Fee	- \$1925 (2023 was \$1925)

*This fee comes off the total of the Team Fee below, the deposit is required to confirm your team registration into the competition and this fee is **NON REFUNDABLE***

Clubs entering teams in all 3 competitions will receive a \$500 discount off the total of all their team fees (total team fees will therefore be \$6100).

3.2 Player Fees

Player Fee	- \$135 (2023 was \$125 per player)
GA Player Fee	- \$65 as set by GA
TOTAL	- \$200

3.3 Coach and Team Personnel Fees

GNSW Coaches Fee	- FREE
GNSW Team Personnel Fee	- FREE

All player and coach registration payments must still be processed through Assemble using the online payment options available.

3.4 Insurance - Personal Injury/Income Protection

****IMPORTANT PLEASE READ****

Registration fees paid to GNSW **DOES NOT INCLUDE** insurance cover for personal Injury or income protection. The only cover is Public Liability insurance. Sport NSW recommends that all persons playing sport take out insurance cover which includes Hospital and Ambulance cover.

The cost for insurance cover since 2018 has more than doubled on the back of a small number of claims. The cost benefit is not in the best interest for players, it works out cheaper for individuals to take out their own cover through private health insurance.

4. Entry and Registration

4.1. New Club Affiliation

New Clubs wishing to be part of Gridiron NSW must first complete and submit to the executive a letter of application to affiliate membership at least 3 weeks prior to the GNSW AGM to have their affiliation voted on by GNSW Executive.

The executive will circulate the application to all existing GNSW clubs executive a minimum of two weeks prior to the meeting to allow existing clubs to prepare an impact statement for the board meeting regarding the application so clubs can vote on the submission at the AGM.

This letter for affiliation must contain:

- The proposed name of the club/organisation
- The proposed executive committee and their contact details
- The proposed area the club/organisation wishes to set up in

- The proposed uniform designs or possible drafts
- Info regarding teams they wish to enter
- List of coaches if possible
- Business plan
- Draft constitution
- Nomination of 2 club representatives to be added to the league email list for information for the club

They must ensure they meet all requirements of the GNSW Constitution for entry of new Clubs.

If the club/organisation is intending to conduct any sort of training activities and wish to be covered by GNSW Public Liability insurance, they must also include the name and contact details of at least 2 accredited coaches. Coaches awaiting accreditation do not fulfil this requirement.

Acceptance into the competition is covered under team registration.

4.2. Team Registration Form

In order to enter a team into a GNSW competition, a club must submit a Team registration form, and pay all fees required associated with that team by the date specified in the Schedule of events.

New clubs entering their first team or a club entering a new team will have additional requirements as listed in this document.

The Team Registration Form must include the following information:

- o Proposed team name
- o Which competition the team wishes to enter
- o Proposed team uniform details (picture preferred)
- o Name of proposed head coach (with accreditation level)
- o Name of all other proposed coaches (with accreditation level if any)
- o Name of Medics for the team (each team must have 1 non playing Medic or two playing Medics that have accreditation)
- o Name of a minimum of 10 Australian Gridiron Officials Association (AGOA) Level 0 (or higher) certified Officials per team
- o Address of proposed home ground if the club wish to host games
- o Working with children checks must be completed

Coaches or Medics joining the team after submission of team registration form must have details (including accreditation) provided in writing (with accreditation level) to the GNSW Competitions Manager before they will appear on the team sheet. Non-Playing Medics not on sign-on sheet, may be added to sign-on sheet on game day and credentials submitted to GNSW at earliest opportunity.

4.3. Minimum number of registered players (for all teams)

In addition to the requirements of the Team registration, a Club is required to have a minimum number of registered individual players approximately 1 month prior to the start of the season (as set out in schedule of events)

Individual player registrations required to enter a team to start a season:

- Existing Senior Men's team (11 a side) – 25 players
- Existing Women's team (9 aside) – 20 players
- Colts team (9 aside) – 20 players
- New Men's team (11 a side) – 30 players
- New Women's team (9 aside) – 25 players
- Colts team (9 aside) - 25 players

Individual players required per team to start a game any time during the season

- Men's teams - 18 players on game day (11 a side)
- Women's teams - 14 players on game day (9 aside)
- Colts teams - 14 players on game day (9 a side)

Note - Anything outside of this must be approved by the league.

Note – An existing club that has not fielded a team in that division in the previous season, the team must meet the new team requirements.

If a team forfeited 2 or more games the previous season, they must meet the new team requirements in the following season.

4.4. Additional New Team requirements

In addition to the required Team registration form any new team will require the following:

- An image of each jersey the team would like to use during the season
- For any new team struggling to get the required NEW TEAM minimum registered player requirement they can opt (with written request to the Board) to pay a non-forfeit fee of \$600 per new team and have the required registered player drop to the existing team requirement. If the team has no forfeits during the season then they will be refunded the fee. Any team that does have a forfeit will be fined \$200 per forfeit and the amount remaining will be refunded at the end of the season.
- The New Team requirements will be required for any team which did not play in the previous season.

