



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Northern NSW Football (NNSWF) is committed to ongoing consultation with clubs participating in the Junior Development League through the relevant Standing Committee and monthly meetings with Club Technical Directors led by Youth Technical Director, Kew Jaliens.

The (Premier Club SAP) JDL was introduced following a comprehensive review of the local Talented Player Pathway in 2017, which included consultation with clubs competing in the Premier Competitions and local Member Zones.

Please find below a series of Frequently Asked Questions which may assist you. If you have any direct questions please address them to your club Technical Director in the first instance.

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| <p><b>What is the purpose of Junior Development League (JDL)?</b></p> | <p>To provide potentially talented players with the best possible <b>learning environment</b> through a specific Skill Acquisition Program delivered by clubs competing in NNSWF's Premier Competitions.</p> <p>JDL is non-competitive and focuses on individual skill development.</p> <p>JDL provides a pathway for potentially talented players to represent a club from the age of 9 through to Seniors in the National Premier Leagues (NPL NSW), Women's Premier League (WPL) or Northern League 1 (NL1).</p> <p>JDL provides Premier Clubs with an opportunity to identify and develop players for the respective youth competitions as opposed to identifying players from u/12 community clubs.</p> |
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| <p><b>Why was Phase 1 of the draw held at Lake Macquarie Regional Football Facility (LMRFF)?</b></p> | <p>Phase 1 was conducted at the LMRFF to enable NNSWF's Technical Team to assess the skill level of players within teams as many times as possible in a centralised and controlled environment. The use of Football Five5 pitches was endorsed by Football Australia's Technical Director. This approach enabled NNSWF to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete 330 team assessments undertaken by NNSWF's Technical Team to ascertain as accurately as possible the overall skill level of the players at each of the clubs.</li> <li>• Gather and benchmark data to guide future professional development sessions and the support provided by NNSWF Technical Advisors to Club Technical Directors (TDs).</li> </ul> <p>The use of the Football Five5 pitches (smaller pitch and less players) ensured that players got more touches, repeated the four core skills more often and increased the frequency of football decision-making.</p>  |
| <p><b>How has NNSWF constructed Phase 2 fixtures?</b></p>  | <p>NNSWF has assessed the data from 330 team assessments to appropriately group clubs for fixtures during the next 8 weeks. The placement of individual teams in pools may be considered in the future, however this approach is not supported by clubs due to logistical considerations including the capacity of Club Technical Directors to visit multiple venues on the same match day.</p> <p>This approach aims to <b>minimise</b> the prevalence of "blow-out" scores, which facilitate poor learning environments for all players involved. NNSWF acknowledges that some fixtures will still "blow-out".</p> <p>NNSWF takes this opportunity to remind everyone that the JDL is a development league with the absolute focus on individual skill development.</p> <p>All premier clubs have been offered a licence to participate in the JDL. NNSWF does not distinguish between NPL and NL1 Clubs in the JDL.<br/>ALL clubs are JDL license holders and should not be distinguished in this phase as an NPL and NL1 club.</p> |

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| <p><b>What will NNSWF do to assist and support clubs to develop their JDL program?</b></p> | <p>The JDL will be fixtured in three (3) phases in 2021.</p> <p>This approach facilitates ongoing assessment of teams and club programs throughout the season and provides an opportunity for NNSWF to re-fixture the league on two (2) occasions throughout the season to better ensure clubs are engaged in matches that are at an appropriate level.</p> <p>NNSWF's Technical Advisors will be working with all JDL club TD's throughout the season to provide feedback on their program delivery and to assist and support clubs to develop their young players.</p>   |
| <p><b>How does the JDL benefit skilled and less-skilled players?</b></p>                   | <p>JDL is for players within the Skill Acquisition Phase.</p> <p>The focus of the Skill Acquisition Phase of football development is to develop each individual player's four (4) core skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1v1;</li> <li>• Running with the ball;</li> <li>• First touch; and</li> <li>• Striking the ball</li> </ul> <p>Whilst games are an important element of player development, it is important that progress is not measured by results or team performance but rather the progress of each individual player.</p> <p>It is clear that winning or losing by large score lines is not ideal. NNSWF has implemented a staged format to the JDL in 2021 to better manage the likelihood and frequency of large score lines, however eradicating them all together is something that we simply cannot guarantee.</p> <p>The format of the JDL fixtures is based on club programs rather than individual teams, and age groups.</p> <p>This allows club TD's and other technical staff to be present for all matches at the same venue to support players and coaches participating in all matches.</p> |

**Why are clubs allowed to put multiple teams into each age group?**

Clubs are provided with the opportunity to have a **maximum** of (two) 2 teams per age group. The JDL considers that clubs need to develop and identify a minimum of 16 players to transition to 13's. There is no evidence to suggest that limiting clubs to one team per JDL age group will disperse talented players across all clubs.

The maximum number of teams was agreed to by clubs and confirmed as part of the JDL participation agreement.

JDL clubs have the option to submit all, some or none of the age groups or teams up to the maximum that they feel benefits their club and their players.