



Future Direction of Senior Men's Competitions in Greater Adelaide

Football SA Response

The report completed by Sports Advisory Partners relating to the Future Direction of Senior Men's Competitions in Greater Adelaide outlined a number of recommendations to;

- Ensure the optimum environment for junior participants transitioning to senior competitions within the state.
- Provide a pathway for aspiring clubs and
- Facilitate the continued growth of all senior competitions in metropolitan Adelaide.

Football SA (FSA) is pleased to provide commentary/response relating to each recommendation.

SAPA Recommendations

1. ***FSA should restructure the underpinning NPL/State League First team competitions to U18's, U20's, U23's to maximise player retention, enhance player development and align to FA's Player Roster Principles.***

RESPONSE: FSA supports this recommendation as it may positively impact on the retention of players transitioning from junior to senior Football. There is further work to do with the clubs to determine whether they will be able to cater for this increase in teams. Should the change take place it could be implemented in the 2027 Season.

2. ***FSA needs to offer a senior community "amateur" competition structure for FSA clubs to facilitate team growth and maximise player retention.***

RESPONSE: This is not a priority for FSA, and any change would require consultation with all key stakeholders.

- 3. If the CSL and SAASL wish to continue to operate independently as an affiliated association, they should do so with greater alignment and collaboration with FSA including through adoption and consistent application of Rules and Regulations.***

RESPONSE: FSA supports this recommendation subject to adoption by CSL and SAASL. The review of competition Rules and Regulations could take place in 2026 season for implementation in 2027.

- 4. FSA should continue to expand the current State League structure to facilitate growth and support developing clubs.***

RESPONSE: FSA supports the recommendation as this is aligned with the current structural direction

- 5. FSA continues to require that only clubs participating in NPL/State League may field teams in the YCC.***

RESPONSE: FSA supports the recommendation as this is aligned to the current structural direction.

- 6. Volunteer burden could be minimised, participation maximised and club sustainability enhanced if consistent policies were enacted for and embraced by all football stakeholders.***

RESPONSE: FSA acknowledges the importance of minimising volunteer burden and enhancing club sustainability through greater policy consistency. FSA will consult with SAASL and CSL to explore opportunities for improved alignment and administrative efficiencies across the football ecosystem.

- 7. FSA should develop a business case to incentivise EDJSA to become affiliated (directly or via SAASL).***

RESPONSE: FSA supports affiliation of EDJSA and will consider how to incentivise EDJSA to become affiliated.

- 8. Greater investment in referee development and club support staff to accommodate and drive growth.***

RESPONSE: FSA agrees that investment in referee development and club support staff is important, as well as club sustainability as a whole, and will seek further information from referees and clubs about this.

9. ***FSA should develop and implement an overarching regulatory framework statewide to provide consistency, improve efficiency and ensure alignment.***

RESPONSE: FSA will seek further information regarding this recommendation.

10. ***FSA need to better educate stakeholders on the NTC program.***

RESPONSE: FSA supports this recommendation.

11. ***FSA should implement a salary cap across the NPL and State League competitions to enhance club sustainability.***

RESPONSE: FSA will undertake consultation with the relevant FSA clubs to assess the feasibility of implementing a salary cap, including the development of a compliance framework and supporting policy. If accepted, a salary cap could be re-instated for the 2027 season.