



# FQ ACADEMY GUIDE





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## THE FQ ACADEMY

# WHAT IS THE FQ ACADEMY?

The FQ Academy is Football Australia's only recognised and approved advanced pathway program for state team selection and progression to national teams in Queensland.

The FQ Academy unlocks systematic change as it connects all talent across the state from advanced clubs and regional development centres, aligning with national programs for technical direction and delivery, coach education and development.

Locally based, the FQ Academy is coupled with extensive Talent Identification into state and national programs and provides integrated advanced junior competitions, carnivals and clinics across the state.

It is heavily focused on club development and building capacity which drives technical outcomes through FQ's 'best practice' model in player development which includes extensive club assessment criteria and quality control measures.

Within the 85,000 club-based players across Queensland, approximately 3,000 reside within the FQ Academy system. The talented players that will end up in Queensland state teams each year equate to more than 100 boys and 100 girls, with approximately 10% of these players reaching sufficient quality and making their way to eventual national team representation.





# PLAYER PATHWAY TO NATIONAL TEAMS

The Football Queensland Academy system is Football Australia's recognised talent pathway for young players across our state.

The program aligns the Queensland player pathway with the national development and Talent Identification system, linking outstanding junior players to Australia's national teams.

**FQ ACADEMY CENTRES BOYS & GIRLS**  
U9 - 12  
U13 - 16



**FQ ACADEMY LEAGUES & CARNIVALS**  
U13 - U18



**NATIONAL YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
**NATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE PROGRAM**  
**FUTURE MATILDAS PROGRAM**



**JUNIOR MATILDAS U17**  
**JOEYS U17**  
**YOUNG MATILDAS U20**  
**YOUNG SOCCEROOS U20**  
**OLYROOS U23**  
**A-LEAGUES**



**MATILDAS SENIORS**  
**SOCCEROOS SENIORS**

**FQ SCOUTING & TALENT ID**



**THE BEST**



**FA SCOUTING & TALENT ID**



**THE BEST OF THE BEST**



**NATIONAL TEAM REPRESENTATION**



## TALENT IDENTIFICATION

Talent identification is a long term, repetitive and rigorous process that currently provides opportunities to more than 3,000 committed boys and girls across Queensland within the FQ Academy programs.

An athlete's progress is never linear which is why each player's potential is captured through FQ's Talent Identification database that tracks and categorises players in the system between the age of 12 to 21 to provide the best opportunities for talented Queenslanders.

When a player gains entry to the FQ Academy Talent Identification Database, football attributes (skills, game understanding, position) and physical measures (maturity, peak height velocity) are monitored in conjunction with clubs or FQ Academy centres.

Players identified to be performing at an advanced level are subject to more qualitative and quantitative data collection including detailed physical testing protocols (speed, agility and physio screening) and understanding of social and psychological traits (winning mentality, emotional stability).

Players remain on the Talent Identification Database until their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday with their position reconfirmed every three years. Ideally player attributes are captured with a long term approach and they can gain entry or re-entry at any age within the window outlined above. The database is accessible to state and national team coaches to provide them with in-depth insights and gives players a unique identifier that supports their progression.







