



**FOOTBALL  
WEST**

**BUILDING  
STRONGER  
CLUBS**

## **Participation Agreement Guide**

### **1. Overview of Football West and Club Development across WA**

Football West is the governing body for football in Western Australia and represents all levels of competition, development and coaching in metropolitan and regional areas.

A key component of the Football West 2018-2022 Strategic Plan is to empower all clubs participating in Football West competitions.

With approximately 250 clubs and 20 regional associations in WA, Football West desires to partner closer with the community to develop stronger relationships so the game can prosper across the state.

As part of this, Football West has developed the [Building Stronger Clubs](#) initiative which intends to future proof football in Western Australia by having good practice clubs and associations that are empowered to provide a better experience for all, including players, coaches, match officials and volunteers.

Participation Agreements form the foundation of Building Stronger Clubs and the basis upon which we can help grow the game together.

### **2. What is a Participation Agreement?**

The Participation Agreement is a formalised affiliation document between your Club/Association and Football West.

This is a legal document suited for Clubs/Associations in three circumstances – Metropolitan Clubs, Regional Associations and Regional Clubs.

Broadly speaking, it covers Football West's and Club/Association's general obligations, commercial rights, intellectual property, marketing and co-operation.

### **3. What is the rationale for Participation Agreements and what's in it for us?**

Below are key reasons why Football West has introduced Participation Agreements and the benefits for Clubs/Associations:

1. Sound sports governance is becoming increasingly important and driven by strategic imperatives at the highest level, including Sport Australia and Football Australia. Football West wishes to work with Club/Associations to confirm the basic level of governance across all types of football Clubs/Associations in WA. This includes Incorporation and financial solvency. Participation Agreements confirm that Clubs/Associations are meeting their minimum requirements of being incorporated.
2. This process acts as an affiliation for Clubs/Associations with Football West much like common affiliation processes in club-based sports to state sporting organisations. This affiliation will permit the Club/Association to be involved in Football West competitions from 2022.
3. Enable Football West to work more closely in partnership with your Club/Association by being eligible for the Building Stronger Clubs program and future grant opportunities.
4. Confirms the roles and responsibilities of Football West and Clubs/Associations. This provides a formalised commitment to your Club/Association and vice versa to be held accountable to.

### **4. How can we complete the Participation Agreement?**

Football West aims to make this process as simple as possible.

1. Your Club/Association can simply download, circulate it within your committee for discussion and sign the relevant Participation Agreement (Metro Club, Regional Association or Regional Club) from the [Club House](#) on the Football West website.
2. This can be returned to Football West via email at [clubsupport@footballwest.com.au](mailto:clubsupport@footballwest.com.au)
3. Include a copy of the Club/Association's recent account or financial statement to confirm financial solvency. Football West keeps these strictly confidential and does not base any funding decisions on the content of financial statements if a Club/Association is financially solvent.

### **5. Is there a fee or ongoing cost for our Club/Association to Football West through the Participation Agreement?**

No, pre-existing registration fee structures remain in place. There are no additional fees or financial structures being implemented through the Agreement.

**6. What will change in the future for Clubs/Associations by signing this agreement?**

Nothing changes, except that the relationship between the Club/Association and Football West will be formalised to enable a better partnership between the two parties. Improving communication, governance, support, grants and formally acknowledging Clubs/Associations that are part of the football family.

**7. We are a Regional Club/Association, how have you considered our requirements?**

Yes, Football West is keen to engage with regional football communities has created versions of the Participation Agreement customised to suit the realities of Regional Associations and Regional Clubs.

For Regional Associations, this comes to fruition through Schedule 1 – Special Conditions. This effectively delegates authority and empowers the Associations as competition administrators for football in their region of responsibility.

Clubs in regional WA can simply complete the Regional Club Participation Agreement which states that the club competes in their respective Association/s.

**8. Why do Football West need to view our latest financials or audit the club if need be?**

Football West do not have the capability or intent to conduct annual reviews of each affiliated Club/Association's financials. The Participation Agreement confirms that Clubs/Associations, as per the Associations Incorporations Act, are financially solvent and have their financials audited, where necessary.

Football West will only intervene/assist in reviewing these documents if the club administrator has raised an issue to do so in circumstances of insolvency or legal concerns where Football West has been called upon.

**9. What aspect of our financials do Football West need to sight?**

To confirm that the Club/Association is financially solvent. A recent copy of a financial or bank account statement will suffice. Football West will treat this information with the strictest confidence.

**10. Why do Football West need to know in-house matters within Clubs/Associations?**

Football West through this process aren't seeking to know all Clubs/Associations in-house matters. Simply in the event a club administrator cannot assist in resolving an issue or member protection scenario, Football West could provide support.

**11. How does the Participation Agreement effect our sponsors/partners at Club/Association level?**

Clubs/Associations remain free to engage in sponsorship/partnership arrangements. As is currently the case, restrictions would only apply for certain Football West or Football Australia events/programs where partner obligations exist.

**12. With the Participation Agreement, can we expect Football West to work closer with us?**

Absolutely, this is the goal for Football West in building stronger relationships and being more responsive to Club/Association needs. This way Football West can assist and be available whenever the Club/Associations have support requests so we can grow the game together.

**13. Why does the Participation Agreement conclude in 2022? Why not a longer term?**

Football West intends to get things off the ground initially and then look to extend agreements once formalities and relationships are more grounded.

**14. Where can we access support from Football West to improve our governance in line with the Participation Agreement?**

Football West is keen to work with Clubs and Associations to improve governance and therefore the football experience for all participants.

Football West's Club Engagement Lead, Abid Imam can be contacted at [abid.imam@footballwest.com.au](mailto:abid.imam@footballwest.com.au).

A comprehensive club development resource space is available at the Football West *Club House* online <https://www.footballwest.com.au/clubs>