



PS4  
NATIONAL  
PREMIER LEAGUES  
QUEENSLAND



# Skill Acquisition Program 2018 INFORMATION PACK

# SKILL ACQUISITION PROGRAM

This document provides information regarding the status of the Skill Acquisition Program (SAP) in Queensland to assist clubs during the 2018 licence application period.

## BACKGROUND

Football Federation Australia introduced the Skill Acquisition Program as part of the first edition of its National Curriculum, originally launched in 2009. Since that time, and as cemented by the 2013 update of the FFA National Curriculum, the development of programs dedicated to training players within the Skill Acquisition Phase has become an integral component of the player pathway.

## STRATEGIC PURPOSE

One of four Training Building Blocks described in FFA's National Curriculum, the Skill Acquisition Phase builds on the Discovery Phase by laying a solid foundation of technical skill and provides a transition into the Game Training Phase. This foundation is based on the four core skills: striking the ball, first touch, 1v1 and running with the ball.

Skill Acquisition Programs have traditionally been aligned with PlayStation 4 National Premier Leagues club criteria to achieve minimum coaching and facility standards while preparing players for subsequent technical and tactical challenges. Each coach involved with a Skill Acquisition Program must hold a minimum of an FFA/AFC C Youth Licence to ensure a quality standard of coaching for participants.

## STRUCTURE

The Skill Acquisition Program will follow the nationwide strategic objectives underpinning the Skill Acquisition Program in providing young players with a positive and challenging football environment while preparing players to progress into PlayStation 4 National Premier Leagues Junior competitions.

## FUTURE

The SAP licence is introduced as a stand alone licence from the NPL and provides the option for either a Male and/or Female licence. Applicants can apply for 1 licence alone or 1 licence from each category (PS4NPL Mens, SAP Male or SAP Female). The period for each licence is 5 years, commencing in 2018 and twenty licences will be offered. Any Club (Community or NPL), Zone or other entity may make application for a licence.

The Skill Acquisition Program will be extended to introduce U9 and U12 age groups as well as maintaining development programs for U10 and U11 players. The male program will be comprised of separate U9, U10, U11 and U12 age groups and the female program will have combined U9/U10 and U11/U12 age groups (unless an applicant proposes that they have enough females to fulfil non-combined age groups).



SAP Licensees will participate in fulltime leagues, with competition weekly. Trials are held to identify talent for final squads, which then train together in accordance with the National Curriculum.

## 9v9 FORMAT

The addition of U12s into the program will see the introduction of a 9v9 format for U12s in the program and state-wide. It is evident since the introduction of the PlayStation 4 National Premier Leagues that U12's playing 11v11 dramatically reduces the number of touches on the ball and the decisions needed both on and off the ball due to the large area players have to cover. Players are also unable to reach wide players from the middle of the field especially when players are near the sidelines. During half-time, players regularly mention how tired they are, which shows in the second half when passes become shorter due to fatigue. In consultation with PS4NPLQLD Technical Directors it was agreed the current U12 age group should move to a 9v9 competition to continue their development. The transition back to 11v11 should be introduced at the U13 age group.

## KEY DATES

Should your club be interested in expressing an interest in participating in the league, please see key dates below:

- **12<sup>th</sup> December 2016** Expression of Interest open
- **31<sup>st</sup> January 2017** Expressions of Interest close
- **1<sup>st</sup> February 2017** Applications are sent to those who lodged an expression of interest
- **28<sup>th</sup> February 2017** Applications close
- **1<sup>st</sup> March 2017** Football Queensland to begin assessing the applications
- **28<sup>th</sup> April 2017** Football Queensland to notify successful applicants
- **5<sup>th</sup> May 2017** Football Queensland to make official announcement of successful applicants

An Expression of Interest Form must be completed by the club/entity and forwarded to [NPLlicencing@footballqueensland.com.au](mailto:NPLlicencing@footballqueensland.com.au) by the due date.







For all enquiries regarding PS4NPLQLD licencing please contact

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