

## Attn: NPLWA, State League & Amateur Clubs



Dear Clubs

As we near the halfway point of the season, Football West wanted to take a moment to provide an update on our COVID-19 postponement policy. We recognise that COVID continues to impact clubs at various levels. Football West has always aimed to accommodate postponements for a wide range of teams and competitions. The aim being to maintain competition integrity, while ensuring that a full season of fixtures can be played.

To date we have had 269 requests across all competitions from Clubs. Our team has been working 7 days a week to process postponements and rescheduled matches as quickly as possible to minimise disruption and inconvenience for our Clubs.

Football West would like to acknowledge the support of Clubs during this process and the quick re-fixturing for the majority of postponed games. Only with your continued understanding and assistance, can we continue to accommodate requests.

Football West is committed to completing a full season (100%) of football within the designated season window. Considering this, and with the halfway mark fast approaching, we would like to make Clubs aware that **effective Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022**, Football West will be enforcing the prioritization of First Team fixtures, as originally stated in the COVID guidelines published at the commencement of the season.

This applies specifically to the following competitions;

- NPL Men
- NPL Women
- State League Men
- Amateur Men
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First Team fixtures must always take priority by using the young and emerging talent to support the fulfillment of fixtures. Clubs will be expected to elevate players from their lower age squads to fill squad gaps for their First Team fixtures.

- Postponement of a First Team fixture will only be considered when;
  - The First Team roster has a minimum of five (5) players affected by COVID-19; and
  - The First Team is unable to field a squad of fourteen (14) players (including a goalkeeper), inclusive of elevated Reserve Team and/or U18 Team squad players.
- Where, as a result of the above, a Reserve Team or U18 Team is unable to field a squad of fourteen (14) players for a fixture (including a goalkeeper), a postponement may be considered for that team.

Clubs can continue to request a postponement via the link to our online “request for postponement due to COVID 19 impact” form. Evidence must continue to be attached and uploaded for each individual affected by COVID. Without the appropriate evidence, postponement requests will be rejected.

Football West will consider any request and determine in its absolute discretion the postponement of any scheduled fixtures.

Should you have any queries or require more information please contact Football West via our Club Support team on [clubsupport@footballwest.com.au](mailto:clubsupport@footballwest.com.au) or 08 6181 0700.

We thank you in advance for your continued cooperation as we navigate our game through the effects of the pandemic and look to ensure we can play our competitions in a safe, fair and equitable manner.