



SCHOOL SPORT WA National Cup



2026



2026 OVERVIEW

Welcome to the 2026 SSWA Football season and thank you so much to teachers volunteering their time to run teams. The National Cup is the WA chapter of a new National competition for schools to compete in starting in 2026. It is a straight knockout competition in which the finalists will be invited to compete in the new National Cup against other states which is planned to run in October 2027.

The competition is for year 9/10/11 students.

Competing teams

Boys

John Paul College
Carine
Safety Bay
Leeming
Servite
South coast
Dianella
St Norberts
Kalamunda
Southern River
Lynwood
Mercy

Girls

Safety bay
Balga
Servite
SCBC
Joseph Banks
St Norbert's
Seton
Lynwood
Mercy
Carine

National Cup Rounds.

Term 2 – Prelim round week 2

Term 2 – quarter finals week 4

Term 2 – Semi finals week 5

National Ciup Final

Term 2 – week 9 TBC

National competition

Finalists invited to the National competition October 2027

Good luck to all teams in this new competition.

Warm regards
Tony Campbell
SSWA Football Coordinator

National Cup draw

Teams will be drawn out of a hat with the first team drawn having home advantage. The first round may involve a number of byes depending on how many teams enter. Country teams will be given an automatic bye if a bye situation exists and it is outside of the quarter final round

Fixtures

Games are arranged by mutual agreement (see rules). Fixtures must be complete by the date set for each fixture.

If you are the home team it is your responsibility to arrange the referee (See section on referees). Also contact the other coach and arrange the date (a choice of 3 dates to be provided by the home team, at least one must be a different day of the week), venue and time of kick-off. Please also communicate on kit colours as a clash of shirts or socks may result in the appointed referee refusing to officiate the match. Away team will be expected to wear bibs if there is a clash.

Please be aware that even when a referee is requested there may not be enough available on that particular day. It is the home team's responsibility to make sure the game goes ahead in a supervised way. Be prepared to step in and do the job yourself if necessary.

DRESS STANDARDS

It is imperative that school teams are presented in the best possible way. The way the team looks is a reflection on the coach, the school and our competition.

Please make every attempt to have **numbered shirts** available to players. It is mandatory for all players to wear **shin pads and remove jewelry**. Please be aware that the referee's will not begin the game unless all players on the field are correctly attired.

RULES OF THE COMPETITION

RATIONALE:

School Sport WA caters for all students and encourages maximal participation in a range of sporting programs. The aim of Champion Schools Events is to offer quality school sports opportunities for all students. It is intended that Champion Schools Competitions be tailored to meet the needs of each individual sport community but that, in all sports, there is an emphasis on encouragement, good sportsmanship, participation and enjoyment by all students.

1. THE COMPETITION:

- 1.1 The competition is organised by School Sport WA. All fixtures and committee decisions are guided by the SSWA rationale.
- 1.2 SSWA reserve the right to refer to the *Rules and Guidelines* set out by Football West if required.

2. THE FOOTBALL COMMITTEE:

Voting members

Mr Peter Rickers (John Curtin College of Arts) – Convenor
Mr Tony Campbell (Lynwood SHS) – Football Coordinator
Mr Joe Wright – Senior Boys Results Coordinator
Mr Rhys Loxley (Darling Range Sports College) – Intermediate Boys Results Coordinator
Mr Neil Addison (Safety Bay SHS) – Junior Boys Results Coordinator
Mr – Senior Girls Results Coordinator
Mr – Junior Girls Results Coordinator
Mr Ian Green (Maena SC) – South West Results Coordinator

Mr Joe Wright (Carine SHS) – Assistant Football Coordinator

Should a member of the voting committee be involved directly with a dispute or disciplinary process this/these member/s will be excluded from any discussion and decision practices and the President or Director of School Sport WA will be co-opted to replace one or more members in their place.

3. ENTRY:

- 3.1 All Public and Private Secondary school students in Western Australia qualify for eligibility.
- 3.2 Only a maximum of ONE boys and ONE girls team per school can nominate.
- 3.3 To be eligible students must
 - 3.3.1 Demonstrate a satisfactory attendance record.
 - 3.2.2 Be enrolled at a secondary school or attend a TAFE full time.

