



FOOTBALL  
QUEENSLAND

## Member Benefits and Services Summary





Of all the questions that are asked across the state the most common are where does Football Queensland fit into the sport's structure?, what is it Football Queensland actually does? and why is our sport so expensive?

To help answer these questions we have produced this document to provide our stakeholders with a brief overview of our role as a Member Federation of the Football Federation Australia, the programs and services we provide, and our vision for the sport in Queensland.

Established in 2004, Football Federation Australia (Football Federation Australia) is the governing body of football in Australia and is a member of Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), the international governing body for football.

FIFA has six confederations loosely grouped along continental lines. Football Federation Australia is a member of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), having joined that body on 1 January 2006.



Figure 1 - Football's structure?

Football Federation Australia is a member-based organisation which has federations that loosely follow Australia's federated system of government. Each Member Federation, of which Football Queensland is one) has a commitment to comply with the Football Federation Australia constitution, applicable statutes, by-laws and regulations and is responsible for the game within their respective geographic regions.

To meet our responsibility for the Queensland region Football Queensland's key objectives are to:

- To increase participation in all types of football across Queensland;
- Build passion for the sport of football in the Queensland community;
- To develop and strengthen our affiliated Associations, Clubs and members;
- Increase the appeal of being a member of the Football Queensland Family;
- To contribute to the international achievements of our national teams and competitions;
- To provide strong leadership, direction and governance that guides the sport towards our vision; and
- To achieve financial sustainability for the organisation.

Meeting these objectives consumes a great deal of professional and volunteer resource. It is not a secret that the fees paid by footballers are higher than some other sports. The reasons for this vary. Certainly making football and development pathways available to a majority of the population of Australia's second largest state (an area of 1,727,000 square kilometres) where more than half of the population lives outside the greater metropolitan area of Brisbane (a large proportion compared with the rest of highly urbanised Australia) has its challenges.



Figure 2 - Registration Fee Flow

Probably the greatest influence on fee levels however, is that as yet our sport doesn't derive the same levels of revenue from broadcast rights, attendance, merchandise sales and sponsorship as some other sports. Mainly due to our first fully professional national competition – the Hyundai A-League – being in its infancy compared to some of the other high profile domestic competitions.

Being part of the Football Federation Australia, and the only official governing body for the sport of football in the state of Queensland, provides our affiliated clubs and associations access to some products and services that no other private providers or non-affiliated bodies are able to provide.

Through investment, sponsorship, partnerships and grants we invest \$1.70 into the continued development of our sport in Queensland for every \$1 contributed by our members through registration fees. However, whilst the A-League continues to grow in popularity the reality in the foreseeable future is that players, coaches and referees will continue to be required to invest, through their registration fees, in organisations such as Football Queensland who are charged with ensuring that the game continues to prosper. Our focus never wavers from best meeting the needs of our games participants and trying to make their football experience as enjoyable as possible.

I trust this document is informative and provides you with a better understanding of what the benefits are of being a member of Australia's football family and what we do for you via the programs and services that are available to players, coaches, referees and clubs throughout Football in Queensland.

Regards

**Geoff Foster**  
Chief Executive Officer

### Our Members

Although numbers vary year on year, Football Queensland is made up of approximately 350 football clubs, 72,000 players, 1,300 Referees, and 20,000 Club Officials and Volunteers.

New clubs, players, referees and club officials are welcomed every year (including existing clubs which previously participated in non-affiliated competitions or leagues) as the sport grows. All our players, coaches, volunteers, accredited officials, and referees are register as members of the Football Federation Australia's Football Family on the MyFootballClub National Registration System.

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### Member Protection

#### Dispute Resolution and Legal Support

Football Queensland recognises that not all clubs will have access to resources that can provide specialist administration support in times of need. We are able to assist clubs in these areas by providing:

- A registered Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO) to provide assistance in resolving disputes & member protection support; and
- Access to resources and services (e.g. financial and legal support) that are out of the reach of smaller organisations.

#### Insurance Program

A component of every player's registration fee contributes to both the players Personal Injury Insurance and also the General Liability (Public and Products Liability), Professional Indemnity; and Management Liability insurance of their club and competition administrator.

