



FOOTBALL CENTRAL QUEENSLAND INC.

MEMORANDUM TO ALL CENTRAL QUEENSLAND CLUBS

Awarding of Inter-City Cup Licenses for Central Queensland to CQ Mariners

Football Queensland have today announced that the CQ Mariners Football Club, based in Gladstone, has been awarded licenses to manage and coordinate Inter-City Cup squads for Junior Representative Football for the next 3 years.

In line with Football Queensland procedures announced in August this year, Football Central Queensland (FCQ) submitted a formal Expression of Interest to Football Queensland, to manage and coordinate all aspects of Inter-City Cup squads in both Gladstone and Rockhampton, commencing in the 2015 season.

Prior to submitting our Expression of Interest to Football Queensland, FCQ consulted at length with affiliated clubs in both Gladstone and Rockhampton. From this consultation, an overwhelming majority of clubs endorsed FCQ bidding for the Inter-City Cup Licenses, with the provision that junior players selected in Inter-City Cup teams should also be available to play in local junior club competitions with their respective local clubs.

FCQ highlighted this both in our formal Expression of Interest for the Inter-City Cup Licenses, and in other correspondence relating to the Inter-City Cup competition. FCQ has consistently stressed our belief that removing Inter-City Cup players from the local junior competitions in Central Queensland will have a detrimental effect both on local competitions and on local clubs.

While FCQ fully supports providing an advanced player pathway for elite players at the junior level, we do not believe that the proposed Football Queensland model for the Inter-City Cup offers the best option for such a pathway. FCQ, along with other regional Zones, has offered alternative proposals to Football Queensland; however Football Queensland has decided to endorse the model whereby Inter-City Cup players are excluded from local competitions.

FCQ has no issue with CQ Mariners being awarded the Inter-City Cup Licenses in Central Queensland for the next 3 years. However, FCQ remains opposed to the competition model which has been adopted for the Inter-City Cup. We remain convinced this model is not suited to junior football in the regional areas of Queensland.

FCQ wishes CQ Mariners every success with the Inter-City Cup next season and in the following season. We do however remain opposed to the adoption of this particular model, whereby Inter-City Cup players are unable to play for their local club.

FCQ will now focus on administering local club competitions in both Gladstone and Rockhampton, and junior football programs in other areas within Central Queensland, including Biloela, Emerald and the Central West.

FCQ's Junior Programs will involve, among other initiatives, a Quad Series tournament, involving Junior Invitational teams from Gladstone, Rockhampton, Callide Valley and Central West. These will not involve any players or coaches involved with the Inter-City Cup fixtures, and will not impact on the Inter-City Cup program or the elite Junior Player pathway.

Jeff McArthur

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President

Football Central Queensland