4.5. Individual Registration

All participants in any GNSW competition must be registered with GNSW. In registering with GNSW, all participants agree to be bound by the GNSW and GA codes of conduct, which are available during the registration process and also on the GNSW website. Breaches of the code of conduct may result in penalties (financial and non-financial) being applied to both the member and the club.

Participants defined as:

- Officials
- Players
- Coaches
- Sideline staff
- Volunteers

Only registered participants who appear on the team sheet are allowed on the sideline during GNSW games. All other persons including parents or participants from another team must stay behind the boundary of the sideline (mostly defined by a fence or rope where possible or 6m from the field of play).

All club committee members must be registered with GNSW. If they wish to be on the sideline then they must be listed on the team sheet.

Please note: Members need to register themselves - there will be no more bulk uploading from clubs.

****THERE WILL BE NO PLAYER REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED FROM 5PM WEDNESDAY ROUND 7**

4.6. Age and Other Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible to be on the sideline for any GNSW game a participant must be no younger than 15 years old.

To be eligible to play Colts, a player:

- The youngest players must turn 16 in the year of competition and the oldest players can not turn 20 in the year of competition, and be male.

To be eligible to play Women's, a player:

- Must be female and must be 16 years old or older as of the 1st January that season

To be eligible to play Men's, a player:

- Must be male and must be 18 years or older as of the 1st of January that season.

4.7. Colts Transition Rule

Any 18 year old Colts player is permitted to play in both the Colts and the Men's competition including in finals if eligible. This means Colts players will be able to be eligible for both Colts and Men's finals.

This rule is designed to assist your Colts players transition to the Men's competition and give them confidence that they can "compete with the seniors" and not designed to take players away from your Colts team.

Clubs wishing to add eligible Colts to the Sign on Sheets for your Men's team need to

request this through the Dispensation function on the Men's team list in Assemble. Please also email secretary@gridironnsw.org.au for these requests to be processed by GNSW. Requests need to be submitted and notified to GNSW by 5pm on Thursday prior to the game.

4.8. Playoff Eligibility

- Players must be registered by 5pm Wednesday 13th November 2024
- Minimum game requirements
 - **MENS** - a minimum of 40% of games played
 - **WOMENS** - a minimum of 30% of games played
 - **COLTS** - a minimum of 30% of games played
- If any team has a player with a long term injury they must email board@gridironnsw.org.au to be considered for playoffs if they do not play the minimum games required. Details of this are listed in the Injuries section of the Handbook.
- Any team who forfeits will not get any eligibility credit for the forfeited game. The opposing team gets eligibility credit for all persons listed on the sign on sheet.
- Any games that are unable to be played for reasons other than a forfeit will be considered a no-game and not counted in playoff eligibility calculations. If the game is replayed then the replayed game will be counted in lieu.
- Washouts will be counted as games played as we have no control over them.

5. Coaching Requirements

**5.1 Sports Specific

If you were qualified under the NFHS you are covered for the 2024 season. However moving forward this certification process below will be the standard.

To be able to coach in Gridiron NSW this season, you will be required to complete the following steps before the season starts. **Failure to do so will result in not being able to coach this season.**

When you complete each step, make sure you download your certificates so you can email them through to GNSW.

- **Be a registered member in Assemble for GNSW/GA - Free**
- **Have a valid/current Working with Children's Check - Free**
 - <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-working-children-check>
 - Send your WWCC number with your date of birth and full name to secretary@gridironnsw.org.au

- *This can take up to 6 weeks to process with Service NSW so we highly recommend you do it asap*
- **ACS Community Coaching General Principles - Free**
 - https://www.sportaus.gov.au/coaches_and_officials/coaches
(click other sports)

Gridiron NSW – Coaching Development Plan and Goals

We fundamentally believe that creating good coaches improves the Safety, Quality and Experience within the Game of Gridiron in NSW.

We have done a poor job of getting that job done right.

While this is not an easy task, I have created a plan for the growth and development of coaches within the Game so that we can look to grow the coaching ranks.

Developing Existing Coaches

- 1) Scheduled Visits to Team Trainings from the GNSW Technical Director
- 2) Positional Specific Events and Meetings (Online using overseas or local experts)
- 3) Coach Code of Conduct Requirements
- 4) CPD requirements
- 5) Advance Contact Certification USA Football
- 6) CPD 20 Hours of Football Specific Content Consume Glazier Clinics etc

The new expectation will be that each team will be required to have a person within the role of the following. 1 Person is required for Each Coordinator role with Positional Coaches being able to fill at max up to 2 roles. We recognize that some of these positions will be required to be filled by players and will not necessarily be full-time coaches. The goal of this initiative is to drive interest in the act of coaching as well as to provide dedicated education (Online and face to face) on positional specific requirements.

