



By George Stavroulakis

# ROUND 20 PREVIEW — NPL NSW

There is only three weeks to go in the National Premier Leagues NSW competition and the finish line is in site.

**Wollongong Wolves can clinch the premiership title this weekend when they take on third placed Blacktown City on Sunday.**

**The battle for the top five is set to go down to the wire with eight teams still in with a shot of qualifying for finals football.**

**Sutherland Sharks kick off the week's action when they host Mt Druitt on Saturday night followed by second placed APIA Leichhardt taking on Sydney FC.**

**Sunday features four games with Hakoah Sydney City East's home clash against Sydney United 58 on Sunday night wrapping up the week's action.**

## Sutherland Sharks FC v Mt Druitt Town Rangers, 6.30pm Saturday at Seymour Shaw Park

**Sutherland Sharks** will be driven to keep their slim finals hopes alive when they host Mt Druitt Town Rangers on Saturday.

**The Sharks** have hit the skids in the past few weeks after their 10 game unbeaten streak came to an end in round 18.

**The Terry** Palapanis coached side will need to win all three of their final games if they are

to have any chance of finishing in the top five.

**The biggest** concern for Palapanis will be finding a way to stop the goals after the Sharks conceded seven in their past two games.

**The departure** of Liam McGing has come at the worst time for Sutherland but they will need to make do against a Mt Druitt attack which has found success this season.

**The Rangers** come into the contest without a win in their last three matches.

**Defence will** be again the big question mark surrounding Aidan Desmond's side who have conceded eight goals in two of their past three contests.



## NPL NSW 2019 Men's 1

### Results 19 Round

**Rockdale City** Suns - Blacktown City 2-4

**APIA Tigers** - Sydney Olympic 3-1

**Sydney United** - Sydney FC Youth 0-2

**Marconi Stallions** - Mt Druitt Rangers 4-2

**Wollongong Wolves** - Sutherland Sharks 4-0

**Hakoah Sydney** - Manly United FC 1-2

### Next Games Round 20

**27.07.2019**

Sutherland Sharks - Mt Druitt Rangers

APIA Tigers - Sydney FC Youth

**28.07.2019**

Blacktown City - Wollongong Wolves

Manly United - Rockdale City Suns

Sydney Olympic - Marconi Stallions

Hakoah Sydney - Sydney FC Youth

### Premier League NSW 1 Table 19 round

	Team	GP	Pts	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-
1	<b>Wollongong Wolves</b>	19	45	14	3	2	49	14	35
2	<b>APIA Tigers</b>	19	38	11	5	3	38	24	14
3	<b>Blacktown City</b>	19	34	10	4	5	28	21	7
4	<b>Sydney United</b>	19	27	7	6	6	24	29	-5
5	<b>Marconi Stallions</b>	19	26	8	2	9	39	29	10
6	<b>Sydney Olympic</b>	19	26	7	5	7	30	30	0
7	<b>Manly United</b>	19	26	7	5	7	24	28	-4
8	<b>Rockdale City Suns</b>	19	23	7	2	10	23	37	-14
9	<b>Sutherland Sharks</b>	19	22	5	7	7	25	27	-2
10	<b>Mt Druitt Rangers</b>	19	21	5	6	8	33	43	-10
11	<b>Sydney FC Youth</b>	19	20	6	2	11	30	43	-13
12	<b>Hakoah Sydney</b>	19	10	3	1	15	11	29	-18

**Mirjan Pavlovic** and Fabricio Fernandez are a dangerous combination with the Uruguayan winning a place in the round 19 team of the week despite being in a losing side.

**Fernandez's trickery** and distribution is a real weapon for Mt Druitt and with experienced striker Pavlovic up top they will be a good chance of scoring if given an opportunity.

**Expect** a high octane encounter which could easily go either way.

## APIA Leichhardt Tigers v Sydney FC, 7pm Saturday at Lambert Park

**Second placed** APIA Leichhardt Tigers will need nothing less than all three points when they host Sydney FC on Saturday if they are to keep any hope of Premiership glory.

**Last season's** grand finalists have gone from strength to strength this season and are hitting top form when it matters most.

**The John** Calleja coached side has gone unbeaten in their past six games winning four and drawing two.

**Their veteran** stars have played a big role in their success with Chris Payne and Franco Parisi in fine fettle for the Tigers.

**APIA will** be without midfielder Nick Stavroulakis who is currently overseas for the match leaving them short of depth in the

midfield.

**They take** on a Sydney FC team flying high after a morale boosting 2-0 win against Sydney United 58.

**The Young** Sky Blues have done it tough this season but proved last round they can match it with anyone.

**Striker Jordan** Swibel and midfielder Harry van der Saag were star performers in the win and coach Jim van Weeren will be banking on them again this week.

**APIA will** go into the match as heavy favourites but if they drop their intensity against an enthusiastic Sydney FC team anything cold happen.

## Manly United v Rockdale City Suns, 3pm Sunday at Cromer Park

**Manly United** will be looking to heap more woe on a struggling Rockdale City Suns outfit when they face off at Cromer Park on Sunday.

**Manly ended** a three game losing streak last round with a 2-1 win against Hakoah Sydney City East.

**The Paul** Dee coached side go into this match in seventh position on 26 points, only behind fifth placed Marconi on goal difference.

**They will** need a win if they are to keep their finals hopes alive.