

Standing Committee Recommendation

To: Chief Executive Officer
From: Womens Standing Committee
Date: 06/09/21

Recommendation: Women's NPL

For the 2022 season the WSC recommends that there be several refinements brought in as per initial discussions for the Women's NPL competition when originally started.

1a) Reduce NPLW U23s to U21

NPL First team - as per normal

NPL Reserves (u23) recommendation to move to an under 21 age range therefore lowering the age group by 2 years. (Overage player numbers to be discussed later)

1b) Mandate NPLW clubs to have an U16 junior team

Junior Team introduction: The recommendation is that all NPL teams have a junior team designated for the 2022 season, the age group recommended is an under 16 team.

For the 2022 Season the Junior Team would just be a designated team and not bound to a specific league: Could play in the 16 Division 1/2/3 as needed, or if the club deemed that the team need to play at a higher level than an under 18 or Womens competition as long as players are eligible to play in the relevant competition.

2023 would see the team ideally play in the 16s age group in Division 1 in an open competition not limited to just NPL clubs.

1c) Introduce a Player Points System (PPS)

Introduction of the player points cap: As per discussions it's felt that to promote progression within clubs and making it a fairer playing field going forward the introduction of a player points system is introduced for the 2022 season with further restrictions in the 2023 season.

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

1a) Reduce NPLW U23s to U21

u23 - u21: Following on from data provided by FW and the initial framework of the NPL it was felt that starting with a u23 team and then moving to a 21 age group at a later date would be beneficial, the numbers suggested by FW in the current NPL season would suggest that the 21's age group be viable for the 2022 season.

1b) Mandate NPLW clubs to have an U16 junior team

Junior Teams: For NPL to succeed there needs to be a clear path of progression for all NPL teams to be sustainable, having 3 teams shows clear progression and a pathway within a clubs structure and therefore would stop an over reliance on getting players from other teams.

With a 21 age group for reserves it is felt that a 16s age group would complement this given current climate: at 17/18 most players at the required level would play u21s there for having an under 18s comp would dilute the player pool quality.

Under 16s for 2022 and then again 2023 will mean clubs need to invest in junior football and coaching, looking forward an under 16 competition will need feeder age groups to be sustainable, so clubs will need to invest in junior programs such as u12 and u14, the more focus on these age groups will be better for Girls and Womens football in the future. By setting up these pathways the introduction of more junior teams for NPL clubs at a later stage is feasible and easier to implement.

Maybe a consultation should be put in place with the NPL teams and ask for what they think they best age is for and reasons, but its important that a junior team be attached for the 2022 and then 2023 seasons.

1c) Introduce a Player Points System (PPS)

Player Points: This would in theory level the playing field and give teams a clear understanding of what they can do as far as recruitment and development of players going forward. Coupling this in with junior team requirements would also benefit clubs to show development of players through junior ranks has an increased benefit.

Describe the benefits of Football West implementing the Recommendation

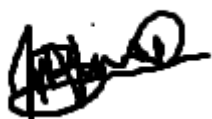
By setting a clear framework of Junior Football into the WNPL it will develop the Girls and Women's competitions and set the bar higher for elite football which will benefit Girls and Womens sport in WA for the long term.

Sustainability of the NPL competition will be increased with better coaching of juniors through the ranks which in theory will increase chances of future State / W League / Matilda's representation.

Setting Junior guidelines and structures such as player points will also give a framework of what is needed for clubs wishing to join / progress to the NPL structure.

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

- Womens Standing Committee
- Freemantle (Rob)
- Redbacks (Forum, Tim H) (Previously Conrad M. & G Farrell)
- Conrad McKelvie (NTC)



Signature

9/9/2021

Date

Matthew Burnie

Deputy Standing Committee Chair