4. CONDITIONS OF PLAY.

- 4.1 Schools must be financial [have paid all nomination fees from previous years] to enter the competition.
- 4.2 Each team shall be correctly attired with a distinguishing **numbered shirt**.
- 4.3 In the interest of safety **ALL** players **MUST** wear approved Football **shin guards**.
- 4.4 All players and coaches are subject to the disciplinary actions as a consequence of any breaches of codes of conduct or rules of the competition.
- 4.5 SSWA reserve the right to cancel/change or amend any or all parts of this format leading up to and on the day including playing dates, times and venues.

5. AGE REQUIREMENTS

- 5.1 Any student in year 9, 10, 11 can participate in the competition for the WA chapter. **NO YEAR 12'S ARE ALLOWED TO COMPETE.**
- 5.2 For the National State competition the following year for the WA chapter finalists. Year 10,11, 12 students will be eligible to compete as this will be the group who qualified from the previous year

6. ELIGIBILITY:

- 1.1 All schools are expected to provide reasonable care on justifying players ages. Formal documents used to address school enrolments will be considered reasonable care.
- 1.2 Confirmation of this requirement may be asked for by SSWA committee members for clarification of player eligibility at any stage during the competition for games played or to be played.
- 1.3 Schools that have been found not to check a player's edibility status consciously or not will forfeit the game and be knocked out of the competition.

7. TEAM SQUAD LISTS

- 7.1 Teams must list 18 players only for any 1 team for all fixtures from the knockout phase & beyond.
- 7.2 Only these 18 players and up to three adult coaching/medical staff are permitted on the bench.
- 7.3 Schools will be asked to forward details of their playing list and coaches in all semi and grand final fixtures one week prior by electronic email to a SSWA Football (Soccer) representative to include:
 - 7.4.1 Full birth names,
 - 7.4.2 Dates of birth
 - 7.4.3 Playing numbers,
 - 7.9.4 School playing colours
 - 7.9.5 Coaches names

8 THE DRAW

- 8.1 Teams will be drawn out of hat
- 8.2 First team drawn will have home ground advantage
- 8.3 Home team shall be in contact with the visiting team and supply **THREE (3)** dates for the match, one of which the visiting team must choose or forfeit the match (days cannot be the same days of the week and both teams must show consideration for the other when arranging dates).
- 8.4 Schools are responsible for organising their fixture within the time frame given
- 8.5 If teams cannot for whatever reason complete the fixture in the time frame given they must contact the organiser as soon as possible
- 8.6 If games are not concluded by the fixture date SSWA will have the right to determine the result of the fixture in the manner they deem appropriate.
- 8.7 Winning team is to contact the competition organiser as soon as the game is complete
- 8.8 SSWA reserve the right to cancel/change or amend any or all parts of his format leading up to and on the day including playing dates, venues and times
- 8.9 Country teams may be given preference if the draw is uneven in the early stages outside of the quarter final draw.
- 8.10 Initially the knockout finalists will be notified by email of their inclusion to compete in the knock out finals by the Sport Coordinator/s of SSWA. It is the schools responsibility to keep track of this possibility and they cannot use it as grounds for non-compliance to set fixtures and dates.
- 8.11 The SSWA committee will organise the Grand Final inclusive of venue. These finals will be played on a neutral venue.

9. HOME TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

- 9.1 The team mentioned first is deemed the home team.
- 9.2 The home team for all rounds with exception of the final shall supply:
 - 10.2.1 A full sized ground, adequately marked and safe, four corner flags and nets if possible. (N.B.) A visiting team which elects to play on the ground provided forfeits the right to use unsuitability of a ground as a basis for later protests.
 - 10.2.2 Shall arrange the supply of **an official neutral referee**. If an official referee is not available the Home Team must organise a replacement.
 - 10.2.3 A linesman (assistant referee) cannot be the coach or manager of either team unless by mutual consent. Each team is required to supply one linesman.
- 10.3 Bibs are to be worn by the **Away team** in the event of a colour clash

Finals

- 10.4 The SSWA sport Coordinator will take responsibility for the organisation of grounds and referees for fixtures in all formats for grand final event.

