



# Nepean Football Association Inc.

## Circular 2021-034

### 2021 Post Covid-19 Lockdown Return to Football Roadmap

The Nepean FA Board of Directors and staff have produced the following Return to Football Roadmap to apply to the remainder of the 2021 season following the Covid-19 Lockdown of the Greater Sydney area.

Our plans are comprised of different scenarios depending upon competition types and dates of return.

While it's difficult to predict what the future holds, it's worthwhile planning ahead and providing our members with an idea of our broad-stroke plans, acknowledging that some scenarios may require tweaking depending upon circumstances that may be beyond our control.

Please note that if the lockdown is lifted for Community Sport and the first day of return is a Saturday then it is most likely that the weekend immediately following the lockdown will also be cancelled/postponed due to the inability of most councils to mow all fields in time for the recommencement of football and of clubs to be able to mark their fields, understanding that most fields are marked by community volunteers who have personal commitments to meet as well as the work they do for their clubs. When producing this document, we considered impacts on all stakeholders, especially so the time restrictions and stresses on our Club Volunteers who need to manage work, family, school and club life. We have also considered the physical stress of too many games in short periods of time to Referees and to Players.

We look forward to getting everyone back into Football as soon as we can, while giving due consideration to Government restrictions.

This document provides readers with a Roadmap (our intentions) for a return to football in the Nepean FA district. Readers need to keep in mind that Nepean FA will be compliant with the directions of the Federal & State Governments, Football Australia & Football NSW and the local councils within whose boundaries we operate in. As such, we reserve the right to deviate in part or completely from the following intentions in our Roadmap document.

We will continue to place updates on our Facebook page & webpage. Please refer back often to stay up to date.

We encourage everyone to follow NSW Health Guidelines and any other directives issued by Football NSW, and the Nepean FA.

Linda Cerone  
CEO  
Nepean FA Inc.

## BACKGROUND

COVID-19 continues to spread and mutate around the world and now alarmingly, within our immediate communities. Recent growing outbreaks resulted in the State Government implementing a “stay at home” order on the Greater Sydney Region from 5pm 26th June 2021 until Friday, 15th July 2021. This was yesterday pushed out to 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021. During this period, all Community Sport has been suspended, including training.

It is currently not known if this order will extend beyond 30<sup>th</sup> July or that when it is finally lifted, if Community Sport will be able to return to normal, or if the Government will impose a staged return to sport such as they did during the first lockdown in 2020.

Ground Hire periods for council owned parks conclude on either the last weekend in August or the first weekend in September depending on which council owns the fields., so competitions will not proceed past 5th September 2021. After that date, the fields usually revert to a maintenance period of between 2-4 weeks before being handed over to summer hirers. We have a few grounds that are privately owned, and several that are also hired by football clubs in the summer months, but not sufficient grounds to keep the competition going beyond 5th September.

Therefore, in order to produce a practical Return to Football Roadmap for our district, we are using the end date of Sunday, 5th September, 2021. We will therefore need to amend our competitions in some way, and we have already started this process by awarding 0-0 draws to competition games that have so far been missed from the 27th June to 11th July inclusive.



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## COMPETITIONS

Because we don't yet know when Community sport will resume, we've considered several different scenarios in order to give our members an idea of what to expect, and give them the strongest chances possible to have some sort of meaningful and valuable end to our season.

We've used Scenario 1 in all examples, to show you what's happened to date, and then a range of different start dates to show you how your competitions might finish.

Each subsequent scenario is based on the Competition commencing one week later than the previous example.

When we started to put this plan together, 23<sup>rd</sup> July was our earliest hope of returning. It didn't take long for things to change, and we've now had to assume that the earliest date for recommencement will be Friday 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2021. We've left previous dates in our tables rather than amend them, but please look at Model 4 onwards.

What we can be sure of is that the last date for Competition rounds if we're to have a final will be 29 August 2021, with a 1 v 2 final being played on the weekend of 4 & 5 September. If we go with a first past the post, then the final day for competition matches will be 5<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

All non competition games (U5 to U11) will conclude by 21<sup>th</sup> August at the latest.