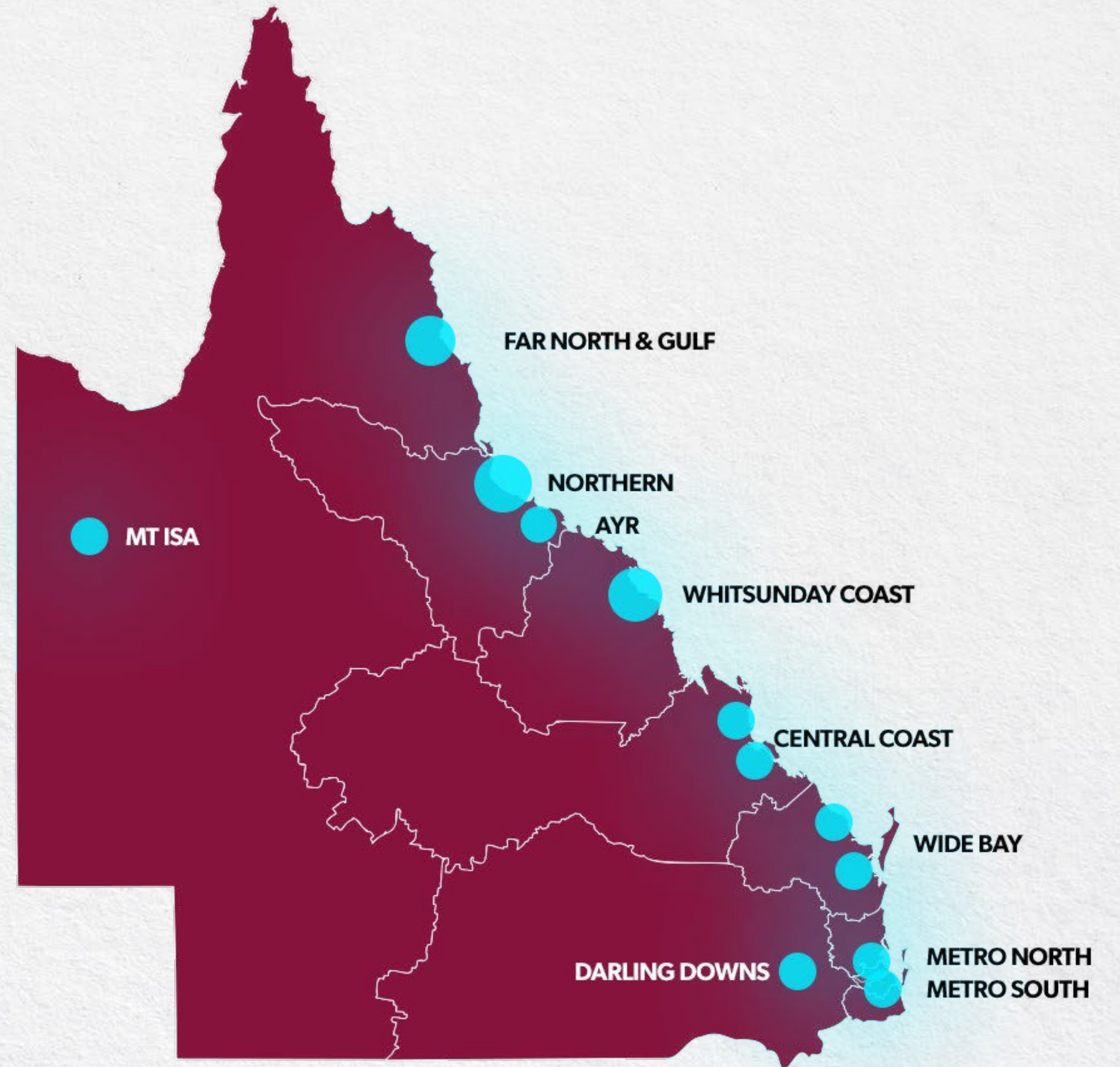
# FQ ACADEMY CENTRES

FQ Academy Advanced Centres operate in Metro, Wide Bay, Central Coast, Whitsunday Coast, Northern, Ayr and Far North and Gulf, while FQ Academy Development Programs will service Darling Downs and Mount Isa.

Players are provided an enhanced development environment where they represent their region at carnivals throughout the year and remain connected to their local clubs playing in regional competitions. The FQ Academy Advanced Centres provide services in line with the criteria set for Tier 1 clubs in South East Queensland.

An extensive range of services are provided to regional players including on-field technical and tactical sessions delivered by advanced coaches, classroom based learning, access to performance and wellbeing technology, nutritional guidance and custom Kappa teamwear.

FQ ACADEMY KITS





Identified South East Queensland club-based players are invited to participate in the FQ Academy Metro Program (boys) or the FQ Academy QAS program (girls) via a year-long talent identification process. The FQ Academy Metro South program is heading into its fourth year, with a North Centre being established in 2023.

Players at FQ Academy League 1-4 clubs are evaluated continually during a season through their coaches player reviews. These reviews occur a few times each year and their talent identification starts at training and games delivered by their club's Technical Director who is in continual contact with Football Queensland Club Development Ambassadors in each region. These consultations can lead to club game observations at FQ Academy League fixtures or video submissions. The monitoring continues at Football Queensland carnivals that may lead to a player's inclusion in the FQ Talent Identification Database for further monitoring of progress or potential invitation to FQ Academy Metro squad trainings.

In older age groups, formerly identified players who may have already gone through a talent identification process for one year or longer may receive an early offer to be part of the boys FQ Academy Metro Program the following year for U14-U16 age groups.

All other U14-U16 players who have previously been in the program but did not receive an early offer, and all FQ Academy League 1, 2, 3 and 4 club athletes who haven't been part of the program in the past have an additional window of five months to be recognised. Every talented player from FQ Academy League clubs in the U13 to U16 age groups has the opportunity to be included in the Football Queensland Academy Metro program or be monitored through the FQ Talent Identification Database.



In the next stage of the talent funnel FQ Academy League 1 and 2 clubs U13 to U16 teams including Gold, Silver and Bronze rated academies are invited to participate at the FQ Academy State Carnival in April (if places available). They play against each other regardless of which league they are normally in to eliminate league boundaries and also play against our FQ Academy Centres.

FQ Academy Centre teams are also mixed with selected and invited players (subject to the talent pool) from FQ Academy league 3 and 4 clubs to provide cross-over playing experiences.

The FQ Academy Metro boys programs are finalised in May and players will continue training at Brisbane North and South centres from 2023. At least three groups of selected metro team players enter the FQ Academy State Championships in June/July with all FQ Academy regional players where boys state teams are finalised in preparation for the National Youth Championships.

The FQ Academy provides a similar range of opportunities for female players including FQ Academy League 1 clubs participation at the FQ Academy Carnival in April while identified FQ Academy League 2 players may be invited to play with the regional FQ Academy region teams. FQ Academy QAS teams also participate as a group and at least one invitational FQ Academy Metro team is assembled in state team age groups for the FQ Academy State Championships in June/July where the girls state teams are also finalised in preparation for the National Youth Championships.

Advanced clubs in South East Queensland deliver player development services and earn recognition in two tiers:

- Tier 1 FQ Academy League 1 and 2 (Gold, Silver and Bronze rating)
- Tier 2 FQ Academy League 3 and 4 (Bronze and Development Committed rating)

The FQ Academy Leagues 1-4, and the eight (currently) FQ Academy Centres accommodate the 3,000 players in Football Australia's recognised and approved advanced pathway programs for state team selection and progression to national teams.

## U14 - U18 BOYS LEAGUE STRUCTURE



## U13, U15 & U17 GIRLS LEAGUE STRUCTURE





# JUNIORS (U9 - U12) OVERVIEW

While focused skill development at FQ Academy clubs and FQ Academy Centres starts around eight years of age when players are in the Skill Acquisition Phase of development, the talent identification journey starts later and is continued for a number of years to avoid early deselection of talent and to shift away from the complacent recognition of children who are early bloomers.

The emphasis is on learning the core football skills (first touch, striking the ball, 1v1 and running with the ball) in a fun and supportive environment. Competitive games are introduced slowly and nurturing technical ability and developing a winning mentality takes precedence over winning football matches before players enter their teenage years.

Throughout the year players in the U9-U12 age group participate in non-competitive regional, all regional and state carnivals with the U12/U13 age group getting a first taste of competitive football at the FQ Academy Junior Cup. FQ's Talent Identification Database commences at the age of twelve at the FQ Academy Junior Cup and continues until a player reaches 21 years of age in Queensland. Following this event, regional players that are identified enter into FQ Academy Centres alongside other regionally based players who may have already trialled through the many Talent Identification sessions directly at one of the regional centres.