11 FINALS FORMAT: CHAMPION SCHOOLS

- 11.1 Teams unable to attend on the set playing dates/times will not be offered an alternative date and a forfeit will be enforced.
- 11.2 If any team is unable to play in the final SSWA have the right to offer the opportunity to the beaten semi finalist. If they are unable to play the Finalist who is able to play will be determined the winner.
- 11.3 Schools must be aware that an alternative playing date may be required by the organising group for some or all fixtures scheduled and must make themselves available for this consequence or forfeit their right through to the finals or a result.

12 DURATION OF GAMES

- 12.1 Each fixture shall be 2 x 30 minutes with 5 minutes for half time.
- 12.2 Interchange is permitted in all sections of the competition.
- 12.3 Time out taken due to injury and interchange shall be:
 - Round robin phase: **NOT** added on after each half.
 - Grand Final **Added** on after each half.
- 12.4 The latest time for kick-off will be 4.30pm, unless special prior arrangements have been made and **both** coaches agree.

- 12.5 If the game is a draw a result shall be decided by five minutes each way as extra time regardless of any scored goals in this time.
- 12.6 If the game is still drawn after extra time, each team will take FIVE (5) penalties. Should the game still be a draw after these penalties, a sudden death penalty shootout will apply until a winner is defined.

Grand Final

- 12.7 The length of each half shall be 2 x 40 minutes 5 mins half time .
- 12.8 If the game is drawn at full time, a result shall be decided by five minutes each way as extra time regardless of any scored goals in this time.
- 12.9 If the game is still drawn after extra time rule 12.6 will apply.

13 RESULTS

- 13.1 It is the responsibility of the winning team to send in the result.
- 13.2 If games are not concluded by the fixture date SSWA will have the right to determine the result of the fixture in the manner they deem appropriate.

14 PENALTIES used for MATCH RESULTS

- 14.1 Outside the normal rules of the game, penalties will be used in all forms of the competition to help award the winner of a fixture after extra time has not produced a result.
- 14.2 Only players left on the field of play as the last set of players for each side after extra time are eligible to take part in any of the penalties. Substitutes or players on the bench at full time are excluded from all forms of penalties.
- 14.3 Five penalties will be given to each side. The team that has the best of five penalties taken will be awarded the winner.
 - 14.3.1 Coaches have 3 minutes to organize a set of five players to be nominated as the first set of five. Coaches should look to inform their players at this time if they are needed to be involved past this group of five.
 - 14.3.2 The team captain/coach must nominate in order the player (number) of each player involved in the first set of five to the match referee.
 - 14.3.3 Only players are allowed to be on the pitch area once proceedings have taken place and players not involved with the kick itself are to wait at the half way line. Goal keepers are to wait with the assistant referees near the selected goal.
 - 14.3.4 Referees select which goal will be used for this process.
 - 14.3.5 Should this set of five produce a draw a sudden death penalty shoot-out will be taken until a result is produced.
 - 14.3.6 All eleven players (inclusive of goal keepers) must have taken a penalty before the team can re-nominate players to be involved in the sudden death format
 - 14.3.7 Coaches must be on the sideline when kicks are taken

15 FORFEITS

- 15.1 Forfeits will result in the team being knocked out of the competition.

16 INTERCHANGE / SUBSTITUTION:

- 16.1 Substitutes in any of the formats of the competition are not bound by the condition in Law 3 of the FIFA Laws of the Game forbidding further participation in the match. An interchange system will be adopted.
- 16.2 Interchange can only take place during a stoppage in play.
- 16.3 Interchange can only take place with the permission of the referee.
- 16.4 Interchange must occur on the halfway line.
- 16.5 Interchange is considered the event not the number of substitutions made.
 - 16.5.1 One team may use one interchange event to substitute 1-7 players, the number of players substituted does not constitute the number of their events but will only count as a single event.

