

## 2023 Junior Football Review Management Responses

	Recommendation & management comments	Proposed date
<b>Recommendation 1</b>	<p>Abolish the current Junior NPL competition structure and introduce a simple divisional structure within the Junior competitions. This means there will be no distinction between the current Junior NPL and the Community competitions. The new structure should be phased in over the next 2-3 years, allowing clubs to adapt accordingly.</p> <p><i>FW is supportive of introducing a simplified divisional structure and research is being undertaken to determine the appropriate model and implementation process.</i></p> <p><i>Through this process, the relevance of the “NPL” branding will also be reviewed.</i></p> <p><i>It is intended that this divisional structure would be the same in both Boys and Girls leagues.</i></p>	From 2025 season.
<b>Recommendation 2</b>	<p>Introduce an appropriate number of top divisions and teams per division based on an estimate of the number of “quality” teams able to be fielded by clubs that will be competitive at this level (eg, two top divisions with eight teams)</p> <p>The number of divisions should be increased over time commensurate with the ability of clubs to field competitive teams.</p> <p><i>FW will consider the ideal size for the top divisions, considering the number of “quality” teams as well as other factors, such as access to facilities.</i></p> <p><i>All clubs taking part in the top divisions will still be required to meet the necessary criteria.</i></p> <p><i>It is intended that this divisional structure would be the same in both Boys and Girls leagues.</i></p>	From 2025 season.
<b>Recommendation 3</b>	<p>Any competition structure to provide the opportunity for talented players to play the recommended minimum number of games (30) for developmental purposes. This could be a mixture of regular competition matches, cup games and any post-regular competition matches.</p> <p><i>The current NPL Junior competition meets these standards, the current Girls leagues do not.</i></p> <p><i>While determining a final competition structure, it will be ensured that advanced players will participate in at least 30 matches throughout the year. This could include grading matches, league and cup games or other initiatives such as summer competitions.</i></p> <p><i>This standard will be for top-tier divisions. Other divisions would</i></p>	Ongoing for Boys leagues and from 2025 season for Girls leagues

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	<p><i>be categorised under "community junior" status and maintain their current competition schedule, currently set at 18 league fixtures, plus cup and Top Four competitions.</i></p> <p><i>It is intended that this divisional structure would be the same in both Boys and Girls leagues.</i></p>	
<b>Recommendation 4</b>	<p>Promotion/relegation of one or two teams per division at every level from U13-U18. This should be based on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal club assessment and nomination to a particular division</li> <li>• Finishing position in the last season of competition</li> <li>• The adoption of a "grading system" during the first five-to-seven games of the season</li> </ul> <p>Promotion/relegation would provide an incentive for clubs to remain in the top divisions and for aspiring clubs to retain their players and coaches and progress through to the top divisions.</p> <p><i>Research suggests that relying solely on promotion/relegation based on game outcomes does not support talent development. Instead, FW considers that a combination of promotion/relegation, divisional nomination and grading each season would be a more effective method of determining team allocation.</i></p> <p><i>However, before clubs can nominate or be considered for the highest levels of junior football, they must fulfill the required criteria.</i></p> <p><i>Current minimum standards can guide clubs aspiring to join the top-tier leagues.</i></p> <p><i>It is intended that divisions would be determined by team capability, not by club, ensuring that teams of comparable skill levels compete with each other across all age brackets.</i></p> <p><i>It is intended that this divisional structure would be the same in both Boys and Girls leagues.</i></p>	From 2025 season with first promotion/relegation to take place for the commencement of the 2026 season.
<b>Recommendation 5</b>	<p>The current MiniRoos competition meets the needs of players and should be continued substantially in its present form.</p> <p><i>FW agrees that the existing MiniRoos competition should retain its current form. Football Australia is currently reviewing the MiniRoos program and associated game formats to maintain alignment with best practice.</i></p> <p><i>There will be no change to MiniRoos game formats in 2024.</i></p>	From 2026, dependent on FA outcomes.
<b>Recommendation 6</b>	Football West should consider introducing rules and regulations similar to Football Queensland in terms of game time, "touches", field size, squad size and number of on-ground players per team (for certain age groups) that by design	From 2026, dependent on FA outcomes.

