



FOOTBALL
NSW

2017 SKILL ACQUISITION PROGRAM STRUCTURE DOCUMENT



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Version 1, issued 26 October 2016

Executive Summary

Overview

This paper details Football NSW (**FNSW**) recommended structure for the 2017 Skill Acquisition Program (**SAP**).

The program was developed to provide a clear, professionally delivered development opportunity for young NSW footballers that underpins the National Premier Leagues NSW Men's and Women's Competitions.

Learning from the previous seasons and benefiting from the good work of the licensees throughout this period, we look to improve on areas of the program in 2017 and provide our states young players the best possible learning environment for them to realise their footballing dreams

2017 SAP Vision

"FNSW will provide young players an opportunity to experience an enhanced football environment, above that provided in community football that will prepare them for the technical and tactical challenges of National Premier Leagues NSW Men's and Women's Competitions"

2017 SAP Mission

"The 2017 SAP structure will be licensed to FNSW members that meet minimum standards including facilities, coaching and football philosophy consistent with the FFA National Curriculum and FFA and FNSW goals and objectives."

Key Points:

1. 2017 SAP to be licensed out to FNSW members that meet eligibility criteria
2. 2017 SAP will continue to underpin the National Premier Leagues NSW Men's and Women's Competitions

2017 SAP Structure

Skill Acquisition Program (SAP)

For 2017 SAP licensees have increased to 40 licences spread across a large geographic footprint. Consistent with the 2016 season, the game phase match schedule structure will be divided in to regional areas.

Football NSW will continue to conduct two (2) gala days per age group, inviting all of the SAP licensees, plus teams from regional areas – Riverina, along with other member federations - Capital Football and the Northern NSW Football to participate in a fun weekend of football where they could experience matches against opposition they had not previously played, and feel a part of the wider program beyond their club environment.

Overview

The 2017 SAP structure has been developed by the FNSW Competition Department with significant contribution by the FNSW State Technical Director based on key learning from previous seasons of SAP.

The 2017 SAP schedule will comprise the following phases:

- SAP license Application Process
- Trial phase
- Training phase
- Game phase facilitated by FNSW
- Gala Days facilitated by FNSW

FNSW will provide successful applicants with the outline structure and philosophy of SAP. It will be the responsibility of the licensee to deliver the program to their players in accordance with FNSW guidelines.

SAP philosophy and structure will be consistent with the skill acquisition phase of youth development as detailed in the FFA National Curriculum, and centre on the four (4) core skills, being:

- 1 v 1
- First touch
- Running with the ball
- Passing / striking the ball

FNSW will not directly coach SAP teams. FNSW resources will be directed toward providing education to licensee coaches and assessment of program delivery.

Grades

Grades for 2017 SAP will be U9, U10, U11 and U12.

Birthdates to qualify for the age grades will be:

- U9 – born on or after 1 January 2008
- U10 – born on or after 1 January 2007
- U11 – born on or after 1 January 2006
- U12 – born on or after 1 January 2005

Key Points:

- Grades of U9 – U12 continue to underpin the NPL – Men & Women.
- 2017 SAP philosophy will be consistent with the FFA National Curriculum

Registrations

All players in the 2017 SAP must be registered on MyFootballClub.

To provide development opportunities for players in close proximity (where possible) to their place of residence, and ensure pathways are available across the state. In 2017 SAP licensees will only be permitted to register players from the following areas;

- Association boundary of all member associations of a SAP Licensee that is a FNSW Branch (i.e. Western, Southern and Riverina)
- FNSW State Titles Boundaries in which the home ground is located of licenses that are FNSW Football Associations or Clubs

There will be multiple Licensees in each State Titles boundary so participants will have an opportunity to choose between which opportunities they pursue.

The State titles boundaries are:

State Titles Region	Comprised of
Met North	Gladesville Hornsby FA, Manly Warringah FA
Met South	Bankstown District AFA, Macarthur FA, Southern Districts SFA
Met West	Blacktown District SFA, Granville & District SFA, Nepean District SFA
Met East	Canterbury District SFA, Eastern Suburbs FA, St George FA
Met Far North	Central Coast Football, Northern Suburbs FA
Met Far South	Football South Coast, Sutherland Shire FA
Riverina	Griffith & District AFA, South West Slopes FA, Football Albury Wodonga, Wagga Wagga & District FA
Southern	Eurobodalla FA, Far South Coast FA, Highlands FA, Shoalhaven District FA, Southern Tablelands FA
Western	Dubbo & District FA, Lachlan AFA, Orange & District FA, Western Plains FA, Lithgow FA, Bathurst FA

Players Per Squad

There will be no amendment to the player numbers for 2017 season. Whilst there has been the introduction of the Girls Skill Acquisition Program (Girls SAP), we will be retaining the female component as this provides a further development opportunity for the states young female players.

