



OVERVIEW & IMPLEMENTATION

NPL Review

The purpose of this overview is to present the recommendations from the NPL Review and to outline the operational steps required for their effective implementation. It is intended to provide clarity, ensure alignment, and support strategic planning for the future of Capital Football's competitions and player development pathways.

Further context and justification for the recommendations are outlined in the full NPL Review. Where any inconsistencies arise, the NPL Review is to be regarded as the authoritative source.

Review Committee

Gary Vandeburgt (Chair)

Tina McCleary

Steve Udjur

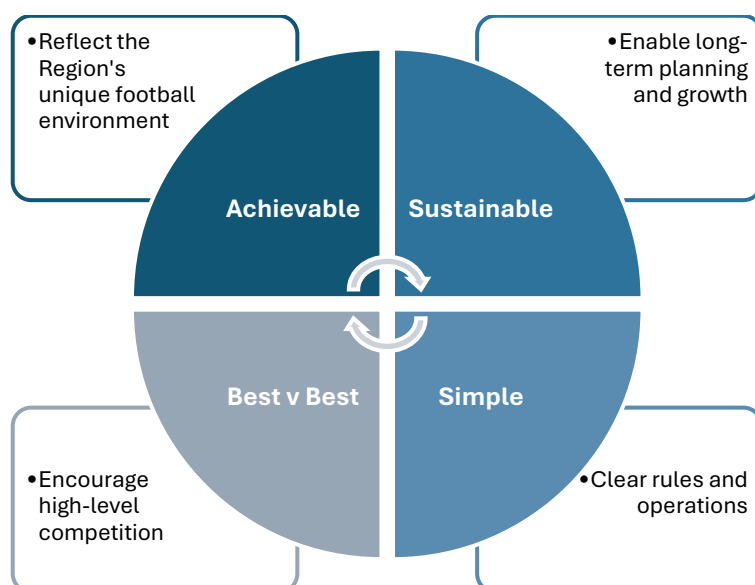
Steve Rohan-Jones

Purpose of the Review

Evaluate NPL and CPL competitions for improved structure and pathways.

Key Principles

The review was guided by four key principles designed to ensure a competition structure that is fit for purpose, sustainable, and reflective of Canberra's unique football landscape.



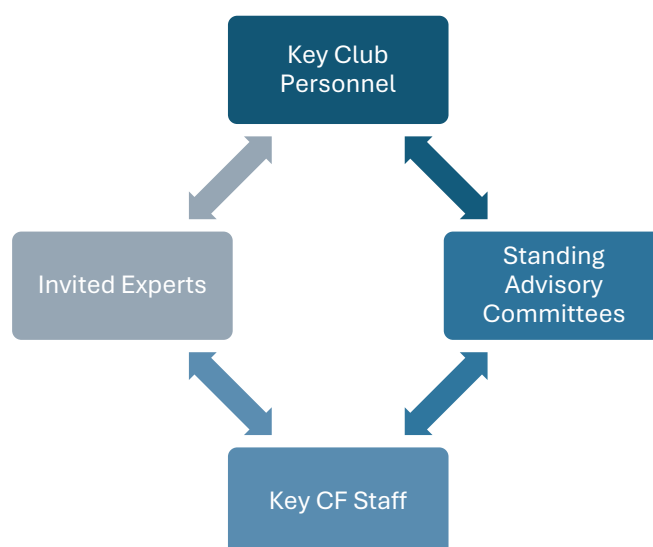
Risks

The review identified several key risks impacting the effectiveness and sustainability of the current competition structure, which the recommended changes aim to address.

Quality	Financial	Behaviours
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overly complex structures lowered competition quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spending misaligned with outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transactional dynamics hindered growth

Consultation

The Review Committee engaged a wide range of stakeholders to gather input and ensure a collaborative approach. This included direct consultations with Clubs, Standing Advisory Committees, as well as key Capital Football staff.