## 2021 SEASON COMPETITION DATES – RESCHEDULED

### MiniRoos

- Will play one match every available weekend from the restart date up to and including 21<sup>st</sup> August 2021
- Lost fixtures will not be rescheduled
- Current generated fixtures will apply
- Kick off times may need to be changed based on other Competition needs.
- If clubs have capacity on weekday early evenings or on Sundays, they are encouraged to organise extra friendly games to make up for lost games in these age groups. Provided a sanction request is completed by both clubs taking part, automatic approval can be assumed when the sanction request is sent.



## 2021 SEASON COMPETITION DATES – 6 TEAM COMPETITIONS

- Saturday teams have played 13 rounds of 15
- Sunday teams have played 13 rounds of 15
- Acknowledging that 3 rounds have received 0-0 draws and will not be rescheduled.
- Normal competition consists of 15 rounds – every team to play each team three (3) times
- Some teams have catch up games to play that will be rescheduled for mid-week or weekend double headers in order to put all teams back onto an even platform.
- Two attempts will be made to play catch up games where time permits.
- draws will be given where time does not permit games to be played. Dates will be firm and not subject to change. Play or forfeit rule will be firmly applied.

Weekend Ending Date	Model 1 (Current Status)	Model 2 Return 23 July	Model 3 Return 30 July	Model 4 Return 6 August	Model 5 Return 13 August	Model 6 Return 20 August
27/06/2021	0-0 Draw Given					
4/07/2021	0-0 Draw Given					
11/07/2021	0-0 Draw Given					
18/07/2021	Pending R 14					
25/07/2021	Pending R 15	Pending R 14				
1/08/2021	Semi Final R1	Pending R 15				
8/08/2021	Semi Final R2	Semi Final R1	Pending R 15	Pending R 14		
15/08/2021	Semi Final R3	Semi Final R2	Semi Final R1	Pending R 15		
22/08/2021	Spare Weekend	Semi Final R3	Semi Final R2	Semi Final R1	Pending R 15	Pending R 14
29/08/2021	Finals	Finals	Semi Final R3	Semi Final R2	Semi Final R1	Pending R 15
5/09/2021	Spare Finals W/end	Spare Finals W/end	Finals	Finals	Finals	Finals

Age Groups/Divisions who play in 6 team competitions are:

U12 Girls Div. 1

U14 Girls Div. 1

Intermediate Men Div. 1 & Div. 2

Women's Ruby League

Over 35 Div. 1

Over 45 Div. 1

## 2021 SEASON COMPETITION DATES – 8 TEAM COMPETITIONS

- Saturday teams have played 12 rounds of 14
- Sunday teams have played 12 rounds of 14
- Acknowledging that 3 rounds have received 0-0 draws and will not be rescheduled.
- Normal competition consists of 14 rounds – every team to play each team two (2) times
- Some teams have catch up games to play that will be rescheduled for mid-week or weekend double headers in order to put all teams back onto an even platform.
- Two attempts will be made to play catch up games where time permits.
- draws will be given where time does not permit games to be played. Dates will be firm and not subject to change. Play or forfeit rule will be firmly applied.

Weekend Ending Date	Model 1 (Current Status)	Model 2 Return 23 July	Model 3 Return 30 July	Model 4 Return 6 August	Model 5 Return 13 August	Model 6 Return 20 August		
27/06/2021	0-0 Draw Given							
4/07/2021	0-0 Draw Given							
11/07/2021	0-0 Draw Given							
18/07/2021	R 13 Pending							
25/07/2021	R14 Pending	R 13 Pending						
1/08/2021	Semi Final R1	R14 Pending					R 13 Pending	
8/08/2021	Semi Final R2	Semi Final R1					R14 Pending	R 13 Pending
15/08/2021	Semi Final R3	Semi Final R2					Semi Final R1	R14 Pending
22/08/2021	Spare Weekend	Semi Final R3	Semi Final R2	Semi Final R1	R14 Pending	R 13 Pending		
29/08/2021	Finals	Finals	Semi Final R3	Semi Final R2	Semi Final R1	R14 Pending		
5/09/2021	Spare Finals W/end	Spare Finals W/end	Finals	Finals	Finals	Final 1 v 2		