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	<p>enhance the playing experience.</p> <p><i>Football Australia is currently reviewing game formats across the MiniRoos age groups.</i></p> <p><i>FW will work closely with Football Australia during this process.</i></p> <p><i>There will be no changes to MiniRoos game formats in 2024.</i></p>	
<b>Recommendation 7</b>	<p>Should it be determined that due to the WA football environment, female participants should be given specific consideration with respect to competition structures and development initiatives, Football West may consider it appropriate to undertake further consultation and engagement in this area.</p> <p><i>FW holds the view that any finalized structure should be consistently applied across both Boys and Girls competitions.</i></p> <p><i>FW recognises that there are still age gaps in the Girls competition structure, but it is anticipated these will be bridged in the near future. Establishing a fitting structure to foster this growth is essential.</i></p>	Ongoing from 2024, dependent on growth of Junior Girls leagues.
<b>Recommendation 8</b>	<p>Licensing criteria to be simplified and made achievable by clubs and should focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The coaching quality afforded by the club given the importance of coaching in player development (eg, a C Diploma coaching qualification to coach at the top levels)</li> <li>• The need to provide an appropriate standard of facility (however it is recognised that clubs may not have control over their facilities due to Local Government ownership)</li> </ul> <p><i>FW agrees that, where possible, the process and achievement of criteria by clubs is simplified.</i></p> <p><i>However, any criteria will be aligned with Football Australia's National Club Licensing Framework where appropriate.</i></p> <p><i>FW will utilise the existing Junior NPL criteria as a base level and will consider what changes may be applied for the 2025 season.</i></p> <p><i>It is intended that these criteria would be the same in both Boys and Girls leagues.</i></p>	From 2025, in conjunction with new league structures and requirements.
<b>Recommendation 9</b>	<p>Clubs and teams must meet any licensing criteria in order to nominate for the top divisions and/or each division prior to the start of each season. Clubs/teams that meet the licensing criteria would then be assessed based on their previous year's performance and any known player data, and if appropriate</p>	From 2025, in conjunction with new league structures and requirements.

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	<p>provided with the opportunity to be included in the division nominated for.</p> <p><i>FW agrees that clubs aiming to participate in top-tier football should adhere to specific standards.</i></p> <p><i>FW will utilise the existing Junior NPL criteria as a base level and will consider what changes may be applied for the 2025 season.</i></p> <p><i>It is intended that these criteria would be the same in both Boys and Girls leagues.</i></p>	
<b>Recommendation 10</b>	<p>Grading at the beginning of the season should be undertaken in the first 5-7 rounds to determine the suitability of teams for particular divisions and appropriate adjustments made in an attempt to ensure competitive games each week.</p> <p><i>FW agrees that a grading system allows for the appropriate allocation of teams and this approach has already been successfully adopted in the current Junior NPL framework.</i></p>	Ongoing for Boys leagues.
<b>Recommendation 11</b>	<p>Consideration to be given to running a “development league” in the “off” (summer) season that features opportunities for players to play at an advanced level and be subject to advanced coaching (as in the South Australian model).</p> <p><i>FW agrees that a summer “development league” will provide additional playing opportunities for players to play at an advanced level.</i></p> <p><i>FW will consider an appropriate model and implementation of this league.</i></p> <p><i>FW notes that any proposed “development league” should also offer avenues for coaches and match officials to participate and further their development.</i></p>	From end 2024.
<b>Recommendation 12</b>	<p>Football West to develop a strategy to forge good ongoing links between regional clubs/associations and Perth metropolitan clubs to enhance the player pathway.</p> <p><i>FW has demonstrated a strong commitment to regional football with the development and implementation of talented player programs in all regions.</i></p> <p><i>FW is supportive of links being established between regional clubs/associations and Perth metropolitan clubs to support player development and opportunities.</i></p>	From end 2024 onwards.