“We know from experience that until the age of 12 or 13, there is absolutely no difference in ability between boys and girls, and that young girls go through the same stages of development as boys when learning to play football, in terms of their technique, athleticism, ability to read the game and communication” – FIFA.com

Permissible players per team for SAP have been developed taking into consideration preferred team numbers contained within the FFA National Curriculum, specifically:

Age Group	Field Players	Substitutes	Licensee Squad Totals
U9	7	3	20 (16 boys + 4 girls)
U10	9	3	24 (20 boys + 4 girls)
U11	9	3	24 (20 boys + 4 girls)
U12	9	3	24 (20 boys + 4 girls)

Licensees may elect to select more than 4 girls per age group. This will result in a proportionate decrease in the number of boys selected to conform to the maximum team player number.

SAP licensees will be required to administer two (2) teams in age group on match day. The following table demonstrates the total players per license and across the program:

Age Group	Players per Team	Teams per License	Licenses	Total Players
U9	10	2	40	800
U10	12	2	40	960
U11	12	2	40	960
U12	12	2	40	960

Application Process

FNSW has provided application forms to all eligible stakeholders who submitted a register of interest by the required deadline. The application documents consist of a three (3) part process including:

- Part 1 Register of Interest (**Part 1**);
- Part 2 Application Form (**Part 2**); and
- Part 3 Participation Agreement (**Part 3**).

2017 SAP Competition Management & Operations

Trial Phase

The **trial phase** for the 2017 SAP will be set during the following period:

Commencement: Sunday 16 October 2016

Conclusion: Friday 9 December 2016

Licensees are responsible for conducting trials for their respective programs within the prescribed trials dates.

Training Phase

The **training phase** for the 2017 SAP will be set during the following period (incorporating a break over the Christmas and New Year period):

Commencement: Sunday 11 December 2016

Conclusion: Friday 10 March 2017

During this period, licensees must deliver training based activities in accordance with the FFA National Curriculum and any policy communicated by FNSW.

Licensees will be permitted to coordinate their own friendly matches with Clubs or Association's affiliated to Football NSW during the training phase. Scheduling of friendly matches against non-affiliated teams is not permitted. All trial matches need to be approved by Football NSW, with the licensees required to submit trial match application forms to Football NSW.

Game Phase

The **game phase** for the 2017 SAP will be set during the following period:

Commencement: 18/19 March 2017 (subject to change)

Conclusion: 16/17 September 2017

The conclusion date is when all training and matches with existing SAP players should cease. This allows players a break between the end of the season and when the trials for the 2018 season commence.

Following declaration of successful SAP applicants, Football NSW will:

- divide the licensees into geographic conferences;
- develop a schedule of matches for the licensees within their conferences; and
- schedule Gala Days during the season at which all licensees will be invited to participate, as well as SAP programs from other Member Federations

With the exception of the Gala Days, all matches will be scheduled at the licensee stadiums as nominated in the Application Documents. Confirmation of match schedules will be coordinated by Football NSW Competitions staff in consultation with the individual licensees.

Key Points:

- Licensees divided into conferences by geographic region
- Game phase within conference, facilitated by Football NSW competitions staff

Match Format

To ensure optimal development opportunities in SAP, and provide a consistent platform underpinning Football NSW programs and competitions, SAP match formats will reflect the FFA Small Sided Football formula. These formations provide a logical progression to the 1-4-3-3 National Curriculum preferred formation which will be implemented in the U13 age group of the National Premier Leagues NSW Men's and Women's competitions.

Age Group	Players per Team	Formation
U9	7 v 7	1-3-3
U10, U11 & U12	9 v 9	1-3-2-3

Key Points:

- Formations as per FFA policy
- Formations provide logical progression and development to U13 programs

Rules and Regulations

Prior to the commencement of the 2017 SAP; playing systems, rule adjustments and development outcomes will be specified by FNSW with a view of creating a superior learning environment for our promising players within the skill acquisition phase of player development.

