

Outcomes

Men's and Boy's Competition Review

30 June 2017



BACKGROUND

As we entered into the third year of the Men's National Premier League (**NPL**) three-year licence period, and having launched the Women's NPL off the back of last year's Women's and Girl's Competition Review, Capital Football engaged the football community in a review of the competition structures offered to our male players (**the Review**).

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

Our aspirational goals for the Review were;

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

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;

- It is widely acknowledged coach education and current levels of accreditation is a concern
- It is widely acknowledged that respect towards referees needs to be addressed
- It is widely acknowledged that the quality of and quantity of referees is below that required to deliver competitions that are attractive to players
- Should there be a second tier of NPL introduced the concept of an NPL Reserve Grade is no longer valid
- Should there be a second tier of NPL introduced the Capital League is no longer required within the players pathway
- There was support for the concept of more age grades to compliment the Summer U20 NPL League conducted centrally by Capital Football (to increase the number of matches our youth play)
- Scheduling of State League matches needs attention, both from a referee appointment and participant access perspective
- Any introduction of a finals series in Junior League needs to consider all teams, not just those that finish in the top four (i.e. there are equal amounts of matches for all teams)
- There was support for a mid-week Masters competition to compliment the weekend competition in winter
- There are challenges across all community leagues relating to team nominations, promotion and relegation, scheduling etc that require specific approaches per stakeholder group that may not be solved within a broad structural change

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PRINCIPLES UNDERPINNING THE COMPETITION STRUCTURE DECISION

Having completed the consultative process, it is reasonable to suggest there is more engagement and strategic thinking required to properly plan for implementation of change to the men's and boy's competitions.

Our stakeholder survey and subsequent engagement with the Standing Advisory Committees, Referees Technical Committee and Coach Technical Committee have proven informative. The discussions have revealed a majority support for many of the preliminary model concepts, and importantly helped identify aspects that will present challenges to implementation.

In progressing the discussion, the Capital Football Board;

- a) Acknowledged there is more engagement, consultation and strategic planning required prior to confirming the competition structure for boys and men that delivers on the review goals
- b) Confirmed aspects of the competition structure that are broadly supported and can be applied from the 2018 winter season
- c) Confirmed concepts of the competition structure that are agreed to in principle for application in the future. These concepts help lay the platform to focus the next round of discussions that seek community contribution to overcome identified challenges for implementation
- d) Confirmed aspects of the competition structure that will remain status quo for 2018, acknowledging clubs will require time to adjust to any changed structure

MEN'S AND BOY'S COMPETITION STRUCTURE

Overview

The following commentary details at a high level the changes to be applied in 2018 and principles from which the continued discussions will be based for any changes that may be applied from the 2019 season.

Competition Structure Changes to be Applied for the 2018 Winter Season

All aspects of the 2018 competition for Men and Boys will be as per the 2017 structure other than;

1. National Premier League
 - a) The COE and CUA will not compete in any age grade of the NPL
 - b) Capital Football may seek expressions of interest from clubs to fill the vacancy resulting from the COE and CUA not participating
 - c) Capital Football will offer a Summer NPL league to age grades from U20 down that compliments the winter league, offering more competitive matches to our young players
2. Capital League
 - a) Capital Football may revise the scheduling of Capital League matches to assist with Referee appointments and facility use
3. State League
 - a) Capital Football may revise the scheduling of State League matches to assist with Referee appointments and facility use
 - b) To encourage participation and effective competition, Capital Football will consider the concepts of promotion and relegation and 10 team divisions, applying flexibility to accommodate exceptional circumstances

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4. Masters League
 - a) Capital Football will offer a midweek Masters competition to compliment the weekend Masters competition in winter
 - b) Capital Football will review the allocation of teams once there is a better understanding of which teams nominate to mid-week or weekend leagues
5. Junior League
 - a) A Junior League Finals Series will be conducted in the age grades of U16 and U18 for both boy's and girl's competitions
 - b) Those teams that do not qualify for the finals series will participate in a series of matches extending the season, in a form to be determined (i.e. bottom 4 finals series, round robin etc)
 - c) Capital Football will re-grade Junior League competitions once after 4 rounds of each league

Agreed Concepts to be discussed further to ensure implementation is successful (from no earlier than the 2019 Winter Season)

1. National Premier League
 - a) Capital Football is committed to establishing a 2nd NPL division, ultimately in the same age grades of the 1st division of NPL, in a time frame that enables clubs to build teams and limits the impact on the Junior League competitions
 - b) Capital Football is committed to applying a system of promotion and relegation between the 1st and 2nd divisions of the NPL
 - c) Capital Football is committed to expanding the NPL age grades to include U15 after the 2nd NPL division has been established and given an opportunity to consolidate
 - d) Capital Football is committed to increasing the number of games played in the NPL during the premierships season
 - e) Capital Football is committed to ensuring the number of teams in each division of the NPL supports a high quality of competition
2. Capital League
 - a) On introduction of the 2nd division of the NPL the Capital League will no longer be conducted
3. Junior League
 - a) Capital Football will review the delivery of the finals series in the U16 and U18 age grades in 2018 to understand if it is feasible to extend age grades that have a finals series to incorporate those under U16 but no younger than U12