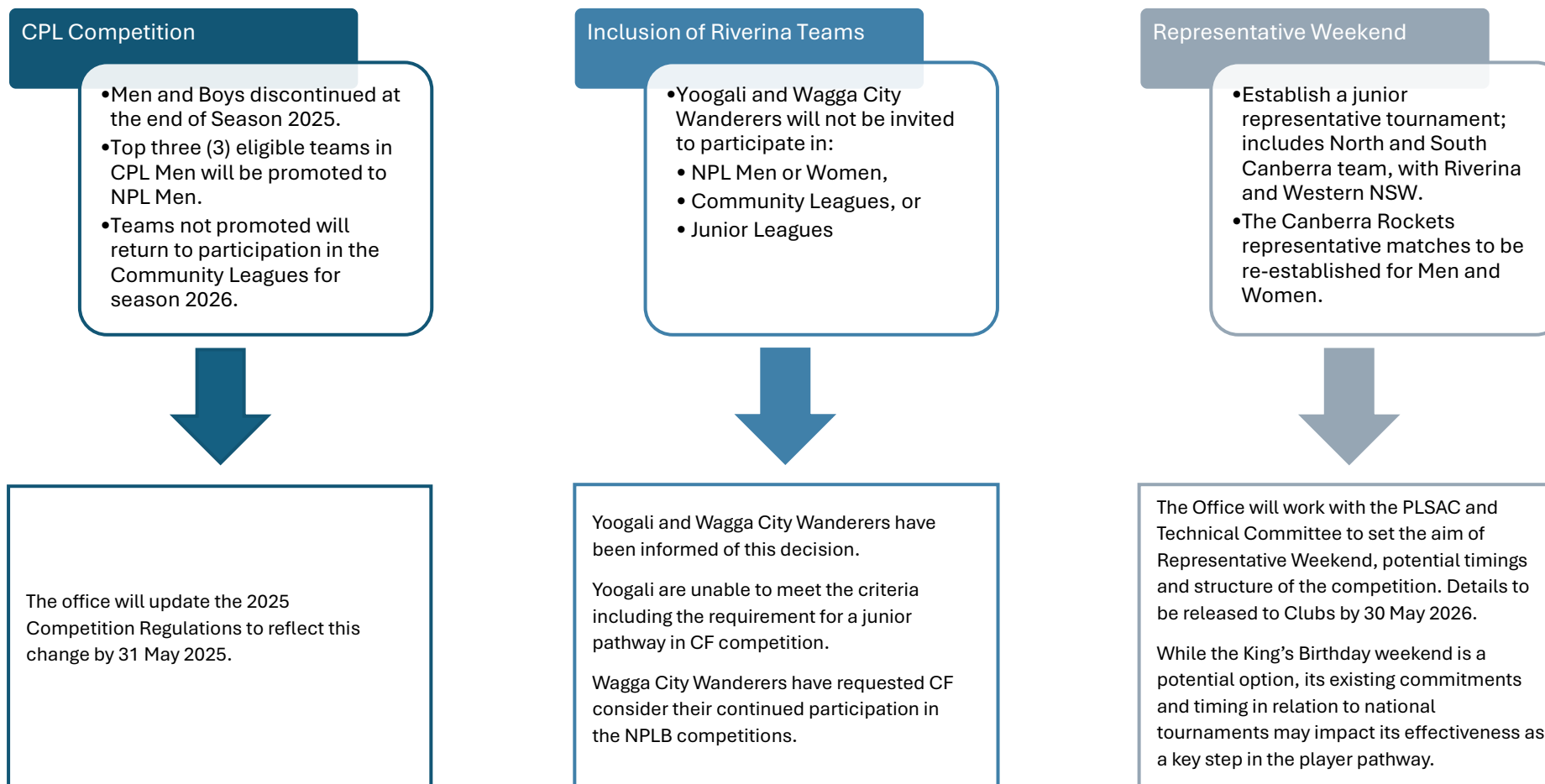


Key activities such as surveys, meetings with Technical Directors, and President's meetings were organised to facilitate meaningful discussion and feedback. To further validate the review committee's findings and proposals, a special "war games" session was held with a select group of club representatives

