

NZF Secondary School Futsal Competitions Overview

Introduction

The NZSS Futsal Championships held in Wellington annually is consistently in high demand and for the past 7 years has operated without a clear pathway to the Championship. New Zealand Football (NZF) is pleased to introduce changes to the competition structure and two new competitions to allow for continued growth of the Futsal game and for more secondary school aged participants to play Futsal.

In the 2022 Summer Tournament Week 28th March – 1st April, NZF with support from Federations will deliver three competitions. These tournaments will provide greater opportunities for Secondary Schools to play Futsal and ensure quality participation experiences.

- NZSS National Championships – Wellington
- Northern Regional Cup – Taupō Events Centre with support from WaiBOP Football.
- Southern Regional Cup – Dunedin Edgar Event Centre with support from Football South.

All three competitions will be governed by New Zealand Football and play an integral role in developing the Futsal pathway across New Zealand. Futsal Development Officers at each Federation, New Zealand Secondary School Sport and New Zealand Football's Futsal Advisory Group have all reviewed the paper and have provided feedback.

2022 NZSS Futsal Championship – Wellington ASB Stadium

This has been the flagship tournament for Futsal at Secondary Schools and NZF remains committed to delivering a quality National Championship.

In the 2022 tournament there will be **parity** in duration of the competition between the girls' and boys' grades. In previous years girls' grades have only participated over two days and boys' grades over 3 days. In 2022 both girls' and boys' competitions will take place over two and half days with Wednesday 30th March being a crossover day.

Competition Details

Monday 28th – Wednesday 30th March (morning) 2022

- Junior Girls
- Senior Girls

Wednesday 30th March (afternoon) – Friday 1st April 2022

- Junior Boys
- Senior Boys

Competition Teams

Junior Boys: 24 teams

Junior Girls: 24 teams

Senior Boys: 32 teams

Senior Girls: 32 teams

To ensure an optimal competition format for the **Senior Girls and Senior Boys Grades** the entries are limited to **32 teams**. A 32-team tournament will improve competition format through the addition of a crossover round and the top 2 from each pool qualifying through. This change has been actioned from feedback on previous tournaments and the challenges of only the top place team qualifying through to the finals.

The format for the new Senior Boys and Senior Girls grade is outlined below. ** This format may change dependent on confirmed entries.*

- 8 pools of 4
- Top 16 Crossover
- Bottom 16 Crossover
- Semifinals for Cup, Bowl, Spoon, Plate
- Finals for Cup, Bowl, Spoon, Plate
- Playoff for placings from 1-32

In the above format all teams have something to play for at every stage of the tournament and can still progress through to Top 16 if they lose one game.

If the Senior Girls grade does not reach capacity the Senior Boys grade will be extended at NZF discretion.

The Junior Boys and Junior Girls grades will be limited at 24 teams for optimal competition format to fit within the competition time frames. ** This format may change dependent on confirmed entries.*

- 4 pools of 6
- Quarterfinals for Plate, Bowl, Cup
- Semifinals for Plate, Bowl, Cup
- Final for Cup
- Placing games

Competition Entry Process:

In previous years grades have consistently been oversubscribed and entry determined via a first in first served basis. This is a lottery system and is not sustainable or desirable for the Futsal pathway especially at the National Championship level.

Currently there is no clarity to schools year on year, schools may end up competing at the wrong level of competition and it places unnecessary stress on both school and NZF personnel.

The Junior Boys and Girls grades can currently cater to the demand of teams wanting to enter (within capacity limits) meaning currently there is no invitation required to participate at the Championship level. Changes are being reviewed for the 2023 Junior Championship. Junior entries will be done separately from Seniors for 2022 and will open the week of **22nd November 2021**.

For the 2022 Competition NZF has introduced a 'by invitation' entry criteria. This only applies for the **Senior Boys and Senior Girls** grade for 2022 due to the constant oversubscribed entries in these grades.

In the Senior Grades, schools will be invited to attend the **Championship**. The invitations will be based of previous results and attendance in prior tournaments. If schools do not receive an invite to the Championship, NZF strongly encourages them to attend a Regional Cup event, as they will be in contention for qualification into the Championship for 2023 through the Regional Cups.

Invitation Process for Championship

1. Schools will receive an invite to attend the NZSS National Championship in Wellington no later than 11th November
2. Schools must formally accept their invitation by 25th November 2021 through completing the registration form and squad submission for OR communication to NZF regarding a time extension.
3. If a school does not accept their invitation by the cutoff date or chooses to participate in one of the Regional Cup events, then the school next on the list will receive an invitation.