Once you have completed all requirements, send all your certificates to both coaching@gridironnsw.org.au and secretary@gridironnsw.org.au

5.2 Working With Children Checks (WWCC)

Working with children is required for all coaches and team personnel within the GNSW Competition. Application for this is free (when selecting a volunteer) and is made through

Service NSW and can be done online.

All coaches and team personnel will be required to provide their WWCC number, expiry date and date of birth to their club and GNSW to be recorded in Revolutionise. Please email them to secretary@gridironnsw.org.au

All full time officials will be required to complete also.

Gridiron NSW – Coaching Development Plan and Goals We fundamentally believe that creating good coaches improves the Safety, Quality and Experience within the Game of Gridiron in NSW. We have done a poor job of getting that job done right. While this is not an easy task, I have created a plan for the growth and development of coaches within the Game so that we can look to grow the coaching ranks. Developing Existing Coaches 1)

Scheduled Visits to Team Trainings from the GNSW Technical Director a. Register Here 2) Positional Specific Events and Meetings (Online using overseas or local experts) 3)

Coach Code of Conduct Requirements 4) CPD requirements 5) Advance Contact Certification USA Football 6) CPD 20 Hours of Football Specific Content Consume Glazier Clinics etc The new expectation will be that each club will be required to have a person within the role of the following. 1 Person is required for Each Coordinator role with Positional Coaches being able to fill at max up to 2 roles. We recognize that some of these positions will be required to be filled by players and will not necessarily be full-time coaches. The goal of this initiative is to drive interest in the act of coaching as well as to provide dedicated education (Online and face to face) on positional specific requirements.

Link: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-working-children-check>

6. Transfers

All transfers are to be requested through email to board@gridironnsw.org.au including a reason why

6.1. Interclub transfers (from current GNSW Clubs)

If a participant who has previously been a member of a current GNSW Club (even if that Club is not fielding a team in the current season) wishes to participate for a different club, a transfer request made via email, including the reason why the transfer, must be submitted in order for the participant to be registered with his/her new club.

The only grounds on which a club can refuse to approve a transfer are if:

1. The participant has outstanding debts owed to their previous club
2. The participant is in possession of uniform or equipment belonging to the previous club.

Any claims of this nature from the previous club will be resolved by the executive as quickly as possible, but the player will not be registered with the new club until these claims have been resolved.

If a transfer is requested and the league has sent the request for approval to the original

club and it is not returned to the GNSW Competitions Manager - board@gridironnsw.org.au within 7 days (during season) or 21 days (offseason up to 60 days prior to the start of the season), the previous club shall be deemed to have approved the transfer.

A participant must still request a transfer from a club even if he/she has not been active for a season(s) from the club they last played for.

6.2. Interclub transfers (from non current GNSW Clubs)

If a participant is transferring from another State or Competition outside GNSW then that player will still need to submit a transfer email.

6.3. Non Australian Club players

If a participant is from another Competition outside Australia then that player (club) will still need to submit a transfer email.

Players must also comply with GNSW International Player Policy

<https://www.gridironnsw.org.au/scripts/download/file/&id=beycgnypa5f7tnxe>

6.4. Dual registration or FI/FO Players (Fly-in/fly-out)

No player may be registered as a player with multiple GNSW clubs. But this relates to players from interstate wishing to play in their home competition AND GNSW competition. Any team having a player requiring dual registration MUST contact competition manager, competition@gridironnsw.org.au for consideration.

Applicants will be checked against GA database and may require release/authorisation from their home club and GNSW must have written approval from GA.

FIFO players will also follow the same GNSW International Player Policy in regards to players allowed on the field at one time, A maximum of 2 at any one time in any combination 1 NON Australian club player and 1 FIFO or 2 FIFO or 2 Non Australian Club player

GNSW International Player Policy
Will be confirmed in a separate document.

7. Policies

GNSW endeavours to keep all policies and procedures updated and located on the GNSW website at <https://www.gridironnsw.org.au/about/resources/>

If there are any questions or issues with policies or procedures, please contact secretary@gridironnsw.org.au

- Code of conduct policy - <https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/piano.revolutionise.com.au/site/wtuelsaw7aukjw0z.pdf>
- Judiciary Process policy - <https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/piano.revolutionise.com.au/site/nbntim5ufkt6falm.pdf>
- Tie Break - <https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/piano.revolutionise.com.au/site/eo4qibvic4tjkivd.pdf>
- Constitution 2011 - <https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/piano.revolutionise.com.au/site/u2uyeuqd6jofcfwz.pdf>
- GA Member Protection Policy 2022 - (GNSW policy under construction) <https://www.gridiron.org.au/media/GA-NIF-Member-Protection-Policy.pdf>
- Transgender policy - <https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/piano.revolutionise.com.au/site/dhpjfr9nkgbok4mx.pdf>
- International Player Policy - <https://www.gridironnsw.org.au/scripts/download/file/&id=beycgnypa5f7tnxe>
- IFAF 2022 Rule updates <https://cdn.revolutionise.com.au/site/ddet2dtrchreeip4.pdf>
- GNSW Uniform Policy (To be added asap)

