

# Female Football Competition Structure

Football West Discussion Document

August 2019

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0.5	02/09/19	Annie Leyland Henry Fagan	Benchmark Survey Results
0.6	10/09/19	Working Group	Collaboration and minor adjustments
0.7	11/09/19	Annie Leyland	WNPL Implementation Timeline

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## National Premier League

### **Support for a Women's NPL**

Support for a Women's NPL (WNPL) has been consistent throughout Football West's organisational change process and is highlighted as a key activity in the Female Football Plan.

A WNPL will align with Football Federation Australia's (FFA) national competition framework to create a consistent second tier competition across Australia. FFA encourage Member Federations to move towards developing a state-wide structure which assists in creating a pathway in all areas.

Several open comments from the Insights surveys supported the introduction of a WNPL. Additionally, the majority of WNPL Review survey respondents supported a WNPL, with stronger support from younger respondents. Factors for support are outlined in the table below.

<b>Competition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a high quality playing and training environment that is challenging for elite players and coaches.</li> <li>• Create an environment where the best are playing against the best to ensure the highest standard of competition possible is achieved.</li> <li>• Establish promotion and relegation in the senior pathway to ensure that best performing are competing at the highest level.</li> <li>• Deliver an extended competition with more teams.</li> </ul>
<b>Development Pathway</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate a high-quality development pathway that provides the highest possible standard for developing players to fulfil their potential.</li> <li>• Provide a pathway for the development of players from juniors through to the senior team.</li> <li>• Create the highest quality playing and training environment in order to assist W-League players.</li> <li>• Create a greater connection with the W-League.</li> <li>• Establish club Technical Directors to improve coaching standards by providing leadership and mentoring to club coaches.</li> <li>• Establish a regulated development environment through which best practice coaching and the FFA curriculum can be delivered.</li> <li>• Ensure that Coaches are accredited to an appropriate standard in order to ensure high quality player development.</li> <li>• Protect junior development pathways from relegation/promotion of senior teams.</li> <li>• Provide an environment that ensures that highly talented junior players can achieve their goals to reach the W-League and Matilda's by remaining in Western Australia.</li> </ul>
<b>Standards of Competition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise standards in the clubs, with a focus on quality of coaching.</li> <li>• Enact a player roster and points system as the mechanism to ensure clubs invest in development of junior pathways and retaining older and experienced players.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage playing squad stability through the use of the player points system.</li> </ul>
<b>Referees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide referees with high quality games to continue their development, in particular, female referees.</li> </ul>
<b>Club Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a structure to ensure clubs provide the best environment possible for their club members. This includes, but is not limited to:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Coaching quality</li> <li>○ Resources available at games and training for players</li> <li>○ Create a culture of constant improvement at the clubs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Provide a platform for the Football West and FFA to enact changes across the league to ensure clubs are embracing best practices.</li> <li>• Establish clear guidelines and requirements for developing clubs to achieve in the following broad areas: Teams, Youth Development, Coaching, Finance, Facilities, Organisational Structure, Membership Protection, Medical and Reporting.</li> </ul>
<b>Promote the Game</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a competition that is a focal point for the game.</li> <li>• Establish a competition that can be used as a vehicle to market the game within the sport to female players.</li> <li>• Develop a high-level competition that can be marketed in local and social media.</li> <li>• Establish a competition that competes with other elite state competitions such as AFL (WAFLW), Hockey (Premier League) &amp; Netball.</li> <li>• Provide an environment that compares with the level of professionalism available in other elite state competitions.</li> </ul>

## Proposed WNPL Phase-In Process

This is applicable to any club wishing to participate in senior female elite competitions in Western Australia.

In order to participate in the WNPL, a club must meet standard minimum criteria.

It is intended that initial changes would commence for the 2020 season.

The minimum standards required to enter the competitions will increase over time. Should a club meet future criteria ahead of time, Football West would seek to recognise and publicise this on behalf of the clubs.

The areas covered in the criteria are listed to the left. Compliance with the criteria would be the primary responsibility of Football West with oversight on some matters provided by FFA.

WNPL Implementation Timeline in Appendix A.

