



## Playoff Picture

### ecogise Nelson Giants (11-2)\*

Current placing: 1<sup>st</sup>

Upcoming Games: (home) vs Waikato pistons  
(away) vs Manawatu Jets  
(home) vs Harbour Heat



#### Situation

The Giants should be heavy favourites to earn a top two spot and even regular season winners with two of their last three games at home and a road game against the struggling Jets. If the Giants win two of the three then they are guaranteed a home semi final. The Giants have a tie break over the Saints and Cougars which means if they end up with the same record then the Giants will be ahead of them. If the Giants win against the Pistons and Heat then they will have the tie break over both of them as well.

### Waikato Pistons (10-1)\*

Current Placing: 2<sup>nd</sup>

Upcoming Games: (away) vs Wellington Saints  
(away) vs Nelson Giants  
(away) vs Harbour Heat  
(home) vs Wellington Saints  
(home) vs Auckland Stars



#### Situation

Pistons have been cruising of late but play four of their last five games against teams with winning records. They need to beat the Giants by more than seven points to have the tie break over them. Winning against the Saints will be pivotal to their chance of securing a home semifinal as they are yet to play them. They currently have the tie break over the Cougars, Hawks, Jets. If Pistons defeat the Heat or lose by less than 18 then they will have the tie break.

## Century City Saints (9-3)\*

Current Placing: 3<sup>rd</sup>

Upcoming Games: (home) vs Waikato Pistons  
(home) vs Bay Hawks  
(away) vs Waikato Pistons  
(home) vs Harbour Heat



### Situation

The Saints will most likely need to win the remainder of their games if they wish to host a semi final. Giants and Cougars have the tie break advantage over the Saints. Saints do have wins over the Hawks and Heat but can lose the tiebreak over them if they lose to the Hawks by more than 1 and Heat by more than 15. Winning the series against the Pistons will play a key role in where they finish.

## Bartercard Christchurch Cougars (9-4)\*

Current Placing: 4<sup>th</sup>

Upcoming Games: (home) vs Manawatu Jets  
(home) vs Bay Hawks  
(home) vs Auckland Stars



### Situation

Cougars by far have the easiest road home playing the remaining games against teams with losing records and all at home. They will need to win all their games to have a chance of securing a home semifinal because the Giants and Pistons have the tie break over them. But if they finish with the same record as the Saints then they have the tiebreak over them and also have the tie break over the Heat.

## Appliance Shed Harbour Heat\* (7-5)

Current Placing: 5<sup>th</sup>

Upcoming Games: (home) vs Bay Hawks  
(home) vs Waikato Pistons  
(away) vs Nelson Giants  
(away) vs Wellington Saints



### Situation

Heat have won three in a row but have a tough finish having to play the away double against the Giants and Saints and then they also host the Pistons Pistons. They currently have no tie break advantage over the top four teams so will need to beat Saints, Pistons and Giants if they aspire to host a quarter final.

## 0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks (4-7)

Current Placing: 6<sup>th</sup>

Upcoming Games: (away) vs Auckland Stars  
(away) vs Harbour Heat  
(away) vs Wellington Saints  
(away) vs Christchurch Cougars  
(home) vs Taranaki Dynamos



### Situation

The Hawks most likely need to win one more game to secure the final playoff spot. They have the tie break advantage over the Jets and if they beat the Stars then they eliminate the Stars from making the playoffs. Hosting a quarter final is a very long shot needing to win all the remainder of their games and hope the likes of Saints, Cougars and Heat slip up.

## McDonalds Manawatu Jets (3-10)

Current Placing: 7<sup>th</sup>

Upcoming Games: (away) vs Christchurch Cougars  
(home) vs Nelson Giants  
(home) vs Taranaki Dynamos



### Situation

The Jets need to have more wins than the Hawks most likely needing to win the remainder of their games. The Jets also need to finish up with more wins than the Stars because they do not have the tiebreak advantage. Two of their remaining three games are teams in the top four.

## Youthtown Auckland Stars (2-10)

Current Placing: 8<sup>th</sup>

Upcoming Games: (home) vs Bay Hawks  
(away) vs Taranaki Dynamos  
(away) vs Waikato Pistons  
(away) vs Christchurch Cougars



### Situation

Stars are on the same boat as the Jets most probably needing to win the remainder of their games to have a chance. The Hawks game is do or die for the Stars eliminating them if they lose. If they can beat the Hawks by more than 11 to win the tie break then. But hopes are slim relying on the Jets and Hawks to keep losing. The Stars have tiebreak advantage over the Jets.

**Note: \* Clinched Playoff Spot**