



## **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 up to four venues on the same day wherever practical. The venues will be selected with a view to the following:
- a. Priority to be given to the teams finishing in first and second places on the Under 16 and Youth Girls ladders hosting the Semi Finals.
  - b. The maximum capacity to host matches of each potential venue, considering that each match at that venue is to be played in its own unique timeslot, as well as other factors including flood lighting, etc.
  - c. Minimising travel for participating clubs, and maximising the opportunity for players that play in multiple age groups to be involved in each match that they are eligible to play in.
  - d. Having as many matches of the same gender in the same location.
- (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 deposed from first or second place on the Under 16 or Youth Girls ladders and that the opportunity to host matches may be extended to that club.
- (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 (preferably one that is already hosting schedule to host Finals).
- (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, and
  - a. May invite Clubs to submit applications to host; and
  - b. Set fees associated with any such awarding of hosting rights.
- (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 Yamba (inclusive). This applies whether the home and away rounds have been played on a conference model or not.

### **Senior Competition**

- (A) The Qualifying Semi Final (1<sup>st</sup> v 2<sup>nd</sup>), Preliminary Final, and Grand Final of all grades in the Senior competition will be played at C.ex Coffs International Stadium (where available).
- (B) The League will have the ultimate responsibility for determining venue selection for the Elimination Semi Final (3<sup>rd</sup> v 4<sup>th</sup>).
- (C) Where it is determined that the Qualifying Semi Final (1<sup>st</sup> v 2<sup>nd</sup>) and Elimination Semi Final (3<sup>rd</sup> v 4<sup>th</sup>) 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.
- (D) Where it is determined that a club will be afforded the opportunity to host “home Finals” the allocation of such Matches will be made on the following basis:
  - a. 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.
  - b. The club that is offered the chance to host the Elimination Semi Finals must advise the League in writing by 12:00pm on the Monday following the formal approach from the League, 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.

- c. 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.
  - d. 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.
  - e. 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.
  - f. The host club must comply with any licensing conditions including ground security and meet such costs.
  - g. In the event that a club elects not to host a Final, hosting rights for that match will be offered to the club that's ground next best meets the criteria as outline in clause (C)a. to d.. Should that club elect not to host the match, a venue will be selected by the League upon whatever basis it sees fit.
  - h. Payments to the League must be made within seven (7) days of the conduct of the match that the payment relates to.
  - i. 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.
- (E) 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.