



MEMORANDUM

Reference: M26-11

To: Junior Clubs
From: Competition Coordinator
Date: 26 February 2026
Subject: Junior Competition: Competition Structure, Team Divisional Grading and Appeal Process
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Members

This set of FSC Management decisions lays out how junior competitions will be structured across the season and grading of teams in the respective age groups. It also includes how final-round fixtures are drawn and how many teams qualify for finals. And confirms a new 2026 rule that can shorten the finals series to create an extra wet-weather round.

Ranking

All junior competitions use Head-to-Head as the primary ranking method, as required by Competition Regulation F2. This means simply, that when teams are tied on average points, the next discriminator is using the results against each other to determine who ranks higher.

Mercy Rule

All junior competitions will use the Mercy Rule, as required by Regulation E7.

Structures

Nine and Ten team competitions.

18 Rounds – Double Round Robin

Highest ranked four teams in ranking will qualify for Final series.

Eight team competitions

14 rounds initially – double round robin

The final 4 rounds will be determined based on the ranking of the teams as of 25 May. The round order and home matches to be determined.

1 v 3	1 v 5	1 v 7	1 v 2
5 v 7	3 v 7	3 v 5	3 v 4
2 v 4	2 v 6	2 v 8	5 v 6
6 v 8	4 v 8	4 v 6	7 v 8

Highest ranked four teams in ranking will qualify for Final series.

Seven team competitions

14 rounds initially – double round robin

The final 4 games will be determined based on the ranking of the teams as of 25 May. The round order and home matches to be determined.

The final 5 games will be determined on the ranking of the teams as of 25 May – The round order and home matches to be determined.

1 v 2	1 v 6	1 v 4	1 v 5	1 v Bye
3 v Bye	2 v 7	2 v 3	2 v 6	2 v Bye
5 v 6	3 v 4	5 v 7	3 v 7	7 v Bye
4 v 7	5 v Bye	6 v Bye	4 v Bye	3 v 6
				4 v 5

Highest ranked four teams in ranking will qualify for Final series.

Six team competitions

15 rounds initially – triple round robin

The final 3 rounds will be determined based on the ranking of the teams as of 18 May. The round order and home matches to be determined.

1 v 4	1 v 5	1 v 2
2 v 6	2 v 3	3 v 4
3 v 5	4 v 6	5 v 6

Highest ranked four teams in ranking will qualify for Final series.

Five team competitions

15 rounds initially – triple round robin

The final 3 rounds will be determined based on the ranking of the teams as of 18 May. The round order and home matches to be determined.

1 v Bye	1 v 5	1 v 3
2 v Bye	2 v 3	2 v 4
3 v Bye	4 v Bye	5 v Bye
4 v 5		

Highest ranked three teams in ranking will qualify for Final series.

11 team competition

14 rounds initially – single round robin.

The final 7 games will be determined based on the ranking as of 22 June – The round order and home matches to be determined.

1 v 2	1 v 3	1 v Bye	2 v Bye	1 v 9	9 v 10	4 v 7
3 v 4	2 v 4	2 v 6	3 v Bye	2 v 10	11 v Bye	8 v Bye
5 v 6	5 v 8	3 v 5	4 v Bye	3 v 11	1 v 5	1 v 11
7 v 8	6 v 7	4 v 10	1 v 7	4 v 8	2 v 7	2 v 9
9 v Bye	10 v Bye	7 v 9	5 v 11	5 v Bye	3 v 8	3 v 6
10 v 11	9 v 11	8 v 11	6 v 10	6 v Bye	4 v 6	5 v 10
			8 v 9	7 v Bye		

Highest ranked 6 teams qualify for the final series.

12 team competition

14 rounds initially – single round robin.

The final 7 games will be determined on the ranking as of 22 June – The round order and home matches to be determined.

1 v 2	1 v 4	1 v 6	1 v 7	1 v 9	1 v 12	1 v 3
3 v 4	2 v 3	2 v 8	2 v 5	2 v 10	2 v 11	2 v 4
5 v 11	5 v 9	3 v 7	3 v 6	3 v 12	3 v 9	5 v 6
6 v 12	6 v 10	4 v 5	4 v 8	4 v 11	4 v 10	7 v 8
7 v 9	7 v 12	9 v 10	9 v 12	5 v 8	5 v 7	9 v 11
8 v 10	8 v 11	11 v 12	10 v 11	6 v 7	6 v 8	10 v 12

Highest ranked 6 teams qualify for the final series.

Final Series Format and Wet-Weather Adjustments

Finals are planned to be played over three weeks as per FSC Calendar, using Appendix 10D or 10E from the FSC Competition Rules.

