



Football NSW Regional League 2013 Competition Structure



CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	3
2013 REGIONAL LEAGUE STRUCTURE	4
2013 REGIONAL LEAGUE COMPETITION MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS.....	6
ANNEX 1: MATCH SEQUENCE DRAFT	10
ANNEX 2: MATCH SCHEDULE DRAFT	11

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OVERVIEW

This paper aims to clearly define the structure and delivery standards of the new Regional League for 2013.

Conduct of the Regional League is a key outcome of the Football NSW Competitions Review, and forms a tier of the official competitions administered by Football NSW.

The Regional League will be comprised of Football Associations and Branches affiliated to Football NSW (**Regional League Teams**).

Football NSW goal in implementing the Regional League is to provide a development opportunity between community football and Premier League football in the age groups of U12 – U15 boys.

2013 REGIONAL LEAGUE VISION

“FNSW will provide youth male players a development opportunity between community and Football NSW Premier League football through conduct of the Regional League. The Regional League will prepare players for the tactical and technical challenges of FNSW Premier League competition.”

2013 REGIONAL LEAGUE MISSION

“Affiliated Football Associations and Branches will align their development programs with the National Curriculum and unite within the Regional League umbrella to deliver a consistent football development opportunity for the young player aspiring to make the jump from community football to the Football NSW Premier League.”

“The Regional League will enhance development programs currently conducted by Football Associations by formalising the competition component of those programs.”

2013 REGIONAL LEAGUE STRUCTURE

TEAMS

There will be 13 teams participating in the 2013 Regional League. The teams will be divided into two (2) groups, being the North and South.

Regional League - North	Regional League -South
Bankstown District Amateur Football Association	Eastern Suburbs Football Association
Canterbury & District Soccer Football Association	Football South Coast
Central Coast Football	Southern Branch
Granville & District Soccer Football Association	Southern Districts Soccer Football Association
Nepean Districts Soccer Football Association	St George Soccer Football Association
Northern Suburbs Football Association	Sutherland Shire Football Association
Western NSW football	

GRADES

Age groups will be U12, U13, U14 and U15 Boys.

Eligible years of birth follow:

- U12 (for players born on or after 1 January 2001);
- U13 (for players born on or after 1 January 2000);
- U14 (for players born on or after 1 January 1999); and
- U15 (for players born on or after 1 January 1998);

REGISTRATIONS

All players in the 2013 Regional League must be registered on MyFootballClub.

ELIGIBLE PLAYERS

In order to be eligible, players must meet the age restrictions and not already be registered to a club competing in the FNSW Premier League 1 or 2.

FNSW understand that there is more than one operational model available to Football Associations and Regional Branches in delivering teams to participate in the Regional League. As such, Football NSW does not intend to prescriptively define the relationship between the Football Association, Regional League team, local club and player other than as follows:

1. Should a Football Association or Branch operate a Regional League Team as a “full-time” program, i.e. that they train and play exclusively in the Regional League team environment, that team and its player will not be eligible to participate in the Football NSW Champions of Champions competition;

2. No more than five (5) players from any Regional League team will be permitted to represent a local club team in the Football NSW Champions of Champions competition. Further, the players must have been regular players in the local club team and must have been registered by the date contained in the competition regulations; and
3. Where players are permitted / required to participate in local club football to be eligible for Regional League selection, that participation must be for a club in geographic boundary of the Football Association or Branch that is operating the Regional League team.

PLAYERS PER TEAM

Each age grade team in the Regional League will be limited to a maximum of 16 players. This figure is consistent with other Football NSW competitions, and provides development opportunities to the following number of players across all boys' youth Leagues:

League	Age Groups (between U12 and U15)	Teams / Clubs	Players per team / club	Total
FNSW Institute	4	1	18	72
Premier League 1	4	12	16	768
Premier League 2	4	12	16	768
Regional League	4	13	16	832
Total				2440

The provision of 208 opportunities in each boy's age group U12 - U15 inclusive through the Regional League completes Football NSW pathway changes commencing in 2013.

Football NSW will now manage club and association programs for circa 600 players in each age group from U9 to U15 inclusive, starting with the Skill Acquisition Program U9 - U11 and leading into the same number of opportunities across the Football NSW Institute, Football NSW Premier League and Football NSW Regional League programs for U12 - U15.

