

Appendix One: Full Swindale Shield Premier Competition Option (Option One)

This competition format was proposed in 2020 and approved for the 2021 season. It's an innovative format which satisfies all Club preferences, and most of the survey feedback. The main feature of this format is the finals series which gives teams a second chance if they lose in week one.

Presuming there are 14 Premier Clubs the competition format would be as below.

MCRWG Assessment

Application Based Entry	Starts at the start of April	Has a minimum 13-day gap between Club Final and NPC Start	The relevant grades accommodate Rep Rugby	Has between 16 – 18 games	If part of the season must be truncated it has a full Swindale Shield	Accommodates a minimum of 14 teams
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	17	Yes	14

Start Date	Finish Date	Min # of Matches	Max # of Matches
2 April 2022	23 July 2022	15	17

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
19-Mar	26-Mar	2-Apr	9-Apr	16-Apr	23-Apr	30-Apr	7-May	14-May	21-May	28-May	4-Jun	11-Jun	18-Jun	25-Jun	2-Jul	9-Jul	16-Jul	23-Jul	30-Jul	6-Aug	13-Aug	20-Aug	27-Aug	
				EASTER	ANZAC						QB			Matariki			CF WE				NPC			
			SS - 1	SS - 2	SS - 3	SS - 4	SS - 5	SS - 6	SS - 7	SS - 8	SS - 9	SS - 10	SS - 11	SS - 12	SS - 13									
																QF	SF	PF	F	Gap	NPC	NPC	NPC	NPC
																QF	SF	PF	F	Gap	NPC	NPC	NPC	NPC

Please note: The 'Club Finals Weekend (CF WE)' illustrated above is a when most NPC Provincial Unions finish their competition. This is considered the 'National Finals Weekend' and is separate to our Club Finals Weekend.

First Round:

- Entry by annual Application where the Club must achieve Premier Status annually
- 14 Premier teams
- 13-week Swindale Shield/Harper Lock Shield competition – everyone plays everyone

Second Round:

- Top eight and bottom six split (for week one only) based on standings at the end of the first round.
 - Premier
 - Jubilee Cup – Division One
 - Hardham Cup – Division Two
- Four weeks finals series (adapted from the McIntyre system) in both divisions.
- All teams have a second life after week one of the finals series with the two lowest ranked losers from the Jubilee Cup dropping down to the Hardham Cup. The remaining losing teams all have a second chance match too.
- A full illustration of the finals format using 2021 seedings/results is shown below

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clubs get to play all other clubs (full round robin) - Full season is meaningful and season results determine seedings for finals - Continued shorter sharper competition - Innovate finals format which keeps teams a second chance in the final's series - Season starts in April meaning there is no conflict with summer sports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finals format series hard to explain without diagram - Some clubs (depending on results) would only get two finals series matches - the pinnacle competition being the Jubilee Cup gets less profile with fewer games.

Illustration of Finals Series:

