

## Decision Notification

<b>Title: Womens State League / Amateur League amalgamation</b>	<b>Confidential</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
<p><b>Standing Committee Recommendation</b></p> <p><i>Excerpt from WSC recommendation 27/9/21:</i></p> <p>For the 2022 season and moving forward that the women's state league and amateur league be amalgamated into a state league with multiple divisions.</p> <p><b>State League format to incorporate:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple Divisions, with preference to highest State League division having even numbers and working down. Ideal numbers seem to 8 or 12 as this leads to 21/22 games season</li> <li>• Promotion and Relegation between divisions</li> <li>• Top 4 Cup to be reinstated at end of season (In line with men's - either cup or promotion/relegation competition)</li> <li>• NPLW Clubs allowed to enter State League (*This will need some rules clarifications)</li> <li>• FW to ask for applications from all existing State and Amateur League teams and any new teams wishing to play in a statewide league</li> <li>• Entry to SL is by Application / Applications to take into account finishing positions in Metro Leagues and/or u16/18 competitions</li> <li>• New clubs / teams to enter at the bottom divisions</li> </ul>			
<b>Decision</b>	Noted <input type="checkbox"/>	Approved <input type="checkbox"/>	Not Approved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>The State League and Amateur League will remain as is for season 2022.</p> <p>This decision has been endorsed by the Football West Game Development Committee.</p> <p>The issues that the Women's Standing Committee have identified with the current structure of the Women's State and Amateur Leagues are noted.</p> <p>However, any extensive change requires a detailed review of not only the structure in those competitions but of the NPL Women's competition and Metro Leagues.</p>			

Given the timeframe to undertake such consultation and review, any wholesale changes to the structure will not be introduced in 2022. However, there is scope to work within the existing structure for 2022 to address some of the concerns.

These will include:

- The introduction of a top 4 competition in the Women's State League.
- The mandatory participation of clubs in a Women's State League night series competition.
- A review of the division size in each competition, with a proposed structure of 8 team divisions to align to the NPLW competition.

For 2022, this will not include:

- An amalgamation of the competitions
- NPLW clubs being able to compete in the Women's State League competition

Key rationale for the decision include:

1. The recommendation effectively highlights key challenges facing the Women's structure, but the proposed solutions do not contain the level of detail required for such extensive changes to leagues. All clubs affected by these changes will need to be consulted, especially given recruitment for 2022 has already commenced.
2. Additional practicalities, including player movement and eligibility, promotion / relegation, entry to the league and appropriate placement in divisions need to be defined. These elements will take time to refine, agree upon and then reflect in the rules which would not be achievable given the timeframes ahead of the 2022 season.
3. In the consultation period prior to the formation of the NPLW, the feedback was overwhelmingly in favour of not allowing NPLW clubs to compete in the State League. To reverse this decision requires buy in from the stakeholders. As part of the review, a consultation process with all stakeholders will be undertaken.
4. A holistic review of the female pathway is required to assess the progress of the NPLW, the underpinning competition and the junior pathway. To review these leagues in isolation prior to a review would be counter-productive (given potential changes). This review would be undertaken in 2022 for outcomes to be implemented in 2023.

5. Football West is committed to looking at practical strategies to raise the standards for 2022, including the commitment to a full night series and a top 4 finals competition for the state league, revised division sizes to ensure a more even competition and uniform match week schedules.
6. Football West is committed to working with the Women's Standing Committee and all stakeholders in the women's game to develop more detail around the practicalities of such a proposal in future years that can drive improvement and development in these leagues.

**Further Action Required?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

*If yes, provide details*

- Consultation with clubs and Women's Standing Committee on:
  1. The overall structure of the Women's game, its pathways and development opportunities.
  2. The proposal to merge the State League & Amateur leagues and allowing NPLW clubs to compete in the new structure, should that fit into the findings of the holistic review.
  3. The practical measures required to achieve some of the key objectives and mitigate some of the existing challenges.
- Competition rules to be revised for Season 2022 to reflect any changes introduced.

**Authorised By**

James Curtis, Chief Executive Officer

16 November