



14 December 2021

Dear Members,

### **Amendments to Football NSW Constitution and Football NSW By-laws for 2023 Season**

In my letter dated 2 November 2021 (available [here](#)), I notified Members of the nature of the amendments to the Football NSW Constitution (**Constitution**) and Football NSW By-laws (**By-laws**) that are necessary as a consequence of the decision to restructure the Football NSW Men's Competitions. As you are aware, that restructure will mean that the League Three Men's Competition will cease to exist at the end of the 2022 Season and there will then be three tiers of Men's Competitions moving forward. As a result, the League Three Men's Standing Committee will need to be removed.

As previously advised, any significant amendments to the Constitution must await the finalisation of the Football Australia Constitutional Reform agenda and the new Model Constitution for Member Federations.

While this will all take some further time, the amendments to the Constitution to remove the League Three Standing Committee need to be passed ahead of the 2023 season. Consequently, the Football NSW Board (**Board**) is proposing to table any amendments to the Constitution at Football NSW's 2022 Annual General Meeting (**AGM**) tentatively scheduled for Friday, 25 March 2022.

While any reform of the Football NSW Standing Committees would ideally form part of the broader Constitutional Review, for the reasons set out above, the Board considers that the removal of the League Three Standing Committee can and must move forward regardless. However, in light of the ongoing Constitutional Reform and the ongoing debate about voting rights across the different Football NSW stakeholders, it is the Board's intention to propose minor amendments to the Football NSW Constitution to address the removal of the League Three Standing Committee such that there is no change in voting rights among stakeholders, an issue which will continue to be explored during the Constitutional Review process.

I also indicated in my letter that the Football NSW Board and management have been considering a number of options in relation to Football NSW Standing Committees and Inter-Club Zone Councils to deal with the removal of the League Three Standing Committee.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the Board's current thinking on this issue and to seek your feedback.

#### *The Board's Preferred Option*

At this stage, the Board's Preferred Option is to replace the League Three Men's Standing Committee with an NPL Women's & League One Women's Standing Committee. The relevant features of such a Standing Committee would include the following:



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- consistently with all other Standing Committees, it would be entitled to appoint two delegates who would become Members of Football NSW and be entitled to attend, speak and vote at general meetings of Football NSW; and
- it would have 27 members, representing the 11 Clubs in the NPL Women's Competition – that is, 12 Clubs less the Football NSW Institute team – and the 16 Clubs in the League One Women's Competition.

Further, in addition to the membership of the three remaining Men's Competitions Standing Committees expanding from 12-16 to reflect the change in competition structures in 2023, the Board's view is that the following changes should be made to the Inter-Club Zone Councils:

- the Inter-Club 1 Zone Council would be comprised of all 48 Clubs competing in the Men's Competitions, rather than the 24 Clubs in the top two tiers of the Men's Competitions; and
- the Inter-Club 2 Zone Council would be comprised of the 27 Clubs in the NPL Women's Competition and League One Women's Competition (as described above), rather than the 24 Clubs in the bottom two tiers of the Men's Competitions.

### *Effect of Preferred Option*

If the changes summarised above (establishment of the NPL Women's & League One Women's Standing Committee; change to membership of the two Inter-Club Zone Councils) were made:

- (a) the overall votes for Clubs in the Men's Competitions would decrease slightly from 12 votes (20.7%) to 8 votes (13.8%);
- (b) the votes of each tier of the Men's Competitions would decrease slightly from 3 votes (5.17%) to 2.67 votes (4.6%); and
- (c) the votes for Clubs in the Women's Competitions would increase from 0 to 4 (6.9%).

However, the overall "NPL" vote – that is, the vote of the Clubs in the Football NSW's Men's and Women's Competitions – would remain at 12 votes (20.7%), in circumstances where all but five of the Clubs in the Women's Competitions also compete in the Men's Competitions.

Retaining four Standing Committees (with two votes each) and two Inter-Club Zones (with two votes each) would not necessitate any further amendments to the Constitution and would not have any impact on the Relativity of Votes provision in article 6.2 the Constitution because the number of Zone Council members required to support a resolution to trigger the operation of that article would not change.

Fundamentally, the Board's Preferred Option gives the Clubs in the Women's Competitions their own Standing Committee, which the directors view as an important and very positive step. Moreover, while the fact that these amendments would come into effect in a year in which the FIFA Women's World Cup is being played on home soil is a coincidence, the Board believes that there is no more appropriate time than 2023 for Women's Clubs to have their own "voice" in the administration of Football in New South Wales.

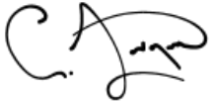
### *Feedback Sought*

In light of the above, the Board is seeking feedback from Members about the Preferred Option, either as a whole or in respect of any of its elements. By all means, also feel free to submit an alternative proposal, setting out the reasons why you consider it to be superior.

Finally, with the Notice of AGM due to be issued early in the new year, I would be grateful for your feedback as soon as possible but by no later than **5.00pm on Friday, 14 January 2022**.

Please provide any feedback directly to Lorenzo Crepaldi, Head of Legal & Governance & Company Secretary, on [lorenzoc@footballnsw.com.au](mailto:lorenzoc@footballnsw.com.au).

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Lorquet', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Gilbert Lorquet**  
Chairman  
Football NSW