### **Proposed criteria and roadmap**

A summary of the proposed criteria and roadmap criteria for 2020-2021 is provided below:

#### *WNPL Criteria*

Area	Criteria 2020	Criteria 2021
Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Team and U23s.</li> <li>• Clubs must release players selected for talented player pathway.</li> <li>• Clubs must submit player roster for First Team in line with Competition Rules</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of an additional age group, U17.</li> <li>• Progress towards a MiniRoos program.</li> <li>• Player Points System.</li> </ul>
Youth Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clubs to follow National Curriculum.</li> <li>• Engagement of a Technical Director with C Licence accreditation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submission of Youth Development Plan.</li> <li>• Development of Club Mission and Vision</li> </ul>
Coaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical Director appointed at club.</li> <li>• Senior Coach to have a FFA C Licence (or recognized equivalent) or enrolled in a C Licence Course.</li> <li>• Senior Assistant Coach to have a community coaching qualification.</li> <li>• All coaches to have Working with Children Checks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senior Coach to have a FFA B Licence (or recognised equivalent) or enrolled in a B Licence Course.</li> <li>• U23s Coach to have a FFA C Licence (or recognized equivalent) or enrolled in a C Licence Course.</li> </ul>
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliant with the Associations Act.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Club board to have a minimum 20% female representation.</li> </ul>
Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must maintain financial records as prescribed in law.</li> <li>• Must prepare full financial statements.</li> <li>• Must provide any financial information requested by Football West in 3 working days.</li> <li>• Must have appropriate accounting systems.</li> <li>• Must report to Football West on participation fees breakdown</li> </ul>	
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum Class C facilities (see Competition Regulations).</li> </ul>	

Organisational Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have an organisational structure, including secretary, president, treasurer and submit to Football West.</li> <li>• Appointed Child Protection Manager</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appoint a media/marketing manager.</li> </ul>
Membership Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must adhere to FFA Member Protection Policy.</li> <li>• Must abide by WCC legislation.</li> </ul>	
Medical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level One Sports Trainer available at Senior games.</li> <li>• Treatment table under cover at Senior games.</li> </ul>	
Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Club business plan.</li> </ul>	

#### *Field of play criteria*

The proposed criteria would not include any upgrading the minimum facility requirement from a Class C venue in the first 2 years.

Requirement	Current (Class C)	Proposed (Class B)
Field of Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum width 60m</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Changes</li> </ul>
Technical Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum is 10 seats with backrests– this is to include 5 staff 5 players</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No changes</li> </ul>
Barrier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A chain wire, or similar temporary, fence around the pitch.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fully enclosed temporary or fixed fencing of a minimum height of 1.5 metres</li> </ul>
Floodlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be approved by Football West for matches where present.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No changes</li> </ul>
Changerooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One changeroom for each club minimum.</li> <li>• Must be lockable.</li> <li>• Must have hot and cold-water showers.</li> <li>• Must have toilets.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No changes</li> </ul>
Match Officials' changeroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have hot and cold-water showers</li> <li>• Must have toilets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Changes</li> </ul>