## FQ ACADEMY U9-12



**36 SEQ**  
FQ ACADEMY CLUBS  
[Rated by FQ Club Assessment]



**700+**  
CARNIVAL GAMES



**2 STATEWIDE**  
CARNIVALS



**5 REGIONAL**  
FQ ACADEMIES

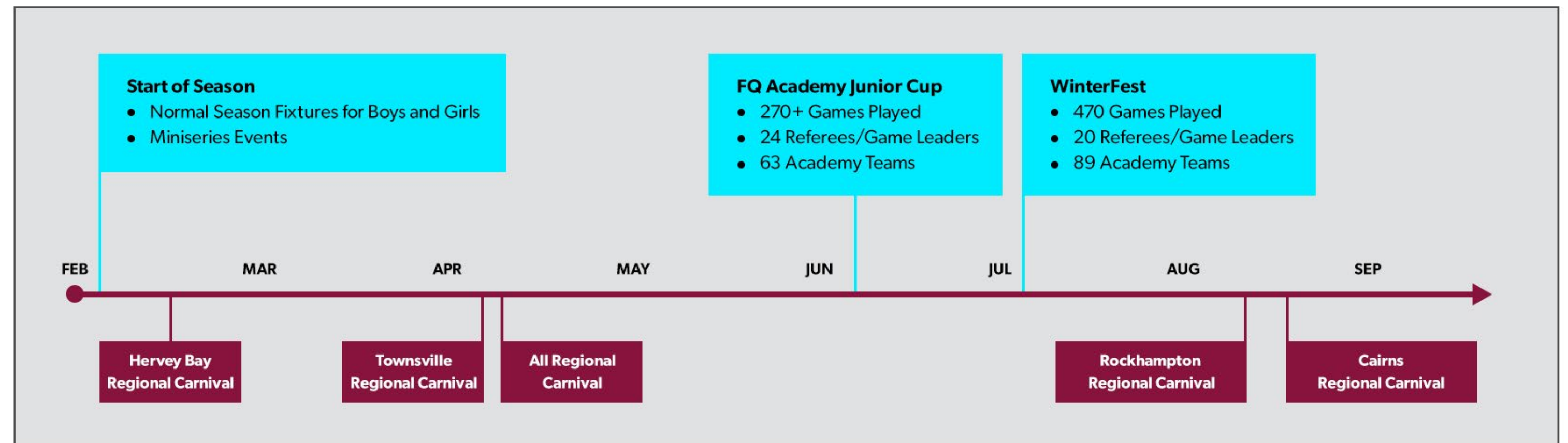


**1,300+**  
FQ ACADEMY PLAYERS



**5 REGIONAL**  
CARNIVALS

## JUNIOR (U9 - U12) 2023 CALENDAR





# YOUTH (U13 - U16) OVERVIEW

As players progress through the FQ Academy program into the U13-U16 age group they receive a significant increase in performance tracking, measurement and talent identification services.

FQ hosts two regional and two state carnivals during the season that connect the club-based metro and regional centre programs. Players from the regions and club-based programs first connect at the Easter state carnival. Following this, the club-based academies in South East Queensland feed into an FQ Academy Metro State program to compete at the FQ Academy State Championships during the winter school holidays against or alongside regional players.

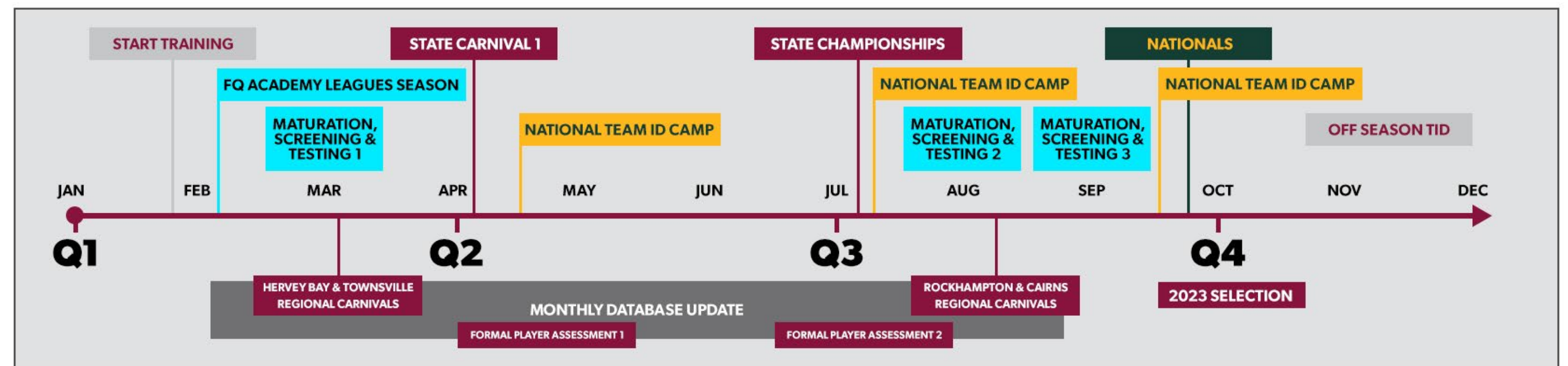
At the FQ Academy State Championships players may be placed into mixed teams to create more 'like vs like' games to assist with state squad selection and national talent identification camps. FQ follows a "One Queensland" model allowing players regardless of their geography to be allocated to any of FQ's U14 & U16 girls and U14 & U15 boys National Youth Championships (NYC) teams and the U18 girls National Training Centre Challenge (NTC) team.