8. Competition Info

**8.1 League Rep Role - change for 2024

- League rep role will be reinstated for the 2024 season.
- Clubs will be assigned League Rep duty the same way officiating duty is assigned to clubs.
- Clubs will then invoice GNSW for the games they have provided, and completed duty, as a league rep.
- Team sign on sheets must be collected before the end of half time.
- If a player is missing from a team a single line must be drawn thru his or her name to clearly state they did not play.
- League rep Forms must be completed in full and signed by the League Rep once completed, if the form is not signed and completed in full the club has not completed their league rep duty and will not be paid.
- Scores Halftime and fulltime must be updated asap in real time to Assemble by the League Rep.
- Completed forms and team sign on sheets must be sent thru asap in real time by league rep to secretary@gridironnsw.org.au
- It is intended that at any game, a GNSW Executive member will be present.
- Any major issue that occurs, contact must be made with GNSW executives.

8.2 Sign on Sheets

- Sign on sheets will be issued at approximately 5pm on Thursday of each week. Clubs are required to ensure players are registered and added to the appropriate teams in Revolutionise prior to this deadline. Any issues should be advised to the GNSW

- Secretary as soon as they are known prior to this deadline.
- **No players or team personnel are allowed on the sideline unless they are listed on the sign on sheet. The addition of people to the sign on sheet may result in sanctions.**
 - All players and team personnel participating must sign their teams' sign on sheet. Failure to comply will result in a fine or possible loss of competition points if the team fields an unregistered player.
 - The loss of or failure to return a completed sign on sheet to the league may lead to some players being ineligible to participate in the playoffs.
 - No Club is at liberty to produce their own sign on sheets. Copies of sign on sheets will be compared against the original to ascertain if they have been altered in any way.
 - In the event that a sign on sheet is not available prior to kick off then a sheet displaying the Numbers and signatures of each player participating as well as some verification by the head official, league representative or opposition coach or manager can be lodged with the league.
 - A player under suspension cannot sign their team's sign on sheet. Any suspension period will not be counted when calculating their play-off eligibility.
 - Any player not present at a game must have a single strike thru the name and "DNP or Did Not Play" written in the signature section
 - Any signature that is not clearly put next to the appropriate name will not be counted.
 - Any name added to the bottom of a sign on sheet will not be counted and may incur penalties if not approved prior to adding them.

8.3 Mens Competition

- Following IFAF Football Rules and Interpretations 2022 Edition along with any relevant amendments as issued by GNSW, GA, or AGOA from time to time.
- All teams must have their starting Offensive lineman start the game with ineligible numbers 50-79
- Mercy rule once a team reaches 35 point margin (Running Clock), from second half onwards.

The below is what the GNSW Board intend to deliver, but is subject to change due to extenuating circumstances:

- Minimum 8 game regular season (washouts will count as a game)
- Play every team at least once
- Saturday Games
- Minimum 40% of games played to qualify for playoffs for players

8.4 Colts and Women's Competition Rule Amendments

The rules for the 2024 season are based on the IFAF Football Rules and Interpretations 2020 Edition with the following amendments listed below:

8.4.1 Number of Players

Total Number of players on the field for each team is limited to 9.

8.4.2 Formation Restrictions

Offense (Team A) An ineligible Guard must be present on each side of the Center and must be in a 2 or 3-point stance and numbered 50 - 79. The centre is also ineligible. Should due to an injury a player be required to play the offensive line with an ineligible number the officials must be notified no penalty to be enforced.

8.4.3 Timing

12 min quarters with Rolling clock for each quarter with the following amendments;

- The final 2 minutes of each half standard IFAF clock rules apply
- At the completion of the PAT or 2pt conversion there will be a 40 second break where the clock stops at the completion of that 40 second clock the game clock will start and a 40 second play clock will commence for the kickoff.

8.5 Rule Amendments for All Competitions

8.5.1 Post Game Cooling-off Period

There will be a 30 min cooling off period where no coaches or players from the previous game can approach or enter the officials change room or area.

If you are a coach of the next game, you must wait until the officials come and approach you on the sideline or while your team is warming up on the field.

Also if you have a complaint or issue regarding any official "Club, or AGOA official supplied" you must notify the league and write an email detailing your complaint or issue to either secretary@gridironnsw.org.au and

8.5.2 Automatic suspension for disqualified players

Any player disqualified from a game is automatically suspended for the next full scheduled game of their team. Colts players are unable to play-up during a round in which they are suspended from Colts.

All disqualifications can be reviewed. Evidence should be sent to the GNSW Secretary. Evidence must be received by 5pm on Tuesday prior to the suspended game.

