

2020 NRF Competitions Scenario Summaries

Date: April 9



This document has been prepared to outline competition formats for delivery under the current draft season start date scenarios provided following NZ Football and Federation discussion following Covid-19 pandemic lockdown imposed by government.

Each Competition Manger has looked at their own competitions and has devised various options given the applicable dates.

For the purposes of the examples shown, we have used traditional season end timeframes and also extended into September. Discussions are being held currently between codes and Council regarding possibilities to extend season window and these will be confirmed in due course.

Competition Summaries have been provided for Junior, Youth and Senior Community and NRFL Youth/talent competitions per the following start and end scenarios:

- June 6 start – 29 August = 13 weekends
- July 4 start – 29 August = 9 weekends

- June 6 start – 19 September = 16 weekends
- July 4 start – 19 September = 12 weekends

- August 1 start – 26 September = 9 weekends

Other factors also influencing eventual delivery include:

1. 'Pre-season' – a 2-week pre-season has been factored in. This may not be necessary for all grades, but will be needed at the NRFL level, and most likely the NRFL Youth, Metro, Conference levels.
2. Council/code decision on end dates - decision on how far we can go into September/October is required, especially for access to turfs / floodlit venues. There are possible cost implications to this as outside of winter allocation. Some turfs are also used for cricket and won't be available on Saturdays from mid-end September. This is assuming that cricket starts at its normal time.
3. Council maintenance implications – Possible requirement of several weeks to have pitches prepared for play means if lockdown is concluded there could be further lag before we can start competitions. Discussions are taking place with council and at Sport NZ/government level about this.
4. Competition traditional dates – we are operating on the principle of trying to facilitate as much football play as possible in any time we receive so we will be investigating all opportunities to delivery and structure competitions accordingly, including playing matches outside of usual weekend competition window. The timings above note weekend play only in the majority of cases but we will be looking at opportunities to extend this working with clubs on how that could be achieved
5. Regional travel restrictions – If these remain in place via government advise then this could further impact competitions delivery at a number of levels
6. Relevant regulations regarding registration of players and eligibility to play via NZF RSTP or competition regulations
7. In-house Junior competition – clubs will be free to determine their delivery of their in-house competitions for players aged 4-8 and NRF will assist in advising on format of this where needed. Covid-19 Alert Level restrictions regarding maximum number of people at an event could influence outcomes here also

Junior Competitions (9-12 years-old)

- 1) **June 6 start date;** 13 rounds finishing on 29 August. No games middle weekend of school holidays. Games to be played first and last weekend of holidays.
- 2) **June 6 start date;** 17 rounds finishing on 26 September. No games middle weekend of school holidays. Games to be played first and last weekend of holidays.
- 3) **July 4th start date;** 7 rounds finishing on 29 August. No games middle weekend of school holidays. Games to be played first and last weekend of holidays.
- 4) **July 4th start date;** 11 rounds finishing on 26 September. No games middle weekend of school holidays. Games to be played first and last weekend of holidays.

Relevant Junior considerations

- Divisions shortened to 6-8 teams
- Load spread/mass gatherings - will possibly need to spread the load on Saturdays, to try and keep the community numbers / mass gatherings minimised as much as possible. An alternate way to do this will be to look at playing on different week / Saturdays or Sundays for both in-house and / or U9/U10 competitions. Night-time football will only be possible at some clubs who have fields with lighting.
- Central East and Central West areas have been combined in competitions which were previously divided. The purpose was to create more divisions, and more even competition for all teams.
- Mixed divisions across AFF / NFF have been minimised as much as possible.
- June start with shortening to 6 team divisions is allowing for 6 weeks prior to the school holidays, and 6 weeks after.
- The school holidays were previously scheduled for 2 weekends off. This has changed to 1 weekend off, being the 18th July (Covid-19 Regional travel restrictions may influence final outcome).
- If we were to play another 4 additional weeks after August this would allow for 6 team competitions to be a triple round robin, with a festival at the end of August.

