



Finals Venue Selection Policy Clause 17.2 of the Rules

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 (where available). Where C.ex Coffs International Stadium is unavailable to host these Matches, the League will have the ultimate responsibility for determining venue selection and:

1. May invite Clubs to submit applications to host; and
2. Set fees associated with any such awarding of hosting rights.

This policy outlines the process for determining the venues that Semi Finals in both competitions will be played at.

Junior Competition

- (A) Semi Finals shall be played at two venues on the same day wherever practical. The venues will be as outlined below:
- a. Semi Final 1 (1st v 4th) in all age groups will be staged at the home venue of the club that finished at the top of the ladder at the conclusion of the home and away matches in the Under 15 competition.
 - b. Semi Final 2 (2nd v 3rd) in all age groups will be staged at the home venue of the club that finished in second place on the ladder at the conclusion of the home and away matches in the Under 15 competition.
- (B) Football Operations staff will communicate with the clubs in the week leading into rounds where match results could confirm that a team cannot mathematically be deposited from first or second place on the Under 15 ladder and that would confer the right to host the Semi Finals.
- (C) In the event that two teams from the same conference* are scheduled to play each other at a venue within the alternate conference, the League will give consideration to relocating this match to a more appropriate location.
- (D) The host club may run the canteen and retain all proceeds.
- (E) The host club will be responsible for appointing a Ground Manager and scoreboard attendants for all Finals matches played at the venue. The participating teams in all age groups must provide a Timekeeper.
- (F) The League will appoint all field umpires for matches covered by this policy. The host club must provide a designated Umpires Escort to perform the functions specified in the Rules. Competing clubs are responsible for providing goal umpires.
- (G) The Grand Finals in all age groups shall be played at C.ex Coffs International Stadium (where available).



- (H) If C.ex Coffs International Stadium is unavailable to host the Grand Finals, the League shall have the absolute discretion to determine the venue.
- (I) The League has 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/South West Rocks (inclusive). The northern conference comprises clubs from Nambucca to Grafton (inclusive). This applies whether the home and away rounds have been played on a conference model or not.

Senior Competition

- (A) The League will have the ultimate responsibility for determining venue selection for both the Qualifying Semi Final (1st v 2nd) and Elimination Semi Final (3rd v 4th).
- (B) Where it is determined that the Qualifying Semi Final (1st v 2nd) and Elimination Semi Final (3rd v 4th) shall be played on the same date, the League will select venues based on the following considerations:
 - a. The proximity of the two (2) venues from each other and the ease with which Clubs can move between the venues.
 - b. The overall quality of the venues.
 - c. The hosting arrangements and available workforce.
 - d. The opportunity for the League to collect revenue based on gate takings and/or the imposition of a hosting fee.
- (C) Where it is determined that clubs will be afforded the opportunity to host “home Finals” the allocation of such Matches will be made on the following basis:
 - a. The club finishing in first place on the competition ladder in the Senior Grade at the completion of the home and away season will be granted the right to host the Qualifying Semi Final (1st v 2nd) in that season.
 - b. The club finishing in third place on the competition ladder in the Senior Grade at the completion of the home and away season will be granted the right to host the Elimination Semi Final (3rd v 4th) in that season.
 - c. A club shall be deemed ineligible to host a “home Final” if it has had a forfeit in any grade during the season in question.
 - d. The Qualifying and Elimination Semi Finals in the lower grades will be staged at the same venue as the corresponding matches in the Senior Grade.



- e. Football Operations staff 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 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.
- f. The club that has secured the right to host a 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 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 Final.
- g. Where a Club elects to host a Final, that 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) completed seasons for that corresponding fixture.
- h. The host 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.
- i. The host 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.
- j. The host club must comply with any licensing conditions including ground security and meet such costs.
- k. 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 PlayHQ score entry.
- l. In the event that a club elects not to host a Final, or to partner as host of a home Final at C.ex Coffs International Stadium, 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 League upon whatever basis it sees fit.
- m. Payments to the League must be made within seven (7) days of the conduct of the match that the payment relates to.
- n. The host 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.



- (D) The League will appoint all umpires (field, goal, and boundary) for matches covered by this policy. The host club must provide a designated Umpire Escort to perform the functions specified in the Rules.

Wet weather provisions

- (A) In the event of wet weather forcing a ground closure during the Finals Series of either the Junior or Senior competitions the Competition Management Committee will make the determination on how the Finals Series is to proceed.
- (B) The Competition Management Committee will attempt to ensure that Finals matches are able to be played on the scheduled date, therefore the first priority will be to move to an alternate venue that is declared open by a local controlling authority.
- (C) In the event that there is no suitable alternate venue available on the scheduled date, the Competition Management Committee will consider the option of postponing the Finals Series by one (1) week per postponement to enable all matches to be played.
- (D) In the event that it is not practical to postpone the Finals Series, the Competition Management Committee will consider the option of playing matches on alternate dates, e.g. mid week.
- (E) As a final option, the Competition Management Committee will consider the need to cancel matches. In this case, the provisions of clause 17.7 of the Rules will be enacted.