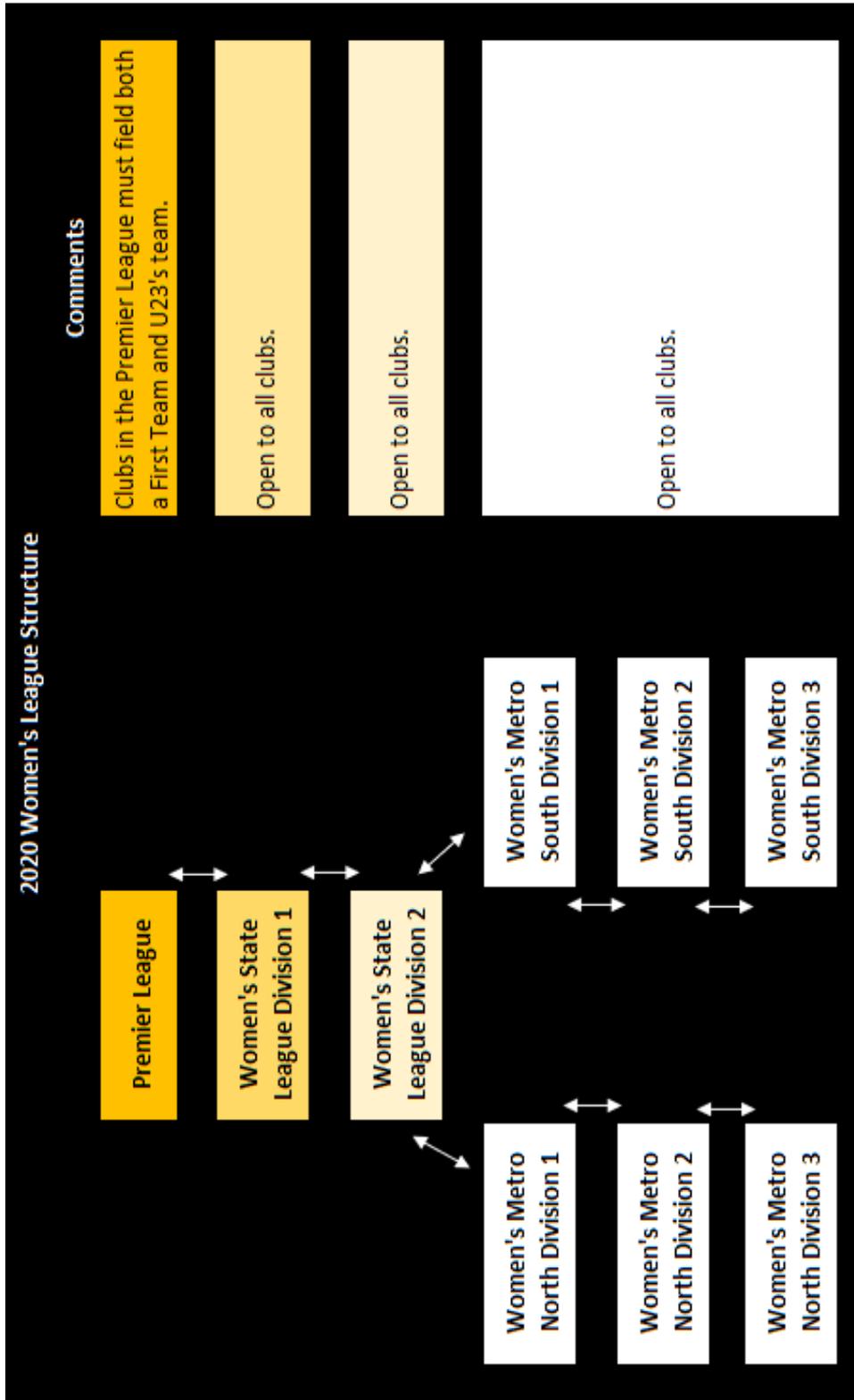
Scoreboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be fully functional and operational at each match.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Changes</li> </ul>
Spectator facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Male and female public toilets with soap.</li> <li>• Canteen or kiosk serving hot and cold drinks and snacks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No changes.</li> </ul>

