

## Capital Football NPL League Structure

1 August 2018

### OVERVIEW

This document communicates the league structure for the NPL - Capital Football from the 2019 season.

This document does not include specifics regarding competition regulations and scheduling, which will be drafted in consultation with the football community.

Key principles of the renewed structure include;

- From 2019 there will be an NPL Senior League with 2 divisions in age grades of 1<sup>st</sup> Grade and U20.
- Application of promotion and relegation in the Senior League will be phased in as elaborated on below.
- Once implemented, the method for promotion and relegation will be by the aggregate of 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Premiership points.
- From 2019 there will be an NPL Youth League. The competition format of the youth league will be further refined in consultation with the football community prior to final endorsement by the Capital Football Board.
- The NPL Youth League will initially include age grades of U13, U14, U16 and U18. The league will be expanded to include the U15 age grade from the 2021 winter football season.

### NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUES – SENIORS

#### League Structure

From the 2019 season there will be two senior divisions in the NPL - Capital Football, referred to in this document as NPL1 and NPL2.



2019	2020	2021
<b>NPL1 Senior</b> 9 clubs from 2018. 2 rounds (16 matches + 2 byes).	<b>NPL1 Senior</b> Top 8 placed clubs from 2019. 3 rounds (21 matches).	<b>NPL1 Senior</b> 8 clubs (Top 7 placed clubs from 2020 + top placed NPL2 club from 2020). 3 rounds (21 matches).
<b>NPL2 Senior</b> 7 clubs on application. 3 rounds (18 matches + 3 byes).	<b>NPL2 Senior</b> 8 clubs (7 clubs from 2019 + bottom NPL1 club from 2019). 3 rounds (21 matches).	<b>NPL2 Senior</b> 8 clubs (2 <sup>nd</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup> placed clubs from 2020 + bottom NPL1 club from 2020). 3 rounds (21 matches).
<b>Promotion and Relegation</b> Not applicable 2018 to 2019. On 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade 2019 to 2020.	<b>Promotion and Relegation</b> On 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade 2020 to 2021.	<b>Promotion and Relegation</b> On 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade annually.

## Age Grades

The age grades in the Senior divisions of NPL will be 1<sup>st</sup> Grade and U20.

There will be an allowance for overage players in the U20 competitions. Specific rules relating to over age players will be developed in consultation with the football community.

## Promotion and Relegation

At the conclusion of the 2019 season into the 2020 season there will be relegation of the last placed NPL1 club to NPL2. The mechanism for relegation will be;

- a) The club finishing last on the NPL1 1<sup>st</sup> grade league table at the conclusion of the 2019 premiership will have its 1<sup>st</sup> grade and U20 teams relegated to NPL2 for the 2020 season

From the end of the 2020 season, there will be application of promotion and relegation between the Senior Leagues of NPL1 and NPL2.

The mechanism for promotion and relegation will be;

- b) The club finishing last on the NPL1 1<sup>st</sup> grade league table at the conclusion of the premiership will have its 1<sup>st</sup> grade and U20 teams relegated to NPL2 for the following season
- c) The club finishing first on the NPL2 1<sup>st</sup> grade league table at the conclusion of the premiership will have its 1<sup>st</sup> grade and U20 teams promoted to NPL1 for the following season

## Applications

Clubs seeking admission to the NPL1 and NPL2 Senior Leagues will be required to submit applications to Capital Football.

Existing NPL clubs will be invited to submit an application to NPL1.

Other clubs within the current Capital Football jurisdiction and the region surrounding the ACT will be invited to submit an application to NPL2.

Applicants will be required to commit to fielding teams in all applicable age grades of the Senior League (i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> Grade and U20).

Applications to the NPL1 and NPL2 will be reviewed by the Capital Football Board prior to Licenses being issued for the period of 2019 – 2023.

Capital Football will issue Application Forms and communicate the submission timeline in August 2018.



## NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUES – YOUTH

### League Structure

The Youth League of the NPL - Capital Football (**NPL Youth**) will be decoupled from the NPL Senior Leagues.

The number of divisions, teams per divisions, eligible clubs, requirement to field teams, method for promotion and relegation (if there is more than one division), qualification from the Premiership to Finals Series, number of matches and other competition format related matters will be confirmed following a final consultation with the Football Community.

The Capital Football Board will take recommendations resulting from that engagement, and further discussions with the Coaches Technical Committee into consideration when determining the competition format within the endorsed NPL Youth League structure.

### Age Grades

From the 2019 season, the age grades in the Youth League of NPL will be U13, U14, U16 and U18.

From the 2021 season the age grades in the Youth League will expand to include U15.

There will be an allowance for movement of players within a club between age grades. Specific rules relating to movement of players between age grades will be developed in consultation with the football community.

### Applications

Once a League Structure has been confirmed Capital Football will issue application forms.

The application process will be the same for Youth as it is for Seniors, with amendments as required following the confirmation of the League Structure.

Capital Football will issue Application Forms and communicate the submission timeline in August 2018.

