

nsw



By George Stavroulakis

# PREMIER LEAGUE 1 NSW Round 11

**Round 11 of the National Premier Leagues NSW Men's competition is in the books and so is the first half of this year's regular season.**

**It was** a week of tough fixtures but just like the previous 10 Rounds it is Wollongong Wolves who finish the week on top.

**It was** a massive week for Sydney FC who stunned reigning Champions Sydney Olympic on Friday night in a crazy game at Belmore Sports Ground.

**Sutherland Sharks** were millimetres away from ending their 10 week winless streak as a Charles Lokolingoy header was ruled to have not crossed the goal line in their hard fought draw against Rockdale.

**Manly returned** to the winners circle on Sunday while APIA Leichhardt needed some late heroics as they wrapped up the round with a 3-2 win against Mt Druitt.

## Sydney Olympic 2 - Sydney FC 3 at Belmore Sports Ground

**It was** a hard-fought battle at Belmore Sports Ground on Friday night between Sydney Olympic and Sydney FC, with the young Sky Blues coming away with a shock 3-2 victory over last year's Premiers and Champions.

**Sydney FC** were clinical in their execution, with Benjamin Koop, Luke Ivanovic and Joel King all scoring their goals through their fast-paced attack, while Olympic struggled to convert their chances, with Alex Sanchez's double not enough to match the energetic young Sky Blues.

**Olympic's defeat** means they drop out of the top five while Sydney FC climb up to ninth.

## Sutherland Sharks 1 - Rockdale City Suns 1 at Seymour Shaw Park

**A costly** defensive error has cost Sutherland Sharks a breakthrough win as they were held 1-1 by Rockdale City Suns. **Suns' striker** Jordan Figon fired home to level the scores after Alec Urosevski pounced on a sloppy back pass to extend the Sharks winless streak to 10 games.

**A sensational** volley from Jeremy Cox had given Sutherland the lead after 37 minutes but it would only last for seven minutes until Rockdale found an equaliser.

**It was** a frustrating result as well for Rockdale as they missed the chance to move into top spot with a win.

## Marconi Stallions 1 - Wollongong Wolves 3 at Marconi Stadium

**A brilliant** brace from Japanese midfield maestro Takeru Okada has inspired Wollongong Wolves to an incredible second half comeback to defeat Marconi Stallions 3-1 at Marconi Stadium on Saturday.

**With the** Wolves looking down the barrel at a second defeat in as many weeks as the Stallions took a 1-0 lead, Okada netted a pair of delightful finishes along side a Darcy Madden goal to claim all three points.

**However, for** the Stallions it was a game of what ifs as Peter Tsekinis' side squandered their chances after taking the lead just after half time courtesy of Marko Jesic.

**Jesic would** go from hero to zero later in the match when he missed a penalty which would've put Marconi in the box seat to win.

**The result** means Wollongong stretch their lead at the top of the table while Marconi remain in the middle of the fight for a finals spot.



## Blacktown City FC 1 - Hakoah Sydney City East 0 at Lily Homes Stadium

**A Daniel** Aruajo strike has helped Blacktown City to consecutive wins as they edged Hakoah Sydney City East 1-0 at Lily Homes Stadium.

**It was** a match defined by the chances which were missed as both sides spurned penalties before City clung on for a hard fought three points.

**Aruajo found** the back of the net early in the second half with a clinical headed finish from a Matthew Lewis cross.

**The visitors** had a chance to snatch a point when they were given a late penalty but it wasn't to be for Hakoah as Gauthier's spot kick was saved.

## Manly United FC 3 - Sydney United 0 at Cromer Park

**Manly United** cruised to a comfortable 3-0 victory over Sydney United 58 at Cromer Park on Sunday afternoon.

**First-half strikes** from flying wingers Charles Mendy and Adam Parkhouse gave the hosts some breathing space at the interval, before Brendan Cholakian sealed the deal with ten minutes to play.



**A stubborn** defensive effort from Paul Dee's men saw the formidable firepower in United 58's lineup restricted to half-chances for the majority of the ninety.

**The result,** Manly's first victory in three and United 58's first defeat in five, leaves both sides positioned narrowly inside the all-important top five at the mid-way point of the 2019 National Premier League NSW Men's season.

## APIA Leichhardt Tigers 3- Mt Druitt Town Rangers 2 at Lambert Park

**A Corey** Biczo strike in the closing stages has helped APIA Leichhardt Tigers fight back to snatch a dramatic 3-2 win against Mt Druitt Town Rangers at Lambert Park on Sunday. **Goals from** Sean Symons, Adrian Uccchino and Biczo gave the Tigers the edge in a thrilling end to end clash.

**Toufic Allameddine** opened the scoring early in the first half, before Symons equalised before the break.

**Uccchino put** APIA ahead a little over ten minutes after the restart but the home side were pegged back when Fabricio Fernandez scored for Mt Druitt with 10 minutes left on the clock.

**However, Biczo** was to have the final say in the closing stages netting the winner and a valuable three points for APIA.