Following is detail on specific rules and regulations that will be implemented for the SAP 2017:

Field Dimensions

Participating Clubs will be required to adhere to the FFA MiniRoos Guidelines during the SAP game phase, except where amended below (i.e. goals cannot be identified by markers or poles):

Category	U9	U10	U11	U12
Field size	Length: 45m - 50m Width: 35m-40m	Length: 55m-60m Width: 35m-40m	Length: 60-70m Width: 40-50m	Length: 60-70m Width: 40-50m
Field markings	Markers or lines markings or combination	Markers or lines markings or combination	Markers or lines markings or combination	Markers or lines markings or combination
Penalty area	Depth: 5m Width: 12m	Depth: 5m Width: 12m	Depth: 5m Width: 12m	Depth: 5m Width: 12m
Goal size	Height: 2m Width: 3m	Height: 2m Width: 5m	Height: 2m Width: 5m	Height: 2m Width: 5m
Goal type	Portable goals	Portable goals	Portable goals	Portable goals

Matches will be scheduled over four (4) time slots, as follows:

Match Slot	Field A	Field B
1	U9 match 1	U10 match 1
2	U9 match 2	U10 match 2
3	U11 match 1	U12 match 1
4	U11 match 2	U12 match 2

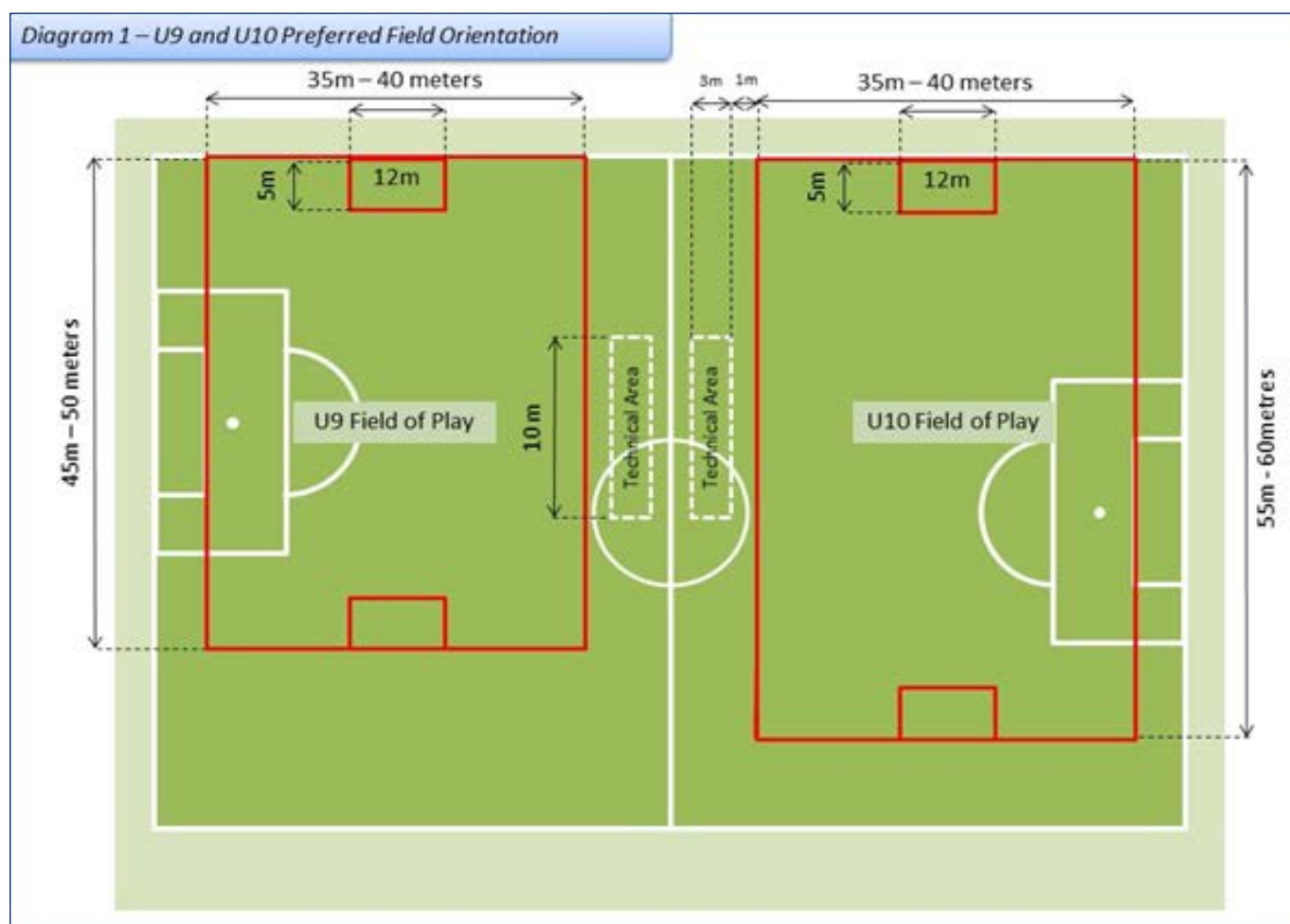
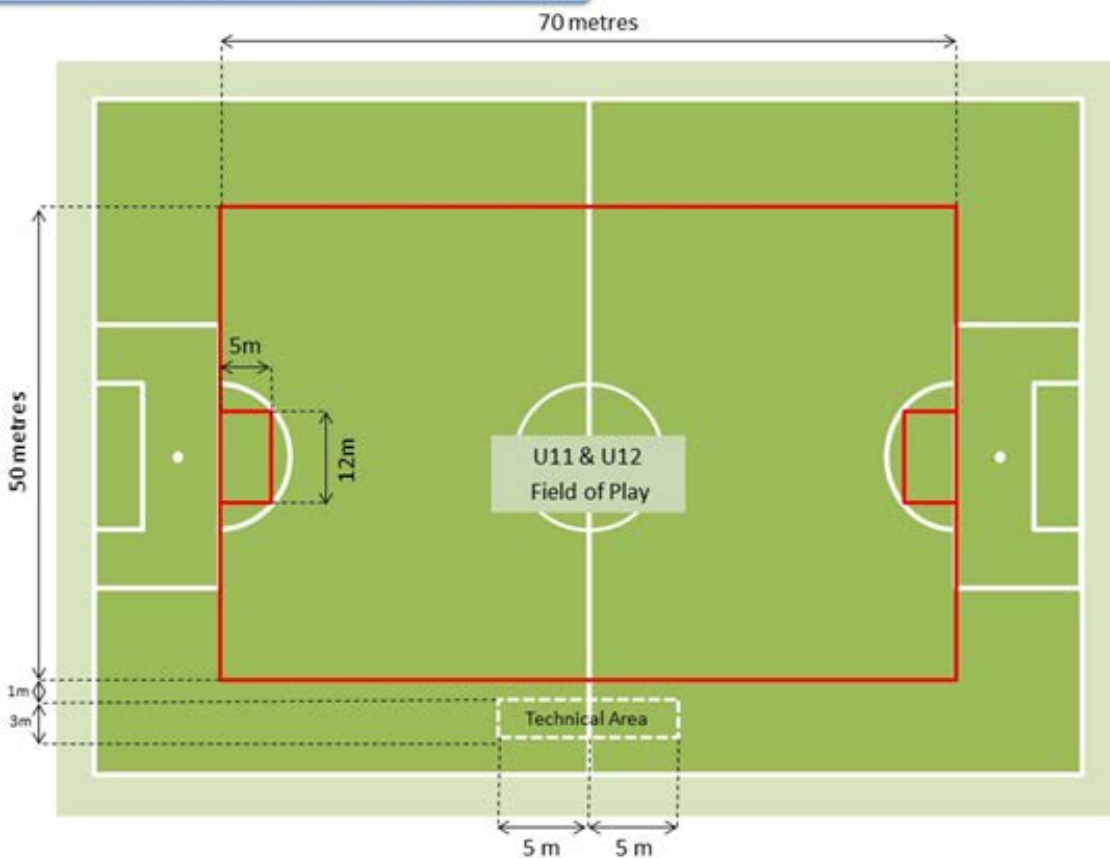


Diagram 2 – U11 and U12 Field Orientation Option 1



Diagram 3 – U11 and U12 Field Orientation Option 2



Apparel

Match apparel is to be supplied by the licensees, and must include the following items at a minimum;

- playing shirt x 1
- playing short x 1
- playing socks x 1
- tracksuit (jacket and pants) x 1
- training shirt x 1
- training shorts x 1
- training socks x 1
- polo shirt x 1
- kit bag x 1

The above apparel is to be provided within the cost of the program, i.e. a fee for the apparel cannot be charged over and above the registration fee.

League Tables and Points

No league tables will be kept during the game phase of the 2017 SAP.

Finals Series

There will be no finals series at the conclusion of the SAP 2017 game phase.

Gala Days

Football NSW will conduct two (2) Gala Days per age group during the 2017 season.

