



**Northern Regional Football League
Vacancy Play-off Series
2017**

1 NRFL VACANCY PLAY-OFF

1.1 There will normally be a two game play-off series between the eligible teams to fill a vacancy.

1.1.1 The winner of the series will be confirmed a place in the Lotto NRFL Division where the vacancy exists, and may compete only after the Lotto NRFL Men's Division participation criteria has been met for that division.

2 ORGANISATION OF LOTTO NRFL PLAY-OFF

2.1 The Competition Manager shall be responsible for organising fixtures, times, dates and venues in consultation with clubs involved.

2.2 The rules of the Lotto NRFL Vacancy Play-off will run under the Lotto Northern Regional Football League 2017 Regulations with the following exceptions.

3 MATCH VENUES, DATES AND KICKOFF TIMES

3.1 At a time and place determined by the Competition manager a coin toss shall determine which team has the choice of their home fixture being played first or second.

3.2.1 A representative from each club shall be invited to be present, with the right to delegate to other parties or choose to be present via other means, including but not limited to skype or telephone.

4 DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

4.1 The Lotto NRFL Vacancy Play-off Series is a standalone competition; disciplinary incidents will be dealt with in accordance with the NZF Disciplinary Code and the FIFA Disciplinary Code, except in reference to 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 of these regulations.

4.2 Any yellow cards accumulated will not be carried forward from the previous season Federation competition into the Lotto NRFL vacancy play-off series, except;

4.2.1 Players under suspension at the conclusion of the previous Federation season as a result of a red card offence, or a 5th, 7th, 9th yellow card offence, or;

4.2.2 A suspension sanctioned by a judicial body must serve the suspension through the Lotto NRFL play-off series.

4.3 Players receiving yellow cards during the Lotto NRFL Vacancy Play-off Series will not carry forward to the following competition season.

4.4 Players receiving a red card in the Lotto NRFL Vacancy Play-off series will serve their suspension in the next available match(es), starting with the next Lotto NRFL Vacancy Play-off series match, and/or carrying forward to the start of a following competition if required.

4.5 For the avoidance of any doubt, Any suspension imposed shall continue until the team that the suspended person was playing or otherwise involved with when the suspension was imposed has played on each of the required number of Playing Days, or played each of the matches.

5 ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

5.1 A Player is eligible to play in the Lotto NRFL play-off series provided that;

5.1.1 The Player is duly registered for their club and is marked active in Goalnet for the current season in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and NZF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, and;

5.1.2 Clubs must submit to the Competition Manger no less than 5 days in advance of the first or only play-off game a squad list of 18 eligible players to be used for the entire play-off competition.

Any player may be replaced at any time, on a permanent basis, on account of an injury which prevents the player from playing for the remainder of the Play-off series, where a medical certificate from a registered medical practitioner is provided to the NRFL Competitions Manager no later than 12pm on the last business day prior to the match taking place.

5.2 Each Club shall be solely responsible for fielding only eligible players.

5.3 Any Club found guilty of fielding an ineligible Player for whatever reason will forfeit the match and shall be subject to penalties described in Schedule 1.

6 COMPETITION FORMAT

6.1 The Lotto NRFL Vacancy Play-off Series shall normally be two games, and where applicable with each team facing the other once at home and once away.

6.2 Each match shall last 90 minutes, comprising two equal halves of 45 minutes, with a maximum interval of 15 minutes whistle to whistle in between.

6.3 Three (3) points are awarded for a win, one (1) point for a draw, Nil (0) points for a loss.

6.4 No extra time shall be played in any match.

6.5 If for any reason the Lotto NRFL Play-off Series cannot be completed within the required time-frame the Competition Manager may close the series and declare the winner at their sole discretion.

7 DECLARATION OF WINNER

7.1 At the completion of the series the team with the most points is declared the winner.

7.2 Where the two teams are tied then goal difference will be used to separate the teams. If the teams are also tied on goal difference then the goal difference shall be recalculated with goals scored by the away team counting as double. If still level;

7.2.1 At the completion of the second match, kicks from the penalty mark shall be completed under the FIFA Laws of the Game to declare the winner.

8 COST OF PARTICIPATION

8.1 There shall be no additional competition fees payable for being involved in the Lotto NRLFL play-off series, the Federation shall pay;

8.1.1 Match officials

8.1.2 Neutral ground hire and lighting.

8.2 Clubs shall pay any cost associated with the team participating for;

8.2.1 Away travel fixture costs;

8.2.2 Any unforeseen costs related to the participating team.

SCHEDULE 1 - LOTTO NRFL VACANCY PLAY-OFF SERIES - FEES AND FINES

1 MISCONDUCTS

- 1.1 Fines for misconducts are charged to the club as per the New Zealand Football Disciplinary Code, clubs in turn may recover the amounts from individual players.

2 APPEALS

- 2.1 Appeal Fee as per the New Zealand Football Disciplinary Code, Section 89;

2.1.1 For Appeals to the Regional Association Disciplinary Committee \$125.00 plus GST;

2.1.2 For Appeals to the Disciplinary Committee (NZF fee) \$250.00 plus GST;

2.1.3 For Appeals to the Appeals Committee (NZF fee) \$500.00 plus GST;

3 PLAYING INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

- 3.1 As per the NZF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players there will be a loss of match points. A fine of \$250.00 (no GST) per player may also apply for each offence.