



FOOTBALL
NSW

2016 Men's Competition Review

Board Resolution - May 2015

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INTRODUCTION

The Men's Competition Review Working Party (MCRWG) was established to consider optimal competition structures and their connection to the talented player pathway for 2016 and beyond, for all FNSW Men's and Boy's Competitions.

The MCRWG was tasked with understanding the current model, the impacts of change following the 2012 Competitions Review, and to propose what changes, if any, should be made to further improve outcomes from FNSW Competitions.

In line with the FFA National Football Development Plan, the focus areas for improvement were:

- Player Development
- Game Development (Participation)
- Club Development

The MCRWG consisted of:

- 2 Co-chairs, being Directors of FNSW
- Any FNSW Director who wished to participate
- FNSW management including CEO, Heads of Technical, Football and Competitions
- Representatives from FNSW Standing Committees, including Premier Leagues, State Leagues, Technical and Coaching
- FFA National Technical Director and members of FFA Football/Technical Department

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Pursuant to the Terms of Reference, the two principal areas of focus for the MCRWG were Participant Development and Club Development, with the purpose in each area as follows:

Participant Development

To deliver a competition structure that facilitates long-term growth in participation and leads to improvement in quality of players, coaches and referees by way of review of:

- Structure for delivery of the Skill Acquisition Program (SAP)
- Pathway/competition structures for age groups U12 to Seniors
- Models by which HAL Academies could participate in FNSW competitions
- The role of the FNSW Institute
- The role and responsibility of FNSW Associations and Branches in development of elite football participants and development pathways

Club Development

To encourage club investment and commitment to elite development by clubs participating in FNSW competitions and deliver a competition structure which:

- Enables long term planning for clubs
- Ensures clubs have demonstrated a commitment to player and coach development, are financially viable, have adequate facilities to support development of participants and have demonstrated compliance with all FNSW requirements
- Allows the Player Points System to be optimised

The Board received a Recommendations Paper from the MCRWG which it considered at its April and May meetings. Following lengthy and detailed consideration of the WCRWG recommendations, input from FNSW Management and considerable discussion, the Board has resolved that the following changes will be implemented with respect to FNSW Men's seniors, Youth and SAP competitions for the 2016 season and beyond

SENIORS

It is decided that the following changes be implemented with respect to Seniors Competitions (1st, U20s and U18s) for the 2016 season:

- NPL1 remains with 12 clubs
- NPL2 will be expanded from 12 clubs to 14 clubs to accommodate 2 new HAL Club Academies (namely Sydney FC and Western Sydney Wanderers)
- It is expected a senior NPL environment will be conducted on the Central Coast to be determined between Central Coast Football and Central Coast Mariners
- HAL Academies/Clubs are to be bound by exactly the same rules and regulations as are enforced on FNSW NPL clubs
- The current State League 1 competition will become NPL3 with a 12 team competition.
- U16 age group will be become part of Youth, not Seniors, competitions
- There will be no change to the current principle of “one up/one down” promotion and relegation between each tier of senior competitions each year based solely on Seniors Club Championship playing results
- State League Two will be re-named “State League” and an Under 18's age group will be introduced to this competition to be consistent across all senior competitions in NPL 1, NPL 2 and NPL 3. This will be a 12 team competition.

There are no other changes be made to the structure of the Seniors NPL1, NPL2, NPL3 or State League competitions.

YOUTH

It is decided that the following changes be implemented with respect to Youth Competitions for the 2016 season:

- Under 16s to move back into the Youth Football Structure
- U12 age group to become part of SAP from 2016 onwards
- HAL Academies (Sydney FC and WSW) to be required to enter NPL Youth League teams in FNSW competitions on exactly the same conditions as all other participating clubs, including no direct entry into National Youth Championships.
- NPL Youth (Tier 1) will be a combined competition made up of the 12 NPL1 Senior clubs, 12 NPL2 Senior clubs and the 2 HAL clubs Youth Academies making 26 clubs
- State League 1 clubs (to be part of NPL3 competition) are required to field teams in Youth League U13 – U16 in 2016
- In addition to the 12 NPL#3 clubs, regional branches will have the option to participate in Tier 2 youth competition.
- FNSW Institute Program for Boys will cease on entry of the HAL Clubs into the FNSW Youth Competitions
- Regional Conference Youth to be retained (as an Association only, bi-weekly competition) and to include U16 to align with the NPL structure
- There is to be no promotion or relegation between any tiers of Youth competitions based on Youth League playing results. There will however be promotion and relegation between Tier 1 and Tier 2 NPL Youth (1 up and 1 down) based upon the Senior Club Championship of NPL 2 and NPL 3.
- There will be no relegation of any clubs participating in Youth League in Tier 2.
- Any State League Senior Club promoted to NPL 3 will be required to field Youth League teams.
- There is to be no Championship/Finals series in Youth League, although competition tables will still be kept and there may be a “Crossover” series at the end of the initial phase of competition to maximize number of games per season.

SKILL ACQUISITION PROGRAM (SAP)

- Age groups in SAP to increase to include the Under 12 age group which is to become part of SAP from 2016 onwards with the same structure and number of players as the U11's.
- Number of SAP licenses will remain at 31 for 2016 with the following entities eligible to apply for a SAP licensee:
 - o NPYL Clubs (Tier 1 and Tier 2)
 - o Associations
 - o Branches
- In selecting SAP licensees, FNSW will take into account the quality of the existing program, the extent to which the club's existing programs satisfy eligibility criteria and the respective geographical location of applicants and endeavour to ensure an even spread of elite development opportunities.
- New HAL Academies/Clubs (Sydney FC and WSW) will not be eligible to participate in SAP.