

MEMO: 95 - 20

TO: All Clubs
FROM: Damien Bresic
DATE: 7th October
SUBJECT: Senior Structure 2021 and Beyond

Dear Colleagues,

Further to Memo 27-20 dated 25th June which outlined the senior structure for 2021 and beyond I wish to advise you all that following further consultation with various stakeholders it has been decided that the structure moving forward will be tweaked a little.

Rest assured the bulk of what was stated in Memo 27 will remain in place however we have considered the impact of the restructure on our existing Coast League teams and have made a few slight changes which are outlined below.

Season 2021

Premier League

- 10 team consisting of two teams (first and reserve grade)
 - *To comprise of the top 7 teams at the conclusions of the 2020 season, plus the top 2 teams at the conclusion of the Coast League and the winner of a two-legged playoff between team 8 in the Premier League and team 3 in Coast League*
- FGC to consider the viability of a local Cup competition to be conducted midweek/weekend and commence towards the end of FGC clubs FFA Cup commitments
- At the conclusion of the 2021 season the 10th placed Premier League team will enter into a two-legged playoff with the highest ranked (position 1 or 2) Division 1 team eligible for promotion with the winner being offered a spot in the Premier League for the 2022 season.
 - *Only stand-alone teams will be eligible for promotion (not already in the Premier League) and must finish in the top two spots of Div 1. If no stand-alone teams finish in the top two then there will be no play off and the 10th place team in the Premier League will remain in the Premier League for the 2022 season.*
- Top 4 finals series (*reviewed for 2022*)
- Entry fee of \$3000.00

Division 1 - (Coast League will be renamed Division 1)

- Div. 1 will be open to all FGC affiliated clubs.
- Div. 1 will only require one senior team
 - *Clubs will not be required to field a reserve team to participate in Division 1*
- Premier League clubs will be permitted to enter teams Div. 1



- Clubs will only be permitted to enter a maximum of ONE team in the Division 1
- The idea behind restructuring the Division 1 will ensure that the league is a strong competition and opens opportunities for new teams to enter.
- If the Division 1 team earns promotion, they will have to prove that they can field two teams in the following season.
 - *with a second team in senior competitions, U18 team coming through etc.*
- Capped at 14 teams
- Finals series will be dependent on number of entries.
- All games played over weekend. (Fri-Sun)
- Entry fee of \$1000.00 per team

Division 2

- Open to all FGC affiliated Clubs
- Clubs will be permitted to enter multiple teams
- Open age competition for 2021 however will become an Under 20's competitions with 3 overage players for 2022 and beyond.
- To replace the Under 18 competition (FGC will not be offering an under 18 competition on a Friday night beyond this year)
- All games to be played over the weekend (Fri – Sun)
- Entry fee \$300 per team
 - *No entry fee for clubs with teams in PL or Division 1*
- Finals series will be dependent on number of entries

Metro – Men's and Women's

- Remain as is
- Open to all clubs
- Men's and Women's Competitions
- Depending on nominations will provide various Divisions
- Played on a Wednesday evening.
- Finals series will be dependent on number of entries
- Entry Fee \$200 per team.



Season 2022

- Division 2 to become an Under 20's competition
- Teams will be permitted to use 3 "overage players"
- Under 18 competition will **NOT** be offered in 2022 and beyond.
- It is FGC's intention to increase the Premier League to 12 teams in 2023 and as such at the conclusion of the 2022 season: -
 - Teams 1&2 of Division 1 will be automatically promoted to the Premier League for 2023 season.
 - 10th place of Premier League will play a home and away play-off with 3rd placed team from Division 1 for the twelfth spot in the Premier League.
- **Promotion Criteria.**
 - Only stand-alone teams will be eligible for promotion (not already in the Premier League).
 - If only one stand-alone team finishes in the top two then they will be automatically promoted and the third-place team will enter a playoff with 10th in the Premier League and the Premier League will be an 11-team comp.
 - If no stand-alone teams finish in the top two then there will be no automatic promotion and the third-place team will enter a playoff with 10th team in the Premier League and the Premier League will be a 10-team comp.
 - If no stand-alone teams finish in the top three then there will be no automatic promotion or play off and the 10th team in the Premier League will remain and the Premier League will be a 10-team comp.

Season 2023

- 12 team Premier League and Premier League Reserves- home and away season (22 games)
- Division 1 and 2 to remain as is and open to all clubs to nominate teams.
- 12th place of Premier League will be automatically relegated to Division 1
- Highest ranked Division 1 team (who finish in the top 2) that are eligible for promotion will be automatically promoted to the Premier League for the 2024 season.
- 11th place of Premier League will play a home and away play-off with 2nd highest ranked Division 1 team (who finish in the top 3) that are eligible for promotion with the winner being offered a place in the Premier League for the 2024 season.
- Local Cup competition to be conducted midweek/weekend and commence towards the end of FGC clubs FFA Cup commitments
- Top 6 finals series (if a 12 team competition)

Note:- the above is dependent on the promotion criteria from the previous year, if the Premier League does not consist of 12 teams in 2023 then the 2022 promotion criteria will apply at the conclusion of the 2023 season.