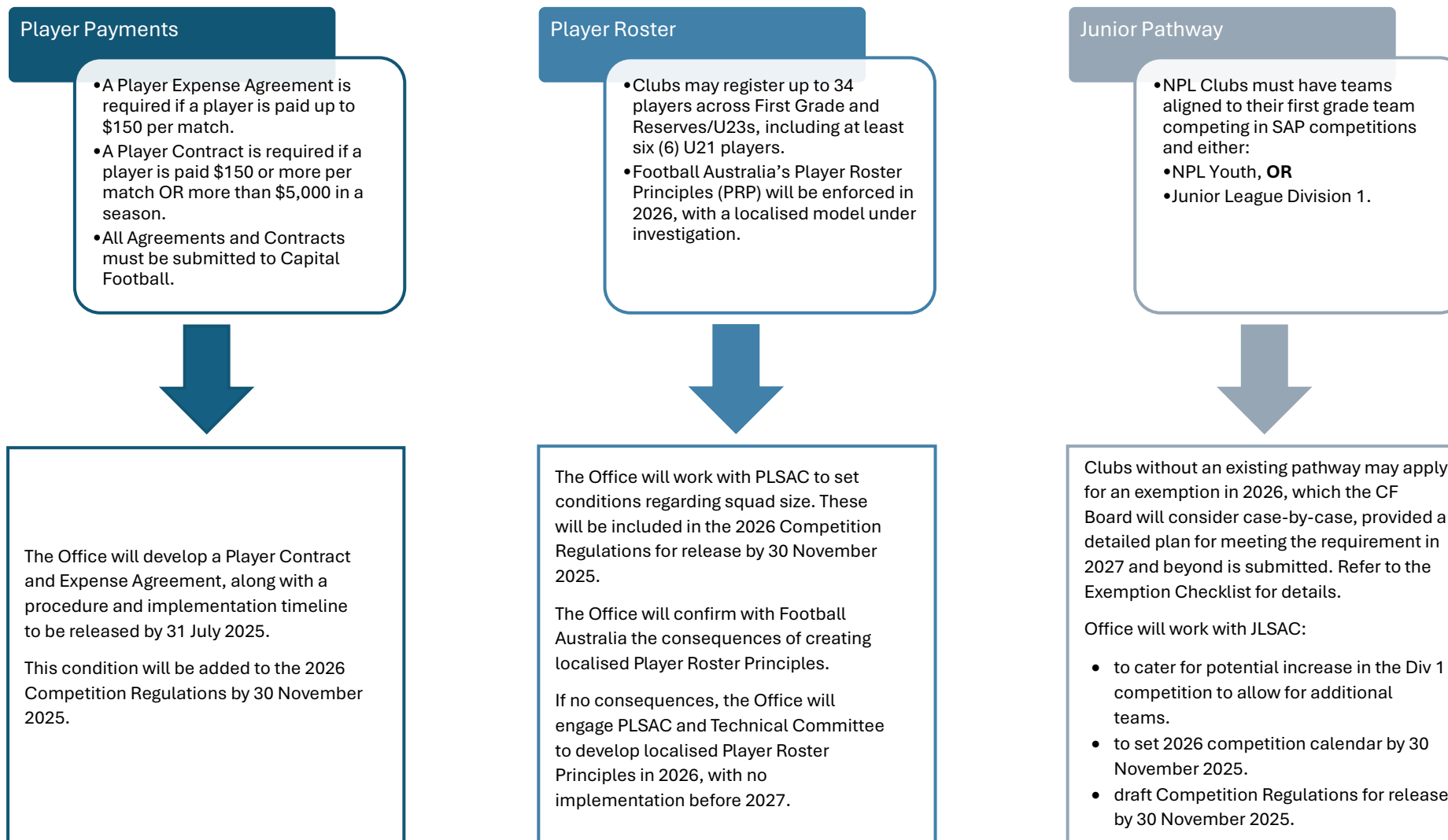
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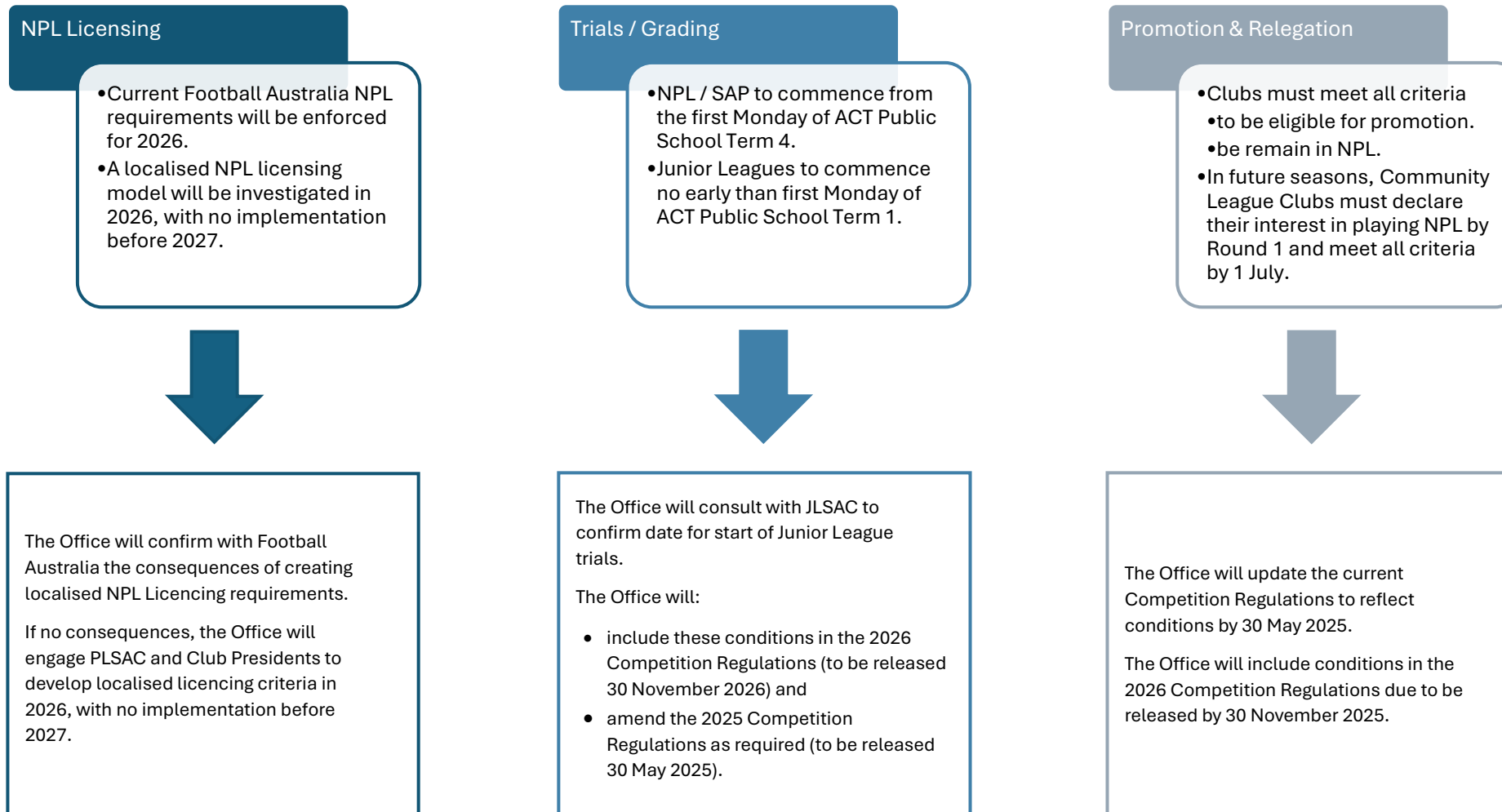
Competitions – General



