

Standing Committee Recommendation

To: Chief Executive Officer

From: SL standing committee

Date: 19/09/2024

Recommendation (provide a detailed description of the recommendation)

Joondalup United provided Football West with notice of their withdrawal from State League on 18th September 2024. This was accompanied by various public announcements that were made by the club and its people associated with the club.

The withdrawal of Joondalup United poses several serious consequences that not only impact the composition of State League in 2025 but has other serious implications with respect to the concurrent Playoff matches between State League 1 & State League 2 that are currently at half time of a two legged playoff. In addition to that the withdrawal also has consequential impact on State League 2 composition and potentially Amateur Premier League which a potential playoff commences soon at the conclusion of the Amateur Premier League Season.

Football West has asked the SLSC to provide it with guidance on the following questions.

1. Playing or altering the remainder of the play-off series in Div 1/2
2. Playing or altering the remainder of the play-off series in Div2/ Amateur Prem.
3. Process for Filling the vacancy in Div 1 caused by withdrawing JUFC.

Time is of the essence and as such a decision needs to be provided to Football West at the earliest possible time. Ideally prior to matches taking place this weekend that could potentially be impacted by decisions made.

As a result, the SLSC has convened and is now in a position to provide Football West with a response to the questions.

1. Playing or altering the remainder of the play-off series in Div 1 & 2

In the interest of maintaining competition integrity. The current interdivisional playoff series should continue as scheduled. There should be no changes to the clubs that are currently participating in these fixtures.

It was deemed unreasonable to annul the fixtures that have taken place.

By making this decision. There would be no additional negative impact on Clubs because of this decision. There is a slight benefit to Clubs that already can be promoted.

It is the opinion of the SLSC that this decision is in the best interest of the game, by providing an opportunity to maintain competition composition in 2025. Additionally ensuring that existing rules do not need to be amended or compromised in 2024 or 2025 to accommodate the withdrawal of Joondalup United. The SLSC does acknowledge that Rockingham City is

impacted but is not additionally impacted because of this decision. Providing Rockingham with an opportunity in the playoffs would require the annulment of at least one playoff fixture that has taken place (Cockburn vs Curtin) and would materially impact the structure of the remaining fixture. This would have a material impact on several clubs and more importantly set a precedent that games could be annulled in circumstances in the future. This should be avoided.

2. Playing or altering the remainder of the play off series in Div2/ Amateur Prem.

The Interdivisional play off series between SL2 & APL should proceed as scheduled, with the following changes.

Wanneroo City to replace Swan United in the playoff against 2nd place in APL. This fixture to proceed as scheduled.

If any teams from APL are not eligible for Promotion. Football West should rely on the current Competition Rules to determine outcomes.

For the avoidance of doubt, Swan United will now be safe from relegation From SL2 to APL in season 2024. Wanneroo will now compete with 2nd place (if eligible).

The current Competition Rules will apply if APL clubs decline or become ineligible for Promotion.

3. Process for Filling the vacancy in Div 1 caused by withdrawing JUFC.

Joondalup United to effectively replace 12th (Wanneroo City) in losing State League status.

Any further decisions relating to Joondalup United's status fall outside of the scope of this Committee and as such will require a decision of The Amateur SC in conjunction with FW.

This then creates a vacancy in SL1 & SL2 when actioning

To return both Sate League 1 & State League 2 to 12 teams, the SLSC recommends the following.

The two winners of this weekend's playoff games will be promoted to State League 1

If Cockburn do not win their playoff against Curtin in this weekend's playoff games they will also be relegated to State League 2 along with Rockingham who finished 12th in State League 1.

As the Final for the Interdivisional Playoff between SL1 & SL2 is largely irrelevant. Football West and the concerned clubs would need to decide if this match should be played or not. It may be worthwhile considering playing this game, but only to assist in ranking Clubs final positions in 2024 in the unlikely event that there are any other matters to consider at a later date.

As the playoff games between SL2 and APL have not been determined at this stage and who is participating is currently unknown. It is fair to use the current Competition Rules to determine that Wanneroo will now participate as the "11th Team" from State League 2.

The table below demonstrates the likely composition of both State League 1 & State League 2 after implementation of these recommendations.

An (*) has been placed regarding the Teams being promoted from APL as these Clubs are unknown at this stage.

Club	2025 State League Status
Perth Glory	1 of these clubs to be Promoted to NPL
Dianella	
Murdoch	
Mandurah	
Inglewood	Relegated to SL1 from NPL
Subiaco	SL1
UWA	SL1
Gwelup	SL1
Kingsley	SL1
Gosnells	SL1
Kalamunda	Promoted to SL1 from SL2
Cockburn	2 of these clubs to be Promoted to SL1
East Perth	
Joondalup City	
Curtin	
Rockingham	Relegated to SL2 from SL1
Forrestfield	SL2
Balga	SL2
Ashfield	SL2
Quinns	SL2
Canning	SL2
Shamrock	SL2
Swan	SL2
Wembley *	Promoted from APL
Wanneroo	1 of these Clubs to be Promoted to SL2
Emerald* or Morley*	

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

The withdrawal of Joondalup United could not have occurred at a more difficult and challenging time.

Its timing has material impact on fixtures already in progress, has done incredible damage to competition integrity and created a significant amount of distress for many concerned. Football West and this committee (as a separate part of this process) need to consider rules that cover the withdrawal of State League Clubs. Reducing the risks of a club acting alone and impacting Competition Integrity in this manner.

That aside the SLSC has convened and discussed several detailed proposals to resolve the

situation that we have been presented with.

We were able to distil the most viable options down to three main proposals.

Option 1 – To have a bye in SL1 for 2025 and fix the issue in the Competition Rules and return normal composition by 2026.

Option 2 – Replace Wanneroo with Joondalup United and use the current Competition Rules and matches played to date to determine who is Promoted & Relegated.

Option 3 – Annul the fixture between Cockburn v Curtin and recommence the playoff between Rockingham & Curtin

There are currently 9 members of the SLSC. Of those 9 members the vote was tabled as follows.

Option 2: 7 Votes

Option 1: 0 Votes

Option 3: 1 Vote

Abstain: 1 Vote (due to a direct conflict of interest)

All members of the SLSC were provided an opportunity to support or dissent their vote at an emergency Teams Meeting held at 3:30pm Thursday 19th September.

At this meeting the SLSC formally endorsed this Recommendation and instructed the Chair to make this recommendation to Football West.

Describe the benefits of Football West implementing the Recommendation

The SLSC believes that this recommendation (whilst complex) contributes minimal impact to Competition Integrity allowing games to proceed as scheduled, ensuring that matches that have taken place already are honoured and ranking teams consistently and fairly based on League Position and Football Merit.

It is critically important that this recommendation is endorsed, Communicated and Published as a matter of urgency and prior to matches taking place this weekend.

Additional consideration was reserved for delaying this decision until the outcomes of the various playoff matches have completed. The SLSC are of the opinion that this decision could not be delayed further and a firm decision had to be made prior to any more matches have taken place in the interest of preserving Competition Integrity and further to that preventing further angst and uncertainty while we await a full decision.

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

Members of the State League Standing Committee

Numerous State League Clubs

Numerous well known and active Identities that have an interest in State League matters (involved in WA Media and Publications)

Football West



19/9/24

On Behalf of the SLSC

Signature

Date

Philip Kelly
Standing Committee Chair