*Open Women's NPL Amended Player Criteria 2020 to 2021*

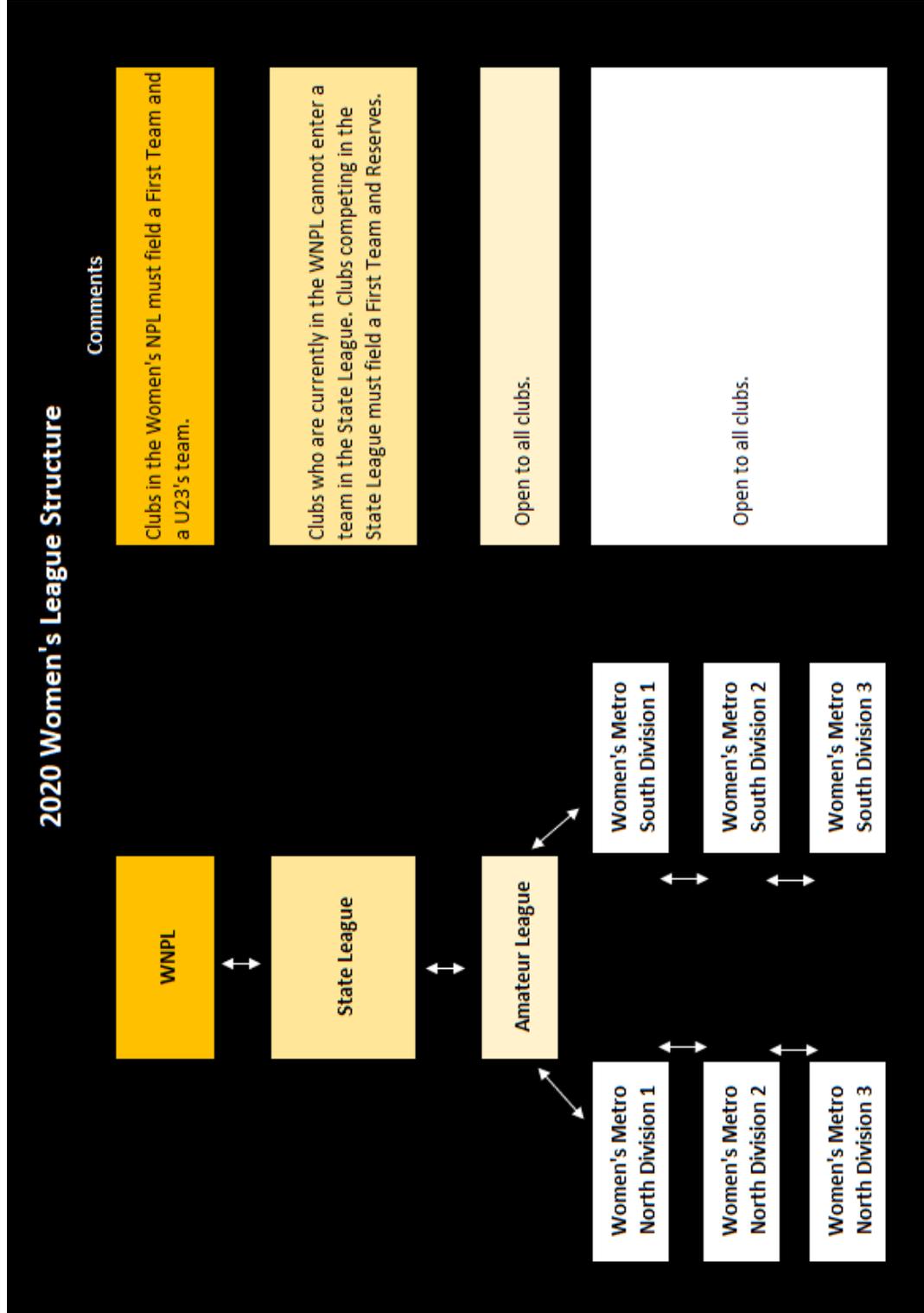
Area	2020	2021
Player Roster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit a Player Roster Composition (PRC) to Football West for First Team with a minimum 18 players and maximum 23 players. (Appendix B)</li> <li>• Player Point System completed and submitted to Football West as preparation for 2021.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Player Points System enacted with 220-point limit (Appendix C).</li> </ul>

## Proposed Changes in League Structure

### 2019 Women's League Structure



## 2020 Women's League Structure



## Finances

### **WNPL**

Increased costs from participating in the WNPL may include:

- Increased requirements for competition administration
- Development of a marketing and promotion plan
- Assistance with Club Development
- Compliance audits

In addition to the entry fee clubs also need to consider the following:

- Increased referee payments
- Player payments
- Engagement and retention of qualified coaches and technical directors
- Upgrades to existing club facilities

## Appendix A

### WNPL Implementation Timeline 2019

## WNPL IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE 2019

Amateur

Structure/ Criteria Consultation		
Proposed Date	Task	Competition
2/09/19	Consultation with Women's Standing Committee regarding draft competition structure and WNPL criteria.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6/09/19	Football West – Internal Review and consultation.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13/09/19	Website/ Social Announcement of review of senior female competition structure s. Consultation forum details released	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13/9/19	Survey distributed to all clubs and stakeholders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
23/09/19	Consultation Forum with all stakeholders to discuss draft competition structure and WNPL criteria	<input type="checkbox"/>
2/10/19	Consolidation of all documents and surveys and Recommendation formed.	<input type="checkbox"/>
9/10/19	Recommendation and supporting documents submitted for Football West Board Pack.	<input type="checkbox"/>
23/10/19	Board Meeting - Submission of proposed changes to board members	<input type="checkbox"/>
24/10/19	Release final competition structure and applicant criteria	<input type="checkbox"/>
1/12/19	Release revised competition rules	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expression of Interest Process		
24/10/19	Expression of interest process released	<input type="checkbox"/>
15/11/19	Expressions of Interest close	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assessment		
24/10/19	Football West to appoint and approve key personnel for Assessment panel, including external consultants	<input type="checkbox"/>
20/11/19	Assessment Panel meet to discuss EOI's.	<input type="checkbox"/>
25/11/19	Assessment Panel present final recommendations to Football West for the successful clubs	<input type="checkbox"/>
29/11/19	Football West approval of recommendations	<input type="checkbox"/>
1/12/19	Clubs notified of decision. Public announcement of competition by Football West.	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Appendix B

