

Outcomes

Youth Development Pathway Review

30 June 2017



BACKGROUND

Following two years of the Canberra United Academy (**CUA**) supplementing the development opportunities provided by National Premier League (**NPL**) clubs, underpinning the talent identification process that informs selection of A.C.T. State Teams, Capital Football engaged with the football community in a review of the development programs offered to our young players.

The review focused on youth development, with programs considered from U9 through to U17 age grades.

The goals of the Review were to;

- Establish a youth development pathway that makes it clear for aspiring players the opportunities available to them to reach their potential
- Establish a structure and suite of programs that gives players the best chance possible of becoming professional players if that is their ambition
- Establish youth development pathways that accommodate players at all levels, enabling anyone to access an opportunity to improve
- Engage the football community in the establishment of the youth development pathways to ensure they support a relevant and meaningful relationship between Capital Football and the clubs

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Review included a comprehensive investigation and consultation, using data analysis and stakeholder feedback to inform the development of a Preliminary Model which was further tested in consultation with the coaches Technical Committee, Referees Technical Committee, Standing Advisory Committees and at a Town Hall forum.

Feedback from across the engagement indicated that;

- There was support for the TPP in boys U13 to U17
- There was an acknowledgment that the TPP presents a number of challenges and will only be successful if clubs and Capital Football commit to working together
- There was an acknowledgement that there is a current coaching deficiency across the NPL
- There was an acknowledgment that clubs and the Women's NPL are not yet sufficiently mature to accommodate a TPP in girls U13 to U17
- That a girls CUA underpinning Canberra United in the W-League is logical and provides a clear pathway
- That the concept of a "Territory Titles" would not add to the talent identification pathway
- There was an acknowledgment that generally there is not the depth of coaches nor readiness at clubs to accommodate an immediate expansion to the supplementary SAP training program

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PRINCIPLES UNDERPINNING THE PATHWAY

The Capital Football Board endorsed the following principles that underpin the operational delivery of the Youth Development Pathway;

- a) The continued delivery of a full time Canberra United Academy for girls in the age grades of U13, U14, U15 and U17
- b) The new delivery of a supplementary training development program (known as TPP – Talented Player Program) for boys in the age grades of U13, U14, U15 and U17
- c) The continued delivery of the Capital Football Skill Acquisition Program
- d) The intent to work with clubs over time to build an expanded supplementary Skill Acquisition Program once minimum standards have been developed and met. The expansion opportunity would not be realised until the 2019 season at the earliest

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY

Overview

The following commentary details at a high level the Youth Development Pathway.

Annexure 1 presents a visual of how players might navigate the pathway from grassroots football, seeking supplementary training programs to improve their ability, playing in the NPL / WNPL and representing the A.C.T. at National Championships.

Skill Acquisition Phase (boys and girls)

The Skill Acquisition Program (**SAP**) provides supplementary training opportunities to boys and girls between the ages of 9 and 11.

SAP will be delivered by Capital Football in 2018 with an operating model developed following a review of the 2017 program.

Capital Football will develop a set of criteria and an implementation strategy to expand SAP in the future. Any potential expansion would not occur until the 2019 football season at the earliest.

2018

- The SAP delivered by Capital Football for boys and girls continues
- This incorporates; supplementary training to Junior League participation with local clubs, participation in ad-hoc matches versus other SAP programs, participation in Gala Days run by other Football Associations or clubs and participation in the Kanga Cup

2019

- During 2018 Capital Football aims to establish a criteria and strategic implementation plan to extend the SAP to include NPL and WNPL clubs that meet minimum standards
- The 2019 SAP will include the program conducted by Capital Football and any club programs that meet the minimum standards and are offered a licence
- All SAP will remain supplementary to Junior League participation
- Capital Football aims develop a competitions calendar that incorporates Gala Days for the endorsed SAP programs with invitations to SAP programs from other Football Associations

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Girls Game Training Phase

The girls Game Training Phase (**GTP**) program is full-time delivered by Capital Football under the brand Canberra United Academy in age grades of U13, U14, U15 and U17.

The girls participate in the Women's NPL supplemented by matches against boy's teams and interstate girl's teams.

The girls program is eligible to participate in the finals series of the Women's NPL.

Boys Game Training Phase

The boys GTP program ceases being a full-time program and becomes a supplementary program to club participation.

The program retains its CUA branding (i.e. logo) but carries the title Talented Player Program (**TPP**).

The TPP is conducted in age grades of U13, U14, U15 and U17.

Boys trial for the CUA TPP and register for clubs.

Boys in the TPP train 2 nights with the TPP and up to another 2 nights with their club per week.

Capital Football and the NPL Clubs consult to agree on training nights for the TPP players.

Capital Football and the NPL Club Technical Directors agree on the age grade the players play for during the season to ensure they are provided the appropriate level of challenge to foster their development.

Capital Football will draft an agreement outlining the responsibilities of Capital Football, the Club and Player relating to their participation in both the TPP and competition.

Representative Teams

The A.C.T. Representative Teams participating in the National Youth and Training Centre Championships remain administered by Capital Football.

The talent identification pathways will include;

Girls

- Trials for and participation in the CUA
- Recommendations made by Women's NPL clubs
- Scouting by the Capital Football Performance Department and A.C.T. State Team coaches considering the recommendations by Clubs

Boys

- Trials for and participation in the TPP
- Recommendations made by NPL clubs
- Scouting by the Capital Football Performance Department and A.C.T. State Team coaches considering the recommendations by Clubs

ANNEXURE 1: YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY INFOGRAPHIC