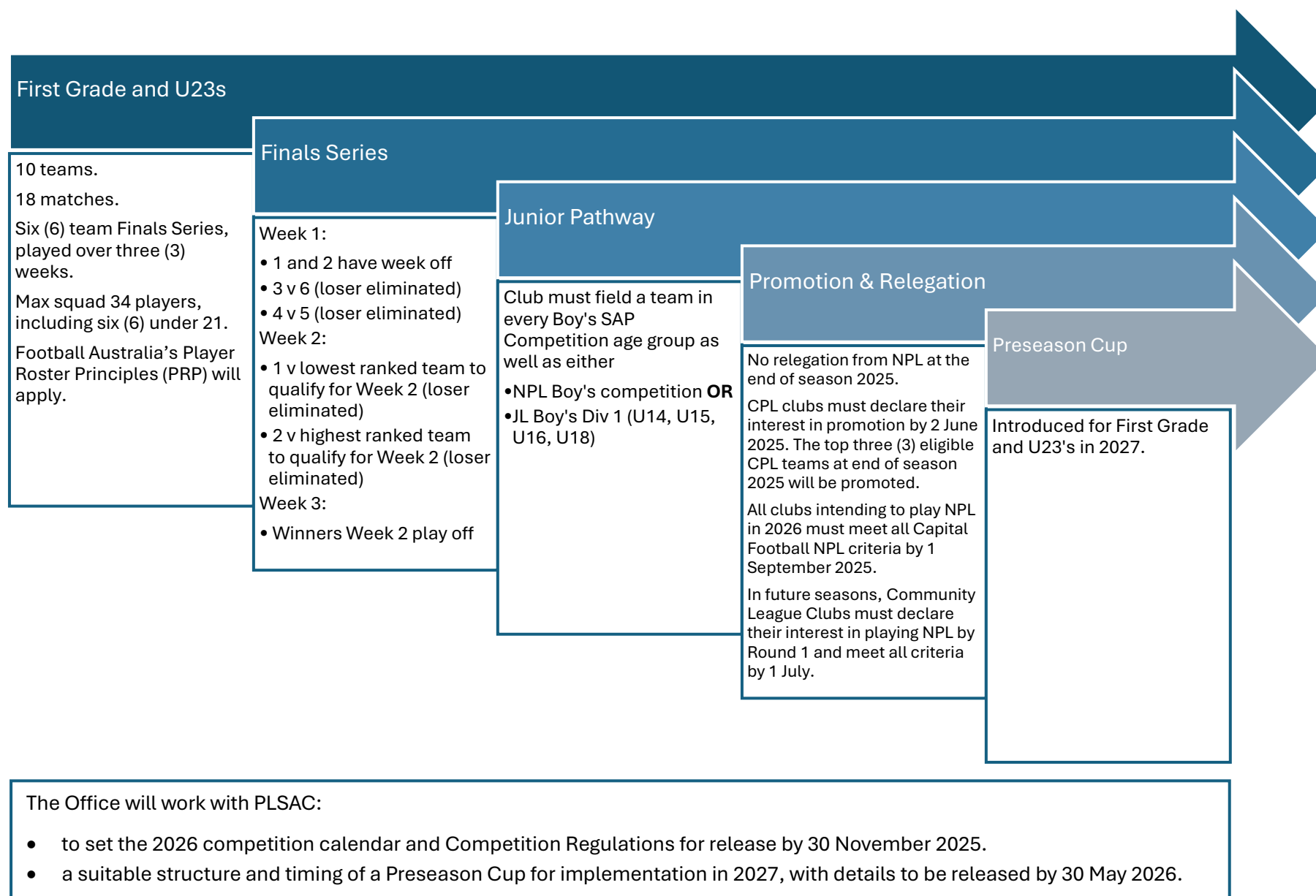
Senior NPL – General Criteria



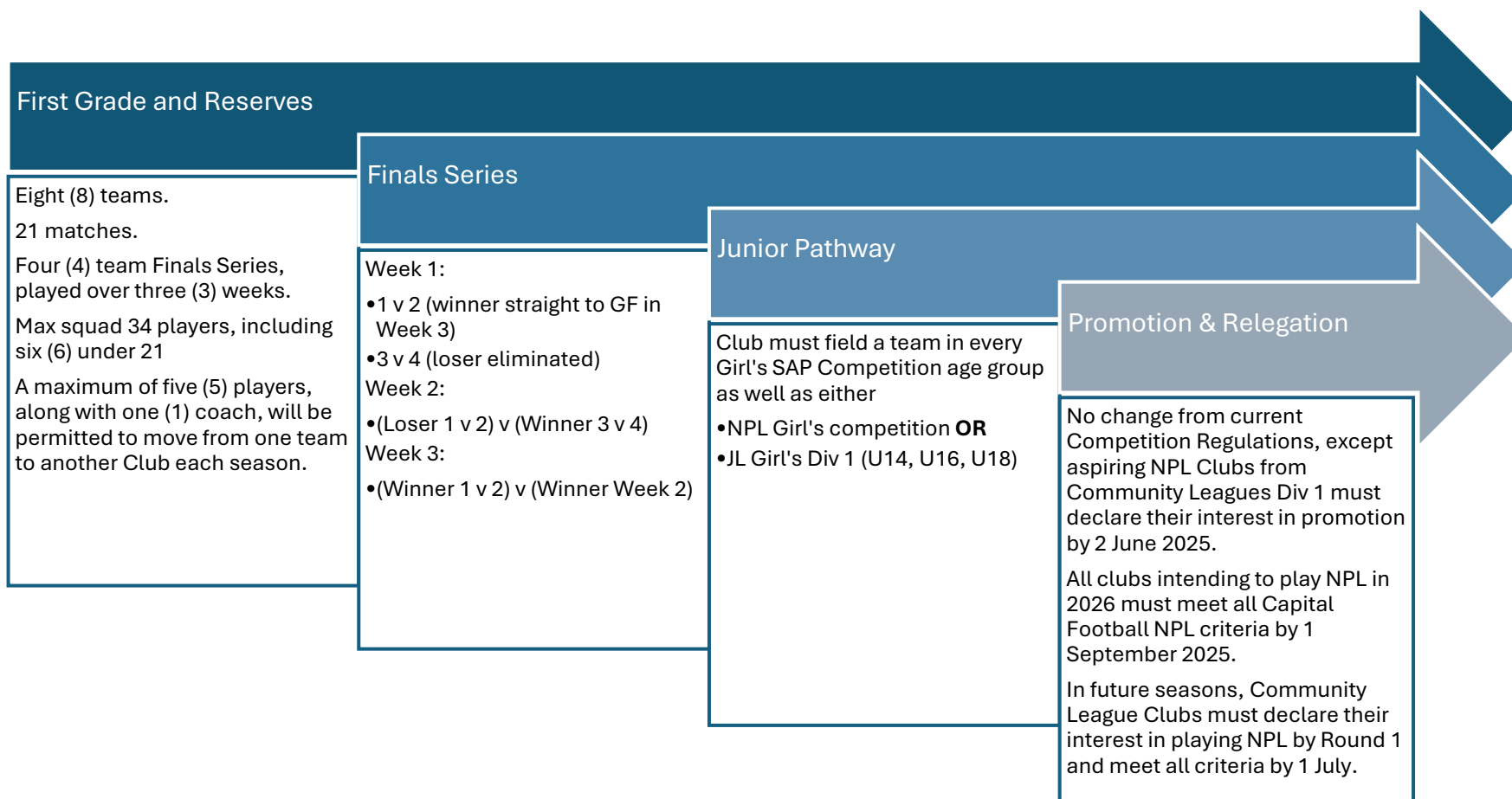
Senior NPL – General Criteria (continued)