### ***Player Roster Composition***

<b>Player Roster Composition</b>	
Youth Players	Each Team is permitted to have no more than 6 players on their player roster under the age of 17 in any one season (16 years of age or younger on 31st December in that competition season);
Matildas	Each Team is permitted to have no more than 2 current FFA contracted Matildas on their player roster in any one season;
W-League Players	Each Team is permitted to have no more than 3 W-League Players on their player roster in any one season;
Visa Players	Each Team is permitted to have no more than 3 Visa Players on their roster in any one season.

### **NPL Club First Team Player Roster Requirements**

- At all times during a NPL season, a NPL Club must include a minimum of 18 Players on its First Team Player Roster and may include a maximum of 23 Players on its First Team Player Roster.
- A NPL Club may promote a Player from its NPL U23's to play for its First Team up to a maximum of 8 of matches throughout a NPL season without being required to include such Player on the First Team Player Roster. In order for such Player to be eligible to play in more than 8 of the matches in the NPL season, the Player must be included on the NPL Club's First Team Player Roster.
- Any player who is promoted to the NPL Player Roster cannot play in the lower leagues. Once a player is on the NPL player roster, they can then be removed in order to play in the State League, but they cannot play again in Metro League, and cannot then be re-added to the NPL roster for a second time in that season. Once a player has played in 8 NPL matches, they cannot play in the State League during that season, for that club.
- An individual player can only be added once and removed once from Player Roster for that NPL Club.
- For the purpose of the PRC W-League and U19 NTC graduates (within 1 year) need to be listed on the NPL First Team player roster.
- Playing in a match is defined as taking the field of play (i.e. in the starting 11 or entering the field as a substitute). For the avoidance of doubt, it will not constitute playing a match if the Player remains on the bench and does not enter the field of play.

## Notes and Definitions:

### **Characteristics:**

- A player may fulfil multiple categories simultaneously. I.e. A player may be classified as a Matilda and a W-League Player on a Player Roster. Clubs must take this into consideration when constructing their Player Roster.

### **Minimum Age**

- All Players on the Player Roster and competing in the NPL Women's competition must as a minimum turn 15 years of age by 31 December in that competition season.

### **Age:**

- A players age is based on their age as at 31st December in that NPL competition season.

### **Youth Player**

Please refer to the table below in respect to the relevant point deductions in the Youth Player category:

<i>Player's Age as at 31 December in current NPL season</i>	<i>Points Deduction</i>
22 years of age	-1
21 years of age	-2
20 years of age	-3
19 years of age	-4
18 years of age and Under	-5

### **W-League Players**

- For the purpose of the PRC, a player coming directly from the W-League (her last club immediately prior to registering with the NPL club) will be classified as a W-League Player.
- For the purpose of the PRC a current W-League player is a player who was in the starting team or who took the field as a substitute in 5 or more W-League fixtures in the most recent W-League.

### **Loyalty Players**

- The definition of a Loyalty Player is a player that was registered with the same club in the previous season/year (complete season) in either the first team or any of the youth teams i.e. Player A registered with club A only in 2018 and she then registered with club A again in 2019. In 2019, she will be regarded as a Loyalty Player.
- Should a player move into the Talented Player Pathway (W-League and/or NTC) and return to their previous NPL club (prior to moving into the Talented Player Pathway) they will be classified as a Loyalty Player for the purpose of the PRC.

### **Visa Players**

- Any player who is not an Australian Citizen or does not have Permanent Residency status is considered a Visa Player. A player must be a Permanent Resident of Australia or hold Australian Citizenship. This is consistent with the definition in the NPL Men's PPS.

