



TO: NPL CLUBS
FROM: FV NPL COMPETITIONS DEPARTMENT
DATE: TUESDAY 19 OCTOBER 2021
SUBJECT: NPL TRIAL INFORMATION & CONDITIONS

Dear NPL Clubs

Football Victoria (FV) would like to provide you with an update on the NPL and A-League Clubs Trial Information and Conditions for season 2022. These rules and conditions will relate to the following age groups in the Junior Boys and Senior Men's Competitions:

AGE GROUPS	COMPETITIONS
Under 14	IBNPL
Under 15	IBNPL
Under 16	IBNPL
Under 18	IBNPL

Both NPL and A-League Club trials will commence at the same period for season 2022.

	NPL CLUBS	A LEAGUE CLUBS
TRIAL WINDOW COMMENCEMENT	Early November 2021 * Subject to Government Guidelines	Early November 2021 * Subject to Government Guidelines
TRIAL WINDOW COMPLETION	Concludes in line with roster nomination dates.	Concludes within four (4) weeks of the commencement of the trial period.
ROSTER NOMINATION DATES	Five (5) working days prior to 2022 season commencement. These dates will be communicated as soon as the NPL Team receives further information.	A-League Clubs will have a nominated roster submission deadline to FV four (4) weeks from commencement of trial window.

* Trial dates are subject to government guidelines and restrictions. Community Sport will need to have reached Return to Play status prior to trials commencing. The maximum number of participants at each trial session will be subject to the Return to Play Conditions. FV will confirm trial dates as soon as possible.

1. NPL CLUBS AS PART OF THEIR TRIAL PROCESS ARE PERMITTED TO:

- a. Provide offers to retain players
- b. Request players to trial
- c. Release players without further trials
- d. Offer new players positions on rosters

Example NPL Trial Process:

- Club provides retention offers to all existing players from the 2021 roster
- Club assess squad numbers and identifies remaining squad positions **(If required)**
- Club to advertise an expression of interest form for remaining squad positions **(If required)**
- Club conduct invitational trial for remaining squad positions **(If required)**

To minimise the possibility of players attending trials when unwell/pending the result of a COVID-19 test/isolating, Clubs are encouraged to outline alternative ways of assessing a player should they be unable to attend one or more trial sessions as a result of COVID-19. Clubs are also encouraged to reinforce that players (and guardians) must not attend trials if they are unwell/pending the result of a COVID-19 test or isolating.

2. A – LEAGUE CLUBS REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1. For avoidance of doubt, Western United FC will not participate in season 2022 JBNPL Competition
- 2.2. A-League Clubs are bound by Rules of Competition/Licence Terms/Academy Criteria which is in place that regulate participation in both JBNPL Competitions as well as the Senior Competitions
- 2.3. During this period, it is expected that all players will be supported in attending the trials by all stakeholders
- 2.4. Age groups, squad sizes and player age limits for A-League Clubs as follows:

TEAMS	SQUAD SIZES	PLAYER AGE LIMITS
MiniRoos	NA	NA
U12's	NA	NA
U13's	NA	NA
U14's	Minimum 16 – Maximum 20	No younger than 2009 born (2009 or 2008 born players only) 2010 born players need a dispensation from FV Technical Director
U15's	Minimum 16 – Maximum 20	No younger than 2009 born (2009, 2008, 2007 born players only)
U16's	Minimum 16 – Maximum 20	No younger than 2008 born (2008, 2007, 2006 born players only)
U18's	Minimum 16 – Maximum 20	No younger than 2007 born (2007, 2006, 2005, 2004 born players only)
U21's	As per Rules of Competition	No younger than 2006 born Unless dispensation is granted by FV
Seniors	As per Rules of Competition	No younger than 2006 born Unless dispensation is granted by FV