NPL Men – Specific Criteria



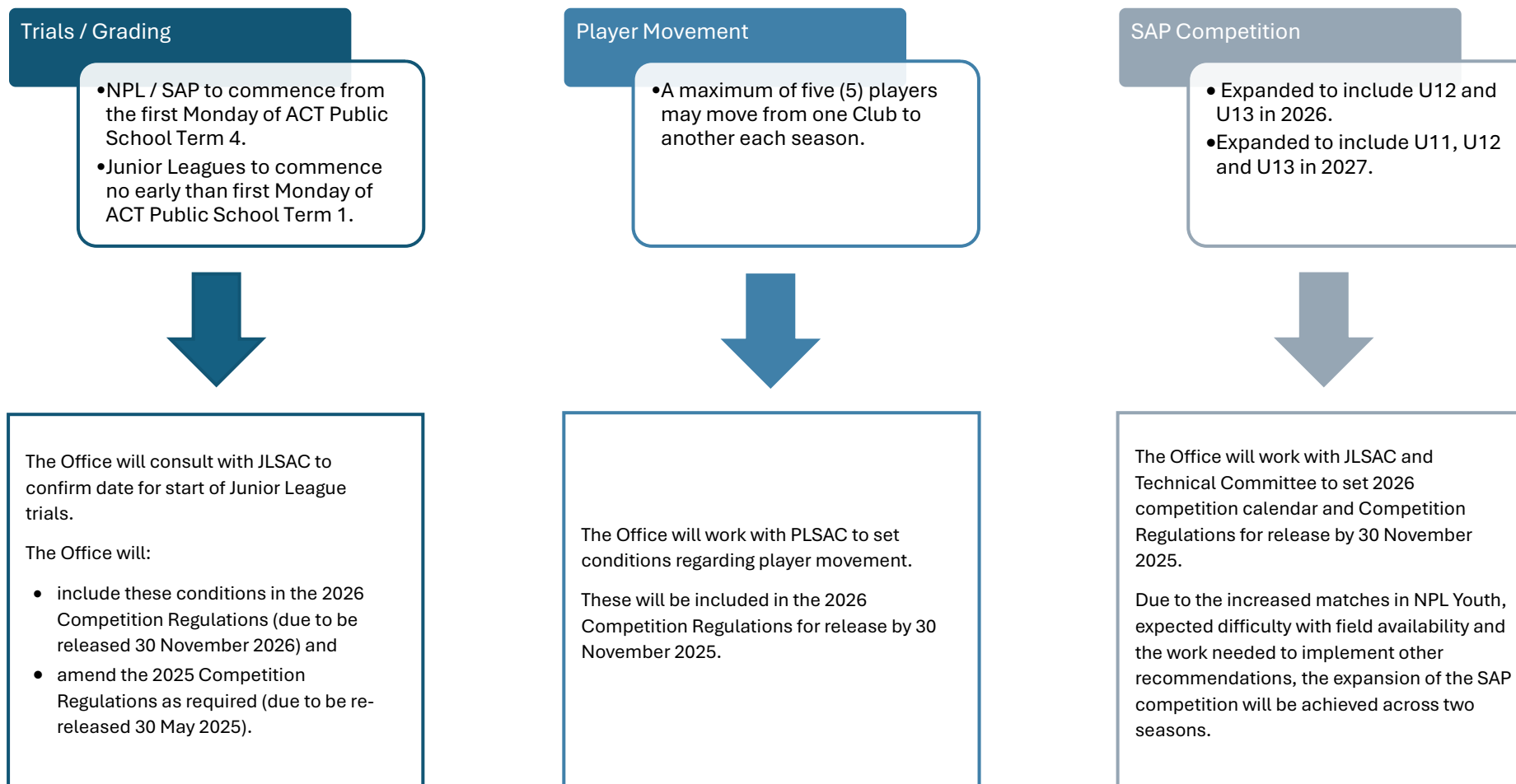