## Appendix C

### **Player Point System Document**

In moving towards a similar model that is adopted in the NPL Men’s competition, the following model will should be looked at being introduced in 2021 to provide us with an opportunity to directly address the key issues as identified, throughout 2020 assessing the effectiveness of the current PPS model in operation across the NPL Women’s competition in WA.

In order to achieve our objectives, the following system, titled the Player Roster Composition (**PRC**) is proposed to address the specific detail on the composition of a player roster via certain categories. This is a hybrid system that took into consideration the player roster regulations in the Westfield W-League, Foxtel National Youth League, Hyundai A-League and the English Premier League. The PRC allows clubs the flexibility to build a player roster with the WNCR objectives in consideration.

The PRC will provide a great stepping stone in encouraging clubs to address the key areas in the NPL Women’s competition such as:

- Incentivising and encouraging experienced players to remain and return to the elite state-based competition.
- Encouraging clubs to develop a youth development structure that promotes players from the club’s youth teams into the Senior Women’s team.
- Ensuring competition parity and stability by addressing key areas of a roster.

It is believed the ideal model is to move to a PPS in 2021 similar to which is adopted by the NPL Men’s competition. With the knowledge, experience and data gathered during the 2020 season, it will enable us to review and construct the PPS into the ideal framework in order to achieve our objectives.

### **Player Points Cap**

The PPS points cap (**Points Cap**) applies to each NPL Club’s First Team Player Roster (**First Team Player Roster**) and this First Team is required to remain within the Points Cap at all times.

The Points Cap for the 2021 season will be set by each Member Federation, in consultation with FFA, up to a maximum of **220 points**.

Each Player is, as a starting point, attributed a points value of 10 points, after which her points value is adjusted depending on certain characteristics which result in points being added to or deducted from the Player’s points value. A Player’s points value cannot be less than 0 points.

Category	Points Adjustment	Criteria
Youth Player	-1 for each year the Player is under 23 years of age	A Youth Player is 23 years of age or younger as at 31 December of the current NPL season. In relation to a Player’s age, one (1) point is deducted from the Player’s points value for each year the Player is under 23 years of age. The maximum adjustment to a Player’s points value under this category is minus five (5) points.
Visa Player	+10	A Visa Player is any Player who is not an Australian Player. Ten (10) points is added to a Player’s points value if that Player is a Visa Player.

		<p>A Visa Player will only incur a maximum of 20 points on a First Team Player Roster and will not otherwise be subject to the Switching Player category.</p> <p>A Visa Player may still benefit from the other categories of the PPS (e.g. Youth Player).</p> <p>A NPL Club can have a maximum of three (3) Visa Players on their First Team Player Roster at any one time.</p>
Homegrown Player	1 for each season registered with the NPL Club	<p>A Homegrown Player is a Player that has been registered for any period during a season with her NPL Club's Age-Eligible Teams.</p> <p>One (1) point is deducted from the Player's points value for each season the Player was registered with her NPL Club's Age-Eligible Teams.</p> <p>The maximum adjustment to a Player's points value under this category is minus five (5) points</p>
Loyalty Player	-1 for each continuous season with the NPL Club's First Team (after 5 <sup>th</sup> season)	<p>A Loyalty Player is a Player that has registered for her NPL Club's First Team and/or U23's for five (5) continuous seasons.</p> <p>One (1) point is deducted from a Player's points value for each season, starting from her fourth continuous season, in which the Player is registered for the NPL Club's First Team and/or U23's.</p>
Switching Player	+5	<p>Five (5) points is added to a Player's points value if:</p> <p>she was registered as a professional with her previous Club (this does not apply to Westfield W-League players returning to their WNPL club after the W-League season or the nominated Australian Marquee Player); or</p> <p>she was registered in the NPL as an amateur with her previous NPL Club and she played ten (10) or more games in that NPL Club's First Team in the most recent NPL season (unless the Player's last registration was with a National Elite Pathway Team).</p>
	+3	<p>Three (3) points is added to a Player's points value if she was registered in the NPL as an amateur with her previous NPL Club and played in less than ten (10) games in that NPL Club's First Team in the most recent NPL season (unless the Player's last registration was with a National Elite Pathway Team).</p>
	+2	<p>Two (2) points is added to a Player's points value if she is an Australian Player and her last registration was as an amateur with an overseas Club.</p>
	+2	<p>Two (2) point is added to a Player's points value if the Player was last registered as an amateur with a National Elite Pathway Team and registers for a NPL Club other than their NPL Club of origin (i.e. the NPL Club she was registered with prior to that National Elite Pathway Team).</p>
Pathway Player	0	<p>No points are added to, or deducted from, a Player's points value only by virtue of that Player having left a NPL Club to join a National Elite Pathway Team and having returned to the same NPL Club.</p>
Westfield W-League Player	+5	<p>For Purpose of the PPS, Five (5) points is added for any player who played (in the starting team or who took the field as a substitute) in 5 or more W-League fixtures in any of the most recent three (3) W-League seasons. (Eligible for other reductions)</p>
Australian Marquee Player	0	<p>A player who has played for the Matilda's or has been registered as a professional player in an overseas league in the last three seasons.</p>