8.5.3 GNSW Review of Infractions

GNSW reserves the right to review repeated disqualifications and enforce more serious penalties if deemed necessary.

8.5.4 Zero tolerance for Abuse of Officials

GNSW takes a zero tolerance approach to abuse of officials. Any abuse that is reported to GNSW will be investigated and appropriate action taken.

Officials are crucial to our game and under no circumstances is abuse of officials acceptable.

Abuse can be in various forms, including verbal, physical, and online, all of which will be dealt with in an zero-tolerance approach if reported to GNSW. Penalties surrounding this can be found in 14.3.1

8.5.5 Forfeits

Any team that forfeits two games in a season is not eligible for finals, pre game forfeits only, post game forfeits due to injury and lack of player numbers do not count.

8.5.6 Tie Breaker Rules

For any team involved in a tie breaker, must be decided on 1 tiebreaker not 2 different ones
For example:

Team A cannot win tiebreaker for head to head over Team B if Team C is on same tiebreaker and didn't play Team A, they would move to the next tiebreaker which is applicable by all involved

1. Win percentage
2. Head to Head (against teams involved that tie breaker)
3. Head to Head Points differential against each other
4. Points differential against top 4 common opponents (top 4 teams each team involved in tiebreaker have played)
5. Points conceded against top 4 common opponents
6. Points conceded against lowest 4 common opponents
7. Coin toss

8.6. Concussion Policy

GNSW will follow concussion policy if Gridiron Australia (GA)
<https://www.gridiron.org.au/media/Concussion-Policy-2019-v1.0.pdf>

All Head coaches have prime responsibility for their team, and therefore are to familiarise themselves with policy and ensure it is adhered to and ensure all medical personnel are made aware of this policy.

8.8 Medically Trained Personnel (Medics)

To reiterate from point 4.2, ALL Medics MUST provide proof of attainment to GNSW. If affiliate with a club, these persons to be listed on sign-on sheet, non-playing Medics may be added on game day.

It is requested that each medical person makes themselves known to the Referee (white hat) prior to the start of game. In the event of injury, ONLY Medic to attend to the injured player.

Medical Personnel must be identified on the team sheet, as well as make themselves known to Officials and the League Representative.

9. Member Protection

9.1 Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO)

The GNSW MPIO can be contacted by email at MPIO@gridironnsw.org.au .

9.2 Member Protection Process

Any incidents or issues need to be addressed, including complaints MUST be sent via the MPIO on MPIO@gridironnsw.org.au

Note any emails received to other executive members that are deemed to be of a nature that should have MPIO input, will be forwarded to the MPIO.

MPIO will gather information regarding matter;
Provide member with information and advice on their rights;
MPIO will liaise with Complaints Officer;
Matter will be addressed by the Complaints Officer with the Review committee.

Note: MPIO is not a lawyer defending you, they are to assist with providing options to you.

What are some things that may require involvement of MPIO?

Bullying;
Abuse (verbal, physical, racial, sexual);
Inappropriate behaviour;
Mistreatment by fellow club members or personnel.

Clubs that require assistance with issues in their own clubs, may utilise the GNSW MPIO, but it is recommended that each club has a MPIO appointed for their club.

Any questions regarding, please contact MPIO

10. Judiciary

10.1 Judiciary Procedures

This procedure is to be followed as well as practical; however variations of it are acceptable in appropriate situations.

1. Incident reports will be submitted to GNSW by officials, league rep and the officials, or other aggrieved parties. *Submission within 48 hours of the incident.*
2. The GNSW Board will consider the reports submitted and seek additional statements as required.
3. The party alleged to have carried out the breach will be advised of the investigation, by issuing a breach notice, which will be accompanied by the statements available regarding the incident. *Breach notice shall be issued within 24 hours of initial reports being submitted to GNSW. Deadline for return submissions is 48 hours after breach notice is issued.*
4. The GNSW Board will consider the statements and reports and issue a decision on the matter (penalty notice). *Within 24 hours of the close of return submissions*
5. The party charged has the right to appeal to a tribunal; notification of appeal must be made within 48 hours of the issuing of a penalty notice.
 - a. Under normal circumstances, any penalty issued is suspended whilst appeal is underway. For particularly serious breaches, the suspension of sentence may be forfeited.
6. The tribunal will be held within 5 business days of the advice of appeal. The tribunal shall consist of: A chairperson, a senior player, and a head coach. All tribunal members must be independent of any clubs involved in the incident (perpetrator, victim, or officials). The members should also each be from separate clubs. *If possible, all members of the tribunal shall be independent of the GNSW Board, however in such circumstances where alternatives are not able to be found, one member of the tribunal is able to be a GNSW Board member.*
7. Any witnesses or material may be called or presented at the tribunal. Any Member of the Judiciary may question a witness and the player may question a witness. A slanging match will not be tolerated and any such actions will be terminated immediately.
8. The Referee should also be present or an official or other person appointed by him who witnessed the incident complained of in the report. The player and the Judiciary may question the Referee or other person.
9. After the presentation of evidence, the player and any witnesses shall retire and the Members of the Judiciary will deliberate. The Judiciary may recall the player or any witness to question him/her further but always in the presence of the player who may also ask further questions or make further comments.