Within the 2,440 opportunities for boys between the age grades of U12 and U15, the total opportunities for U15 players annually will be 610.

This number underpins the combined 576 opportunities available annually in the U16 age grades of the Football NSW Premier League 1, Premier League 2 and State League 1 competitions.

2013 REGIONAL LEAGUE COMPETITION MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

TRIAL PHASE

The **trial phase** for the 2013 Regional League will be set during the following period:

Commencement: 10 December 2012

Conclusion: To be determined by the individual teams

Regional League Teams are responsible for conducting trials for their respective programs.

TRAINING PHASE (PRE COMPETITION)

The **training phase** for the 2013 SAP will be set during the following period (incorporate a break over the Christmas and New Year period to be set by the individual Regional League teams):

Commencement: Conclusion of Trials

Conclusion: 8 March 2013

During this period, teams must deliver training based activities in accordance with the FFA National Curriculum and any policy communicated by FNSW.

Teams will be permitted to coordinate their own friendly matches with Clubs or Association's affiliated to FNSW during the training phase. Scheduling of friendly matches against non-affiliated teams will not be permitted.

GAME PHASE (COMPETITION)

The **game phase** for the 2013 Regional League will be set during the following period:

Commencement: 9/10 March 2013

Conclusion: 21/22 September 2013

The draft match sequence (annexure 1) and draft match schedule (annexure 2) are attached.

MATCH FORMAT

To ensure optimal development opportunities in the Regional League, and provide a consistent platform underpinning the FNSW Premier League 1 and 2 competitions, Regional League teams will be required to implement the 1-4-3-3 National Curriculum preferred formation.

MATCH SCHEDULE

Other than Western NSW Football and Southern Branch, teams do not play each round. This enables support for regional player development while facilitating metropolitan player's participation in local football association competitions as well as the Regional League.

The following principles were maintained when developing the match sequence and schedule:

1. Western NSW Football and Southern Branch playing each round;
2. Western NSW Football and Southern Branch allocated 2/3 of their matches as home matches;

3. The 11 Football Associations playing “every other week” to enable their players to participate in local competitions without increasing their match load (i.e. not requiring them to play 2 matches each weekend);
4. “Cross-over” finals series extending the Regional League and exposing the teams to clubs from the opposite group;
5. Incorporation of “off-weeks” when the State Cup, State Titles and Branch Championships have been scheduled; and
6. Coordinating Western NSW Football and Southern Branch matches the same weekend as FNSW Technical Department Country Development Days to reduce travel for players involved in both the Regional League and Football NSW Country State Team selection processes.

MATCH DAYS

Matches will be played on either a Saturday or Sunday. The decision on match days will be open to the home club to communicate its preference to FNSW. This consideration takes into account the varied grassroots match days across Football associations as well as facility availability.

All age grades must be played in a consecutive order (i.e. U12 to U15) on the nominated match day.

KICK-OFF TIMES

The following match time brackets will be implemented for the Regional League:

- U12 – no earlier than 9:00am, no later than 10:30am
- U13 – no earlier than 10:15am, no later than 11:45am
- U14 – no earlier than 11:30am, no later than 1:00pm
- U15 – no earlier than 1:00pm, no later than 2:30 pm

REFEREES

Football NSW will appoint Referees to the Regional League matches. Payment of the Referees will be the responsibility of the home teams.

It is anticipated that Football NSW will call upon Community Referee Branches and members of the “Talent Pool” identified to service the Premier and State Leagues to officiate at Regional League matches.

STADIUM REQUIREMENTS

Nominated stadiums for use in the Regional League must meet the State League standards of the Football NSW Stadium Technical Requirements, with the following exceptions:

1. The venue will not require seating for 300 people;
2. The venue will not require a ticket box

This standard is consistent with the minimum requirements in the 2012 Skill Acquisition League competition.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Football NSW will communicate the Regional League competition regulations in advance of the season commencing. Included within those rules will be game modifications, consistent with the aims of the National Curriculum, designed to aid in the development of players.

Following is detail on some rules and regulations that will be implemented for the 2013 Regional League:

Apparel

Match apparel is to be supplied by the respective Regional League teams, and should include the following items at a minimum; playing shirt x 1, playing short x 1, playing socks x 1, tracksuit (jacket and pants) x 1, polo shirt x 1, kit bag x 1.

