

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT 2017:

This year's Player Development Programs will have two parts:

1. Player Support Programs (PSP)
2. Representative Squads

Player Support Programs

12 to 17 year old (females)

12 to 16 year old (male)

With an extended emphasis on clubs to be proactive and more accountable for player development within their environments, the role of Member Federation Technical Programs has shifted substantially. In line with FFA's desire to see clubs more central to player development FFT's role has been directed towards extension programs that compliment club environments. These support programs are aimed at providing football development sessions to identified players in addition to those provided by clubs.

In brief:

- identified players should be participating in 3-4 football training sessions plus 1 match per week;
- clubs are able to provide 2-3 training sessions per plus 1 match
- the priority for players is to attend club sessions
- additional support for club environments with FFT technical department staff regularly attending sessions
- PSP will aim to supplement sessions by running up to 2 additional sessions. Males Wednesday and Sunday. Females Monday and Saturday (tbc)
- PSP will operate throughout the year, nominally March – November for males and April – November for females
- An identified player is one who demonstrates a high level of football potential but not necessarily only at a representative standard. The aim is to develop more players to each the representative standard
- Bench-marking of players against their peers is important for national talent identification and the PSP will do this regularly on weekends with combined north-south sessions

Representative squads

FFT representative squads will attend national tournaments in 2017. These tournaments are:

Female

- National Youth Championships for U14 & U15 girls. July. Coffs Harbour
- NTC Challenge for U17 girls, July. Canberra

Males

- National Youth Championships for U13 & U14 Boys. September. Coffs Harbour
- NTC Challenge for U16 boys, October. Canberra

Selection trials for each of these squads will be held across the State approximately 10 weeks prior to the scheduled event. The selection process will also take into account observations of players made by FFT staff at club sessions and club matches. It is not a requirement that players must have participated in PSP sessions.

In the 8 weeks leading into the tournaments squad players will train in FFT environments 2-3 sessions per plus train once and play with club. This agreement has been reached after discussions with club TD. Following the tournaments the normal training arrangement will resume.

Skill Acquisition Programs (9y.o – 13y.o)

It is recognised by FFA that the phase of development, generally commencing around nine years of age through until the age of thirteen years, is one of extreme importance in the development of football players. It is the time in football where the players are exposed to the functional game skills through a series of planned activities and competitions that are game-based.

As all players pass through the Skill Acquisition Phase (SAP), it is FFT's view that all clubs, school teams, Association and Federation squads that are involved with a player whose development is at that level, should be providing activities and competition that are consistent with the Skill Acquisition Phase. For players in the Skill Acquisition Phase 9 – 13 year's age range (general), this development should be through skills training in game-based practices and through the Mini-Roos competition formats.

In Tasmania, SAP programs are principally delivered by clubs with the support of FFT, particularly in the north of the State. Each club is able to set fees associated with participation in SAP and these vary from club to club. In some cases it is a set fee for the year or a fixed period and in others it is charge on a session by session basis.

All clubs and associations strongly encouraged to meet player development standards through the provision of quality coaching and supportive football-

development environments. These standards and criteria include (but are not limited to):

- regular access to training sessions for players
- quality coaching (provided by trained staff)
- program documentation that is consistent with stated aims and objectives
- overall responsibility for programs is coordinated by an accredited, licenced coach
- player : coach ratio maximum 12 : 1
- programs open to males and females
- attendance by staff at FFT's SAP workshops
- fee structure for players that encourages participation
- standards of player, coach and spectator behaviour are consistent with the sport's codes of conduct and are reinforced and regulated by the club
- participation in competitions of all formats is seen as the medium for player enjoyment, self-challenge and personal development

Assessment of Skill Acquisition Programs is directly related to the success of individuals or team at improving football behaviours and not associated with match results. The associated achievements of coaches and the club coaching program is centered on the consistent ability of the players to perform the correct football actions with correct timing, pace and direction. The football action may be a skill, movement or form of communication that positively influences the achievement of individual or team tasks. The forms of feedback and reinforcement delivered by coaches on these actions must be honest, correctly timed and presented in the most appropriate manner for the development of the player and the team.

Parents, too, must be aware of the need to support the club's development programs and be conscious of the time-frames that need to be applied. Parents should be informed of the weekly training session content and the game focus for each match.

FFT Football Participation Officers (FPOs)

Football Federation Tasmania has a number of Football Participation Officers based around the state who are available to assist schools, clubs or associations with activities aimed at increasing participation, supporting grassroots clubs and volunteer coaches, and improving the overall experience for young players.

Some of the types of activities and programs that our FPOs can assist with include:



School and Club team events

FPOs can support schools or clubs hosting festivals or gala days that give students an experience of ALDI MiniRoos small-sided football or similar game based activities that fit with the fun, safe, friendly, inclusive and engaging ethos of MiniRoos.

FFT FPOs have assisted in the past with many different special events including:

- School football gala days;
- ALDI MiniRoos Club Football registration days (clubs and associations);
- School holiday programs and clinics;
- ALDI MiniRoos Kick-Off programs;
- World Cup or Asian Cup-themed days;
- Female Football Week events;
- Special Olympics events;
- Multicultural football festivals;
- Girls-only gala days, including the Live Your Goals Festival; and
- A wide range of activities aimed at increasing grassroots participation.



Sporting Schools Program

Sporting Schools is an Australian Government initiative designed to increase children's participation in sport, and to connect children with community sport. It allows primary schools to access funding to provide sport-based activity before, during and after school hours.

The Australian Sports Commission has partnered with more than 30 national sporting organisations (NSOs) to deliver sport programs via their network of coaches and teachers. Sporting Schools programs are underpinned by the quality assurance provided by the NSOs, and importantly, the programs are free to children and their families.

FFA's Sporting Schools program is based on 4 x 45 minute sessions delivered to the same group of participants, ensuring they have a great introduction to ALDI MiniRoos and increasing the likelihood of their ongoing participation in the sport.

Football Federation Tasmania is the only FFA-accredited coaching provider for the Sporting Schools program in Tasmania, and our Football Participation Officers are registered as coaches to deliver the program.

Schools can get involved with Sporting Schools by applying for funding at www.sportingschools.gov.au and contacting Ben Horgan at Football Federation Tasmania on 03 6273 3299 to arrange a MiniRoos program.



ALDI MiniRoos Coaching Certificate courses

Some FPOs are also qualified to deliver the MiniRoos Coaching Certificate, a FREE 3 hour course for novice coaches working with children in the 5-9 age group. They can also visit school or club team training sessions to provide follow-up support

and mentoring to MiniRoos coaches.