



**NORTHERN
NSW**
FOOTBALL

2023
Talent Support Program
(TSP)

Information Guide

Contents

Overview	3
Purpose	3
Program Overview	3
TSP Structure.....	3
Hunter Region Programs.....	4
Regional TSP Programs	4
Program Locations	5
Age Groups.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Program Dates	5
Player Numbers.....	5
Invitation Benchmark.....	6
Selection to TSP.....	6
Costs associated with NNSWF TSP's.	8
TSP Coaches	7
Coach Mentoring Opportunities	7
TSP and NNSWF State Teams.....	7
'Elite Games'	8

Overview

Northern NSW Football (NNSWF) is committed to implementing a state-wide series of Talent Support Program (TSP) Hubs. Importantly, TSP's will be delivered locally across our region, minimising the need for extensive travel, through the establishment of five TSP hubs encompassing metropolitan and regional Northern NSW including:

- Hunter Region
- Mid North Coast
- Northern Inland
- North Coast
- Far North Coast

The TSP's main objective is to provide identified players with a platform to showcase their talents in a high performance, player centred environment where they can strive to progress on to A-League Academies and National Teams setup.

Purpose

The purpose of NNSWF's TSP is to provide identified players with an opportunity that is consistent with Football Australia's (FA) policies, to perform in high intensity, player centred, environments without fear of failure and use the TSP program as a platform to achieve their ambitions of becoming a professional footballer.

Program Overview

As stated in NNSWF's strategic plan, we want to empower our clubs to be at the heart of player development.

'The club and the player are integral to the player's development. It is our job to identify & showcase this talent...'

Therefore, the TSP program will provide players, in addition to their existing club or zone participation, a high-quality, games-based learning environment that will supplement their normal training loads. We believe that providing our most talented players the opportunity to play in higher intensity and engaging formats in addition to their club program provides the best chances of becoming a professional footballer or representing their country.

TSP Structure

NNSWF's TSP in 2023 will follow a games-based model aimed at providing identified players the opportunity to play against and with other talented players. This will provide a higher level of intensity and engagement within the game format and an excellent foundation to showcase the players.

Within the game, the players will be challenged to play and enjoy the game aligned to the NNSWF DNA without the fear of failure. We believe that we can reduce the fear of failure within a higher intensity, higher engaged environment, there will be a greater chance of showcasing the player's best talent.

Along with the game-based approach, players will be empowered to be at the centre of their own development. The players will be provided with an Individual Development Plan (IDP) for them to complete and to update on a bi-weekly basis. The IDP will challenge players to consider their strengths, areas for improvement and where football fits into their overall wellbeing. The IDP's will be monitored by the TSP coaches, edited, and added to where appropriate and discussed with players throughout the TSP cycles.

NNSWF's TSP's will be conducted in four (4) ten (10) week cycles.

For each cycle, players will play bi-weekly with and against different players within the TSP program. In some regions, the games may be played against external teams/clubs/academies/programs.

Within each TSP cycle, there will also be opportunities to play with and against the Newcastle Jets Academy.

Players within the TSP will be reviewed and may be released or invited to return for the next cycle. This means that any talented players who are identified external to TSP, may be invited into the program for the following cycle.

Hunter Region Talent Support Programs

The Hunter Region TSP will be implemented as follows:

Boys Programs

- **13's**
- **14's**
- **15's; and**
- **16's**

Girls Programs

- **13's & 14's combined**
- **15's, 16's & 17's combined**

The program will consist of one game every two weeks with games taking place at Lake Macquarie Regional Football Facility. These matches will be facilitated by dedicated TSP Coaching staff and overseen by NNSWF's Talented Player and Coach Development Manager.

Regional TSP Programs

Mid Coast and North Coast Football hubs will be conducted as multi-age programs. For example:

Boys Programs

- **13's/14's**
- **15's/16's**

Girls Programs

- **13's/14's**

- 15's/16's/17's

In the regions of North Coast Football and Mid Coast Football, the locations will alternate for each game. This will ensure that our most talented players will have the opportunity to play with and against our other most talented players in these areas. Alternating venues will also minimise the amount of travel required to access this environment.

In the Northern Inland and Far North Coast regions, the hubs will be conducted as mixed gender, multi-age programs, pending interest levels from talented players within each region.

In all Regional areas the TSP's will consist of one game every two weeks.

Program Locations

NNSWF's TSP's will be conducted in the following Hub locations:

- **Hunter Region** – Lake Macquarie Regional Football Facility.
- **Mid North Coast** – Venue will be dependent the locality of identified players.
- **Northern Inland** – Tamworth (Venue TBC)
- **North Coast** – Coffs Harbour (venue TBC)
- **Far North Coast** – Venue will be dependent the locality of identified players.