## FQ ACADEMY U13-16

- 10,000** HOURS OF GAME FOOTAGE PER CARNIVAL
- 70+** FQ ACADEMY STAFF
- 2** STATE CARNIVALS
- 56** TALENT ID COACHES ON SELECTION PANEL
- 5** REGIONAL CARNIVALS
- 12 PLAYERS** RECRUITED TO A LEAGUE ACADEMIES SINCE 2020
- 400** GAMES
- 8 PLAYERS** SELECTED FOR JOEYS CAMP IN TOWNSVILLE IN 2022

- National Youth Championships
- National Team Talent ID camps & Elite games
- Monthly Player Assessments on our Talent Database
- Players physical development tracked
- Regional players feedback report twice per year
- Multiple physical screening and medical assessments on players
- National Team GK coach
- Coaching courses and education sessions for players

## YOUTH (U13 - U16) CALENDAR









## U13 9V9 FORMAT

Football Queensland is introducing the 9v9 playing format for the U13 age group across all U13 competitions from 2023, in line with Football Australia's recommendation and global best practice.

Research shows that 9v9 is the key building block prior to the 11-a-side game due to the structure of the area of the pitch the players participate within.

### International Best Practice

-  Under 13 players have not yet reached their major growth spurts
-  In a 9v9 format, players have flexibility to take on different roles regardless of physical capabilities
-  In a 70 minute match, there are 175 more touches in 9v9 than 11v11
-  On average, there are 98 more passes in 9v9 than 11v11 match

In Men's Top 50 FIFA ranked countries the average age when players start on a full field is after 13.52 years (U14 age group)\*.

In a 9v9 format, 36 players can be active on a full size football pitch compared with only 22 when playing 11-a-side. Clubs will therefore have capacity to play more games on the same number of fields playing matches in a 9v9 format.

\*Source: Increasing Global Competitiveness - FIFA Analysis of the talent development ecosystem (2021)

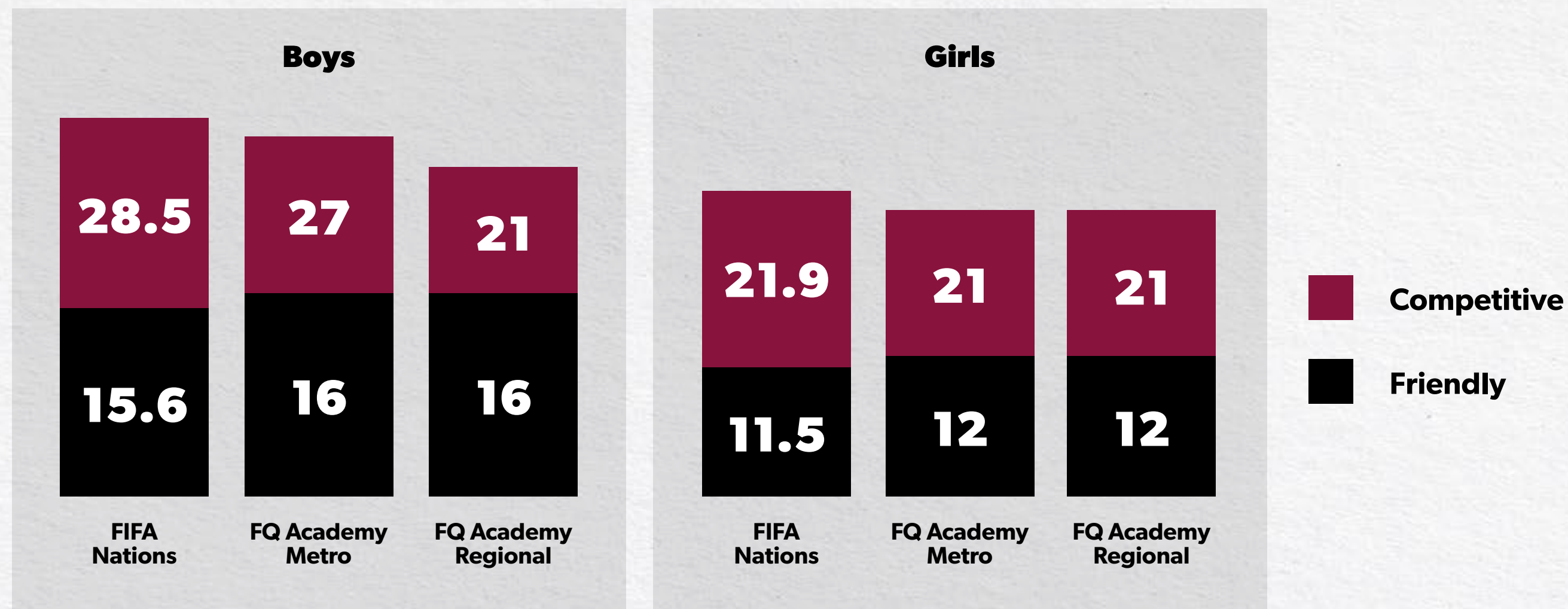




# MATCHES PLAYED PER SEASON

Following the competition reforms and establishment of FQ Academy Leagues there is a significant improvement in quality match minutes for aspirational junior players. State level FQ Academy players who are participating at the National Youth Championships with an additional 6-7 competitive games now meet or exceed playing opportunities offered in FIFA Top 1-20 countries\*. Our data does not include school football games (GPS, QGSSSA, QSS Championships etc.) that provide more games to an extended cohort of athletes.

