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POLICY DOCUMENT – External Competition & Fixture Rescheduling Policy

1. Purpose

This Policy establishes the governance framework for the rescheduling and relocation of Central Coast Football (CCF) competition fixtures.

It addresses:

- Participation by CCF clubs in recognised external state and national competitions.
- Washouts, ground closures, and venue relocations within CCF competitions.
- Preservation of home-and-away equity in Premier Competitions; and
- The maintenance of competitive integrity, fairness, and consistency across the season.

This Policy seeks to balance support for legitimate pathway competitions with the need to protect the integrity, structure, and orderly progression of CCF competitions.

2. Scope

This Policy applies to all CCF sanctioned league and cup competitions.

Specific clauses within this Policy apply only to designated Premier Competitions, including:

- Mens Premier League (MPL)
- Womens Premier League (WPL)
- Mens Division 1 (DIV1)
- Womens Division 1 (WDIV1)

3. Governing Principles

All decisions made under this Policy must be guided by the following principles:

3.1 The fairness and balanced progression of CCF competitions takes precedence over convenience.
3.2 In Premier Competitions, clubs are entitled to a fair distribution of home fixtures across the season.
3.3 CCF supports participation in legitimate state and national pathway competitions sanctioned by governing bodies.
3.4 Decisions must be applied consistently and communicated clearly to affected clubs.
3.5 No Automatic Entitlement: Rescheduling or relocation is not automatic and remains subject to CCF approval and operational feasibility.

PART A – EXTERNAL COMPETITION PARTICIPATION

4. Eligible External Competitions

This Policy applies only to external competitions that are:

- Operated by Football NSW (FNSW) or Football Australia (FA); and
- Recognised as official state or national pathway competitions.

For the avoidance of doubt, this Policy does **not** apply to:

- Academy tournaments
- Invitational or showcase events
- Friendly matches
- Commercially operated tournaments
- Privately arranged competitions
- Non-FNSW sanctioned matches

Participation in such events does not constitute grounds for rescheduling a CCF fixture.

5. Same-Day External Fixture

Where a club has a fixture in an eligible external competition scheduled on the same calendar day as a CCF fixture:

- CCF will consider rescheduling the CCF fixture, subject to operational feasibility.
- Preference will be given to:
    - Moving the fixture to the alternate day of the same weekend; or
    - Scheduling the fixture midweek where practical.

Clubs must notify CCF promptly following release of the external competition draw.

Where the rescheduling of a fixture is required due to a club's participation in an external competition, and that fixture is the scheduled home match of the opposing club, CCF may reverse the corresponding return fixture later in the season in order to preserve the home fixture entitlement of the opposing club.

No club should be disadvantaged in its home fixture allocation as a consequence of its opponent's participation in an external competition.

6. Semi-Final & Final Participation

Where a club qualifies for a semi-final or final of an eligible external competition:

- CCF may reschedule the impacted CCF fixture where reasonably necessary to accommodate participation.
- This may include moving a fixture from the same weekend to a midweek or alternative date.

In determining such requests, CCF will consider:

- Ladder implications and competitive fairness
- Fixture congestion
- Ground and referee availability
- Travel requirements
- Impact on other clubs

7. Limitations & Safeguards

CCF may refuse a rescheduling request where:

- The request materially disadvantages other clubs.
- It creates disproportionate fixture congestion.
- It disrupts the integrity of final rounds.
- Operational constraints make rescheduling impracticable.

Where rescheduling results in additional operational costs (including ground hire, lighting, or referee costs), CCF may determine that such costs are borne by the requesting club.

PART B – PREMIER COMPETITION VENUE RELOCATION & WASHOUTS

This Part applies specifically to MPL, WPL, DIV1 and WDIV1 competitions.

8. Neutral Venue Relocation

Where a scheduled fixture cannot proceed at the designated home venue due to ground closure or weather, and is relocated to a neutral venue:

- The fixture shall proceed as scheduled.
- The original home and away designation remain unchanged.
- No amendment is required to the reverse fixture.

A neutral venue is defined as a venue that is not the regular home ground of either competing club.

9. Relocation to Opponent's Home Venue

Where a scheduled fixture cannot proceed at the designated home venue and is relocated to the opponent's regular home ground:

- The fixture shall proceed at the alternate venue.
- The round shall be formally reversed for competition purposes.
- The reverse fixture later in the season shall be amended to restore the displaced club's original home entitlement.

11. Subsequent Rounds Protections

In competitions structured on a double round basis, no reversal of home and away status shall occur in the second round of fixtures where the corresponding first-round fixture has already been played.

Where a fixture in a triple round competition is relocated due to washout or ground closure, CCF may consider restoring the displaced home entitlement only where doing so does not:

- Alter the originally approved home allocation for the season; or
- Result in a club receiving an additional home fixture beyond that allocation

12. Operational Authority

The Competitions Manager (or delegate) is responsible for administering this Policy.

All decisions under this Policy are final, except where procedural fairness has demonstrably not been followed.

13. Review

This Policy will be reviewed annually or earlier if required by the Board.