Provided by the Football Federation Australia's Insurance Program, Personal Injury Insurance provides basic levels of cover for players and others participating in Football for:

- Permanent injury or death cover;
- Non-Medicare Medical Expense cover; and
- Income replacement cover.

It is not all encompassing (this is necessary to keep the cost of insurance affordable for players) and does not seek to replace the need for private health and other insurances. Football Federation Australia strongly recommend that all players and officials take out separate Private Health Insurance and/or Personal Income Protection, Life Insurance and Trauma cover to meet their individual needs.

The cover for players Clubs and Competition Administrators provides:

- **General Liability** to protect the player, their club and their competition administrator for legal liability for compensation arising from personal injury or property damage;
- **Professional Indemnity** to protect the players club and their competition administrator for legal liability for a breach of professional duty in the sport by reason of an act, error or omission committed by or on behalf of the club and competition administrator; and
- **Management Liability** to protect the players Club against legal actions or civil proceedings made against their Club or its Officials for any wrongful act, employment breach and/or employee fraud.

For more information on what is provided for within this insurance coverage please refer to [www.footballqueensland.com.au](http://www.footballqueensland.com.au).

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### Online Administration Systems

Football Federation Australia provides, free to all its Member Federations, Associations and Clubs, access to user-friendly websites & administration systems (e.g. the MyFootballClub National Registration, Competition Management and Referee Appointment Systems) which are designed to reduce club volunteer load.

Football Queensland provides access to dedicated IT Technical Support for the provided administration systems. Making training available to our clubs volunteers without having to leave their homes for centralised meetings is now a thing of the past. We deliver training for club administrators to every one of our 350 clubs via web conferencing on an annual basis. Sourcing these systems and support privately could conservatively cost clubs \$1,000 per annum.

These systems also provide the ability for clubs to directly communicate to the football community in any given area of the state via a comprehensive communications database.

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### Marketing and Communications

Football Queensland will continue to develop its relationship with partners, sponsors, investors and suppliers. This will include maximising marketing return on investment via dedicated promotional activity and increased profile for sponsors during the National Premier Leagues and at other events throughout the year.

We utilise a number of communication channels to ensure our members, affiliated bodies and participants understand and are satisfied with the services we provide and our plans for the future development of the sport. Internet technologies are being increasingly used to improve consultation and involvement with our stakeholders so we can continue to develop these services and plans in line with the games requirements. These channels include:

- a standardised website platform that is available to all member zones and clubs;
- monthly newsletters;
- social media;
- conferences and meetings;
- news releases; and
- direct contact.

Building these channels has allowed Football Queensland to secure sponsorship and other funding that has allowed us to maintain our state body fees unchanged for several years despite rising costs of living.

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### Competition Administration

Football Queensland administers the state's premier competitions, the National Premier Leagues Queensland. For boys, girls, men and women across the state our administration staff:

- administer weekly football matches, including the development of FIFA compliant rules of competition and the production of match fixtures;
- appoint accredited referees to matches, facilitating a safer & more enjoyable participation experience for all involved;
- provide technical and administration support for marketing and implementation of competitions;
- provide access to state and local government sporting facilities; and
- manage awards recognising outstanding team or individual performances every year.

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### High Performance

#### Player Development Pathway

Football Queensland's High Performance initiatives aim to deliver professional, integrated and clear elite development pathways and programs for players and coaches throughout Queensland complemented with National and International competition which produce representative players and coaches. Our State Technical Director, three QAS coaches, and Head Coach of the Skills Acquisition Program are available to visit zones and provide expert professional development in relation to the Football Federation Australia curriculum.

Football Queensland's High Performance Department is charged with the responsibility of implementing the National Curriculum and working with a range of stakeholders such as Member Zones and Clubs to ensure that there is a steady stream of players and coaches who have the ability to represent the region on the global stage and inspire future generations of participants. The value of the sport's biggest revenue stream broadcast rights will be significantly influenced by the technical ability of players generated by programs conducted by member federations such as Football Queensland.

#### Skill Acquisition Program

A key aspect of the new Football Federation Australia National Curriculum is the implementation of a Skill Acquisition Program (SAP) to perfect and accelerate the skill development of identified players at the critical ages of 9 to 12. This is the age group universally acknowledged to be the optimal mental and physical phase in which children are able to learn motor skills.

