



## MEMO 49-2025

**DATE:** Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August  
**TO:** NPL Men's NNSW Clubs  
**FROM:** Premier Competitions Coordinator  
**SUBJECT:** NPL Player Roster Principles 2026

For Information or Action	Action required	When	NNSWF Contact	Total Pages
Information	-	-	<a href="#">Thom Kane</a>	3

Good afternoon all,

Following its initial communication on 20 September 2024, Football Australia has completed a review of the 2026 National Premier Leagues (NPL) **Player Roster Principles (PRPs)**.

This review incorporated feedback from Member Federations and aligns with broader Domestic Transfer System reforms, including the formal removal of the Player Points System (PPS).

The updated PRPs are designed to:

- Provide greater opportunities for Australian players
- Maintain a strong focus on youth development
- Incentivise and reward clubs that develop players
- Simplify roster management across the NPL

### Summary of Key Updates – 2026 PRPs

From the 2026 season, the **PRPs** will form the national regulatory framework for roster management, youth development, and club accountability across all Member Federations participating in the NPL.

Please refer to the table below for a summary of the key updates:



Requirement	Previously Communicated Requirement	Updated Requirement
Player Roster Minimum and Maximum	<p>All NPL First Team Player Rosters must have a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 23 players.</p> <p>All NPL First Team Player Rosters must have a minimum of two (2) Australian Goalkeepers always listed.</p>	<p>All NPL First Team Player Rosters must have a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 23 players.</p> <p>All NPL First Team Player Rosters must have a minimum of two (2) Australian Goalkeepers always listed.</p> <p><b>All NPL First Team Player Rosters must have a minimum of six (6) U23 Players with a requirement of at least three (3) of these players being an U20 player.</b></p>
Youth Requirement on Match Day Team Sheet	<p>An U20 Youth Player is 20 years of age or younger as at 31 December of the current NPL Season.</p> <p>An U23 Youth Player is 23 years of age or younger as at 31 December of the current NPL season.</p> <p><b>Season 2026:</b> All NPL Clubs must list a minimum of five (5) U23 Players on their First Team Matchday Team Sheet, with a requirement that at least two (2) of those Players be an U20 Youth Player.</p> <p>*Substitute goalkeepers that are U23 or U20 will not be considered U23 or U20 Youth Players.</p> <p>*Visa Players that are U23 or U20 will not be considered as U23 or U20 Youth Players.</p>	<p>An U20 Youth Player is 20 years of age or younger as at 31 December of the current NPL Season.</p> <p>An U23 Youth Player is 23 years of age or younger as at 31 December of the current NPL season.</p> <p><b>Season 2026:</b> All NPL Clubs must list a minimum of <b>three (3)</b> U23 Players on their First Team Matchday Team Sheet, with a requirement that at least <b>one (1)</b> of those Players be an U20 Youth Player.</p> <p>*Substitute goalkeepers that are U23 or U20 will not be considered U23 or U20 Youth Players.</p> <p>*Visa Players that are U23 or U20 will not be considered as U23 or U20 Youth Players.</p>



Home Grown Player	An NPL Club must have a minimum of three (3) Homegrown Players on their NPL First Team Player Roster. For clarity, this is a Player, who between the ages of 15 – 21, was registered for a period of three (3) entire seasons or 36 months in total (noting such periods are aggregate and not required to be continuous) with that NPL Club.	An NPL Club must have a minimum of three (3) Homegrown Players on their NPL First Team Player Roster. For clarity, this is a Player, who between the ages of <b>12 – 21</b> , was registered for a period of three (3) entire seasons or 36 months in total (noting such periods are aggregate and not required to be continuous) with NPL Club.
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Football Australia, in conjunction with all Member Federations, will continue to monitor and review the application and impact of the PRPs on an annual basis to ensure they meet the stated objectives.

Kind regards,  
**Thom Kane**  
**Premier Competitions Coordinator**  
Northern NSW Football