NPL Women – Specific Criteria



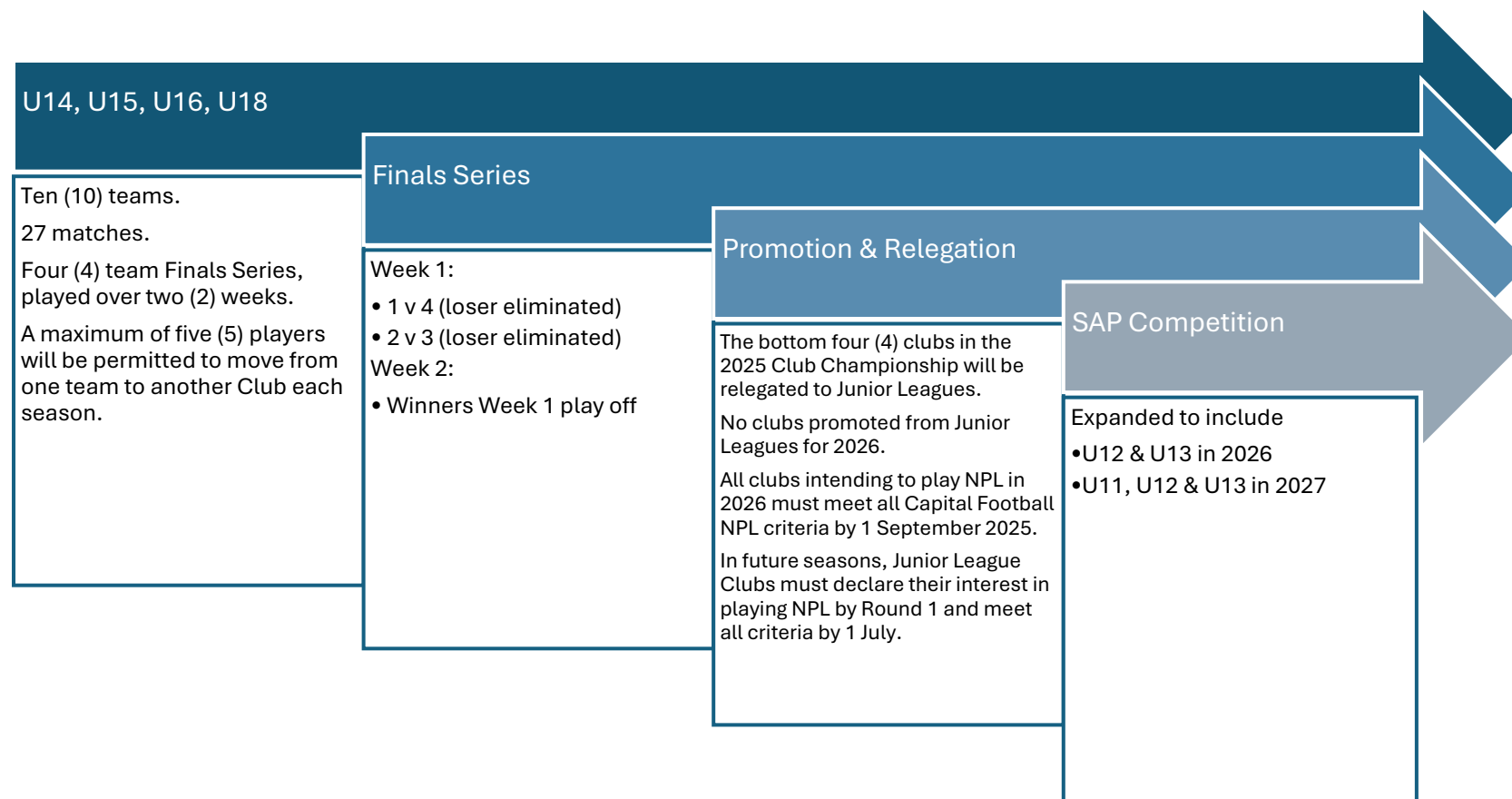
The Office will:

- work with PLSAC to set the 2026 competition calendar and Competition Regulations for release by 30 November 2025.
- consult Football Australia around consequences of creating localized licensing requirements by 1 August 2025.

Youth NPL – General Criteria



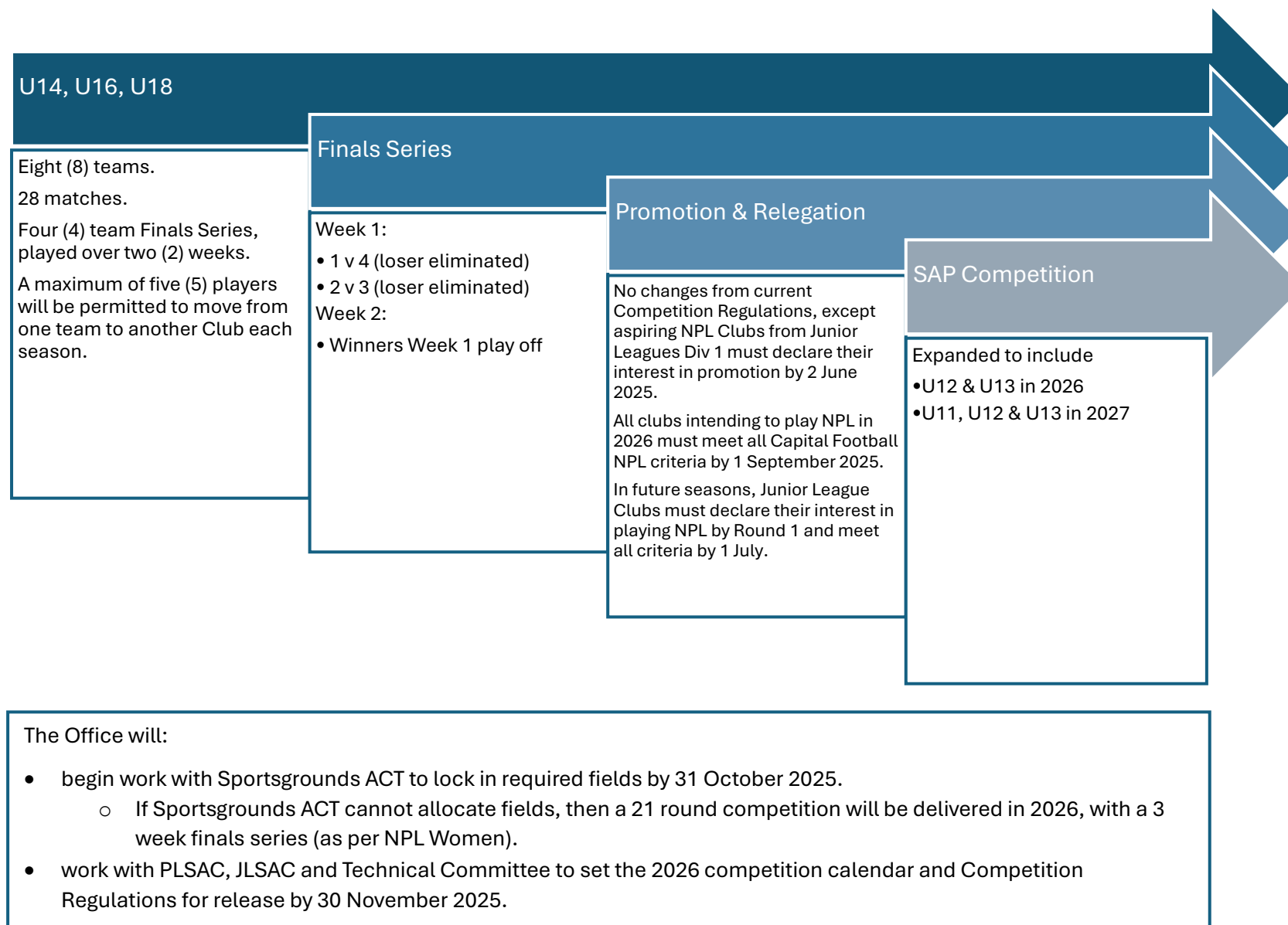
NPL Boys – Specific Criteria



The Office will:

- begin work with Sportsgrounds ACT to lock in required fields by 31 October 2025.
 - If Sportsgrounds ACT cannot allocate fields then a 21 round competition will be delivered in 2026, with a 3 week finals series (as per NPL Women).
- work with PLSAC, JLSAC and Technical Committee to set the 2026 competition calendar and Competition Regulations for release by 30 November 2025.