2023 Program Dates

The TSP's will be conducted in four cycles, with sessions held during the following weeks:

W	CYCLE 2	CYCLE 3	CYCLE 4	Cycle 1
1	30 th January	24 th April	17 th July	9 th October
2	6 th February	1 st May	24 th July	16 th October
3	13 th February	8 th May	31 st July	23 rd October
4	20 th February	15 th May	7 th August	30 th October
5	27 th February	22 nd May	14 th August	6 th November
6	6 th March	29 th May	21 st August	13 th November
7	13 th March	5 th June	28 th August	20 th November
8	20 th March	12 th June	4 th September	27 th November
9	27 th March	19 th June	11 th September	4 th December
10	3 rd April	26 th June	18 th September	11 th December

Player Numbers

Hunter Region TSP training groups will consist of the following:

- 13's Boys - up to 32 players selected per cycle
- 14's Boys - up to 32 players selected per cycle
- 15's Boys - up to 32 players selected per cycle
- 16's Boys - up to 32 players selected per cycle
- 13's & 14's Girls - up to 32 players selected per cycle
- 15's, 16's & 17's Girls - up to 32 players selected per cycle

Regional TSP's will consist of up to 24 players per program.

Invitation Benchmark

It is important to note that the number of players invited into a TSP will be dependent on the number of players meeting the required development benchmark. The benchmark for being considered for an invitation into a TSP is having the ability or potential to:

- Transition into the Newcastle Jets Academy.
- Be considered to represent NNSWF at National Youth Championships; and/or
- Be considered to represent Australia at Junior National Team level.

Selection to TSP

TSPs allow potentially talented players to play with and against other identified talented players. The purpose is to supplement and not replace or interfere with club training commitments to achieve 3-4 high quality sessions per week for talented, identified players.

TSP is an integral part of NNSWF's Talented Player Pathway and is an important component of the Player Identification process.

Players may be invited to participate in TSP through being identified by:

- Involvement in previous NNSWF programs and/or representative teams.
- NNSWF Talent Development staff.
- Newcastle Jets Academy staff.
- Football Australia National Team staff.
- Being referred to NNSWF technical staff by Premier Club and Zone TD's and coaches.

Key Points

- TSP is an invitation only program for identified talented players.

Costs associated with NNSWF TSP's

NNSWF subsidises Talent Development programs and are committed to making Player Development programs such as TSP as affordable as possible for families.

Players who are offered positions within NNSWF TSP's will be charged on a per term basis for the periods that they are selected. Participation fees for the training component of all NNSWF TSP's is \$90 per cycle.

The training component is inclusive of:

- Coaching fees
- Facility hire
- Training equipment
- Referee fees
- Insurances

Training Kit

Each player that accepts an invitation into a NNSWF TSP program will be required to purchase and wear the NNSWF TSP training kit which consist of a training shirt and shorts. Players will be required to wear their club socks when playing in the TSP program so that they can proudly display which club is supporting them on their development journey.

The TSP kit will be a one-off purchase, and NNSWF are committed to providing this at the most cost effective price possible.

Players will be responsible for all expenses associated with attending any additional programs and events including TSP Tournaments or 'Elite matches' organised by NNSWF.

TSP Coaches

NNSWF will identify, select, and employ all coaches engaged in NNSWF TSP's. To ensure the most qualified, experiences and suitable coaches are appointed to TSP's, NNSWF may:

- Call for expressions of interest.
- Call for coach nominations from Premier Clubs or Member Zones.
- Identify and appoint targeted coaches; and/or
- Advertise for positions.

Key Points

- NNSWF's TSP is aligned to FA's Integrated Talented Player Pathway.
- TSP provides a Nationally consistent development programs leading to Junior/Youth National Team identification.
- TSP helps to prepares players for the performance phase with clubs (PYL & AL); and
- Provides a benchmarking opportunity for the most talented youth players in the region.

Coach Mentoring Opportunities

NNSWF extends an open and ongoing invitation to club and Member Zone coaches who would like to attend and assist with the TSP as a development opportunity (non-paid).

If you or any of your coaching colleagues would like to discuss this opportunity, please contact [NNSWF's Talented Player Programs Administrator](#) for more information.

TSP Tournaments

NNSWF will work with Football NSW to provide a series of TSP tournaments for players engaged in TSP's (Regional and Hunter Region) during the April and July school holidays.

Please note that the age groups that will be invited to take part in these tournaments will vary from cycle to cycle, as this will be dependent on the opportunities presented at the time.

Elite Games

Identified players from NNSWF's TSP's (Regional and Hunter Region) may also have the opportunity to be invited to attend National Elite Games which form part of FA's National Identification process for the various National Junior and Youth team programs.

Elite games will enable FA, the Newcastle Jets and NNSWF to benchmark the very best players and to further identify players who have the potential to transition into the Newcastle Jets Academy or A-League squads.