Community - Youth (13-19 years)

- 1) **June 6 start date;** 13 rounds finishing on 29 August. No games middle weekend of school holidays. Games to be played first and last weekend of holidays.
- 2) **June 6 start date;** 17 rounds finishing on 26 September. No games middle weekend of school holidays. Games to be played first and last weekend of holidays.
- 3) **July 4th start date;** 7 rounds finishing on 29 August. No games middle weekend of school holidays. Games to be played first and last weekend of holidays.
- 4) **July 4th start date;** 11 rounds finishing on 26 September. No games middle weekend of school holidays. Games to be played first and last weekend of holidays.

Relevant youth considerations

- Division composition – 8 teams
- For a start in June, there would be 1 full round, and then split into Top 4 / Bottom 4. Totalling 14 weeks of play
- For a July start, there would be 1 full round; final weekend of August, could be finals. 1v2, 3v4, 5v6 and 7v8. If we are able to extend into September then we may be able to look at playoffs

Community Senior (20+ including Men's/Women's Conference)

- 1) **June 6 start date;** 14 rounds finishing on 29 August. National KO Cup issues with scheduling to be resolved.
- 2) **June 6 start date;** 18 rounds starting on the Monday of Queen's Birthday weekend & a finishing date of 26 September. National KO Cup issues with scheduling to be resolved.
- 3) **July 4 start date;** 9 rounds finishing on 29 August.
- 4) **July 4 start date;** 14 rounds finishing on 26 September – with potential for a couple of mid-week games.

Relevant senior considerations:

- Division composition – 10 team leagues
- For a start in June, there would be 1 full round, and then split into Top 5 / Bottom 5. The teams with the bye each week would play against each other. Totalling 14 weeks of play.
- For a July start, there would be 1 full round. If we are able to extend into September then we may be able to look at playoffs.
- No AFF / NFF Knockout Cup Competitions will take place in 2020, the focus will be on as many league games as possible.

LOTTO NRFL Senior Men

** Dependent on Chatham Cup / ISPS Handa Premiership playoff dates. NZF to confirm approach shortly*

June start – possible with a revised format

- A 22-round NRFL season is not possible.
- With 2 weekends of pre-season a start date of 13 June (Finish 26 Sept*)
 - Format: 11 rounds then top 6, bottom 6 for 5 more games.
 - Total 16 League games.
 - Midweek games on neutral venues/turfs required.
 - Playing home games on neutral venues/Turfs in September may be required.

July start – ONLY POSSIBLE WITH ONE ROUND ROBIN COMPETITION

- With 2 weekends of pre-season start date of 11 July (Finish 26 Sept*)
 - Format: 11 rounds (one round robin). Based on draw for R1 to R11 already in place.
 - Total 11 League games
 - Midweek games on Turfs required
 - Playing home games on neutral Turfs in September may be required

LOTTO NRFL Senior Women

** Dependent on Kate Sheppard Cup dates per above re Chatham Cup*

June start – possible with revised format

- A 21-round NRFL season is not possible.
- With 2-weekends of pre-season a start date of 14 June (Finish 26 Sept**)
 - Format: 14 rounds, 2 round robins - Total 14 League games
 - Midweek games on neutral turfs may be required
 - Playing home games on neutral Turfs in September may be required
 - NB: Kate Sheppard Cup may kick-off Sun 31st May/Mon 1st June

July start – only possible with one round and top/bottom split

- With 2-weekends of pre-season start date of 12 July (Finish 26 Sept**)
 - Format: 7 rounds (one round robin). Based on draw for R1 to R7 already in place, then top 4, bottom 4 for 3 more games - Total 10 League games
 - Midweek games on Turfs may be required
 - Playing home games on neutral Turfs in September may be required.

LOTTO NRFL Youth, Metro & Conference, Girls Premier (13-17 years)

A number of scenarios exist in these competitions and we are working with NZF Technical Directory (NRFL Youth/TDP) and clubs regarding appropriate delivery given the number of teams, leagues and scheduling factors to consider.

Further communication to follow on these competitions.