Times indicated are guides only. Any potential breach will be investigated as rapidly as possible.

- *Incident reports – Monday*
- *Breach notice issued – Tuesday*
- *Response to breach notice – Thursday*
- *Penalty notice – Friday*
- *Appeal advice – Sunday*
- *Appeal hearing – within next 5 business days*

11. Uniforms

- All helmets must be same colour, any exceptions to this must be approved by GNSW
- **All jerseys must be tucked in, including undershirts as per new 2022 IFAF rules.**
- As per IFAF rules, players must ensure they wear mandatory equipment, this includes:
 - mouthguard (not clear or white)
 - hip, tail, thigh, and knee pads, covering your knees
- All jerseys (with numbers) and pants must be the same for the entire team
- All shoulder pads & back plates must be covered by a jersey
- No smoked or tinted visors allowed as per IFAF rules.
- No overbuilt facemasks approved as per IFAF rules.
- Absolutely no warning stickers are to be removed or painted over on any helmet
- All helmets must be a maximum of 10 years old from date of manufacture unless they have been recertified with the appropriate sticker attached

11.1 Changes to Uniforms

From 2018 onwards, all clubs must submit their jerseys prior to production to make sure they do not clash with any other team. If they do, the team wanting a new jersey **must** have an alternate to use against the team who has had the base colour longer. Teams or clubs who have had the base colour longer will have the choice to wear that colour before any team wanting to use that colour as a new or alternate strip. Jersey numbers must be contrast enough to see them clearly during the day and under lights at night. These rules on colours are in place to avoid arguments at a later stage, and accusations of bias will be avoided. Adhere to the rules and people hopefully won't get upset. And ultimately will prevent an expensive mistake of purchasing uniforms that may be rejected by GNSW executives.

Clubs and teams base colours are listed below (jerseys are what these come from)

Note - If a club wishes to wear an alternate, providing it is approved by the league, can do so as long as it doesn't clash with the opposition's base colour. Both teams can also agree to wear non clashing alternates instead of their base colour eg; Cultural round, Pink Round or just alternate club jersey.

ALL CLUBS - All teams to wear primary uniform colour unless prior arrangements have been made to wear alternate colours

1.1.1 Mens Competition

MENS COMPETITION	PRIMARY JERSEY COLOUR	ALTERNATE JERSEY COLOUR 1	ALTERNATE JERSEY COLOUR 2
Sydney Uni Lions	GOLD	WHITE	-
UNSW Raiders	GREEN	WHITE	-
UTS Gators	WHITE W/TEAL	-	-
Sutherland Seahawks	COLUMBIA BLUE	-	-
West Sydney Pirates	BLACK	SILVER	-
North Sydney Rebels	PURPLE W/BLACK	-	-
Nepean Ducks	YELLOW	BLACK	GREEN & WHITE
Wollongong Mustangs	CARDINAL RED	-	-
Central Coast Sharks	ORANGE	-	-

*DUCKS MUST HAVE ALTERNATE WHEN VS LIONS

11.1.2 Colts Competition

COLTS COMPETITION	PRIMARY JERSEY COLOUR	ALTERNATE JERSEY COLOUR
Sydney Uni Lions	ROYAL BLUE	-
UNSW Raiders	GREEN	WHITE
UTS Gators	WHITE W/TEAL	-
Sutherland Seahawks	COLUMBIA BLUE	-
West Sydney Pirates	BLACK	-
North Sydney Rebels	PURPLE W/BLACK	-
Nepean Ducks	YELLOW	BLACK
Wollongong Mustangs	CARDINAL RED	-
Central Coast Sharks	ORANGE	-

11.1.3 Womens Competition

WOMENS COMPETITION	PRIMARY JERSEY COLOUR	ALTERNATE JERSEY COLOUR
Sydney Uni Lions	WHITE	GOLD
UNSW Raiders	GREEN	WHITE
UTS Gators	WHITE W/TEAL	-
Sutherland Seahawks	-	-
West Sydney Pirates	BLACK	-
North Sydney Rebels	PURPLE W/BLACK	-
Nepean Ducks	YELLOW	BLACK
Wollongong Mustangs	-	-
Central Coast Sharks	ORANGE	-
UC Stars	SKY BLUE W/WHITE	YELLOW W/RED

*LIONS MUST USE ALTERNATE WHEN VS GATORS

11.2 Inclusion of GNSW logo on NEW Uniforms

GNSW will be mandating in coming seasons to make it compulsory to include the GNSW logo on team jerseys. Every sport has the governing body logo - GNSW will be no different.

