



**FOOTBALL
SOUTH
AUSTRALIA**

Football South Australia Senior Men's Competitions

Assessment Criteria for Club Inclusion

Entry from 2025 Season

**FOOTBALL SA SENIOR MEN'S COMPETITIONS -
ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION TO FOOTBALL SA SENIOR MEN'S
COMPETITIONS (2025)**

FOOTBALL SA – ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR CLUB INCLUSION 2025

1. Background

- 1.1 Football SA will assess Clubs suitability for participation in the Senior Men's Competitions in accordance with these guideline in its ultimate discretion.
- 1.2 The Senior Men's Competitions includes the RAA National Premier League, State League 1 and State League 2 Competition and any other competition Football SA determines from time to time.
- 1.3 Clubs must satisfy the minimum standards for the relevant competition as prescribed by Football SA (refer *Football SA Senior Men's Operating Regulations*) prior to promotion into each competition.
- 1.4 Clubs are required to enter into a standard Club Participation Licence Agreement with Football SA with respect to its participation in Football SA competitions.

2. Assessment

- 2.1 In assessing Club applications pursuant to these guidelines, Football SA will consider a range of factors including but not limited to:
 - (a) the maximum number of teams which will participate in the relevant competitions;

- (b) the Club's ability to comply with current and future minimum standards as prescribed by Football SA, Football Australia and FIFA for the relevant competitions;
- (c) the geographical location of the Club, including proximity to existing Clubs in the relevant competition, the current population base and forecast population growth;
- (d) the Club's vision and strategic plan;
- (e) the Club's current governance and administration structure;
- (f) the preferred alignment of male and female teams;
- (g) the Club's history of compliance with Football SA and affiliated associations Rules and Regulations;
- (h) the Club's financial viability, including operating budgets and net asset position;
- (i) the Club's relationship with local government;
- (j) the Club's junior pathway programs.

3. Process

- 3.1 Clubs seeking entry – or otherwise at the request of Football SA – must submit an application via the prescribed form (Appendix A) addressing all required areas by **COB, Friday 26 July 2024**.
- 3.2 Football SA will then assess all applications and advise Clubs of the outcome.
- 3.3 Football SA will formally invite Clubs to participate in the Senior Men's Competition once the process is complete.
- 3.4 Invited Clubs, if accepted, will enter the Senior Men's Competition from the lowest division (currently State League 2).

FOOTBALL SA – SENIOR MEN’S MINIMUM ASSESSMENT STANDARDS – STATE LEAGUE 2
4. Teams

Ref	Criteria	Minimum Standard	Rationale	Implementation
4.1	Men's Teams	3 x Senior Men's Team <i>First Team</i> <i>Reserves</i> <i>Under 18's</i>	Ensure teams are able to fulfil each senior grade for consistency and player depth.	Mandatory
4.2	Youth Teams	No minimum but highly encouraged: 2 x MiniRoos teams (U6-12) boys and girls 2 x Junior Teams (U13-17) boys and girls	Creates a youth player pathway and improves senior club engagement with juniors	2025

5. Junior Pathways

Ref	Criteria	Minimum Standard	Rationale	Implementation
5.1	Pathway Development Plan	The Club has a documented Junior Pathway Plan which outlines the Clubs mission, vision and goals regarding the development of the club defined pathway	Ensures the Club has a clear development plan for Juniors which can transition to Senior football.	Mandatory

6. Coaching

Ref	Criteria	Minimum Standard	Rationale	Implementation
6.1	Technical Director	No requirement. It is recommended the club appoint a Technical Director accredited with a minimum C Diploma.	Ensures the Club has a clear vision and oversight of the football program.	Mandatory in SL1 and NPL
6.2	Senior Coaching Accreditation	First Team Coach – C Diploma	Ensure coaches meet accreditation compliance requirements and sets minimum education level for senior coaches.	2025
		Reserve Team Coach – Foundation of Football		
		Under 18 Team Coach – Foundation of Football		

7. Governance & Administration

Ref	Criteria	Minimum Standard	Rationale	Implementation
7.1	Membership	The Club must be incorporated and ensure that its key stakeholders are recognised as Members under its Constitution.	Ensure the Club practises best governance processes.	2025
7.2	Registration	The Club must ensure all players, coaches and volunteers are registered via the National Registration System (PlayFootball)	Requirement under Football Australia & Football SA Rules and Regulations.	2025

