

## **NWGFL Adult Cup and Plate Rules 2026-27**

### **Control of Competition**

1. The management of the competition shall be vested in the management committee of the league, and they will have the power to deal with these rules and any matter for which no specific provision is made in these rules, or the rules of the league.

### **Organisation of the Competition**

2. The competition shall be conducted on the “knock out” principle.

3. In the event of a draw after 90 minutes (70 minutes for 7-a-side), an extra-time period of 15 minutes (10 minutes for 7-a-side) each way shall be played. If the scores are still level at this point the match shall be decided by kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

4. Teams that are knocked out in the 1st and 2nd round of the 11-a-side cup will enter the plate competition.

5. Cup and plate matches shall kick off between 10am and 2.00 pm, to be determined by the home team. Kick off outside of this window must be agreed by both teams and reported to the divisional secretary for authorisation by the HOME team. Failure to comply with this rule may result in a fine as displayed in the fines tariff.

6. All Cup and plate finalists will forward names of players, shirt numbers, manager/coach names, team colours, and sponsors 2 weeks before the Cup Final Date, failure to do this shall result in a £30 fine.

### **Provisions for removal/exclusion from the Competition**

7. A team found to have played an ineligible player may be removed from the competition and fined up to £100. If the game is ordered to be replayed, then the offending club may also be ordered to pay the expenses incurred.

8. Each tie must take place on or before the given date allocated for the fixture. The tie can be brought forward from the original fixture date (with agreement from both teams and approved by the management committee) but not moved back. If an original Cup or Plate tie is postponed due to no fault of either team, the fixture will be rescheduled for the next matchday in the calendar.

Priority of Cup or Plate fixtures, follow this preference –

- National competitions
- County Cup competitions
- NWGFL Cup, Plate or Trophy Event fixtures
- NWGFL League fixtures.

By order of the management committee, all venues and dates of matches shall be binding upon all teams.

In the event of a club failing to play a cup or plate fixture without satisfactory explanation, the offending club will be dealt with by the management committee which may include forfeiting the match and a fine up to £100.

For ties that are held over 2 legs, if 1 team postpones either of the fixtures, then the result of the overall tie is awarded to the non-defaulting team.

### **Venue for Matches**

9. In the event of the home club being unable to fulfil the cup or plate match because of inclement weather or ground conditions the home club shall, before postponing the match, ascertain from their opponents whether their ground is available and if it is the match shall be played on the ground of the opposing team. Any Club failing to comply with this rule may be fine £50.

10. The Final shall be played at a venue and on a date and time agreed by the management committee.

### **Reporting Results**

11. Teams will contact the Divisional Fixtures Secretary with the result of the game via text, or use the SMS score reporting message or by entering into full time manually, within 3 hours of the games completion or may be fined £20.

12. Teams must complete fulltime match card returns by the following Wednesday of the game or they may be fined up to £50.

13. Teams must complete and exchange team sheets as well as providing a copy to the referee at least 15 minutes prior to KO. Failure to do so may result in a fine of up to £50.

### Club Colours

14. For all finals, if there is a colour clash, then the choice of which team will wear their first-choice kit will be decided by the order of which the teams are named in the fixture. I.e. Team B vs Team A, Team B will be the 'home' team and therefore wear their first-choice kit. The 'away' team shall change kit.

### Eligibility of Players

15. A player is cup tied and therefore ineligible if they have played for another team in any previous round of either this league cup or plate competition. For the avoidance of doubt, this also refers to teams within the same club. For example, a player making an appearance for an 11 a side team is therefore cup-tied and cannot play for a different 11 a side team or 7 a side team within the same club in later rounds. **For the avoidance of doubt, the Cup and Plate are regarded as the same competition. Any additional cup or trophy event competitions will not be regarded as the same competition but will still be subject to players being cup tied from the first fixture onwards.**

16. No player may play in the Semi-Final or Final unless they have played in at least 2 League or League Cup games in the competition or was registered to the team prior to 1st October in the current playing season. The date for achieving the qualifying criteria for either the Semi-Final or Final, will be March 1<sup>st</sup> or 1 day before the Semi-Final fixture, whichever is soonest. In exceptional circumstances special permission may be obtained by the management committee to play an otherwise ineligible player. Applications for special permission must be submitted in writing to the League Secretary.

17. Any player who has played in a more senior fixture in two or more of the three consecutive matches, played immediately prior to the cup or plate fixture in question, will not be eligible to play in that cup or plate fixture. For the purposes of this cup or plate competition, a more senior fixture is defined as, Tier 6 or above in the Women's pyramid.

18. Not applicable for season 2026-27.

### Provisions Concerning Match Officials

19. In all rounds except the final, the match fees shall be split equally between both teams.

### Trophies

20. Winning teams must return the trophy fully engraved by 31st March of the following season or may be fined up to £100.

21. The management committee may withhold a memento from a player dismissed from the field of play during a cup or plate final.

### Fines Tariff

| Rule Number | Description                                                                  | Maximum Fine |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 3           | Failure to play correct match times                                          | £50          |
| 5           | Failure to adhere to kick off time/gain permission from divisional secretary | £50          |
| 6           | Failure to provide programme particulars 2 weeks before the final            | £30          |
| 7           | Playing an ineligible player                                                 | £100         |
| 8           | Failure to play a fixture on, or before, the scheduled date                  | £100         |
| 9           | Failure to check the availability of an opponent's venue before postponing   | £50          |
| 11          | Late or no notification of match result within 3 hours of kick off           | £20          |
| 12          | Late or incomplete match card return by end of the Wednesday following       | £50          |
| 13          | Failure to exchange team sheets, or record inaccurate information            | £50          |
| 20          | Failure to engrave and or return the Winner's Trophy/Plate by March 31st     | £100         |