

Standing Committee Recommendation

To: Chief Executive Officer
From: State League Standing Committee
Date: 24/11/2020

Recommendation (provide a detailed description of the recommendation)

Approve FW's determination that State League 1 and 2 are Amateur Competitions and for FW to work with the SLSC to migrate to Professional Status for SL1 in 2022 & or SL2 in 2022 or 2023 and beyond.

Describe the Issue or Idea (give a concise description of the issue focussing particularly on the problems that are being experienced)

FFA have mandated that competitions must be declared Amateur or Professional for the 2021 season ongoing.

If defined as a Professional League, then the registration of players is restricted to the prescribed registration periods as defined by the FFA and approved by FIFA. Attached in Annexure A for 2021. Irrespective of player status as a Professional or Amateur the registration window would apply to the entire league.

If leagues are defined as Amateur, there are no windows applicable for player registrations, but would prevent the registrations of players as Professionals.

The trigger for defining a league as Professional as defined in the NRG is when a single player participates in the league when a player contract exists and/or the player is paid \$110 or more and the expense cannot be justified as reasonable expenses directly incurred in playing football.

In conjunction with Football West management support, the State League Standing Committee (SLSC) have discussed the issue at length.

The State League had no "Officially" registered Professional players in 2019 or 2020.

The SLSC is anecdotally aware of a significant number of players that possibly should have been recognised as Professionals as defined by the NRG in previous seasons and would likely be the case in 2021. However, it is also likely that no "officially" registered Professional players would be registered in 2021.

The SLSC accept that State League One and to a lesser extend State League Two could be considered "Professional" leagues, but realistically there is not enough time to implement the administrative changes and burdens on the majority of clubs in time for the 2021 season. Making these changes would likely result in the loss of clubs.

That said there are a number of important factors that need to be determined, discussed and mandated for season 2021 and beyond.

The SLSC note that a significant amount of work is required to be undertaken to ensure that SL clubs are compliant with the proposed changes, particularly around the following issues.

- Changes to the NRG

- Exceptions and/or prescribed movements of players between amateur and professional competitions such as 18's, Reserves, FFA Cup.
- Governance & Compliance around Player Payments, Player status and related issues.
- Deadlines that are defined for Summer Competition (A-League) that do not work well with Winter competition (NPL & SL)
- Ensuring that changes do not drive the Player Payments Issue deeper underground.
- Determining appropriate Penalties for breaching the rules
- Ability for governing bodies to act on breaches
- Disparities and contradictions between ATO rules on player payments and FFA rules.

This work would be undertaken by FW & the SLSC in season 2021 and those that can be "safely" implemented in time for season 2021 clearly defined and communicated to clubs as soon as possible.

Describe the benefits of Football West implementing the Recommendation

Essentially keeps the status quo, understanding that it is not perfect, with a concise plan to "professionalise" the State League from 2022 and provide a platform that is built on sound governance, compliance and enforcement.

Provides State League Clubs and FW time to implement and enforce effective change in a timely manner.

Reduces negative impact on State League clubs in 2021.

List the Clubs or Club Associates that have been consulted in reaching the recommendation

Football West
State League Standing Committee
State League Clubs



Signature

24th November 2020

Date

Phil Kelly
Standing Committee Chair