A new 2026 Wet-Weather rescheduling clause (for full rounds) has been added to the Competition Regulations:

Regulation F15(b)(ii) introduces a new mechanism:

“If there have been no wet-weather weekends/rounds, and the finals series is scheduled for three weeks or more, the finals series is reduced by one week to create an additional wet-weather round.”

If enacted:

- The Final series for the respective competition become a two-week series
- Appendix 10C format is used

Clubs who qualify for the final series must be prepared to host semifinal or final matches.

4. Specific Age Structure / Grading

The December 2025 draft is included as a reference, and the updated red cells indicate teams which have not returned.

Girls Competitions

13 Girls

2025 Dec Draft

13 Girls Div 1	13 Girls Div 2
Balgownie Black	Bulli -
Coniston	Dapto
Figtree Blue	Figtree
Figtree Red	Gerringong
Helensburgh	Helensburgh
Russell Vale	Kiama
Shellharbour	Port Kembla
Thirroul	Shellharbour
University	Thirroul
Balgownie White +	Unanderra

New Team – Lakeside.

From nominations:

Four teams indicated Div 1, nine teams indicated Div 2, two teams no indication.

2026 - 13 Girls – 15 Teams, Two divisions

13 Girls Div 1	13 Girls Div 2
Coniston	Balgownie
Figtree	Bulli
Lakeside	Figtree
Russell Vale	Helensburgh
Shellharbour	Kiama
University	Port Kembla
	Shellharbour
	Thirroul
	Unanderra

14 Girls

2025 Dec Draft

14G Div 1	14G Div 2
Albion Park	Shellharbour -
Balgownie Black	Berkeley
Balgownie White	Bulli
Bulli	Gerringong
Helensburgh	Kiama
Thirroul	University
Woonona	
Figtree +	

New Team – Dapto

From nominations:

Six teams indicated Div1, 8 teams indicated Div 2

2026 Grading	
14G Div 1	14G Div 2
Albion Park	Balgownie
Balgownie	Berkeley
Bulli	Bulli
Figtree	Dapto
Thirroul	Gerringong
Woonona	Kiama
	Shellharbour
	University

15 Girls

From 2025 Grading Document for the 14 Girls – this age group

“The preferred strategy has been to keep teams in the same age groups. However, the reluctance of teams to play in Div 1 is a recurring (and returning) problem. It was therefore decided to attempt a different competition model where all teams play with their peers at least once and have a different method of final qualification which involves more teams at season’s end.”

While the 2025 grading document proposed a whole-of-group model to address Div 1 reluctance, last season’s appeal against that structure resulted in: four rounds of grading followed by the formation of two divisions.

The draft grading Bulli Pink (league champions) and Figtree (third with a reasonable goal difference) in division 2 are promoted, with Balgownie returning to Division 2.

2025 Dec Draft

15G Div 1	15G Div 2
Albion Park	Balgownie -
Bulli Purple	Russell Vale
Gerringong	Shellharbour
Helensburgh	Unanderra
Shellharbour	University
Bulli Pink +	Warilla
Figtree +	

New team – Helensburgh (Last year’s 13G Div 1)

From nominations:

Four teams indicated Div 1, Nine teams indicated Div 2

However, as was the case last year there is a reluctance of teams to play in Div 1 and is a recurring (and returning) problem.

14G Div 1 2025	Pld	W	F	L	F	A	Pts
Shellharbour	13	12	1	0	28	0	37
Bulli	13	9	2	2	41	5	29
Albion Park *	12	4	2	6	24	27	14
Helensburgh *	12	3	1	8	12	36	10
Gerringong **	11	3	0	8	14	28	9
Balgownie **	11	1	2	8	6	29	5

OPTION 1

Shellharbour and Bulli are both asked to consider playing against the U16 girls in a competition, noting that this may give them more opportunity for development. For the purposes of FNSW competitions, this would be a 15/16 Division 1 competition.

A written response from Shellharbour and Bulli is required no later than 9:00am on Tuesday, 3 March.

15G Div 1

Bulli
Shellharbour

15G Div 2

Albion Park
Balgownie
Bulli
Figtree
Helensburgh Black
Helensburgh Gold
Russell Vale
Shellharbour
Unanderra
University
Warilla

OPTION 2

If either club does not choose option 1:

15G Div 1

Albion Park
Bulli Purple
Bulli Pink
Figtree
Helensburgh
Shellharbour

15G Div 2

Balgownie
Helensburgh
Russell Vale
Shellharbour
Unanderra
University
Warilla

Note - The players' data shows that teams have most players returning to their respective teams.

16 Girls

8 nominations: Balgownie, Bulli, Coniston, Gerringong, Port Kembla, Russell Vale, Shellharbour, University.