- 16.5.2** All listed interchangeable substitutes may be used in any one match.
- 16.6** Each competing team is entitled to:
- 16.6.1** Unlimited substitutions up until the last 5 minutes of the 2nd half
 - 16.6.2** Only 1 interchange moment will be permitted in the final 5 minutes of play
 - 16.6.3** There are no restrictions on the number of substitutions made at the half time break but this must be done before the kick off for the second half and referee informed;
 - 16.6.4** In extra time, substitutions can only take place at half-time. If in the opinion of the referee a player is injured and cannot continue, then they may be replaced.
- 16.7** Replacement of an injured player is considered an interchange event.
- 16.8** If, in the opinion of the referee, a player is injured within any one half second half after a team has used their events and is unable to continue, the referee may permit the injured player to be substituted. This player cannot return to the field or take part in any further section of the game.
- 16.9** Except under the provisions of paragraph 16.8, no Interchange events are permitted in the last 5 minutes of any fixture match regardless of whether a team has used its full entitlement of Interchange events.
- 16.10** Only one (1) player may be interchanged for the purpose outlined in 16.8 in any one half and any additional injured players requiring removal from the field in this time will not be replaced.
- 16.11** For the avoidance of doubt, the referee is the sole judge of whether 5 minutes has elapsed.

Matches extending into extra time

- 16.12** Interchangeable substitutes will not be permitted in this section of any match fixture.
- 16.13** No Interchange events are permitted in any part of extra time regardless of whether a team has used its full entitlement of Interchange events or not.
- 16.14** If, in the opinion of the referee, a player is injured within this time and is unable to continue, the referee may permit the injured player to be substituted. This player cannot return to the field or take part in any further section of the game.
- 16.15** Only one (1) player may be interchanged for the purpose outlined in 17.14 and any additional injured players requiring removal from the field in this time will not be replaced.

17 LATE TO FIXTURES

- 18.1** All games will need to play no later than 4.30pm. Teams that fail to meet this requirement can be asked to forfeit the fixtured result by the team present. It must be remembered during the season it would be light becomes an issue, after this time.
- 18.2** Any teams that are late to a fixture (not 4.30) shall be given a minimum of 5 minutes to warm up before the game

Grand Finals

- 18.3** Should a school be late to a semi-final or grand final fixture, a modified game time will apply in consultation with respective coaches.
- 18.2.1.1** If one team cannot take the field at the time required to start the second half based on the original kick off time & half time break, then the game will be deemed a forfeit.
- 18.4** If a modified game is required due to a late kick off, a new playing time for the completion of the game will be organized by a SSWA official based on time available and other operational or logistical considerations.
- 18.2.2** A minimum of 20 minutes each way will be used as a modified game.

19 GROUND and TEAM REQUIREMENTS in FINALS

- 19.1** Presentations occur directly after each match involved in the Grand final formats. All sides are asked to stay behind for this recognition

19.3 Schools will be asked to forward details of their playing list and coaches in all semi and grand final fixtures one week prior by electronic email to a SSWA Football (Soccer) representative to include:

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| 19.3.1 | Full birth names, | 19.3.4 | School playing colours |
| 19.3.2 | Dates of birth | 19.3.5 | Coaches names |
| 19.3.3 | Playing numbers, | | |

20. REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

21.1 If a team has 3 or more players from one team participating in a representative match for WA or Australia, it may seek the postponement of any match which conflicts with the representative match.

22. SUPERVISION

22.1 ALL teams and spectators MUST have staff to supervise them during fixtures and are governed by Department of Education policies and guidelines related to 'DUTY OF CARE' and 'EXCURSIONS'.

23. ALCOHOL & DRUGS

23.1 These are strictly forbidden, in any form, at all school fixtures. There has been few complaints regarding parents smoking in our competition last year. Could all teachers advise their parents that it is **strictly prohibited** for any person to smoke during all games.

24. DISPUTES: For results and match fixtures.

24.1 All disputes must be based on an incorrect application of the rules or inappropriate behaviour outlined for the competition formats. Appeals from dispute decisions, can only be based on new evidence available or a breach of process.

24.2 Disputes concerning referees decisions will not be entered into unless a breach of championship rules is ascertained via appeal.

24.3 All disputes or appeals that require an action or seek a decision must be in written form using email or letter must be endorsed by the Principal and Head of Department of the respective school and have the details of the schools, teachers, players and circumstances involved within THREE (3) school days.