The above apparel is to be provided within the registration fee, i.e. a fee for the apparel cannot be charged over and above the registration fee.

League Tables and Points

League tables will be kept during the game phase of the 2013 Regional League. A system will be implemented by which a percentage of wins, draws and losses against matches played will determine positions on the table, given that the Branch teams will play more matches than the Football Association teams.

Finals Series

During the finals series, both North and South will be divided into two (2) groups, with the top four (4) teams from each zone playing off for the Regional League Cup, the remainder of the teams playing off for the Regional League Shield .

Rules relating to determining positions during the Play-off stage will be communicated prior to the season commencing.

Relative Age Effect

The Relative Age Effect (**RAE**) principle allows for players born in the last three (3) months of the year to offset any physical disadvantage to players born in the earlier months of the year by player down an age group.

RAE will be implemented in the 2013 Regional League, with approval and ongoing monitoring of RAE players conducted in collaboration between the FNSW State Technical Director and Regional League team Technical Directors and/or coaches.

A letter regarding processes to assess RAE players will be communicated by the Football NSW Technical Director.

Development Specific Rules

FNSW will incorporate specific football develop rules to the traditional match regulations for the 2013 Regional League. An example includes the 25m rule implemented in the 2012 Skill Acquisition Phase Programs (and relevant to the U12 age grade of the 2013 Regional League) to encourage teams to play the ball out from the back.

2013 REGIONAL LEAGUE FINANCIAL MODEL

2013 REGISTRATION FEE

Individual Football Associations will be responsible for setting fees for their Regional League team players.

The fee must consider:

- Fees already paid to the local club by the players where relevant;
- FFA and FNSW compulsory registration fees;
- access to training and match facilities;
- qualified coaching;
- match apparel as defined in this document;
- medical support; and
- any other administrative or coaching responsibility of the Football Association.

Football NSW will levy a registration fee of \$22 (inclusive of GST) per player, above the grassroots \$16.91 Football NSW capitation fee, to provide funds to conduct and assess the Regional League. This capitation fee is consistent with that levied during the 2012 Skill Acquisition League. Revenue from the fee will contribute to operational costs including competition administration (i.e. match scheduling, appointment of referees, score recording, disciplinary process etc), program assessment and organisation of the finals series.

An example fee structure follows:

Fee Component	Value
FFA National Registration Fee	\$12.50
FNSW Registration (including accident support)	\$20.44
FNSW Regional League Administration	\$22.00
Local Club Fee	TBC 1
Football Association Fee	TBC 2

Football Associations will be responsible for all costs associated with participating in the Regional League, including venue hire and referees fees for all matches other than the Final.

ANNEX 1: MATCH SEQUENCE DRAFT

Round Date	Group Matches													Total			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Home	Away
Bankstown District	H		A		H	A	A	No Matches	Limited Matches	No Matches	No Matches	No Matches	No Matches	A		3	4
Canterbury District	A		A		H	A		No Matches	Limited Matches	No Matches	No Matches	No Matches	No Matches	H		3	4
Central Coast	A		H		A	A	A	State Cup Round 1	State Cup Round 4	State Cup Round 3	State Cup Round 4	State Cup Round 4	State Cup Round 4	H		3	4
Northern Suburbs	A		H		A	A								A		3	4
Granville District	H		A		H	A								A		3	4
Nepean District	H		A		H	A								A		3	4
Western NSW Football	H		H		A	A								H		3	4
Southern Conference																	
Eastern Suburbs	H		A		H	A								H		8	5
Southern Districts	A		A		A	A								H		3	3
St George	A		H		A	A								H		3	3
Sutherland Shire	A		H		A	A								H		3	3
Football South Coast	H		A		H	A								A		3	3
Southern Branch	A		H		H	A								A		3	3
Northern Conference																	
1st North	H		A		A	A											
2nd North	H		A		A	A											
3rd North	A		H		A	A											
4th North	A		H		A	A											
1st South	H		A		H	A											
2nd South	H		A		H	A											
3rd South	A		H		H	A											
4th South	A		H		H	A											
Regional Shield																	
5th North	BYE		A		H	A											
6th North	H		BYE		H	A											
7th North	A		A		BYE	A											
5th South	A		H		H	A											
6th South	A		H		A	A											

