Junior Boys’ NPL Victoria

Frequently Asked Questions

18 April 2019

Please find answers to the frequently asked questions regarding the Victorian NPL Junior Boys competition for 2020.

Questions and answers will be added to as the process continues and more questions arise.

If you cannot find the answer to any question either in this FAQ document or in other documentation outlined below – please feel free to submit your questions to:

JBNPL2020@footballvictoria.com.au

Important Documents

Below is the critical documentation released by FV regarding the implementation of Junior Boys’ NPL competition in Victoria.

- JBNPL 2020 Application Information
- JBNPL 2020 Implementation Timeline
- JBNPL 2020 Applicant Criteria

The questions have been separated in the specific areas of interest.

Facilities

**Q - In the Facilities Standard it mentions that the Field of play must not include a cricket wicket – Does this mean for all NPL teams?**

A – Yes, this is for all NPL teams inclusive of all 4 teams U13-U16 for the junior program. The Club will allocate one pitch for the number of required teams.

**Q - The training field requirement is set for 40 weeks of the year – Does this include pre-season training?**

A - The 40-week period is inclusive of the training and competition season. The 40 weeks for season 2020 starts on February 1. We are aware some clubs will aim to train more than the minimum 40 weeks, but the venue requirements will only be in place for that 40-week period.

**Q - Council support – what form is this to take? Is it a verbal or written response from Council to the club and FV acknowledging and supporting an application or can the club just say they have council support?**

A - In the application we request a signed letter from council or venue owner supporting the application as a minimum. Ultimately, as venue owners, local councils are an important stakeholder in any NPL Club, and we do not want clubs proceeding with an application without having their support or venue owners support.
FV will continue to support clubs through both our club ambassador program and our facilities and advocacy teams.

**Team & Club Numbers**

**Q - How long will the NPL mandate a minimum of 4 teams (U13-U16), when does this increase?**

A - There are no immediate plans to increase the number of mandatory teams for NPL Clubs competing in the Junior Boys’ NPL competition. FV reserves the right to review the JBNPL competition at the end of each year and make necessary recommendations to the board for any changes to the competition structure.

**Q - Will it be limited to 48 clubs?**

A - Yes. The limit is 48 clubs during the EOI application process for the 2020 competition.

**Q – How many teams can existing NPL clubs fill at each age group?**

A – Current NPL teams will be eligible to have unrestricted Mini Roos and Small Sided Football teams. Current NPL clubs will be limited to one (1) additional team for U13’s to U16’s that will compete in the community competition in year one (1)(2020). After year one (1) (2021 & beyond) current NPL teams will be eligible to fill unlimited teams per age groups in the community competition provided they have appropriate numbers and facilities to accommodate additional teams.

**Please note:** HAL (Hyundai A League) clubs will be restricted to one (1) team per age group U13’s to U16’s for the Licensing period that will compete in the JBNPL competition.

**Q – How many teams can current community clubs who are successful in entering the competition in 2020 fill?**

A – The current community clubs who are successful in their application to the NPL Junior tier in 2020 will not need to forgo their current community club programs.

**Q – Why aren’t existing NPL clubs required to go through the EOI process?**

A- All current NPL junior clubs & HAL (Hyundai A League) clubs will be eligible to begin in the newly formatted NPL competition in 2020 should they agree to all competition rules and meet all entry criteria for the competition. They are not required to be assessed against the weighted criteria as confirmed through the stakeholder engagement sessions however will be audited by June 28, 2019 against the mandatory criteria.

**Q – Will FV consider a player movement restriction?**

A – Yes, FV is constantly reviewing best practise across the country and restriction on player registrations is one of these considerations.

**Q – Will FV consider more teams in the future?**

A – The FV board reserves the right to increase or decrease the number of eligible clubs after the 2020 season.
Q – Can players move between community team and NPL team at the same club?

A – No, Players will need to be registered for each team they are playing for. Players moving from a community team to an NPL team will need to de-register from one team and register in the other team.

Assessment & Scoring

Q – How will the community clubs be assessed in the assessment process?

A – All community clubs who express an intent to apply will receive an EOI document that will contain the application process. The application process will have the set criteria and a weighted scoring method.

Q – How long is the Licence granted for?

A – The new Participation Licence will be for a period of 3 years, for seasons 2020, 21 & 22. This is conditional to successful applicants maintaining the mandatory requirements.

Coaching

Q – Can the same person be the Technical Director and Coach an eligible team in the JBNPL competition?

A – No. Given the prospective workload for both a Technical Director and Head Coach of a team in the age groups (U13’s – U16’s) it is not appropriate to hold both roles simultaneously. A technical director during the season can temporarily (no longer than 6 weeks) fill in until a new qualified coach is found.

Q – What does it mean in the criteria requirements that a coach must hold a current competent license?

A – An appointed or nominated coach to be deemed qualified they must be assessed as competent based on attending the course and passing their practical submission under the licensing requirements.

Q – Can a Head Coach of an eligible team in the age groups (U13’s – U16’s) hold a head coach role at another NPL club?

A – No. A head coach may be permitted to coach at community level.

Q – Can a Head Coach of an eligible team in the age groups (U13’s – U16’s) hold multiple coaching roles within the same NPL club?

A – A Head coach is not able to be the head coach of another team. The head coach may be appointed as a mentor coach or assistant coach of another team however the Head Coach appointed must meet the minimum coaching requirements for the Head Coaching position.

Q – Is the football director and technical director the same role?

