



## MEMO 35-2026

**DATE:** Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May  
**TO:** Zone Football League One Clubs  
**FROM:** GM Football Operations  
**SUBJECT:** Zone Football League / Northern League One Promotion & Relegation

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

Dear All,

As part of our continued work with our Member Zones in building a functioning football pyramid, we are writing to clarify several points regarding promotion, relegation and Premier Youth League (PYL) requirements.

As Newcastle Olympic already have a team competing in the top two divisions of the pyramid, being NPL Men's and Hit 106.9 Northern League One (NL1), they are not eligible for promotion to NL1 should they finish the season as Minor Premiers.

As communicated during the introduction of promotion and relegation, in this scenario the team finishing second on the ladder will receive automatic promotion. This adjustment does not continue further down the table.

We also wish to clarify that there is currently no requirement for a club to field a PYL program in order to be promoted to, and compete in, NL1.

However, National Club Licensing criteria require clubs competing in NPL Men's to operate a PYL program. Therefore, a club must either currently operate a PYL program, or have been accepted into PYL through the relevant application process for the season in which they would compete in NPL Men's, to be eligible for automatic promotion to NPL Men's or participation in any promotion/relegation play-offs involving NPL Men's.



Should a newly promoted club not yet be in this position during their initial seasons in NL1, their NL1 status will not otherwise be impacted. However, they would not be eligible for promotion to NPL Men's until these requirements are met.

We encourage clubs with ambitions of progressing through the football pyramid to begin planning for PYL programs now, in conjunction with Northern NSW Football and your Member Zone. To assist with this process, we would also like to invite Zone League One clubs who may be in promotion contention to attend a meeting at Lake Macquarie Regional Football Facility on Thursday, 11 June at 5:30pm. This meeting will begin discussions before working with clubs individually on future planning and requirements.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge how exciting and positive it has been for football in Northern NSW to see Dudley Redhead United and Newcastle Croatia join Northern League One and compete strongly within the competition. Their progression highlights the opportunities a connected football pyramid can provide for ambitious clubs across the region.

Please do not hesitate to contact us or your relevant Zone General Manager should you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Liam Bentley

**General Manager Football Operations**  
**Northern NSW Football**