

Decision Notification

Title: Junior Boy's NPL restructure	Confidential	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Standing Committee Recommendation <p>To restructure the Junior National Premier League format and number of clubs (currently 22). Restructure could be based on 2 options:</p> <p>OPTION 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPL 1 based on 12 League Senior Squads and their 12 Junior teams- making the NPL structure streamlined. NPL 2 base on Senior Squads in Division 1 and their Junior teams- making the pathway for State League Squads NPL 3 base on Senior Squads in Division 2 and their Junior teams- making the pathway for State League Squads <p>OPTION 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restructure to 2 Divisions consisting of 12 teams based on merit of results achieved of the 5 year club results. Division 1 to comprise of 12 clubs with the top results over that period. Division 2 to comprise of 12 clubs with the next results over that period Promotion and relegation will occur at completion of season. 		
Decision	Noted <input type="checkbox"/>	Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reasons for Decision <p>Football West sought feedback on the proposed recommendation from the Game Development Committee, Football Australia technical staff including FA Technical Director Trevor Morgan and ex-FA Technical Director, Rob Sherman.</p> <p>The following issues were raised and noted in opposition to the recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The key purpose of Youth Development is to develop better players and lead to the retention of more players. Key factors of youth development include long term development, individual focus, playing opportunities, quality programs, quality and qualified staff and representation of youth development on a club's committee. Competition results are not by themselves a determining factor as they generally relate to short-term goals. Instead, matches are a meaningful opportunity to measure progress with the right philosophical approach. Promotion and relegation within junior competitions or linking youth development with senior performance will engender a focus on winning. Typical issues when the quality of a program is measured by results include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Players are selected on maturity and current performance and not on potential (ie short term development) Players are recruited to bolster a winning team Player migration and trial process 		

- Any expansion to the Junior NPL in its current structure must be planned and aimed at achieving specific goals in relation to youth development, not based on the performance of senior teams.
- There is no mechanism for entry in to or exit from the Junior NPL provided for in the recommendation.
- Appropriate consultation and consensus needs to occur with all of the relevant Standing Committees and individual clubs who currently participate in, or wish to participate in, the Junior Boy's NPL.
- The implementation and extent of Football Australia's "One Football" strategy which includes domestic competitions and pathways.
- The implementation of Football Australia's National Club Licencing System, planned for NPL clubs in 2023, will determine future requirements for clubs to participate in the NPL.
- Football Australia technical and competition staff are reviewing the Junior NPL competition structure to drive consistency across the Member Federations.
- The number of juniors at the NPL age groups has remained constant over the past few years and are sufficient to cover the current number of players required across the NPL.
- The onus is on clubs to provide a positive, learning environment at an appropriate price point to attract and retain players.
- Any changes will need to consider the potential introduction of a Junior Girls NPL structure.

Due to the above, Football West does not support the recommendation.

Football West will work with clubs on the following:

- Identify opportunities to decrease the number of one sided games within the current structure.
- Identify and introduce targeted competition rules to mitigate issues arising from a results based focus as above.
- Promotion of best practice youth development philosophy and behaviors to Technical Directors, Coaches and parents.
- Progress implementation of club criteria in line with the National Club Licencing System to ensure that clubs outside of the current NPL competition structure can be recognized for meeting the Junior NPL criteria.

Further Action Required?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<i>If yes, provide details</i>	As detailed above.
Authorised By	
James Curtis, Chief Executive Officer	28/9/2021