A – The technical director role is the required mandatory role within the requirements of the EOI process. There is no requirement for the JBNPL club to have a football director.
Q – Will FV provide support to the technical directors?
A – FV will continue to support this important role through our technical team

Q – Can a coach and or TD be in the process of completing their accreditations?
A – Yes, either a coach or a TD can be in the process of completing their accreditations. This will need to be stipulated in the EOI application process. An applicant must demonstrate how it will meet the mandatory coaching requirements set out in Section 3 of the JBNPL applicant criteria.

Q – Will overseas qualifications be recognised?
A – Yes, FFA/FV approved overseas qualifications will be recognised.

Q – How do we find out about upcoming coaching courses?
A – FV updates coaching course information on the FV website. Refer link below.

Competition

Q – If the Senior Team is relegated will this impact the Junior Boys’ position in the competition the following year?
A – No. For the purpose of promotion and relegation seniors and juniors will be de coupled, the senior teams finishing position will have no impact on the Junior placings in the following year.

Q – How many licenses will FV issue for the 2020 JBNPL competition?
A – There will be up to 48 licenses issued for the 2020 JBNPL competition subject to FV approving applications that meet the eligible criteria. All current NPL & HAL clubs are eligible to begin in the newly formatted NPL competition should they agree to the competition rules and meet all the entry criteria for the competition.

There are currently 17 NPL clubs in the east and 16 NPL clubs in the west. There are 2 existing HAL clubs and 1 new HAL club.

Q – Where will the U12’s team play?
A – The U12’s will compete in the community competition.

Q – How will the new NPL Junior tier competition start in 2020?
A – Once the 48 clubs are confirmed there will be 4 geographical pools of 12 clubs determined by FV. Each pool will play 11 qualification games to determine a finishing position on each pool’s ladder.
Teams finishing positions on the ladder will be regraded into newly formed leagues of 12 where they will then play 22 Home & Away games.

FV will review the competition each year to ensure continuous improvement.

**Q – Will the A – League clubs automatically qualify for League 1 post the pre qualifying games**

A – No. Finishing positions in the pre qualifiers will determine which division a team will compete in.

**Q – What will happen to the U18’s**

A – The U18’s will be decoupled from the junior program and will play teams in the same league as the senior team where applicable.

**Q – Will the finishing positions have an impact on the starting positions the next year?**

A – No. At the end of the season, all teams return to their original geographical qualification pools.

**Q – How many games will teams play?**

A – Each team will play 11 pre qualifying games and 22 Home & Away games. This is a total of 33 games. This is based on FV granting 48 licenses.

**Q – How will the pre qualifiers be fixtured?**

A – The pre qualifiers are currently being reviewed and may be played over 8-11 weekends and will be fixtured as current gala days where each team plays at the same venue.

**Q – How will track record be considered as part of the process?**

A – FV have requested that all applicants can enter teams in the following JBNPL age groups in 2020. (U13’s, U14’s, U15’s and U16’s).

The current league a team is in (for each of the above age groups) post the grading period in 2019 will be utilised to provide a weighted score for each club. Please refer page 26 of the EOI application process under the heading Track Record.

If clubs **do not have** a current team in 2 or more of the eligible age groups (U12’s, U13’s, U14’s, U15’s, U16’s) in 2019, their application will not meet the mandatory criteria and their application will not be progressed further.

**Q – What will be the criteria for determining new clubs being accepted to join the NPL competition in 2020?**

A – FV will undergo a comprehensive appointment process. The criteria will be published at the same time the EOI documents are distributed. A panel of experts will make recommendations to the board. Ultimately the board will approve the new licenses.
**Q – Can different age groups from 1 club end up in different divisions?**

A – Yes. The pre qualifiers will determine what division each age group/team will play in for that year for U13’s – U16’s only.

**Q – What is the requirements for player registrations for each team?**

A – There is a minimum requirement of 16 players and a maximum requirement of 18 players for each JBNPL 2020 team.

This means that all JBNPL clubs must have a minimum of 64 individual players registrations in their clubs NPL Junior Boys program.

**Q – Will regional teams who have to travel in excess of 100KM’s from the Melbourne CBD continue to receive preferential fixturing?**

A – FV is currently working on the fixturing for 2020 and where feasible this will be the objective for 2020.

**Q – What is the fee structure for the JBNPL 2020 competition?**

A – FV is constantly reviewing and analysing the cost to play football. For the 2020 season the fee structure is as per the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020 Junior NPL Boys</th>
<th>Unit Cost</th>
<th># of players / team</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Player Registration</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>$12,800</td>
<td>Minimum 16 players per team. Maximum 18 players per team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Entry</td>
<td>$1800</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>$7,200</td>
<td>4 Teams (U13, U14, U15, U16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$18,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td><strong>$20,000</strong></td>
<td>Cost based on 16 players per team</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020 Junior NPL Boys</th>
<th>Unit Cost</th>
<th># of players / team</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Player Registration</td>
<td>$125</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
<td>Minimum 16 players per team. Maximum 18 players per team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Entry</td>
<td>$875</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>4 Teams (U13, U14, U15, U16)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$11,500</strong></td>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td><strong>$11,500</strong></td>
<td>Cost based on 16 players per team</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: - Player registration includes FV & FFA fee
  - Regional clubs are defined as those clubs whose home ground is greater than 100km from the Melbourne CBD
  - For current NPL clubs the senior fee has not yet been determined

**Q – What is the current cap?**

A – The current maximum amount an NPL club may charge a player to participate in their football program (registration and playing fees) must not exceed $2,000.00 + GST. The
specifications in relation to this maximum fee will be specified in a successful applicants NPL Participation license. Football Victoria will not change this maximum limit for season 2020.

A cap may also be applied for the U12’s and mini roos program as determined by FV.