Age Groups/Divisions who play in 8 team competitions are:

### Saturday Teams

U12 Girls/2  
 U12 Div. 1, 2, 3 & 5.  
 U13 Div. 2, 3 & 4  
 U13 Girls/1  
 U14 Girls/2  
 U15 Div. 1, 2 & 3  
 U16 Div. 1 & 2

### Sunday Teams

U16 Girls/1  
 Men's Waratah League  
 All Age Women Div. 2  
 O35 Div. 2 & F3  
 Intermediate Women Div. 1

## 2021 SEASON COMPETITION DATES – 10 TEAM COMPETITIONS

- Teams have played between 13 & 15 games of 18 scheduled rounds
- Acknowledging that 3 rounds have received 0-0 draws and will not be rescheduled.
- Normal competition consists of 18 rounds – every team to play each team two (2) times
- Some teams have catch up games to play that will be rescheduled for mid-week or weekend double headers in order to put all teams back onto an even platform.
- Two attempts will be made to play catch up games where time permits.
- draws will be given where time does not permit games to be played. Dates will be firm and not subject to change. Play or forfeit rule will be firmly applied.

Program for All Age Men (All Divisions), All Age Women Div. 3,4,5, U16G/2 & U17/1						
Weekend Ending Date	Model 1 (Current Status)	Model 2 Return 23 July	Model 3 Return 30 July	Model 4 Return 6 August	Model 5 Return 13 August	Model 6 Return 20 August
27/06/2021	0-0 Draw Given					
4/07/2021	0-0 Draw Given					
11/07/2021	0-0 Draw Given					
18/07/2021	R15 Pending					
25/07/2021	R16 Pending	R15 Pending				
1/08/2021	R17 Pending	R16 Pending	R15 Pending			
8/08/2021	R18 Pending	R17 Pending	R16 Pending	R15 Pending		
15/08/2021	Spare W/end	R18 Pending	R17 Pending	R16 Pending	R15 Pending	
22/08/2021	SF R1	SF R1	R18 Pending	R17 Pending	R16 Pending	R16 Pending ^^
29/08/2021	Finals	Finals	Finals 1 v 2	R18 Pending	R17 Pending	R17 Pending
5/09/2021	Spare Finals W/end	Spare Finals W/end	Spare Finals W/end	Finals 1 v 2	R18 Pending **	R18 Pending **
Program for U12/4, U13/1, U14 Div. 1, 2 & 3,						
Weekend Ending Date	Model 1 (Current Status)	Model 2 Return 23 July	Model 3 Return 30 July	Model 4 Return 6 August	Model 5 Return 13 August	Model 6 Return 20 August
27/06/2021	0-0 Draw Given					
4/07/2021	0-0 Draw Given					
11/07/2021	0-0 Draw Given					
18/07/2021	R14 Pending					
25/07/2021	R15 Pending	R14 Pending				
1/08/2021	R16 Pending	R15 Pending	R15 Pending ^^			
8/08/2021	R17 Pending	R16 Pending	R16 Pending	R15 Pending		
15/08/2021	R18 Pending	R17 Pending	R17 Pending	R16 Pending	R15 Pending	
22/08/2021	Top 4 SF R1	R18 Pending	R18 Pending	R17 Pending	R16 Pending	R16 Pending ^^
29/08/2021	Finals	Finals 1 v 2	Finals 1 v 2	R18 Pending	R17 Pending	R17 Pending
5/09/2021	Spare Finals W/end	Spare Finals W/end	Spare Finals W/end	Finals 1 v 2	R18 Pending **	R18 Pending **
Program for Over 35 F2						
Weekend Ending Date	Model 1 (Current Status)	Model 2 Return 23 July	Model 3 Return 30 July	Model 4 Return 6 August	Model 5 Return 13 August	Model 6 Return 20 August
27/06/2021	0-0 Draw Given					
4/07/2021	0-0 Draw Given					
11/07/2021	0-0 Draw Given					
18/07/2021	R16 Pending					
25/07/2021	R17 Pending	R16 Pending				
1/08/2021	R18 Pending	R17 Pending	R16 Pending			
8/08/2021	Top 6 Final R1	R18 Pending	R17 Pending	R16 Pending		
15/08/2021	Top 6 Final R2	Top 4 Final R1	R18 Pending	R17 Pending	R16 Pending	
22/08/2021	Top 6 Final R3	Top 4 Final R2	Spare W/end	R18 Pending	R17 Pending	R16 Pending
29/08/2021	Finals	Finals	Finals 1 v 2	Spare W/end	R18 Pending	R17 Pending
5/09/2021	Spare Finals W/end	Spare Finals W/end	Spare Finals W/end	Finals 1 v 2	Finals 1 v 2	R18 Pending **

