



MEMO 34-2026

DATE: Thursday 28th May
TO: All Boys PYL Clubs
FROM: GM Football Operations
SUBJECT: PYL Competition Structure

For Information or Action	Action required	Action completed by	NNSWF Contact	Total Pages
Information	Provide clubs position on 2 keys issues	15 th June	Liam Bentley	3

Dear All,

At the recent PYL Advisory Committee meeting, we had a constructive discussion regarding the future structure of the PYL Boys competition.

Firstly, we want to reinforce that promotion and relegation remain a core principle of the PYL competition model. The ability for clubs to move between divisions is central to ensuring matches remain both competitive and meaningful, and this will continue to underpin the structure of the competition moving forward.

The primary discussion point centred around the size and structure of the divisions throughout the season. In essence, the question is whether the competition should continue with two larger divisions to commence the season before splitting into three divisions for Phase 2, or whether the competition should move to a three-division structure for the entirety of the season.

The current format operates as follows:

- Phase 1 – Two divisions (Division 1 and Division 2)
- Phase 2 – Three divisions (Division A, Division B and Division C)

Feedback from clubs, combined with competition data and on-field observations, indicates that the Phase 2 structure generally produces a higher number of competitive and meaningful matches across all divisions.

Proposed Alternative Structure for feedback



The alternative structure discussed would involve maintaining three divisions across both phases of the season.

In practice, this would mean:

- The season commencing with three divisions (Division A, Division B and Division C)
- Teams playing each other home and away within their division during Phase 1
- Mid-season promotion and relegation occurring as follows:
 - Bottom team in Division A relegated to Division B
 - Top team in Division B promoted to Division A
 - Bottom team in Division B relegated to Division C
 - Top team in Division C promoted to Division B
- Teams then playing another full home and away phase within their updated division structure
- Approximately 28 total competition matches across the season
- The potential removal or adjustment of cup competitions depending on final club numbers and calendar availability
- Promotion and relegation at the end of the season continuing to apply for the following year

There are a number of factors clubs should consider when providing feedback on the proposed structure:

- Increased number of competitive matches across the season
- More consistent home and away scheduling across both phases
- Only one team likely promoted and relegated mid-season rather than multiple teams shifting divisions (Should this be more?)
- Competition points would likely need to reset at the conclusion of Phase 1, including Division A, due to clubs entering and leaving divisions
- The structure may provide clearer separation between newly admitted clubs and the current top-performing Division 2 clubs

Following on from the PYL Advisory we are formally seeking feedback on the following two questions:

1. Do you prefer the current structure of beginning the season in two divisions before moving to three divisions for Phase 2, or would you prefer a three-division structure for both Phase 1 and Phase 2?



2. If you support a three-division structure / if a three division structure was to be implemented, do you believe it is reasonable to introduce this format from the beginning of the 2027 season? Or should it be pushed to 2028.

Please provide your club's feedback by Monday 15th June.

We appreciate the constructive discussion and ongoing collaboration from clubs as we continue to review and evolve the PYL competition structure, and will continue to discuss the practicalities with the PYL advisory group upon collating the feedback.

Kind regards,

Liam Bentley
General Manager Football Operations
Northern NSW Football