17 Girls

1 nomination: Thirroul

18 Girls

8 nominations: Helensburgh, Russell Vale, Shellharbour Blue, Shellharbour White, Tarrawanna, Unanderra, University, Woonona

There will be one division formed with the 16 Girls and one division formed with the 17 and 18 Girls.

Boys / Mixed Competitions

13 Boys/Mixed

2025 - December Grading

13 Div 1	13 Div 2	13 Div 3	13 Div 4	13 Div 5
Albion Park	University -	Berkeley -	Bulli	Fernhill -
Balgownie	Balgownie	Lakeside -	Coledale	Albion Park
Bulli	Bulli	Albion Park	Figtree Red	Balgownie
Corrimal	Coledale	Balgownie	Gerringong	Bulli
Figtree	Fernhill	Figtree	Lakeside	Coniston
Highlands	Port Kembla	Helensburgh	Shellharbour Blue	Kiama
Lakeside	Russell Vale	Russell Vale	Shellharbour White	Lakeside
Shellharbour Blue	Coniston +	Woonona	South Coast United	Oak Flats
Unanderra	Kiama +	University +	Figtree Blue +	Shellharbour
Shellharbour White +	Oak Flats +			

New Team – Thirroul (returning from 13 Div 3 in 2025)

35 Nominations: Seven teams indicated Div 1, Seven Teams indicated Div 2, Nine teams indicated Div 3, four teams indicated Div 4, three teams indicated Div 5, five teams did not indicate.

2026 Grading

13 Div 1	13 Div 2	13 Div 3	13 Div 4
Albion Park	Balgownie	Albion Park	Albion Park
Balgownie	Berkeley	Balgownie	Bulli
Bulli	Coledale	Bulli	Figtree
Figtree	Coniston	Fernhill	Figtree
Highlands	Oak Flats	Figtree	Gerringong
Lakeside	Russell Vale	Kiama	Lakeside
Shellharbour	Shellharbour	Lakeside	Oak Flats
Unanderra	University	Shellharbour	South Coast United
		Thirroul	
		University	
		Woonona	
8	8	11	8

14 Boys/Mixed

2025 - Assumption No changes - Draft AGM

14 Div 1	14 Div 2	14 Div 3	14 Div 4
Bulli	Balgownie -	Unanderra -	Thirroul
Cringila	South Coast United Blue -	Shellharbour -	Shellharbour -
Figtree	Figtree	Balgownie	Figtree
Gerringong	Gerringong	Coniston	South Coast United
Helensburgh	Russell Vale	Fernhill	Thirroul White
Highlands	Shellharbour	Kiama	Albion Park +
Kiama	South Coast Utd Red	Lakeside	Bulli +
Shellharbour	Woonona	Port Kembla	Dapto +
Unanderra	Bulli +	Coledale +	Kiama +
University +	Albion Park +	University +	Lakeside
		Helensburgh +	Oak Flats +
			Warilla +
			Woonona +

New Team: Port Kembla

37 Nominations: Eight teams indicated Div 1, Eleven Teams indicated Div 2, Seven teams indicated Div 3, Seven teams indicated Div 4, Two teams indicated Div 5, five teams did not indicate.

14 Div 1	14 Div 2	14 Div 3	14 Div 4
Bulli	Albion Park	Balgownie	Albion Park
Cringila	Balgownie	Coledale	Bulli
Figtree	Bulli	Coniston	Figtree
Helensburgh	Figtree	Helensburgh	Kiama
Highlands	Gerringong	Kiama	Lakeside
Kiama	Russell Vale	Port Kembla	Port Kembla
Shellharbour	Shellharbour	Shellharbour	South Coast U
Unanderra	South Coast U Blue	Unanderra	Thirroul
University	South Coast U White		Warilla
	Woonona		Woonona

15 Boys/Mixed

2025 - Assumption No changes - Draft AGM

15 Div 1	15 Div 2	15 Div 3
Balgownie	Russell Vale -	University -
Bulli	Albion Park	Unanderra -
Coniston	Balgownie	Albion Park
Figtree	Bulli	Balgownie
Highlands	Figtree	Bulli
Shellharbour	Kiama	Figtree
South Coast U	Warilla	Gerringong
Unanderra	Shellharbour +	Kiama
Cringila +	Berkeley +	Lakeside
		Shellharbour

New Teams: Fernhill TBC, Helensburgh

26 Nominations: Eight teams indicated Div 1, Seven Teams indicated Div 2, Eleven teams indicated Div 3.

2026 Grading

15 Div 1	15 Div 2	15 Div 3
Balgownie	Albion Park	Balgownie
Bulli	Balgownie	Berkeley
Coniston	Bulli	Bulli
Cringila	Figtree	Fernhill *
Highlands	Kiama	Figtree
Shellharbour	Shellharbour	Helensburgh
South Coast U	University	Kiama
Unanderra	Warilla	Lakeside
		Shellharbour
		Unanderra

