

**NORTHERN  
FOOTBALL LEAGUE  
INCORPORATED**



**SCHEDULE 24:  
FIXTURE GENERATION  
PRINCIPLES**

**Adopted  
2012**

**NORTHERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED**  
**FIXTURE GENERATION PRINCIPLES**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

This document has been developed to assist the Northern Football League (NFL) and its member clubs during the process of fixture generation for the regular season and finals series on a year to year basis.

It also provides the principles by which Junior Grading and Re-Grading operates. The aim of grading within the junior competition is to create a balanced and fair competition across all age groups and divisions, and to ensure that every team is given an opportunity to play finals at least once every three years.

**2. PROCESS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SENIOR FIXTURES**

- 2.1 On the conclusion of the finals series, Affiliated Clubs may submit fixture requests for the following season. Such requests shall close as of the 15<sup>th</sup> of October yearly.
- 2.2 The NFL will give full consideration to all requests received prior to the stated deadline.
- 2.3 The NFL will release a Draft Fixture within eight working days of receiving club requests.
- 2.4 All clubs will be given two weeks to respond to the draft fixture with any feedback.
- 2.5 Feedback will not be given consideration until after the stated deadline.
- 2.6 The NFL will give full consideration to all feedback received prior to the stated deadline.
- 2.7 The NFL will release the Official NFL Fixture within eight working days of receiving feedback.

**3. SENIOR FIXTURE PRINCIPLES**

- 3.1 No club will play more than two home or two away matches in a row during any season.
- 3.2 No club will play its first two season matches away unless circumstances demand it.
- 3.3 No club shall be fixtured to play a Sunday match unless they consent to it.
- 3.4 No club shall be fixtured to play a night match unless they consent to it.
- 3.5 No club shall be fixtured to play a twilight match unless they consent to it.

**4. JUNIOR FIXTURE PRINCIPLES**

- 4.1 The first four rounds (grading rounds) will be computer generated.
- 4.2 Following the re-grading process Rounds five and onwards will be computer generated.
- 4.3 To accommodate ground allocation, clubs may have teams with an imbalance of home versus away matches. It is the responsibility of the club to identify these.
- 4.4 Clubs with teams who have an imbalance of home versus away matches must forward their concerns to the NFL Football Operations Manager prior to Round 7.

4.5 The NFL will endeavor to balance the number of home and away matches for each team as much as possible.

## **5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

5.1 The NFL reserves the right to change venues for featured matches.

5.2 Clubs wishing to play on Public Holidays must first gain approval from the NFL Board prior to the match being included in the Official Fixture.

## **6. SENIOR FINALS FIXTURE PRINCIPLE**

6.1 No club will be given a home ground advantage in any division or grade.

6.2 Where possible, the NFL will schedule teams from the same club to the same location.

6.3 Where a club is hosting finals matches and has teams playing finals matches, the NFL will endeavor to fixture those teams on a separate day to the hosting day.

6.4 No guarantees will be given that teams from within the same club will be fixtured at the same location during any week.

6.5 Where an eight team Division Two competition exists in an eighteen round season, the final four rounds will be fixtured according to the following:

- i. Teams will be ranked from one to eight according to their final ladder positions the year prior, with the demoted Division One team replacing the Division Two premier at number one and the Division Three premier replacing the demoted Division Two team at number eight;
- ii. Each team will then play two teams from the top four and two teams from the bottom four in the final four rounds;
- iii. Each team will play two home games and two away games in the final four rounds.

6.6 Where a seven team Division Three competition exists in an eighteen round season, the final four rounds will be fixtured according to the following:

- i. Teams will be ranked from one to seven according to their final ladder positions the year prior, with the demoted Division Two team replacing the Division Three premier at number one;
- ii. Each of the bottom three ranked teams will only play one of the teams from the top four on three occasions;
- iii. Each of the top four ranked teams will not play more than one of the bottom three teams on three occasions.

## **7. JUNIOR FINALS FIXTURE PRINCIPLES**

7.1 No club will be given a home ground advantage in any division or grade.

7.2 As much as possible, the NFL will schedule teams from the same club to the same location.

7.3 Where a club is hosting finals matches and has teams playing finals matches, the NFL will endeavor to fixture those teams as close to their home ground as possible.

7.4 No guarantees will be given that teams from within the same club will be fixtured at the same location during any week.

**8. JUNIOR GRADING PRINCIPLES**

8.1 Clubs must supply their Grading Request, with feedback, by the date as directed by the NFL.

8.2 The following criteria will be taken into account during the grading process:

- i. Club feedback;
- ii. Team performance the year prior;
- iii. Team history (performance in prior years, finals appearances);
- iv. Balance of divisions.

**9. JUNIOR RE-GRADING PRINCIPLES**

9.1 The re-grading process will be completed as quickly as possible after the conclusion of Round Four.

9.2 During the grading period, two points for a win and one point for a draw will be awarded and no percentage points will be applied. Normal points and percentage applications will apply after the grading period.

9.3 The following criteria will be taken into account during the re-grading process:

- i. Club feedback;
- ii. Team performance the year prior;
- iii. Team history (performance in prior years, finals appearances);
- iv. Balance of divisions;
- v. Opponents during first four rounds;
- vi. Scoring shots during first four rounds.