24.4 Disputes or appeals must be referred to the SSWA Sport Secretary in writing, within THREE (3) school days and must identify the perceived rule being breached or incorrectly applied. A dispute or appeal will be charged by School Sport SSWA the current relief day rate of a level 2.9 as outlined in the latest EBA.

24.5 Once received the SSWA sport secretary reserves the right to deal directly with parties involved or consult one or more members of the Football (Soccer) committee at his/her discretion.

24.6 Any investigation will first canvas concerned individuals to see if there is a case to answer. School Sport WA reserves the right to decide if any alleged breach has occurred or deem it a non-event. If this is the case no further action will take place.

24.7 If the selected members are asked to adjudicate they will be asked to offer opinions or vote on an action or resolution on a majority basis. At this time evidence from affected players or schools may be sought.

24.8 Any action taken may include

- 24.8.1** making an offer of a sanction or suspension to those concerned in verbal / written form;
- 24.8.2** considering it frivolous or vexatious in nature and dismiss the charge; or
- 24.8.3** recommend the case be heard under the procedures and guidelines of the School Sport WA Football Disciplinary Hearing Regulations.

24.9 School Sport WA may initiate an investigation into any matter considered relevant to whether a participant may have committed an offence. The investigation may be initiated on the basis of a

match referee/s report, a school complaint, video evidence that may be available, a report from any other relevant person or on the initiative of School Sport WA.

24.10 All members involved make decisions based on an interpretation and application of the championship rules and reserve the right to make these in the best interests of the game.

24.11 SSWA reserve the right to seek opinion and guidance from Football West only.

25. DISCIPLINARY SYSTEM

25.1 If a player/official has received or accumulates a suspension from a fixtured game/s, schools are expected to impose the outlined match penalties as described in section 26 with or without formal acknowledgment from School Sport WA or their representatives.

25.2 **It is anticipated that schools will self-govern in the interest of game and respect for their peers.** Schools that fail to self-govern and abide by the conditions outlined for their players/officials will forfeit all match points for all games that the player/official is involved in until the School Sport WA Football Sport Coordinator is satisfied that the penalties are being imposed.

25.3 A match official is deemed to be any person/s involved in officiating a game or involved in the coaching and managing of the two teams involved.

25.4 A school official is deemed to be any member of the schools teaching or ancillary coaching staff that attends on the day for spectator purposes.

26. YELLOW AND RED CARDS. SIN BIN RULE.

26.1 If a referee sends a player from the field of play, it must be referred to the Head of Department of Physical Education from your own school. The player **MUST** automatically miss the next fixture and is not allowed to play for ANY team in any format of the competition until served.

26.2 A cumulative system works for a player who accumulates the following number of yellow cards during the course of the competition and must serve the following mandatory match suspensions:

26.2.1 Two (2) yellow cards, equates to a one (1) match suspension;

26.2.2 Four (4) yellow cards, equates to a two (2) match suspension;

26.3 A cumulative system works for each red card a player receives an additional match day suspension is accumulated and must be served.

26.3.1 1st red card equates to a (1) match suspension

26.3.2 2nd red card (same player), equates to a two (2) match day suspensions and so on.

26.4 If a player receives two yellow cards during the same match and therefore receives a red card, the two yellow cards are expunged from his or her record and only the red card is used against this player.

26.5 If a player receives a yellow card and then a direct red card in the same match, the yellow card will not be expunged and will be counted in the player's accumulation of yellow cards for the purposes of regulation 26.2.

26.6 A player maybe sent to sin-bin for a 5 minute period for dissent against a referee to align with the Football West Junior Competition. If a player is sent to sin-bin the player is not replaced on field. A second sin-bin offence in the same game will result in a yellow card, a third as a red card.

27. MATCH SUSPENSIONS

27.1 Suspensions incurred by players/ officials in terms of matches/games shall be served in consecutive fixtured rounds in the competition in which the suspension occurred. Suspensions will carry over to the subsequent season/s. if they fail to be fulfilled in any one year.

27.2 Suspensions imposed are not just limited to immediate matches/games but can extend to months of fixtures or whole seasons.

27.3 Suspensions incurred by players/officials in terms of months or years shall be applied and served within all School Sport WA Football competitions.