3. A-LEAGUE CLUB TRIAL COMMUNICATION PROCESS:

- 3.1. A-League Clubs will request a player for trial by emailing the NPL Technical Director and copying in the FV NPL Team nplvictoria@footballvictoria.com.au
- 3.2. A-League Clubs must first notify both the related NPL Club and FV NPL team in writing a minimum of three (3) days before the requested trial. This information is to remain confidential.
- 3.3. If the process in Section 3.2. is not adhered to, FV may refer the matter to the GDT/Tribunal for deliberation.
- 3.4. A-League squads of a minimum 16 and a maximum of 20 to be nominated and sent to FV NPL team by **four (4) weeks from commencement of trial window (date to be confirmed)**.
- 3.5. The process for notifying FV of an A-League Club squad selection will be:
 1. A-League Club completing a squad nomination list and submitting this by email to nplvictoria@footballvictoria.com.au
 2. A-League Club will also provide a list to FV with players that have been released from the club
 3. The A-League Club will also attach a copy of their completed internal offer and acceptance form (which is a process that the A-League Club designs to satisfy their internal player commitment policy)
 4. No additional 'train on' or squad players are permitted at any age level at any A-League Club. In the case a A-League club is found to be in breach of these rules, FV may refer the matter to the GDT/Tribunal for deliberation (please see below reference to 'train on', 'trial' and additional squad players).

4. ADDITIONS TO A-LEAGUE PLAYING ROSTERS (IN SEASON/MID-SEASON TRANSFER WINDOW)

The JBNPL Mid-Season transfer window does not apply to A-League Clubs who hold Junior teams in the NPL Victorian competition. Notwithstanding the above, an exemption may only be granted to an A-League Club if the below clause 4.1.1 is satisfied.

- 4.1. Rules regarding the recruitment by A-League Clubs of JBNPL players 'in-season':
 - 4.1.1 Can only recruit a junior player if an existing player on a A-League Club junior roster is lost to the Club due to long term injury or in other circumstances outside the Club's control (i.e. player leaves of own volition, relocates interstate etc); The registration of the replacement player may only occur during the FV nominated 2022 Registration Windows (if applicable).
 - 4.1.2 The A-League Club must submit a Player Exemption Request form to Football Victoria to replace a player if clause 4.1.1 is applicable. For the avoidance of doubt, evidence must be submitted to support the application to register a player to an A-League Club if clause 4.1.1 is applicable. Only if Football Victoria grant the exemption, can the player be registered and added onto the applicable roster.
 - 4.1.3 Prior to approaching a junior player registered with a NPL Club, the A-League Club must communicate in written form (email) with the players NPL Club Technical Director and FV NPL Department the intention to register the player and potentially add the player to the A League roster.
- 4.2 A-League Clubs may only recruit a maximum of one (1) additional junior player from a particular NPL Club JBNPL team/roster in-season;
- 4.3 A-League Clubs cannot conduct junior player trials during the NPL season; In the case an A-League club is found to be in breach of these rules, FV may refer the matter to the GDT/Tribunal for deliberation.
- 4.4 No registered NPL junior player may be recruited post Mid-Season NPL registration window of the 2022 season;
- 4.5 FV retains ultimate approval and sign off (at its discretion) for any NPL junior player recruited to an A-league Club during the season, that approval not to be unreasonably withheld.
5. A-League Club junior players must be available without exception for FV representative teams, FA Elite Matches, Talent Identification Sessions or Camps (e.g. Nationals, International or Interstate tours or fixtures, etc). In the case a A-League club is found to be in breach of these rules, FV may refer the matter to the GDT/Tribunal for deliberation.
6. Applicable Participation License terms govern A-League Club junior teams in NPL competition.
7. For leagues in which include the PPS, PPS to govern player advancement points applicable to senior programs in NPL top tier competition when a junior player moves from an NPL Club to a National Elite Pathway Club (i.e. A-League Clubs)
8. In the event a player transfers to an A-League Club in-season the NPL club is not liable to refund any fees paid by the player and any outstanding fees owed up to and including the end of the season will be paid by the player or the A-League Club.



9. ADDITIONAL 'TRAIN- ON'/'TRIAL'/ADDITIONAL SQUAD PLAYERS CONDITIONS

- 9.1 A-League clubs are not permitted to have 'Train-On', 'trial' or additional squad players post the A-League trial dates above
- 9.2 Where an A-League Club is found to be in breach of the above regulation, the A-League Club may be reported to the FV Discipline team and referred to the GDT for sanctioning.

For the avoidance of doubt, Football Victoria may amend the regulations in this communication at its sole discretion.

If you have any questions in relation to this memo, please contact the NPL department via email on nplvictoria@footballvictoria.com.au at your convenience.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ezel Hikmet".

Ezel Hikmet

General Manager - NPL
Football Victoria