Rationale for invitation (applicable for Senior Grades in 2022) in hierarchical order

The schools with the lowest points total will receive invitations to the Championships

Schools received a point equivalent to their placing in that tournament (i.e 1st = 1 point, 17th = 17 points).

In the Senior Boys grade if schools did not participate one year, they received 40 points (equivalent to the total number of teams entered). If schools did not participate one year in Senior Girls, they received 25 points (equivalent to the total number of teams entered).

Invitational hierarchy

- Points totals from previous 3 tournaments (2021, 2019, 2018) to determine the 32 high performing schools that have the lowest points totals.
- Schools that have attended previous tournaments at higher participation rate will be prioritised if points totals are the same or additional spots need to be filled. For example, a school that has participated at the last five tournaments but falls outside of the Top 32 will be prioritised over a school that has only attended 3 out of the past 5 tournaments.
- Results from previous 7 tournaments (2014-2021) to determine overall rankings

Cost/Payment:

- \$575 (including GST) per Team Entry
- Payment is due no later than Monday 1st March 2022
- Unpaid teams will not be permitted to attend the NZSS Futsal Championships
- Payment is to be made via online banking only.

Regional Cup Events – Dunedin & Taupō

NZF would like to introduce the addition of two new Regional Cup competitions to further expand Futsal opportunities in New Zealand, increase localised opportunities and develop a playing pathway to the Championship. The Regional Cups will be reviewed after completion of the 2022 tournaments by NZF.

Competition Details

Northern Cup

Taupō – Wednesday 30th March 2022 – Friday 1st April 2022

Southern Cup

Dunedin – Wednesday 30th March 2022 – Friday 1st April 2022

Cost/Payment:

- \$575 (including GST) per Team Entry
- Payment is due no later than Monday 1st March 2022
- Unpaid teams will not be permitted to attend the NZSS Futsal Regional Cups
- Payment is to be made via online banking only.

These Regional Cup Events are open to **all schools in New Zealand**. South Island Schools are invited to attend the Southern Cup in Dunedin and North Island School to attend the Northern Cup in Taupō These events will be attractive to schools as total duration of tournament will be 3 days for all grades, offer a great level of competition for schools new to Futsal, and provide an alternate destination for schools which find Wellington difficult or expensive to travel to.

NZF aims to make Futsal the most accessible and inclusive sport and believes the addition of Regional Cups is an important step in achieving this.

Competition Teams:

Junior Boys & Junior Girls – 12 teams

Senior Boys & Senior Girls – 12 teams

All four grades will be participating over the three days, the exact competition format will be dependent on confirmed entries into the Northern and Southern Cups. If there is demand in one grade and not the others capacity limits can be adjusted (16 Junior Boys and 8 Junior Girls).

NZF reserves right to confirm competition structure after entries have been collected. Registration will open the week of **22nd November** and will be open invitation.

Proposed format **This format may change dependent on confirmed entries.*

- 2 x Pools of 6
- Teams' 3rd-6th in Pool A play equivalent placing in Pool B
- Semi Finals Top 2 from each pool
- Finals

If you finish in the Top 3 of either Regional Cup you will qualify for the Championship event the following year if you wish to accept.

Qualification for 2023 Tournaments

NZF wishes to provide clarity for schools for qualification into the 2023 Championship. This is only relevant for Senior grades and will be communicated to all participating schools in 2022 prior to the tournament.

1. All schools that finish in the **Top 24** of the 2022 tournament will automatically qualify for the 2023 Championship.
2. The **top 3 finishers in Senior Boys & Senior Girls** from Northern Cup 2022 will be invited to the Championship 2023.
3. The **top 3 finishers in Senior Boys & Senior Girls** from Southern Cup 2022 will be invited to the Championship 2023.
4. The **top 2 finishers** from the **Junior Boys and Girls** at the Championship in 2022 will be invited to the Championship Senior Grades in 2023 **where applicable i.e school already not qualified through Seniors; scope to have top 4 as an option.*
5. Schools that place 25th-32nd will be invited to attend a Regional Cup event in 2023.
6. If Regional Cup Championship qualifiers choose to not accept the invitation to the Championship in 2023, then placings from 25th- 32nd will be invited to assist with entries.
7. If the Championship from the previous year had additional teams due to capacity not being reached in other grades NZF reserves the right to adjust the qualification bracket.
8. NZF has discretion with support from Federations to distribute wildcard entries if spots in the Championship need to be filled.

The outlined qualification process is applicable for 2023 only at this stage; it will be reviewed and adjusted as needed after completion of 2022 tournaments.

The Junior Championship event in Wellington may be changed in 2023 to a Junior Cup to align with NZSS Sanctioning and to further increase capacity.

Kind regards,



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