For all intents and purposes, **'Any uniforms ordered after the start of the 2022 Season (August 13) will be required to have the GNSW logo included in the design'**.

More information and guidelines to follow later.

12. Club Requirements

12.1 Club responsibilities as a member of GNSW

All clubs have responsibility of maintaining their Association status with Fair Trading. In doing so, clubs are required to submit financial reports to Fair trading, and submit the same to GNSW.

Items to submit to GNSW

- Financial report/Profit and loss statement
- Balance Sheet
- Minutes of last AGM
- 'Registration estimator' for upcoming season *new
- Updated Club Contacts (Executive Members and Committee Members)

For clarity and transparency - GNSW as a governing body in this sport in this state have a requirement to know where a member clubs money is coming from and where it is going to. It is not being nosy, it is a legal requirement!

Side effect is that it will also benefit clubs who may have financial issues for GNSW to assist with setting up budgets and business skills to improve their clubs financial situation.

Note 'assist' is the key word, not take over the running of a club.

Clubs must keep GNSW up to date of any changes in the club.

Clubs must keep GNSW informed of any issues that occur with their club.

12.2 Club Officiating Duty

Gridiron NSW will set out a roster of clubs required to provide officials for games during the season. Clubs are required to provide 5 officials to all games where they have duty. Clubs must have a minimum of 10 officials who **have** completed the Level 0 course provided by the Australian Gridiron Officials Association (AGOA) prior to the game. Each club will supply the list of 10 names who have completed the Level 0 training and only those 10 officials can be used by clubs for their officiating duties.

Clubs must also have 1 player who has completed the AGOA Level 1 course and can act as the white hat for games where that club has duty.

All people provided by clubs for officiating duty must be registered and paid members of GNSW.

Where officials are provided by AGOA to officiate the game, clubs are still required to provide 5 officials. Any officials beyond those required for a 5-person crew should be used to create a 7-person crew, "shadow" officials to learn, or both. When present, AGOA officials will lead the officiating crew, however this does not necessarily mean they will fill the role of Referee. Should a club not provide the required 5 officials for duty the club will be sanctioned and will have to pay the cost of the missing officials.

Clubs will invoice GNSW for their duty games. Clubs will only be paid for their duty games once an invoice is received by GNSW.

12.4 Chain Crew Duty

Clubs will be required to provide chain crew for certain games as rostered by GNSW. When required, clubs must provide 3 people to act as chain crew.

- All chain crew must have enclosed shoes
- All chain crew must wear fluoro vest if supplied
- All chain crew must be over age of 15
- All chain crew will also fall under the GNSW Code of Conduct
- All chain crew must **NOT** consume alcohol while doing a duty
- All chain crew must **NOT** Vape or smoke while doing a duty

The chain crew will be required to be supplied by the AWAY TEAM.

For the sake of avoiding opposition teams on the away team sideline, the away team will have to supply to avoid any issues.

12.5 Film/Video Duty

Clubs will be required to provide 1 - 2 filmers for certain games as rostered by GNSW.

12.6 Penalties for Failure to perform duty

Clubs will be penalised if they fail to provide persons to perform their duty as rostered. Penalties may change from year to year as set out by GNSW, however unless otherwise advised the following penalties apply:

1st Offence: \$50 fine per person not provided

2nd Offence: \$50 fine per person not provided

3rd Offence: \$50 fine per person not provided and loss of 1 competition point from each team entered by the club.

Any offence will only occur at 1 per day only, so if a club has 3 games worth of officials missing in one day that's not 3 offences it's only 1st offence and 3 games x 5 people x \$50 each, so to get a second offence it must occur on a separate day.

Increased penalties will apply for further offences or in serious failures by the club. A single game is considered one "offence", so if a club is rostered for 3 games and fails to provide any officials, this would be considered 3 offences.

13 Officiating Payments

13.1 Officiating Payments

GNSW provides for payments for officials who complete officiating duties. The exact rates and payment terms will be established each season and provided to clubs. Payments for AGOA rostered officials will be made on a regular basis direct to the official. Payments for Club Duty officials will be made to the club for distribution to the specific duty officials. From 2018 onwards the officiating payments have been structured based on AGOA accreditation level. Fees per game for 2024 are listed below and split:

2024 Payments	Mens Games 11v11	Colts Games 9v9	Womens Games 9v9
White Hat	\$70	\$55	\$55
Level 3+/Supv.	\$60	\$45	\$45
Level 2	\$50	\$40	\$40
Level 1	\$40	\$35	\$35
Level 0	\$30	\$30	\$30
Club Duties	\$30	\$30	\$30

Chain crew only in finals will be paid \$20 each person (max of 3 per game)
Ball boys in finals only will be paid \$20 per person (max of 2 per game)

All payments will come from GNSW not AGOA and we will best we can be paid on a monthly basis starting approx 15th of September.

