

Northern Club Challenge

Regulations

1. NAME OF COMPETITION

The 2015 Competition will be known as the Northern Club Challenge Competition however should a sponsor be found, the competition may be referred to by a naming rights sponsor.

2. MEDALS

The Competition Administrator (CA) will provide 20 winners medallions to the winning Club.

3. MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPETITION

The management of the competition shall be the responsibility of Competition Administrator (CA).

CA shall have the power to formulate the regulations and draw for the competition and empowered to alter or add to these regulations at any time, if it is deemed necessary.

Clubs shall be bound by the competition regulations. CA has the power to take such action and impose such penalties as it deems necessary for any matters not specifically mentioned in these regulations.

CA reserves the right to cancel the competition completely, reduce the prize money, alter the format of the competition and reject entries in the event that insufficient entries are received.

4. ELIGIBLE CLUBS

The competition shall be for senior men's Premier teams and by way of invitation from the CA and acceptance by the club.

Invitation criteria as following

Men's

FNQ Football - Top 6 ranked teams as determined by the end of regular season prior
Townsville Football – Top 6 ranked teams as determined by the end of regular season prior
Mackay Regional Football – Top 4 ranked teams as determined by end of regular season prior

Women's

By invitation from C.A.

If any of the above mentioned qualified clubs decline the invitation to participate in the Northern Club Challenge competition then it will be at the CA's discretion to offer invitations to other clubs.

5. DATES OF ENTRY

Each club wishing to accept the invitation must complete an entry form and return it to CA by the due date, together with the nomination fee of \$600 Men's - \$400 Women's.

6. FORMAT

The competition shall be conducted on a knock out basis. CA reserves the right to adjust or alter the competition format subject to the number of nominations received.

7. THE DRAW

Clubs accepted into the competition shall be drawn in pairs. The pairs shall compete, and the winners shall be drawn and shall compete in the same manner until the end of the competition when the winner has been determined.

Immediately after each draw is made, CA will advise each club of its opponents, together with the date, and venue of their fixture.

All matches in each round including the final, shall be played on dates, and at venues, as determined by CA.

Club teams from the three zones will be drawn from the hat to verse other club teams from any of the other two zones, for all rounds where possible. Where possible, endeavours will be made to keep travel requirements to a minimum however being mindful one of the main objectives of the Competition is to enable Clubs to play other clubs outside of their own respective local competition.

In the event that a disproportionate number of club team entries are received, CA reserves the right to allow for byes within the draw. A club team receiving a bye in any given round will be the last team drawn from the hat. A club team will not be permitted to receive a bye on more than one occasion throughout the draw.

8. HOME TEAM

The first team drawn from the hat shall be declared the HOME team with the second team drawn from the hat declared the AWAY team.

9. MATCH RULES

9.1. Duration

All matches will be forty five (45) minutes duration each way. The referee shall allow for stoppage time or time wasted. The referee is the sole judge of allowance of time whether lost through accident or other cause and his decision on this matter is not subject to appeal.

9.2. Drawn matches

If a match is drawn at the conclusion of normal time, then 2 x 15 minute periods of extra time shall be played in full. If the result is still a draw at the conclusion of the extra time then the result of the match shall be decided by the Penalty Kick as per FIFA Laws of the Game.

9.3. Substitutions

A club may at its discretion substitute a maximum of four (4) players during a match. The substitute players must be listed on the official team sheet prior to the commencement of the match.

9.4. Match Balls

The Home Club shall supply three (3) first class footballs of the same brand, colour and weight for the match.

9.5. Club Playing Strip – Clash of Colours

In the event of a playing strip colour clash, the AWAY team (listed second on the official draw) must provide an alternate strip comprising of shirts, shorts and socks.

The Referee shall be the arbiter on match day should there be a clash of colours. It is the responsibility of the HOME team (listed first on the draw) to notify the AWAY team's of their club colours prior to match day.

10. MATCH RESULTS

The HOME club shall forward, by email, the result of all matches to John.Azpiri@elders.com.au no later than 4 hours after the completion of the fixture.

11. POSTPONED FIXTURES

It is the responsibility of the HOME club to contact CA, all competing teams and the referee's association in the event of wet weather or other cancellations. The HOME club must also provide ample notice of a postponement for teams travelling long distances.

Postponed or abandoned matches will be replayed at a date and venue determined by CA. The decision of CA for rescheduled fixtures shall be final.

In the event that a fixture is unable to be replayed within the required time frames, CA reserves the right to declare the fixture not valid with the winner of this fixture to be drawn from the hat.

12. FORFEITS AND WITHDRAWAL

Clubs who withdraw from a fixture or forfeit a fixture without providing a reason satisfactory to CA, shall not be allowed to enter the Competition the following season, shall pay the expenses incurred by the other club and the Match Official fees and shall be liable to a fine as determined by CA.

13. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

All disciplinary matters shall be referred to the CA with provision for the following:

13.1. Yellow Cards

A player who accumulates two (2) yellow cards during the Northern Club Challenge competition shall receive an automatic one (1) match suspension to be served in the next Northern Club Challenge fixture.

Should a player and his club team not progress to the next round of the Northern Club Challenge, the said player's yellow card infringements will be expunged.

13.2. Red Cards

A player who receives a red card in a Northern Club Challenge fixture shall receive an automatic one (1) match suspension to be served in the next Northern Club Challenge fixture.

Should a player and his club team not progress to the next round of the Northern Club Challenge, the following will apply for red card infringements:

13.2.1. Indirect Red Card - Infringement will be expunged.

13.2.2. Direct Red Card - Automatic one (1) match suspension to be served in their own respective regular season competitions. CA will then review infringement and determine if any further action be deemed necessary.

14. CLUB OFFICIALS AT FIXTURES

All clubs must have a minimum of two (2) identifiable Club Officials present during their Northern Club Challenge fixture.

15. TEAM SHEETS

CA will forward official Northern Club Challenge team sheets to all HOME clubs.

The team sheet must be completed in ink, in a legible manner by both teams and must contain the names and shirt numbers of the players taking part in the match, including the names of the nominated substitutes and their registration numbers.

The original team sheet must be handed to the referee at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled kick off time.

The numbers on the back of the shirts shall correspond to the numbers on the team sheet handed to the Referee prior to the commencement of the match.

A maximum of sixteen players may be listed on the official team sheet.

Completed team sheets must be emailed to John.Azpiri@elders.com.au on the first working day after the match.

Should a match be forfeited, the referee shall endorse the team sheet accordingly.

Any Team Manager, Team Coach or Club Official found supplying false information shall be subject to disciplinary action as determined by CA.

16. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

The following shall apply in defining player eligibility:

16.1. A qualified or bona-fide player is one who has completed an online registration through MyFootballClub and been accepted through MyFootballClub by the respective Club and Zone.

16.2. No player shall be permitted to play for more than one club team in the Northern Club Challenge and can only represent the Club to which he was first registered.

16.3. Should a player be suspended by another Competition Administrator **prior** to a Northern Club Challenge fixture, the player will **not be permitted** to play until that suspension has been served. Competition Administer reserves the right to investigate the eligibility of any player.

17. INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

A Club playing an Ineligible Player in any Northern Club Challenge fixture will be deemed to have forfeited that fixture and shall be fined a sum, as determined by CA. The score shall be recorded as three (3) goals to the opposing team and nil (0) to the team that has infringed the competition rules.

18. MATCH OFFICIALS

The appointment of Match Officials will be made by the local referee association in conjunction with CA.

Each Referee shall, after the completion of a match, forward to CA by email to John.Azpiri@elders.com.au any Send-Off Reports or After Match Report by 12 noon on the next working day after the match.

Referees may, after waiting fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled kick off time, abandon the match due to the absence of a club team.

The Referee shall be the sole arbiter as to whether a game will proceed, having regard to the condition of the ground and the weather at the time of the inspection.

The HOME Club shall be fully responsible for the welfare of the match officials, from the time they arrive at the ground, until the time they depart from the ground. Failure to carry out this requirement shall render the HOME club liable to a penalty, as determined by CA.

Provisions relating to protests are as follows:

18.1. All questions relating to qualifications of players or interpretation of the regulations, or any dispute or protest, shall be referred to the CA in writing via email to John.Azpiri@elders.com.au whose decision shall be final and binding on both clubs.

18.2. Every protest must be lodged in writing within forty eight (48) hours of the completion of the match and contain the particulars of the grounds upon which it is founded. The protest must be accompanied by a fee of \$100.00 which will be forfeited should the protest not be sustained.

18.3. Any protest relating to the ground, goal posts or other appurtenances of the game shall not be entertained by CA unless such objection has been lodged with the Referee before the official kick off time and notification is made on the respective team sheets.

18.4. CA shall forward a copy of the protest and particulars to the club protested against.

18.5. Each Club may support its case by witness statements.

18.6. Due to travel distances and time restraints, all protests will be dealt with summarily by the CA based on witness statements, referee reports, electronic media files and other documentary evidence.

19. DISQUALIFICATION

CA shall have the power to disqualify any competing club, or player from any competing Club, who may be proved to be guilty of any breach of rules or regulations including the regulations of the Northern Club Challenge competition.

20. MATCH OFFICIAL FEES / STRUCTURE

The cost of match official fees shall be covered in the club nomination fee.

It is the responsibility of the CA to ensure that match officials are paid.

21. PRIZE MONEY

	<u>Men's</u>	<u>Women's</u>
Cup Winner	\$4,000	\$2,000
Runner up	\$2,000	\$1,000
Semi Finalist	\$600 per team	N/A

Please be aware that the prize money is not cumulative. Clubs shall receive the amount noted against the highest level that they achieve in the competition.

Please also note the CA may at its discretion reduce the prize money amount if insufficient or reduced number of entries is received.