

## MEMO 24 - 23

**To:** NPL Women, FQPL 1 and 2 Women, FQPL 3 Metro Women Clubs  
**From:** Football Queensland  
**Subject:** Update on Advanced Women's Leagues  
**Date:** October 11, 2023

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Dear Clubs

In line with Football Queensland's commitment to strengthening its female pathways and competitions as stated in the FQ Strategic Plan and following the success of the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023™, Football Queensland will continue to implement minor incremental adjustments to the composition of Advanced Women's leagues as we work towards the desired target league design.

Clubs within the FQPL 1 and 2 Women's competitions were asked to provide feedback on a range of proposed competition structures for the 2024 season, based on the long-term goals of increasing match minutes, building capacity and reaching a specific targeted league design across the Advanced Women's competitions. Feedback requested included the logistics and viability of these proposals for their club and teams in the 2024 season and the long-term benefits of these potential changes for the game as a whole.

Based on club feedback and FQ strategic positions, the FQPL 1 Women will be amended to reflect a 10-team competition for the 2024 season, with the FQPL 2 Women competition to remain as 10 teams. The change will deliver an NPL, FQPL 1 and FQPL 2 target position of 10 teams per league.

League positions based on promotion and relegation at the conclusion of the 2023 season will stand, and new positions within these leagues will be offered (on sporting merit) to those next in line in the pyramid. This will be communicated to the relevant clubs throughout the licensing process in the coming days.

In addition to the 18 rounds of regular season fixtures for teams within FQPL 1 and 2 Women, Finals Series matches and their involvement in the Queensland Cup (formerly the Kappa Women's Super Cup), teams within these leagues will also compete in a newly introduced Pro Series competition from 2024 aligning with the Men's Pro Series competition.

The Pro Series competition will see teams in the FQPL 1 and 2 Women play three group stage rounds of matches before the regular season, with those advancing out of their groups to compete in knockout rounds throughout the season, culminating in a Final. Further details regarding this format and timeline will be communicated to the relevant clubs over the coming weeks.

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The introduction of the Pro Series competition provides further opportunities for teams and players to participate in high level competitive matches, while also increasing their match minutes throughout the season in line with the Football Australia outlined targets.

Based on club consultation and subsequent feedback, a decision has also been made to withdraw the requirement for clubs to field Under 23 teams in the FQPL 3 Metro Women competition from 2024.

This adjustment to the competition structure aims to further strengthen the FQPL 3 Metro Women and Community Metro Women's competitions by fostering more sustainable growth within these leagues, affording clubs additional time to effectively develop their women's programs.

The change to the FQPL 3 Metro Under 23 Women competition also aims to enable clubs to access a larger depth of talent, while ensuring teams and players are not overstretched.

It is anticipated that the limited number of affected players will have the opportunity within their current clubs to participate in either the FQPL 3 Metro Women or Community Metro Women's teams during the 2024 season, ensuring that all players have a place to play and continue their development moving forward.

FQPL 3 Metro Women clubs in a promotion position at the conclusion of the 2024 season must be able to demonstrate that they are promotion ready. This includes the ability to field an FQPL 2 Under 23 Women's team in the 2025 season based on their player numbers and quality in community senior and junior teams at the club.

Clubs within the FQPL 1 and 2 Women's competitions were consulted regarding the role of the Under 23 competition within their club and for the development of their players. The feedback received consistently reflected the importance of these leagues for clubs at this level to prepare players to compete in senior competitions and provide a pathway for junior players.

Football Queensland appreciates the cooperation of clubs over recent weeks, with the feedback provided demonstrating an alignment of intention between clubs and Football Queensland to make decisions in the best interest of the game and its stakeholders.

For any questions, please contact [competitions@footballqueensland.com.au](mailto:competitions@footballqueensland.com.au)

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