

Review of the National Premier Leagues

Terms of Reference

1. PURPOSE OF THE REVIEW

It has been agreed that Football Federation Australia (**FFA**) in consultation with its key stakeholders shall conduct a review of the National Premier Leagues (**NPL**) competition.

In 2012, FFA in partnership with Member Federations and key stakeholders completed a National Competitions Review (**NCR**) reviewing all aspects of state league football and the second tier of football in Australia. The outcome of the review led to several agreed initiatives that would shape the second tier of football into what it is today.

The introduction of the NPL in 2013 was a direct result of the NCR and today acts as the national second tier of football in Australia underpinning the Hyundai A-League and Westfield W-League.

The purpose of the review is to:

- determine whether the original objectives of the NCR and the NPL have been achieved;
- identify potential enhancements or initiatives to ensure the ongoing success of the NPL; and
- identify the role of the NPL within the national competition structure and the player pathway.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Review will consider:

- a) the NPL Finals Series, including structure and timing;
- b) the current National Club Licencing Criteria (**NCLC**) and which areas of the NPL shall remain consistent across the country;
- c) the Player Points System and whether it is achieving its original objectives of the NCR
- d) the cost of youth football in the NPL;
- e) the structure of the NPL in each state, including multiple divisions and the impact on player development, club standards and the NPL brand;
- f) the role of the NPL within the national competition structure and player pathway; and
- g) the relevance of the current NPL youth age groups and NPL club structure

In addition to the above, it is important to note that there is a separate FFA review of domestic training compensation. Through the NPL review, stakeholders will be afforded the opportunity to provide their feedback on domestic training compensation.

3. CONSULTATION

FFA will engage key stakeholders as part of the consultation process, including all Member Federations, the Association of Australian Football Clubs (**AAFC**), Professional Footballers Australia (**PFA**), the Women's Football Council, Football Coaches Australia (**FCA**), the Australian Professional Football Clubs Association (**APFCA**), and other relevant key stakeholders.

FFA will encourage all interested members of the football community who wish to provide their feedback to do so via an online survey. In addition to the survey, FFA intends to work with each Member Federation in coordinating a community forum in each state/territory which will provide the football community and relevant key stakeholders an additional opportunity to share their views.

FFA will establish a National Working Group (**NWG**) which shall consider all feedback received throughout the consultation process. The NWG shall include representatives from Member Federations, the AAFC, the Women's Football Council and FFA. The purpose of the working group is to provide recommendations to Member Federations and FFA for discussion and subsequently develop a submission to the FFA Board.

All feedback received throughout the consultation process will be reviewed and considered by FFA and FFA may seek further information from stakeholders following its initial review of the feedback.

4. TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION

FFA aims to complete the Review by the end of February 2020.