Football Queensland's Head Coach of the Skills Acquisition Program coordinates the delivery of this program which identifies talented 9 - 13 year old players across the state and invites them to participate in the program under the direction of FFA appointed Coaches.

The program provides opportunities to regional and metropolitan players alike enabling regional players the same opportunities to grow and develop into elite footballers in their local area. Players from the regions have the opportunity to also attend trials for the major championships and tournaments throughout the year (e.g. National Championships).

#### Queensland Academy of Sport

The Queensland Academy of Sport (QAS) is an initiative of the Queensland Government aimed at supporting the State's elite and identified developing athletes. The Academy's goal is to ensure that Queensland remains at the forefront of domestic and international sport. To achieve this, the QAS provides assistance to Queensland's talented athletes and coaches as they

strive for excellence within their sport following a philosophy of being 'athlete centred, coach driven and service supported'.

Football Queensland, as a QAS partner, runs the Men's and Women's football program on behalf of the government, targeting U14 to U16 age groups. It provides identified footballers with access to world-class coaching and support services including sport science, strength and conditioning, medical and career and education in addition to financial support, for competition and training costs.

### **National Premier Leagues**

The National Premier Leagues (NPL) is a national football banner in Australia which acts as the second tier of the sport in the country below the A-League. Overseen by Football Federation Australia (FFA), the NPL consists of the highest level state league in each state-based federation within Australia and is part of the elite player pathway.

Football Queensland administers the Queensland Division on behalf of Football Federation Australia, including the competitions Licensing Program.

### **Elite Coach Education**

A major role of the High Performance Area is Elite Coach Education. The elite coaching pathway is run under the auspices of Football Federation Australia. Football Queensland is licensed to deliver Regional AFC licence C and B Courses in the state. Football Queensland is committed to conduct a C and B courses annually across the state.

The High Performance Unit is also responsible for the running of a State Coaching Conference on an annual basis, plus both Regional and Metropolitan based National Curriculum based coaching seminars for elite coaches during the year.

### **Community Coach Education**

Coaches at all levels play a crucial role in ensuring that football is an enjoyable experience for everyone, as well as laying the foundation for the development of better players.

Football Queensland strives to provide members of the football family with opportunities to engage in quality coach education from Community through to senior levels. This is in keeping with Football Federation Australia's motto "Better Coaches, Better Football"

For more information about High Performance programs please visit: <http://www.footballqueensland.com.au>

### Referees

Match Officials are a vital part of the worldwide football landscape. From Community football right through to the Hyundai A-League, Football Queensland supports and encourages Referees by providing Training Courses, Schedules and Recruitment campaigns.

Refereeing is managed nationally by the National Refereeing Technical Committee (NRTC). Each Member Federation has a State Referees Technical Committee reporting into the NRTC.

#### State Referees Technical Committee

Consisting of five to seven members, with representation from across refereeing and non-refereeing community, the SRTC is responsible for the performance of Member Federation match officials and are responsible for the identification of registered match officials ready to undertake further courses and recognition at national level.

They monitor, supervise, and assess the development of all registered match officials by ensuring that FFAs requirements and processes are implemented. They must demonstrably comply with all FFA directions regarding the development, training, education, coaching and accreditation of match officials.

#### Referee Development Co-ordinator

The role of Referee Development Co-ordinator is responsible for the overall growth and development of refereeing, with particular emphasis on improving the structures and enhancing communication, together with raising the standard of referee education and coaching across the region. Some of the Referee Development Officers key responsibilities are:

- Coordination of all Football Federation Australia accreditation courses including the delivery as well as the mentoring of other deliverers;
- Management of Match Official Accreditation using the National Accreditation Management System;
- Promotion of referee education and training programs and coordination of recruitment and retention initiatives;
- Liaison with the Football Queensland Referee Technical Committee; and
- Coordination and delivery of the Football Queensland Club Referee Program

For more information about Referees Development programs please visit: <http://www.footballqueensland.com.au>

### Club Development

Football Queensland coordinates and implements a number of club development strategies and initiatives across the state. The development of Queensland's football community is substantially delivered via our zones and affiliated clubs with player, coach, club official and volunteer retention, recruitment, and recognition a key focus.

