



**Finals Venue Selection Policy**  
**Clause 10.2 of the By-Laws**

The Preliminary Final and Grand Final of all grades in the Senior competition, as well as the Grand Final of the Junior competition, will be played at C.ex Coffs International Stadium. This policy outlines the process for determining the venues that Semi Finals in both competitions, and the Junior Preliminary Final will be played at.

**Junior Competition**

1. Semi Finals in all age groups shall be played at the one venue on the same day wherever practical. The venue will be the home ground of the team that finishes at the top of the ladder at the conclusion of the home and away matches in the U15 competition.
  - a. In the event that it is deemed impractical to stage all Semi Final matches at the same venue, Major Semi Finals (1<sup>st</sup> v 2<sup>nd</sup>) in all age groups will be staged at one venue, and Minor Semi Finals (3<sup>rd</sup> v 4<sup>th</sup>) in all age groups will be staged at a second venue. The venue for the Major Semi Finals will be the home ground of the team that finishes at the top of the ladder at the conclusion of the home and away matches in the U15 competition. The venue for the Minor Semi Final will be the home ground of the team that finishes in third place on the ladder at the conclusion of the home and away matches in the U15 competition.
2. The Football Operations Co-ordinator will communicate with the club in the week leading into rounds where match results could confirm that a team cannot mathematically be deposed from first or third place on the U15 ladder and that would confer the right to host the Semi Finals.
3. Preliminary Finals in all age groups shall be played at the one venue on the same day.
  - a. The venue will be the home ground of the highest ranked U15 team that is participating in the Preliminary Final.
  - b. In the event that it is not appropriate to stage the Preliminary Final at the venue identified in 3.a., the venue will be the home ground of the highest ranked Youth Girls team that is participating in the Preliminary Final.
  - c. In the event that it is not appropriate to stage the Preliminary Final at the venue identified in 3.b., the venue will be the home ground of the highest ranked U13 team that is participating in the Preliminary Final.
  - d. In the event that it is not appropriate to stage the Preliminary Final at the venue identified in 3.c., the venue will be the home ground of the highest ranked U11 team that is participating in the Preliminary Final.
4. In the event that two teams from the same conference\* are scheduled to play each other at a venue within the alternate conference, the Administration Committee will give consideration to relocating this match to a more appropriate location.
5. The Football Operations Co-ordinator will communicate with clubs as soon as the Semi Finals are concluded to confirm the location of the Preliminary Finals.



6. The home club may run the canteen and retain all proceeds.
7. The home club will be responsible for appointing a Ground Manager, Timekeeper, and scoreboard attendants for all Finals matches played at the venue. The away club must provide a Timekeeper.
8. The league will appoint all field umpires for matches covered by this policy. The home club must provide a designated Umpires Escort to perform the functions specified in By-Law 12.6. Competing clubs are responsible for providing goal umpires.
9. The Grand Finals in all age groups shall be played at C.ex Coffs International Stadium.
10. The Administration Committee is granted discretionary power to elect to stage a match at a venue outside the scope of this policy in extraordinary circumstances where the Committee is of the opinion that the needs of clubs are best met by exercising that power.

\* The southern conference comprises clubs from Taree to Kempsey (inclusive). The northern conference comprises clubs from Nambucca to Grafton (inclusive).

#### **Senior Competition – Senior Grade**

1. The club finishing in first place on the competition ladder at the completion of the home and away season will be granted the right to host Semi Final 2 in that season.
2. The club finishing in third place on the competition ladder at the completion of the home and away season will be granted the right to host Semi Final 1 in that season.
3. A club shall be deemed ineligible to host a home Semi Final if it has had a forfeit in any grade during the season in question.
4. The Semi Finals in the lower grades will be staged at the same venue as the corresponding Semi Finals in the Senior Grade.
5. The Football Operations Co-ordinator will communicate with clubs in the week leading into rounds where match results could confirm that the club cannot mathematically be deposed from a ladder position that would confer the right to host a Semi Final. The purpose of this communication will be to ensure the club is aware that the opportunity to host a home final may exist and of the timeframe within which advice must be provided to the League as to whether the club will stage the home final or not.
6. The club that has secured the right to host a Semi Final must advise the League in writing by 12:00pm on the Monday following the round in which hosting rights are confirmed by virtue of the fact that the club cannot mathematically be deposed from that ladder position, if it does intend to host the Semi Final. Should no response be received from the club within this timeframe it will be assumed that the club has declined the opportunity to host the Semi Final.



7. The club must pay to the League an amount specified by the League representing the surplus that would normally have been generated through gate receipts at C.ex Coffs International Stadium. The fee is based on the average nett gate minus costs associated with that Final, or fee in the case of a home final, over the past three (3) seasons for that corresponding fixture.
8. The home club may collect a gate at no higher cost than would have been applied by the League, and may run the canteen and retain all proceeds.
9. The home club will be responsible for appointing a Ground Manager, Timekeeper, and scoreboard attendants for all Finals matches played at the venue. The away club must provide a Timekeeper.
10. The home club must comply with any licensing conditions including ground security and meet such costs.
11. A club may elect to partner with the League to host a final at C.ex Coffs International Stadium. Such a partnership would entail the 'host' club providing a workforce to assist with match day venue preparation, pack-up, gate collection, and Footyweb score entry. In the event that a club elects not to host a home Semi Final, hosting rights for that match will be offered to the club's opposition in the Senior grade. Should that club elect not to host the match, a venue will be selected by the Competition Management Committee upon whatever basis it sees fit.
12. Payments to the League must be made within seven (7) days of the conduct of the match that the payment relates to.
13. The league will appoint all umpires (field, goal, and boundary) for matches covered by this policy. The home club must provide a designated Umpires Escort to perform the functions specified in By-Law 12.6.
14. The home club must provide a dedicated facility that is sufficient in size to adequately house seven (7) umpires at any given time. At a minimum, this facility may be a marquee with three (3) enclosed sides, together with adequate supervision to guarantee the security of the officials' belongings.