		The Australian Marquee Player will only incur a maximum of ten (10) points on a First Team Player Roster and will not otherwise be subject to the Switching Player category. The Player can benefit from the other categories of the PPS (i.e. Homegrown Player). An NPL Club can have one (1) Player on its First Team Player Roster nominated as its Australian Marquee Player and that player can only be used for 1 season, in their first season, within the league.
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## Points Deductions

Category	Points Bonus	Criteria
Youth Player Advancement	-3 per Player	Three (3) points may be deducted from a NPL Club's Points Total for each registered Player that is signed by a National Elite Pathway Team from the NPL Club's Age-Eligible Teams. The points deduction will only apply for one (1) NPL season, which must be applied in either the NPL season that the relevant Player moves to the National Elite Pathway Team, or the next NPL season.
First Team Player Advancement	-8 per Player	Eight (8) points may be deducted from a NPL Club's Points Total for each registered Player that is signed by a National Elite Pathway Team from the NPL Club's First Team Player Roster. The points deduction will only apply for one (1) NPL season, which must be applied in either the NPL season that the relevant Player moves to the National Elite Pathway Team, or the next NPL season.
Promoted Club	-20 per Club	A Promoted Club will receive a deduction of 20 points from their Points Total. This points deduction only applies for the Promoted Club's first season following promotion into, or being granted a licence to participate in, the NPL.
Promoted Club	-10 per Club	A Promoted Club will receive a deduction of 10 points from their Points Total. This points deduction only applies for the Promoted Club's second season following promotion into, or being granted a licence to participate in, the NPL.
Regional Concession	-20 per Club	A Regional Club as determined by Football West will receive a deduction of 20 points from their Points Total.

### Notes and Definitions:

#### National Elite Pathway Team

A National Elite Pathway Team is a team which participates in the National Elite Pathway, as determined by the FFA Technical Department and the Member Federations from time to time. Points are credited for the movement of Players through the National Elite Pathway.

**For the purposes of the PPS, a team is a National Elite Pathway Team if they are one of the following:**

- National Training Centre team (full-time participants only), or;
- FFA Future Matildas

#### Homegrown Player

- A Player does not need to register in continuous seasons in a NPL Club's Age-Eligible Teams to be eligible for Homegrown Player points.
- Example: For a Player who was registered for the NPL Club in the U14s and U16s but was not registered with the NPL Club in the U18s to U20s, a total of two (2) points will be deducted from her points value for the current season.
- A Player is eligible for Homegrown Player points at the same time as being eligible for Loyalty Player points.
- For the avoidance of doubt, a Player is eligible to receive a points deduction as a Homegrown Player where that Player was registered to the NPL Club's Age Eligible Teams, prior to that NPL Club being granted an NPL licence.

### Loyalty Player

- Example: A Player is registered with a NPL Club's First Team in 2017, 2018 and 2019 (continuous seasons). If also registered in 2020, she will be eligible to receive her first point reduction of one (1) point as a Loyalty Player in the 2020 season.
- If a Player is not registered with any Club for a season and subsequently returns to her last NPL Club, the number of continuous seasons of registering for that NPL Club will be deemed to be continuous.
- Example: A Player was registered with the same NPL Club in 2016, 2017 and 2018 (continuous seasons), however was not registered with any Club in 2019. If the Player registers with that NPL Club in 2020, it will be deemed to be her fourth continuous season with that NPL Club.
- Should a Player move into a National Elite Pathway Team, the determination of the continuous seasons of service will not be deemed to have ceased if she returns to her previous NPL Club. During the Player's time in the National Elite Pathway Team, the calculation of continuous seasons of service will be suspended.
- Example: Player Mary Smith of NPL Club A has been part of the First Team squad for three (3) continuous seasons. She then moves to a Westfield W-League Club for two (2) years and then at the completion of her stint with that Westfield W-League Club, she returns to NPL Club A. This season with NPL Club A will be deemed his fourth continuous season.