- 27.4 Should a match be postponed/forfeited prior to commencement of play; the player is deemed NOT to be able to include this as one of their fixtured suspension dates.
- 27.5 This player will not be able to compete in any younger or older teams until the suspension in the competition it occurred in has been served.
- 27.6 This player/official is not to be used in any other capacity as Player, Coach, School Referee, School Assistant Referee or Ground Official until the suspension has been served.
- 27.7 In the event of a suspension the match referee shall immediately following the game:
 - 27.7.1 Notify the coach of the offending player that the report has been made against. If this does not occur, the coach from the offending team must approach the referee for clarification.
 - 27.7.2 Outline the offence the player has been charged with.
 - 27.7.3 Notify the opposing coach if a player on his team was involved in the incident and may be required to attend a disciplinary hearing.
 - 27.7.4 Notify the Referee Coordinator that evening of the report.
- 27.8 Players or school match officials under suspension are not permitted to enter the vicinity of the field of play, including the substitute's bench and technical area. The vicinity of the field of play shall be defined as within the perimeter fence adjacent to the field. For competitions where such fencing does not exist, is shall be defined as 20 metres from the field boundary markings.

28. SCHOOL MATCH OFFICIALS – Mandatory Match Suspensions

- 28.1 A Referee may take action against a School Match Official who fails to conduct themselves in a responsible manner and may expel the School Match Official from the field of play and its surroundings, including the coaching and substitute areas.
- 28.2 A School Match official who has been expelled from the field of play by a Referee will serve the same mandatory match day suspensions and guidelines in section 16 until the suspension has been served.
- 28.3 School Sports WA reserves the right to refer any Misconduct Report regarding School Match Officials to members of the School Sport WA Match Review Committee for determination, which may result in the penalty being increased above the mandatory suspension specified.

29. APPEALS

- 29.3 All schools have the right of appeal. Schools that wish to appeal decisions made must be aware it will become a formal process and as such they will be required to match the procedures and guidelines of the School Sport WA Football Disciplinary Hearing Regulations.

RESULTS CONTACTS



The **home team** is responsible for emailing results.

Schools are asked to direct results to the following individuals for the respective phases of the competition.

**SSWA SPORT
COORDINATOR**

Tony Campbell

Tony.campbell@education.wa.edu.au

REFEREES

Each school is responsible for the arrangement of match officials for their own home games.

Ideally Football West should be contacted for referee bookings. However it may be required that a referee is sourced directly, not through Football West. If this is the case that referee is still eligible for payment and may invoice the school for payment. Please note that there is an expectation that all referees are qualified.

Football West process

- a. Request ref through link
- b. FW will highlight allocated games (Format to be decided either on website or email sent out each day or email sent to specific teacher if no allocation)
- c. If no referee allocated by 3pm previous day NO ref will be allocated so teachers know to source own ref
- d. On game day referee will indicate in squad they have refereed the game. Teachers do not have to use squad
- e. FW will receive notification and pay referee.
- f. FW will send invoice out to schools (monthly/half term/end of term)
- g. Teachers ideally should keep track of referees on own spreadsheet to compare to FW invoice
- h. School pays FW
- i. Games called off due to weather. Teacher make call as early as possible however if referee does turn up and he has to cancel game the school will be charged 50% of overall fees.
- j. Forfeits. It is on the forfeiting team to contact FW as soon as possible. 12pm (TBC) on the day of the game at the latest. If after that and the referee turns up then the forfeiting school will pay the full referee amount.

Non Football West process

- a. Home team organises referee
- b. Both teams note for their own records the referee in charge of the game
- c. Referee sends invoice to the schools for payment
- d. Schools pay for the referee

IMPORTANT DETAILS

- In all competitions both teams will be responsible for paying **\$30.00** each for the **Referees match fee** payable to the Referee on the day before the start of the fixture. **“PLEASE DO NOT FORGET”**.
- If you have booked a Football West Referee, do not kick off until the indicated time of the fixture. If you kick off the game and the referee then arrives to find the game in progress you will be charged the referees fee.
- **DO NOT REQUEST REFEREES FOR AWAY GAMES AS IT IS THE HOME TEAMS RESPONSIBILITY**