



# FFA Circular

Circular No.20-16

21 September 2020

## TO THE MEMBERS OF FFA

### **NATIONAL REGISTRATION SYSTEM (PLAY FOOTBALL) - ENHANCEMENTS**

Football Federation Australia (FFA), in conjunction with the Member Federations, is implementing changes to the national registration system, Play Football, to ensure that the allocated portions of player registration fees are distributed to the relevant fee collecting bodies (FFA, Member Federations and Clubs) automatically at the point of registration, rather than through current manual processes of calculating, invoicing and collecting at a later date.

These technical enhancements to the national registration system will take effect for the 2021 football season. They will provide FFA and the Member Federations with a vehicle to be distributed their respective portions of player registration fees online at the point of registration, but will still allow Clubs to nominate how their portion of the registration fees is collected. In other words, Clubs will still be able to choose between receiving their portion of the fees online at the point of registration via the secure Play Football online payment gateway or by making separate arrangements with their players to pay the remaining fees directly to the Club.

The recent financial strain that has been placed on all levels of our sport as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the inadequacy of the current registration fee disbursement model. Delays in receiving fees led to financial risks for various governing bodies who incur substantial up-front costs in preparing for a football season and are reliant on registration fees to fund those costs. This change seeks to address that risk.

This distribution of fees to the relevant bodies will be managed by a new 'multi-level payment' split disbursement model. The Clubs' portion of the registration fees will continue to include any Association/Zone fees being charged. Based on a national average, Clubs will retain 81% of their cash flow with this new system, enabling them to manage their finances effectively.

The changes will help promote the increased adoption of online payments using the secure Play Football payment gateway and disbursement, while still allowing Clubs the flexibility to retain their own payment methods if they wish.

Another benefit of this change is that Clubs/Associations/Zones will no longer have to handle collection and disbursement of FFA's National Registration Fee (**NRF**) or the Member Federation fees, reducing the administration burden on our Club/Association/Zone personnel and volunteers.

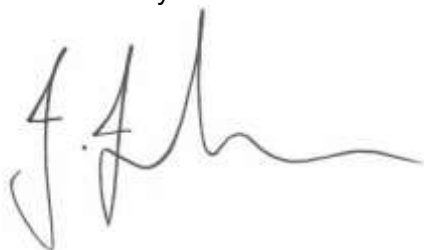
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Subject to final testing and validation, FFA will introduce a national registration fee refund policy and process to accompany this change. The FFA refund policy and process will be designed to work in conjunction with Member Federation policies and processes which will aim to increase efficiencies and consistency in dealing with requests for refunds of FFA and Member Federation fees while keeping any associated administrative burden on club personnel to a minimum.

The enhanced system is designed to streamline, improve and simplify the payment of registration fees and reduce the administration burden at all levels of football. This 'whole of football' approach ensures that funding is appropriately allocated to enable more efficient cash flow management and in turn the timely provision of essential services that keep the game running effectively.

As we operationalise these changes to the national registration system, the FFA will continue to engage and support all key stakeholders of the game to ensure a smooth implementation phase.

Yours sincerely



**James Johnson**  
Chief Executive Officer