7.3	Business Plan	The Club has a 3-year strategic plan, approved by the Board or committee of the Club.	Provides the Club with a strategic plan with clear actions to achieve its goals.	2025
7.4	Annual General Meeting	The Club must hold an Annual General Meeting in accordance with applicable legislation at which all Members shall be entitled to attend and participate.	Legislative requirement.	2025
7.5	FIFA, Football Australia and Football SA Rules, Regulations and Policies	The Club must comply, at all times, with all FIFA, Football Australia and Football SA Rules, Regulations and Policies.	Requirement under Football SA Participation Licence.	2025
7.6	Organisational Structure	The Club must provide a committee structure including position titles and name of persons filling such positions.	Ensures key roles required to operate a Club are filled plus provides clarity of roles to ensure those in positions are aware of their responsibilities, assist with the recruitment process of new volunteers.	2025
7.7	Child Protection Legislation	Club personnel must abide by the relevant Child Protection Legislation in SA including any specific checks that may be required.	Legislative requirement.	2025
7.8	Club President Meetings	Attendance at Club President meetings or delegates meetings as determined by Football SA.	Ensures Club views are represented, and key information is received.	2025

7.9	Football Australia Club Changer	Clubs must have achieved Football Australia Club Changer Level 1 as a minimum.	A program developed by Football Australia to lead Clubs in becoming welcoming and inclusive while planning for long term viability and success.	2025
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8. Finance

Ref	Criteria	Minimum Standard	Rationale	Implementation
8.1	Financial Records	The Club must maintain financial records in the form and nature required under Australian Law.	Legislative requirement.	2025
8.2	Annual Financial Statements	The Club must prepare annual financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including balance sheet, profit and loss statement and statement of cash flow).	Legislative requirement.	2025
8.3	Inspection of Financial Records	The Club must make available to Football SA any financial information requested within 14 days of receiving notice of an inspection.	Rules and Regulations requirement.	2025
8.4	Accounting Systems	The Club must maintain accounting systems to enable it to properly maintain its financial records.	Assist the Club with effectively managing its finances.	2025

8.5	Football SA Accounts	The Club must be up to date with all payments to Football SA by October 31 in accordance with the Football SA Rules and Regulations.	Ensures the Club is solvent year on year.	2025
8.6	Financial Report	The Club shall submit its annual audited financial statements within 5 months of the end of the Club's financial year.	Ensures the Club is compliant with legislation.	2025

9. Facilities

Ref	Criteria	Minimum Standard	Rationale	Implementation
9.1	Minimum Facility Requirements	The Club must comply with applicable minimum facility standards as prescribed in the Senior Men's Operating Regulations	Ensures facilities are up to standard and provides clubs with relevant information when liaising with Council.	2025
9.2	Lighting	The Club's home venue for matches must have a minimum lighting level of 100 lux and a minimum of 200 lux for RAA NPL teams.	Allows for night matches which provides flexibility on match day and increases capacity of venues.	2025
9.3	Fencing	Clubs in State League 1 and the RAA National Premier League are required to have pitch fencing and venue perimeter fencing should it be promoted to higher leagues.	Provides a safer environment for participants and spectators and allows Clubs to charge a gate.	Mandatory with promotion to higher leagues.

9.4	Players Race	Clubs in State League 1 and the RAA National Premier League are required to have a players race which extends from the Changeroom to pitch with unobstructed entry and exit from the field of play.	Provides a safer environment for participants to enter and exit the field of play.	Mandatory with promotion to higher leagues.
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10. Medical

Ref	Criteria	Minimum Standard	Rationale	Implementation
10.1	Match Day Coverage	Minimum First Aid Officer. Clubs highly encouraged to appoint a Level 1 Sports Trainer.	Ensures appropriate medical support for players on match day.	2025
10.2	Supplies (Match Day & Training)	An appropriately and adequately stocked first aid kit and trainers kit, plus a stretcher that meets industry standards.	Important for player and spectator safety.	2025