16 Boys/Mixed

2025 - Assumption No changes - Draft AGM

16 Div 1	16 Div 2	16 Div 3
Balgownie	Kiama -	Figtree -
Bulli	Highlands	Balgownie -
Coniston	Lakeside	Bulli
Cringila	Shellharbour Blue	Helensburgh
Figtree	Thirroul	Kiama
Shellharbour	University	Lakeside
Unanderra Maroon	Shellharbour White +	Thirroul
Unanderra White +	Oak Flats +	Unanderra
		University

16 Nominations: Eight teams indicated Div 1, One Team indicated Div 2, Seven teams indicated Div 3.

Grading

16 Div 1	16 Div 2
Balgownie	Balgownie
Bulli	Bulli
Coniston	Dapto
Cringila	Figtree
Figtree	Kiama
Kiama	Lakeside
Unanderra Maroon	Shellharbour
Unanderra White	Thirroul

17 Boys/Mixed

14 Nominations: Five teams indicated Div 1, One Team indicated Div 2, Six teams indicated Div 3, One team indicated Div 4, One team indicated Div 5

17 Div 1	17Div 2
Albion Park	Albion Park
Balgownie	Figtree
Helensburgh	Helensburgh
Shellharbour	Kiama
Thirroul	Oak Flats
Woonona	Thirroul
	Tarrawanna
	Unanderra

18 Boys

12 Nominations: Six teams indicated Div 1, Six Team indicated Div 2,

19 Boys

1 nomination

18/19 Div 1	18 Div 2
Albion Park (19)	Balgownie
Balgownie	Bulli Blue
Bulli	Bulli Royal
Coniston	Shellharbour
Figtree	Thirroul
South Coast U	Unanderra
Tarrawanna	

Under 12 Mixed, Under 12 Girls

These competitions are using modified football fields, player numbers, and rules as outlined in Article Q of the Competition Rules.

Grading games

12 Mixed: (52 teams)

Albion Park A, Albion Park B, Albion Park C, Albion Park D, Balgownie A, Balgownie B, Balgownie C, Balgownie D, Bulli A, Bulli B, Bulli C, Bulli D, Coledale A, Coledale B, Coniston A, Coniston B, Fernhill, Figtree A, Figtree B, Figtree C, Figtree D, Gerringong A, Gerringong B, Helensburgh A, Helensburgh B, Highlands, Kiama A, Kiama B, Lakeside A, Lakeside B, Lakeside C, Oak Flats, Port Kembla, Russell Vale A, Russell Vale B, Shellharbour A, Shellharbour B, Shellharbour C, Shellharbour D, Shellharbour E, South Coast United, Thirroul, Unanderra A, Unanderra B, Unanderra C, University A, University B, Warilla A, Warilla B, Woonona A, Woonona B, Woonona C.

12 Girls: (24 teams)

Albion Park, Balgownie A, Balgownie B, Bulli A, Bulli B, Bulli C, Coniston, Dapto, Fernhill, Figtree A, Figtree B, Helensburgh A, Helensburgh B, Highlands, Kiama, Lakeside, Oak Flats, Russell Vale, Shellharbour A, Shellharbour B, Shellharbour C, Thirroul, Woonona A, Woonona B.

5. Teams Withdrawing

Any Club has until **Thursday 5th March 2026, 9:00am** to notify FSC of any team you wish to **withdraw** from the Competition without penalty.

Withdrawing a team after this date will incur penalties as specified in the Competition Regulations and will be the lowest graded team.

6. Appeals

Clubs wishing to appeal the structure of a competition or a team grading must do so in accordance with Competition Regulation B5.

“Clubs who have any concerns regarding the Competition structure or grading(s) may make representation to FSC by way of appeal. Clubs wishing to use this means of appeal must provide written justification of each appeal, on Club letterhead, to the Competition Coordinator by the date set by FSC.”

When lodging an appeal, clubs must supply **additional evidence** beyond what was included in the original nomination form. The information provided on the nomination form has already been considered and appeals that simply restate this information may be rejected.

Appeals should also outline practical alternatives for FSC to consider. Examples include:

- Competition structure appeals: Suggested competition layout, proposed divisions, or alternative structures.
- Team grading appeals: Identification of which team should replace your, supported by reasoning.

Please note that FSC already holds player history data from previous seasons. Clubs can access this information by navigating in Dribl to Teams. Filter by age group → Reports → Grading Summary. Go Reports from the dashboard to get the pdf file.

For players without historical data, FSC has sourced the available information.

Appeals must be lodged by **Thursday 5th March 2026**.