#### National Club Accreditation Scheme

Fundamentally, clubs play the key role in the development of football in Australia. In order to raise the overall standard of club administration at all levels of the game, a clear model that identifies and recognizes best practice in all areas of club administration is being rolled out across Australia.

The National Club Accreditation Scheme (NCAS) is this model. Football Queensland is committed to its rollout in order to raise the standards of all football clubs in the state. The NCAS provides an accreditation rating scheme for all football clubs as identified in the National Game Development Strategy. It sets guidelines and criteria for best-practice management of clubs, which ultimately contributes to quality football experiences for players, volunteers and parents.

An NCAS accreditation:

- directly assists clubs to sustain and increase football participation;
- promotes and raises the profile of quality clubs across Australia;
- attracts sponsors, volunteers, by increasing credibility in the community; and
- provides priority access to any future funding opportunities through Football Federation Australia.

#### Education

Being a member of the Football Federation Australia provides exclusive access for our football community to:

- free education programs & resources for coaches, referees & club volunteers;
- accredited AFC/FIFA Referee development courses, programs and pathways. These are the ONLY courses approved by the Australian Sports Commission;
- accredited Grassroots Coach development courses, programs and pathways;
- endorsed Grassroots Player development programs and pathways to assist all players to be the best that they can be;

- advanced accredited coach education programs at heavily discounted & exclusive member prices;
- endorsed talent development pathway programs for players, coaches & referees; and
- A-League, W-League, National Youth League club resources to promote the game.

### **Volunteer Recognition and Training**

Volunteers are the backbone of our football community. Football is extremely fortunate to have tens of thousands of capable, hard-working and dedicated volunteers working on field and off field with our clubs and zones to support our participants involved in playing football week in, and week out in the community.

Football Queensland is committed to supporting volunteers in community clubs, and provides assistance to clubs to reward and recognize, recruit, retain and develop Volunteers. We also coordinate the Football Queensland Volunteer of the Year Program and coordinate opportunities for community club volunteers to engage in appropriate training and education.

### **Inclusive Football**

Football Queensland supports FFA's values of inclusion, fairness, excellence and fun. These values apply across all levels of the game – from junior clubs through to the elite levels of the sport. We strongly support the right of people with disabilities, indigenous Australians and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities across Queensland to participate in football as players, coaches, referees or administrators and we are committed to developing an environment where accessibility and diversity are valued and nurtured.

To enhance the development of Inclusive Football, Football Queensland provide advice, direction and assistance with the development of key stakeholders relationships, assistance to club staff and volunteers to develop skills and facilities to support opportunities to increase football participation.

### **Facilities Management**

Facilities are critical for the future growth of the game. Football Queensland promotes a best practice approach to facility management, particularly in regard to risk management and safety.

To assist clubs to improve their facilities, we provide information relating to funding opportunities and assistance & training to prepare funding submissions.

Football Queensland will be working closely with member zones in the future on a strategy that aim to identify and prioritise facility enhancement projects. Improved facilities have been paralleled to maintaining participation in our sport.

### **Government Funding and Grants**

Football Queensland lobbying provides the states clubs with access to State Government Get in the Game Program, Regional Development Fund, and other Federal, State and Local Government funding.

We also provide assistance in applying for various grants &/or scholarships, either offered through Football Queensland or beyond. Many significant grants are not available to non affiliated bodies.

### **Game Development**

Football Queensland's game development programs provide:

- Access to schools football programs introducing 100,000 Queensland primary school children to football each year across all parts of Queensland;
- Promotion of the game through various channels & keeping members informed & updated on the game regularly through a dedicated communications department; and
- Promotional resources & programs designed to attract new players to the game;

Being a member of the only National Sporting Organisation (NSO) responsible for the organisation, promotion and administration of football in Australia (including 11 aside, futsal and beach) recognised by the Australian Government, Football Queensland are the only organisation who are able to select and prepare Queensland Teams for Football Federation Australia National Tournaments.

For more information about Club Development programs please visit: <http://www.footballqueensland.com.au>