NPL Girls – Specific Criteria



Promotion and Relegation

This section is intended to provide further clarity to the high level details included above:

	From Season 2025 → Season 2026	From Season 2026 → Season 2027
NPL Men	<p>There will be no relegation from NPL Men at the end of season 2025.</p> <p>CPL clubs must declare interest in promotion to Capital Football by Monday 2 June 2025. The top three (3) eligible CPL teams at end of season 2025 will be promoted for season 2026.</p> <p>All clubs intending to play NPL in season 2026 must meet all Capital Football NPL criteria by 1 September 2025 including the ability to field teams all boy's SAP age groups, and either NPL Boys or Junior League Boys Division 1 in U14, U15, U16, U18.</p>	<p>Aspiring NPL Clubs from Community League Division 1 must declare their interest in promotion to the 2027 NPL season prior to Round 1 of the 2026 season to Capital Football.</p> <p>To be eligible, Clubs must field teams in all boy's SAP age groups, and either NPL Boys or Junior League Boys Division 1 in U14, U15, U16, U18 and meet all Capital Football NPL criteria by 1 July 2026.</p> <p>If the first-placed Club is ineligible, there will be no automatic promotion. However, if the second-placed Club meets the eligibility criteria, a one-legged promotion play-off will be held after the NPL Grand Final against the 10th placed NPL First Grade team. If neither Club is eligible, no promotion or relegation will occur.</p>
NPL Women	<p>There is no change to promotion and relegation as set out in current Competition Regulations, except aspiring NPL Clubs from Community Leagues Div 1 must declare their interest in promotion to Capital Football by 2 June 2025.</p> <p>All clubs intending to play NPL in season 2026 must meet all Capital Football NPL criteria by 1 September 2025, including the ability to field teams in all girls SAP age groups, and either NPL Girls or Junior League Girls Division 1 in U14, U16, U18.</p>	<p>Aspiring NPL Clubs from Community League Division 1 must declare their interest in promotion to the 2027 NPL season prior to Round 1 of the 2026 season.</p> <p>To be eligible, Clubs must field teams in all girls SAP age groups, and either NPL Girls or Junior League Girls Division 1 in U14, U16, U18 and meet all Capital Football NPL criteria by 1 July 2026.</p> <p>If the first-placed Club is ineligible, there will be no automatic promotion. However, if the second-placed Club meets the eligibility criteria, a one-legged promotion play-off will be held after the NPL Grand Final against the 10th placed NPL First Grade team. If neither Club is eligible, no promotion or relegation will occur.</p>

	From Season 2025 → Season 2026	From Season 2026 → Season 2027
NPL Boys	<p>The bottom four (4) clubs based on the NPL Boys Club Championship standings at the end of season 2025 will be relegated to Junior Leagues.</p> <p>The Club Championship standings will be determined by the cumulative points total across all four age grades, with each grade's points being equally weighted.</p> <p>There will be no promotion from the Junior Leagues to the NPL Boys competition for the 2026 season.</p> <p>All clubs intending to play NPL in 2026 must meet all Capital Football NPL criteria by 1 September 2025.</p>	<p>Aspiring NPL clubs from Junior League Division 1 must indicate their interest in promotion to the 2027 NPL season prior to Round 1 of the 2026 NPL season.</p> <p>To be eligible, clubs must meet all Capital Football NPL criteria by 1 July 2026.</p> <p>Promotion will be determined by the Junior League Div 1 Club Championship standings, whilst relegation will be determined by the NPL Club Championship standings.</p> <p>The Club Championship standings will be determined by the cumulative points total across all four age grades, with each grade's points being equally weighted.</p>
NPL Girls	<p>There will be no change to the current Competition Regulations, except aspiring NPL Clubs from Junior Leagues Div 1 must declare their interest in promotion to Capital Football by 2 June 2025.</p> <p>The Club Championship standings will be determined by the cumulative points total across all four age grades, with each grade's points being equally weighted.</p> <p>All clubs intending to play NPL in 2026 must meet all Capital Football NPL criteria by 1 September 2025.</p>	<p>Aspiring NPL clubs from Junior League Division 1 must indicate their interest in promotion to the 2027 NPL season prior to Round 1 of the 2026 NPL season.</p> <p>To be eligible, clubs must meet all Capital Football NPL criteria by 1 July 2026.</p> <p>Promotion will be determined by the Junior League Div 1 Club Championship standings, whilst relegation will be determined by the NPL Club Championship standings.</p> <p>The Club Championship standings will be determined by the cumulative points total across all four age grades, with each grade's points being equally weighted.</p>