

Capital Football NPL Youth League Competition Format

31 August 2018

OVERVIEW

This document communicates the competition format of the NPL Youth League - 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.

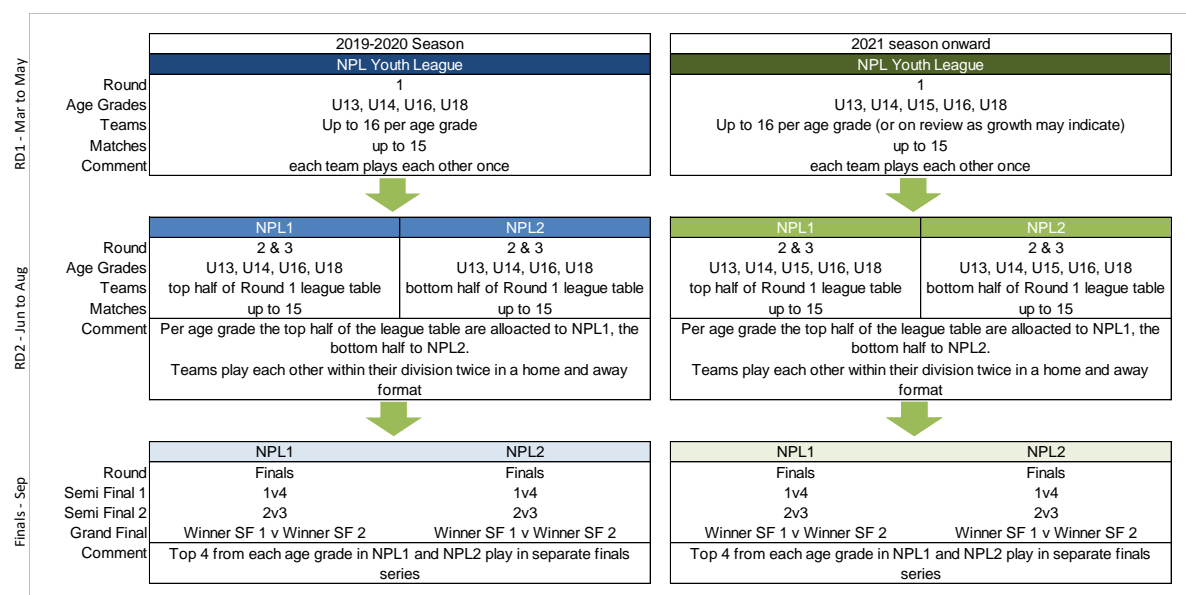
Key principles of the competition format include;

- a focus on establishing a competition format that supports individual player development
- establishing a structure in which we can maximise the number of matches to support individual player development
- establishing a structure that enables the best v the best, maximises the “competitiveness” of matches and provides an appropriate challenge to players of different standards
- establishing a structure that facilitates talented players playing up age grades when they are ready
- providing flexibility to accommodate initial applicant teams, and expand as the region grows, without the need for wholesale change

NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUES – YOUTH

League Structure

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



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 parallel to the annual review of the competition regulations.

Number of Teams

The NPL Youth League will initially consider inclusion of up to 16 teams.

Should less teams apply the competition format will be adjusted to provide the best possible opportunity considering the number of teams entered.

As all aspects of football development grow (volume and standard of players and coaches, interest of clubs etc) additional teams may be added from time to time by the Capital Football Board. This would occur by an application process prior to the proceeding season.

Round Structure

At the commencement of the 2019 season the following round structure will be applied;

Round 1;

- a) All teams will be included in round 1.
- b) Teams will play all other teams in their age grade once.

Round 2 and 3;

- a) Per age grade, the top half of the league table will be allocated to NPL1 to play out rounds 2 and 3.
- b) Per age grade, the bottom half of the league table will be allocated to NPL2 to play out rounds 2 and 3.
- c) Within each division (i.e. NPL1 and NPL2) teams play each other twice in a home and away format.

Finals;

- a) Per age grade and division, the top 4 teams on the league table will compete in a finals series.
- b) The finals series will include straight semi finals (1v4 and 2v3).
- c) The winners will play in the grand final.
- d) There will be separate finals series for NPL1 and NPL2.

Following season;

At the commencement of the following season there is a “re-set” with all teams in each age grade coming back together into the NPL to compete in round 1 (i.e. the split into NPL1 and NPL2 only occurs leading into round 2 annually).

