
OVERVIEW

As we enter into the third season of the Men's National Premier League (NPL), and having launched the Women's NPL off the back of last year's Women's and Girl's Competition Review, Capital Football has decided to engage the football community in a review of the competition structures offered to our male players (the Review).

The aim of the review is to analyse registration data, model alternate development structures, measure those models against local football needs and Football Federation Australia (FFA) criteria, and engage with the football community to gather feedback.

The review encompasses all competitions delivered by Capital Football for men and boys including; the NPL, Capital League, State League, Masters League and Junior League.

We aspire to deliver optimal competition structures in 2018 that consider club and participant objectives, formulated using evidenced based decision making combined with a comprehensive community consultation.

GOALS

Our aspirational goals for the review are;

1. to provide the most enjoyable, attractive and affordable sporting competition for boys and men in the ACT and surrounding Region
2. to create the most attractive and highest quality NPL competition in the country

We aim to achieve these goals by;

- Establishing a competition structure that recognises the challenges faced by clubs and provides a framework to support their ongoing financial viability, underpinning future growth and development of the sport
- Establishing a competition structure that motivates aspirational clubs, providing them an opportunity to seek participation in higher level competitions
- Engaging the football community to ensure the competition structure represents their interests and is appealing for them to participate in
- Establishing a competition structure that considers the needs of players at all levels and ensures football remains a sport accessible to all
- Establishing an NPL competition structure that facilitates the highest standard of football, creating a more marketable product
- Establishing an NPL structure that provides a competition platform through which players can develop and realise their potential
- Exploring the possibilities of expanding the competitions reach to provide pathways for the region surrounding the ACT, enhancing the quality and marketability of the competition

The review considers all competitions delivered for Men and Boy's, and as such we encourage all stakeholders involved in those competitions to contribute to the review.

FFA NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE CLUB LICENSING CRITERIA

In 2016 FFA undertook a review with the Member Federations and NPL Clubs of the licensing criteria connected to the NPL. The criteria communicates minimum standards and aspiration targets across functional areas for clubs including; age grades in competitions, youth development, coaching, governance, finance, facilities, organisation structure, member protection and medical coverage.

The NPL Club Licensing Criteria are available on the review website.

DATA ANALYSIS

To facilitate the Review we have produced a series of tables, charts and graphs that aim to inform the dialogue. These tables are available in the “Men's and Boy's Competition Review – Data Analysis” on the Review landing page.

Key learnings from the analysis include;

- Capital Football male participation grew in 2016 by circa 4% (463 players)
- All of the 2016 participation growth occurred in the junior and Minirosos age grades
- There was a decline in senior age participation in 2016 of circa 1% (31 players)
- A significant proportion of our NPL players across all age grades travel outside their immediate place of residence to seek a development opportunity
- When considering results as an indicator of performance, there is a significant gap between our top and bottom teams in the NPL
- It is reasonable to conclude from an analysis of the NPL ladders in FNSW and Capital Football that our better players / teams play less competitive matches given the larger gap in accumulated points between the top and bottom teams (i.e. our leagues are less competitive due to the greater difference in ability of our players)
- Our best young male players participate in less matches than their counterparts in NSW (between 5-10 less matches per season depending on the age grade)
- The composition of the senior community competitions is not consistent (varying from 6 to 12 teams per division)

MODELS FOR DISCUSSION

To facilitate discussion of ways the Men's and Boy's Competitions could be structured we have developed a number of models available in the “Men's and Boy's Competition Review – Models to Facilitate Discussion” document.

The models include;

Model 1 – Status Quo

Model 2 – Two Tier NPL with Senior Age Grade Promotion and Relegation

Model 3 – Two Tier NPL with Club Championship Promotion and Relegation

Model 4 – One Tier NPL with Regional Expansion

The models are presented to facilitate discussion regarding the optimal structure, and have been purposefully designed to illustrate a number of varied approaches.

It is important to note that they are not provided as a solution. The idea is not to select one of the options for implementation, rather seek feedback to the concepts these models communicate.

TIMELINE FOR CONSULTATION AND REVIEW

Capital Football have released a survey through which we aim to collate information on a range of questions including participant experience, response to the model competition structures, and specific questions relating to aspects of those structures individually.

The online survey will remain open until Friday 5 May.

Capital Football will review the feedback and schedule town hall meetings with the football community to workshop identified challenges and possible outcomes. It is intended the town hall meetings will be conducted in May and June, with a final 2018 Competition Structure released by 31 June 2017.