### Switching Player

- In the event that a Player is a Switching Player, she can only be classified in one (1) category (e.g. a Player cannot incur Switching Player points in two (2) different categories).
- For the purposes of Switching Player points, played means taking the field of play (i.e. part of the starting eleven or taking the field as a substitute).
- Where a Player was registered with a NPL Club (**Former NPL Club**) and subsequently:
  - registers with a Club that does not participate in the NPL, W-League and
  - having not played for the non-NPL Club in a competitive match seeks to register with a subsequent NPL Club (**Subsequent NPL Club**);
  - the Member Federation or FFA may attribute Switching Player Points for that Player upon registration with the Subsequent NPL Club as if the Player had transferred directly from the Former NPL Club to the Subsequent NPL Club.
- The Subsequent NPL Club may apply to FFA or the Member Federation (whichever is applicable) to justify the reasons as to why Switching Player points should not apply.
- The Member Federation has the right to determine in its sole and absolute discretion as to whether Switching Player points will apply where the Member Federation is the Competition Administrator.
- FFA has the right to determine in its sole and absolute discretion as to whether Switching Player points will apply in the event that the NPL Club qualifies for the national NPL Finals Series.
- Switching Player points also apply for mid-season registrations and transfers, including a Player promoted from a NPL Club's Age-Eligible Team.

- Where a Player is promoted from an NPL Club's Age-Eligible Team (or equivalent) to an NPL Club's First Team Player Roster during the season, Switching Player Points will be applied where the Player's registration immediately prior (e.g. earlier in the 2019 season) or in the previous NPL season was with another NPL Club.

#### **Pathway Player**

- A Pathway Player is subject to all other categories of the PPS (other than the Switching Player category). For example, a Pathway Player is eligible for Loyalty Player points and Homegrown Player points.
- A Player who departs a NPL Club for a National Elite Pathway Team and returns to the same NPL Club will be classified as a Pathway Player provided the Player has remained within the National Elite Pathway for the duration of their absence from the relevant NPL Club.

#### **Westfield W-League Player**

- Westfield W-League Player is subject to all other categories of the PPS (e.g. Homegrown Player) including the Switching Player category.

#### **Australian Marquee Player**

- An Australian Marquee Player is subject to all other categories of the PPS (e.g. Homegrown Player) but will not be subject to the Switching Player category:
  - a) Subject to paragraph (b) below, a Player may only be categorised as an Australian Marquee Player in his first season with the NPL Club and for one (1) season only in his career for that NPL Club. For the avoidance of doubt, a Player is not able to be an Australian Marquee Player in his second season in the NPL with that NPL Club.

#### **Points Deduction – Youth Player Advancement**

- Example: A NPL Club has an U14 team Player and an U20 team Player signed this season by a National Elite Pathway Team. The NPL Club can choose to have:
  - a) six (6) points deducted (-6 points) from this season's Points Total;
  - b) three (3) points deducted (-3 points) from this season's and next season's Points Total; or
  - c) six (6) points deducted (-6 points) from next season's Points Total.

#### **Points Deduction – First Team Player Advancement**

- Example: A NPL Club has two (2) First Team Players signed this season by a National Elite Pathway Team. The NPL Club can choose to have
  - a) sixteen points deducted (-16 points) from this season's Points Total;
  - b) eight (8) points deducted (-8 points) from this season's and next season's Points Total; or
  - c) sixteen points deducted (-16 points) from next season's Points Total.

#### **Points Deduction – Promoted Club**

This category applies to Clubs promoted into the NPL or an entity granted a licence to participate in the NPL for the first time. This points deduction only applies for the Promoted Club's first (-20 points) and second (-10 points) season following promotion into, or being granted a licence to participate in, the NPL.

## Appendix D

### *Player Point System Review of 3 current Women's Premier League Clubs*

Team	2019 Points
Queens Park	239
Northern Redbacks	201
Stirling Panthers	188