14.2 Conduct with Officials

No Player, coach, sideline staff or affiliated member will abuse an AGOA or player official at any time for any reason, reiteration of 8.5.5

From IFAF Football Code:

“When an official imposes a penalty or makes a decision, he is simply doing his duty as he sees it. He is on the field to uphold the integrity of the game of football, and his decisions are final and conclusive and should be accepted by players and coaches.”

13.3 ZERO TOLERANCE FOR ABUSE TOWARDS AN OFFICIAL

Penalties to include but not limited to:

Suspension, Fines, Report to Police.

Penalties will be handed down to individuals, to be guaranteed by the club,
This means if a player does not serve suspension, a fine will be applicable.

Please note - abusing an official for a ‘bad call’ is never acceptable.

13.4 FINES FOR ABUSE TOWARDS OFFICIAL

Penalty / Fine structure will be sent out in further updates to this document but be prepared that they will be tough penalties as we are trying to rub this out of our sport.

**13.5 IFAF RULES

GNSW will follow IFAF rules - 2023 version.

IFAF Rule book - <http://www.myiafoa.org/rules/ifaf2023/ifarules.pdf>

13.6 Lightning Policy

Just to highlight the rules for when lightning threatens a game, whereby we adopt strictly the IFAF rules - Appendix B (page 168 of IFAF Rulebook), key points:

1. Stop play if the time between seeing a lightning flash and hearing thunder is less than 30 seconds. **Immediately** seek safety under appropriate shelter.
2. Do not resume play until at least 30 minutes has passed since the last thunder was heard. (This is basically a reiteration of IFAF rules.)

The Lightning Policy GNSW will adopt, is also known as '30/30 Lightning Guidelines':

- When a lightning strike is observed, and the resulting thunder is within **30 seconds** of the lightning, the game is to cease and **EVERYONE MUST CLEAR THE PLAYING ARENA**
- Play will resume only after **30 minutes** from the last sound of thunder and the last flash of lightning. Direct from Rule book "To resume athletics activities, lightning safety experts recommend waiting 30 minutes after both the last sound of thunder and last flash of lightning."
- Play may not resume if there is insufficient time to recommence and complete a game or at a minimum a half of football.
- Understanding of SAFE shelters is essential. SAFE evacuation sites include:
 - Fully enclosed metal vehicles with windows up
 - Substantial buildings
 - Low ground.
- UNSAFE SHELTER AREAS include all outdoor metal objects, like power poles, fences and gates, high mast light poles, and electrical equipment.
 - AVOID solitary trees.
 - AVOID water.
 - AVOID open fields.
 - AVOID high ground.
- If you feel your hair standing on end, and/or hear "crackling noises," you are in lightning's electric field. If caught outside during close lightning activity, immediately remove metal objects (including baseball cap, jewellery, belts, car keys etc), place your feet together, duck your head, and crouch down low with hands on knees.
- Wait a minimum of 30 minutes from the last observed lightning or thunder before resuming activities. Be extra cautious during this phase as the storm may not be over.
- People who have been struck by lightning do not carry an electrical charge and are safe to handle. Apply first aid immediately if you are qualified to do so. Get emergency help promptly.

REFEREE IS IN CHARGE AND REFEREE'S DECISION IS FINAL

13.7 Heat Policy

From time to time, we may experience extreme weather conditions; like high temperatures. Decision on Heat will be made on game day by Competition Manger, or other GNSW Director; who will use the Sports Medicine Australia Guidelines for Hot Weather:

<https://sma.org.au/resources/policies-and-guidelines/hot-weather/>

Based on the table below, Taken from SMA Hot Weather Guidelines: GNSW will consider adjusting games if temperature 31°C-35°C.

And cancelling games if 36°C and above.

Environmental Factors

1. Temperature

Ambient temperature is the most easily understood guide available, and is most useful on hot, dry days

Ambient temperature	Relative humidity	Risk of Heat Illness	Possible management for sustained physical activity
15 - 20		Low	Heat illness can occur in distance running. Caution over-motivation.
21 - 25	Exceeds 70%	Low - moderate	Increase vigilance. Caution over-motivation.
26 - 30	Exceeds 60%	Moderate	Moderate early pre-season training. Reduce intensity and duration of play/training. Take more breaks.
31 - 35	Exceeds 50%	High - very high	Uncomfortable for most people. Limit intensity, take more breaks. Limit duration to less than 60 minutes per session.
36 and above	Exceeds 30%	Extreme	Very stressful for most people. Postpone to a cooler condition (or cooler part of the day) or cancellation.

13.8 Concussion Policy

Gridiron NSW follows the Gridiron Australia Concussion Policy available online.

15. Sponsorship Opportunities

GNSW will be seeking sponsors, and will be able to offer on field advertising for live streaming.

Options available include:

- Sideline Bolsters
- Online advertising
- Shout-outs during Live stream

For sponsoring contact sponsorship@gridironnsw.org.au