

MEMO 10 - 23

To: Wide Bay and Central Coast Clubs
From: Football Queensland
Subject: Wide Bay and Central Coast Junior Competitions
Date: March 2, 2023

Dear Clubs

Football Queensland has been undertaking ongoing and extensive consultation with clubs in the Wide Bay and Central Coast regions regarding the composition of junior competitions for 2023.

As part of this consultation and following the season review in November, Football Queensland proceeded on the basis that the majority of clubs voted in favour of implementing the season with Under 13, Under 14 and Under 16 age groups for both Community and FQPL competitions.

Based on team nominations received and data analysis conducted for Under 12 to Under 16 player numbers on a club-by-club basis, it became evident that an Under 14 Community or FQPL competition would not be viable in either region.

In line with Football Australia's national directive and the subsequent implementation of the 9v9 format for Under 13 competitions, Under 12 and Under 13 players are unable to bypass their eligible age group to participate in an Under 14 competition.

Football Queensland has instead confirmed the formation of an Under 13/14 9v9 competition for both FQPL and Community leagues in Wide Bay and Central Coast which 14-year-olds who are born later in the year or are new to the game will be able to participate in.

14-year-olds born mid-year or late in the year will have the option of playing up into the Under 15/16 age group.

This flexibility of the Rules of Competition Addendums will be assessed on a club-by-club and case-by-case basis to cater to the needs of the two regions and ensure the outcome is of benefit to the football community as a whole.

Moving forward and in collaboration with clubs, Football Queensland will continue to consider these factors to structure competitions and age groups within the Wide Bay and Central Coast regions.

End.