\*\* Denotes No Finals – Competition Winners only will be acknowledged

^^ Denotes R15 will receive a 0-0 draw & competition will continue from R16 Only.



## OTHER COMPETITION CONSIDERATIONS

Nepean Cup Tournaments may need to be abandoned. Our regulations require the regular competition is given priority.

There has been no decision whether the State Cup will continue. We will advise clubs as soon as we know.

There has been no decision whether the Champions of Champions will be played.

If the Competition starts and then must stop again, a new set of scenarios will need to be formulated, the most likely scenarios in this case will be complete abandonment of finals or entire competition abandoned, depending upon dates remaining. If the entire competition is abandoned, Competition winners will be deemed the team in first position at the time of abandonment.

If the restart date extends beyond 20<sup>th</sup> August, the competition will be abandoned.

## REGISTRATION/DEREGISTRATION & REFUNDS

Registrations and Deregistration's closed on Friday, 30 June 2021.

There is currently no plan to refund for the 3 rounds lost to date. Depending upon any further negative updates, we may need to review this again, however, we'd like everyone to note that while we have been suspended from play, we have still been working behind the scenes, with wages still being paid. Our running costs continue to tick over, whether or not we are playing. It's a similar situation for clubs, who are also losing canteen and fundraising revenue week by week. At this point in time, there is no indication that either FNSW or FA will refund any portion of fees.

No decision will be made regarding compensations (if any are given or how they will be applied) until a full picture of the complete effects upon our 2021 season are known.

## TRAINING

The current suspension of training will be lifted by Football NSW in line with their discussions with the relevant authorities. Nepean FA & their clubs will abide by instructions given by Football NSW.

Local councils will also need to lift venue restrictions before training can recommence. Local councils may require extra time to make fields fit for purpose again before training can begin. Be patient & be respectful.

Clubs will need to follow all instructions deemed as requirements in order to return to training.

## COVID-19

What happens if someone contracts COVID-19? Players, Coaches, Committees, Parents should in the first instance advise their Club Secretary of the person that has contracted COVID-19.

Club committee to immediately advise Nepean FA who will inform FNSW.

The protocols as provided by NSW Health are to be followed. Contact tracers will be in touch with your club and/or our association. Complete co-operation is expected. The association may also direct your team and/or club to cease training or playing until further notice.

We encourage all members to upload the COVIDSafe App. The COVIDSafe App is available from your phones App Store.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Our social media channels are there to provide information, and within reason, to express your opinion.

Offensive or derogatory comments and/or insults directed towards an individual, a committee or an organisation are considered a breach of our Social Media Policy and will be pursued via our Disciplinary Tribunals.

It is our practice to screen shot the offending script or picture, hide or remove the comment and block the offender. We also reserve the right to permanently ban offending users from our social media channels.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

We request that all participants and supporters seek clarification on information via their club committees. The association is not resourced to respond to individual enquiries.

Your club committee will follow up your enquiry with us on your behalf.

Club committees should seek clarification on our football operations from our office only, not Football NSW. [Football NSW](#) website may contain the information you need concerning State Cup & Champion of Champions, but will not contain information about our competitions. Club committees only may contact our office via email to [admin@nepeanfootball.com.au](mailto:admin@nepeanfootball.com.au) with your questions and a member of staff will assist and respond.

Fingers & toes crossed that we can get back on the park soon!