Round Date	Conference Play Offs				Play-off		Final
	Play-off 1	Play-off 2	Play-off 3	Play-off 4	Matches	S/Final	
3/4 Aug	10/11 Aug	17/18 Aug	24/25 Aug	31/1 Sep	7/8 Sep	14/15 Sep	21/22 Sep
Regional Cup							
1st North						C1V C4	SF 1 V SF2
2nd North						C2 V C3	
3rd North							
4th North							
1st South							
2nd South							
3rd South							
4th South							
Regional Shield							
5th North						C5 V S3	SF3 V SF4
6th North						S1 V S2	
7th North						BYE	
5th South							
6th South							

ANNEX 2: MATCH SCHEDULE DRAFT

Group Stage				
Round	Date	Group	Home Team	Away Team
1	March 9/10	North	Bankstown District	Canterbury District
			Nepean District	Central Coast
			Granville District	Northern Suburbs
		South	Eastern Suburbs	Southern Branch
			Football South Coast	St George
2	March 16/17	Cross over	Western NSW Football	Southern Districts
			Southern Branch	Nepean District
3	March 23/24	North	Central Coast	Bankstown District
			Northern Suburbs	Nepean District
			Western NSW Football	Granville District
		South	Southern Districts	Eastern Suburbs
			Sutherland Shire	Football South Coast
4	March 29/30	Cross over	Southern Branch	Canterbury District
			St George	Western NSW Football
5	April 6/7	North	Bankstown District	Northern Suburbs
			Canterbury District	Central Coast
			Nepean District	Western NSW Football
		South	Eastern Suburbs	St George
			Southern Branch	Southern Districts
6	April 13/14	Cross over	Southern Branch	Granville District
			Western NSW Football	Sutherland Shire
7	April 20/21	North	Western Branch	Bankstown District
			Northern Suburbs	Canterbury District
			Granville District	Nepean District
		South	Sutherland Shire	Eastern Suburbs
			St George	Southern Branch
8	April 27/28	Cross over	Southern Branch	Central Coast
			Football South Coast	Western NSW Football
9	May 11/12	North	Bankstown District	Granville District
			Canterbury District	Western Branch
			Central Coast	Northern Suburbs
		South	Eastern Suburbs	Football South Coast
			Southern Branch	Sutherland Shire
			Southern Districts	St George
10	May 18/19	Cross over	Southern Branch	Western NSW Football
11	May 25/26	North	Nepean District	Bankstown District
			Granville District	Canterbury District
			Western Branch	Central Coast
		South	Football South Coast	Southern Branch
			Sutherland Shire	Southern Districts
12	June 22/23	Cross over	Northern Suburbs	Southern Branch
			Western NSW Football	Eastern Suburbs
13	June 29/30	Cross over	Western NSW Football	Southern Branch
14	July 20/21	North	Canterbury District	Nepean District
			Central Coast	Granville District
			Western Branch	Northern Suburbs
		South	Southern Districts	Football South Coast
			St George	Sutherland Shire
15	July 27/28	Cross over	Southern Branch	Bankstown District

Play-off Stage				
Round	Date	Group	Home Team	Away Team
Play-off 1	August 3/4	Cup	1st North	4th South
			1st South	4th North
			2nd North	3rd South
			2nd South	3rd North
		Shield	6th North	5th South
			7th North	6th South
Play-off 2	August 17/18	Cup	3rd North	1st South
			3rd South	1st North
			4th North	2nd South
			4th South	2nd North
		Shield	6th South	5th North
			5th South	7th North
Play-off 3	August 21 / September 1	Cup	2nd South	1st North
			1st South	2nd North
			4th South	3rd North
			3rd South	4th North
		Shield	5th North	5th South
			6th North	6th South
Play-off 4	September 7/8	Cup	1st North	1st South
			2nd North	2nd South
			3rd North	3rd South
			4th North	4th South
Semi Final 1	September 14/15	Cup	Regional Cup 1st	Regional Cup 4th
Semi Final 2			Regional Cup 2nd	Regional Cup 3rd
Semi Final 3		Shield	Regional Cup 5th	Regional Shield 3rd
Semi Final 4			Regional Shield 1st	Regional Shield 2nd
Finals	September 21/22	Cup	Winner SF 1	Winner SF 2
		Shield	Winner SF 3	Winner SF 4