All SAP Licensees will be invited to participate, as will programs from other FFA Member Federations.

The Gala Days will provide an opportunity for the teams to play against teams from the other SAP regions, and provide them an opportunity to appreciate their participation in a development program an opportunity that spans the state.

SAP Regions

In 2017 SAP licensees will be divided into regions to facilitate the Game Phase. This principle is applied to reduce the travel required of our young players and their families.

Teams from Western NSW and Southern Branch will be rotated through the various regions so to share the travel to those regional areas.

Relative Age Effect

The Relative Age Effect (**RAE**) principle will continue in the 2017 season for SAP.

Details of players who have been assessed by the licensees Technical Director and approved by the Football NSW Technical Department will be allowed to be registered as a RAE player.

Key Points:

- 2017 SAP rules and regulations consistent with FFA MiniRoos guidelines
- Best practise field dimensions to facilitate optimum football development environment
- No League tables encourages development over results
- Gala Days to supplement game phase

Referees

In 2017 it will again be the licensees' responsibility to appoint **instructing referees** or game leaders to their home SAP matches.

To assist in the education and delivery of this service, Football NSW will conduct a pre-season workshop for the instructing referees.

Football NSW will invite licensees to participate in an education workshop defining the roles and responsibilities of the instructing referee and providing demonstrations of scenarios they are likely to encounter.

Each instructing referee will be supplied apparel and equipment so that their participation on match days carries a professional and consistent appearance.

Regional SAP Competition Phase

Due to geographical and player registration obstacles, special consideration will be provided to Football NSW Regional Branches in conducting 2017 SAP.

Each Branch will be required to deliver the trial and training phases of the 2017 SAP in a consistent manner with the Sydney metropolitan license holders.

FNSW will however make consideration to the game phase for Branches, including:

- increased ratio of home v away matches;
- possible periodic participation in matches (i.e. once a month); and
- Regional gala weekends hosted on a rotational basis by the branches.

A more detailed plan for regional Branch participation through the game phase will be developed in consultation with the FNSW Regional Coach and Development Managers to ensure specificity and relevance to the environment of each branch is achieved.

Assessment, Education And Review

FNSW will schedule a series of workshops and assessments, to provide ongoing feedback to 2017 SAP licensee and the broader community football stakeholders. The workshops will focus on the skill acquisition phase of football development, and be conducted at a range of venues to facilitate attendance.

Assessment of individual programs by FNSW will form the basis of the annual review process of program delivery. Assessment will incorporate review of submitted youth training plans football plans and a methodological analysis of coach and player activity during the training and game phases, measured against the FFA National Curriculum and other identified FNSW development principles.

Outcomes of the technical assessment will be communicated to the football community in an annual SAP Technical Report authored by the Football NSW Technical Director and presented at the end of the 2017 football season.

2017 SAP Financial Model

2017 Registration Fee

On review of the fee, FNSW proposes to retain the capped fee as applied in 2016.

The registration fee must include:

- FFA and FNSW compulsory registration fees;
- access to training and match facilities;
- qualified coaching as defined within the SAP minimum standards;
- training and match apparel as defined in this document;
- medical support, and;
- any other administrative or coaching responsibility of the club as contained in the SAP 2017 application documents and regulations.

Licensees will not be permitted to charge participants for any goods or service in the program beyond the capped fee.

Licensees will be permitted to offer a fee less than the cap, should their business model deliver a reduction of cost to the participant while maintaining the compulsory Football NSW and FFA fees.

Example fee structure follows:

Fee Component	Value
FFA National Registration Fee	\$12.60
FNSW Registration (including accident support)	\$44.80
FNSW SAP Administration	\$50.00
Club Fee	\$1,392.60
Total	\$1,500 (inc GST)

Key Points:

- Capped fee does not increase from previous SAP seasons
- Capped fee to protect value proposition for participants

2017 Administration Fee

Costs for the following services, directly attributable to delivering the 2017 SAP, will be financed from a \$50 (inc. GST) fee levied against all players in the program:

- Review and issuing of SAP licenses
- Development of SAP rules and regulations
- Development and Delivery of an Instructing Referee course for 4 representatives of each licensee
- Assessment of SAP delivery
- Development and delivery of two (2) x SAP Coaches Workshops
- Development and administration of the SAP game phase
- Delivery of two (2) SAP Gala Days per age group
- Comprehensive review of the 2017 SAP

All other costs are the responsibility of the licensees.



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