## Average Number of Games Per Season



\*Source: Increasing Global Competitiveness - FIFA Analysis of the talent development ecosystem (2021)





## CARNIVALS & EVENTS

Football Queensland hosts a number of carnivals across the season for FQ Academy players serving a variety of purposes.

-  **Talent verification** takes place at the FQ Academy State Carnival held in April allowing FQ Academy Tier 1 clubs to compete against FQ Academy Centres.
-  **Talent recognition** occurs at the FQ Academy State Championships which is held in July with FQ Academy regional centres and FQ Academy QAS players competing to earn selection on state teams.
-  **Talent validation** is completed at the National Youth Championships held across September and October. State and territory team players from across Australia compete to be earmarked for national team representation.

Regional FQ Academy carnivals are designed explicitly for Talent Identification and data gathering. FQ Academy state carnivals allow FQ Academy coaches to gather data and continually identify talent while also performing player categorisation for state team selection.

Elite games allow coaches to identify talent for National Teams and collect insights for the National Talent Identification database. These matches may occur at State Carnivals or during the season. From this, National Team Camps are held for the specific purpose of identifying talent in preparation of National Team tournaments.

The National Youth Championships is the culmination of a seasons worth of training and preparation for FQ Academy players. The Championships provide another opportunity to assess selected players in a competitive environment and for players to showcase their talent on the national stage.





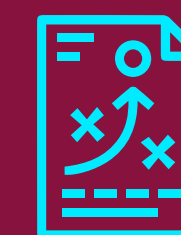
# CLUB ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The Football Queensland Club Assessment determines league structure in South East Queensland and are conducted annually between April and August. This comprehensive audit on clubs technical and player development ecosystem (as it is actually delivered, not promised to be delivered) informs league placement for the following season. From the outcome of the club assessment clubs receive an FQ Academy Club Shield with a rating. This informs members about the level of the clubs technical services as assessed by Football Queensland.

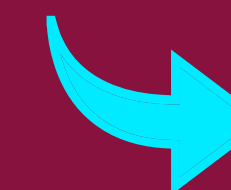


By participating in the assessment process clubs can position themselves to counter unaccredited private academies. Since implementation of this process in 2019 the number of bronze rated clubs has decreased by 50%. Football Queensland provides specialised Club Development Services to assist club academies to continue improving their technical systems and increase their rating each year. All FQ Academy regional centres participate in Tier 1 assessment while selected regional clubs undergo Tier 2 assessment.

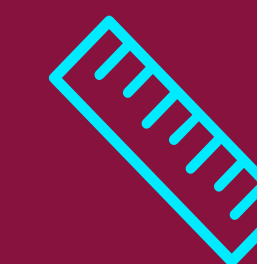
Football Queensland will assess how clubs...



PLAN THEIR PROGRAMS



DELIVER THEIR PROGRAMS



ACHIEVE OUTCOMES & CELEBRATE SUCCESS

This will assist FQ to...



IDENTIFY AND INFLUENCE THEIR PROGRAMS



IMPROVE PROGRAM DELIVERY



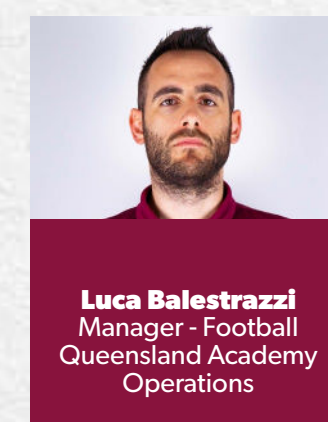
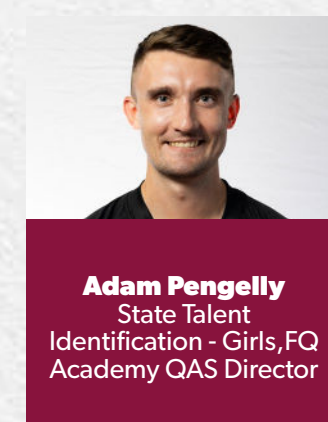
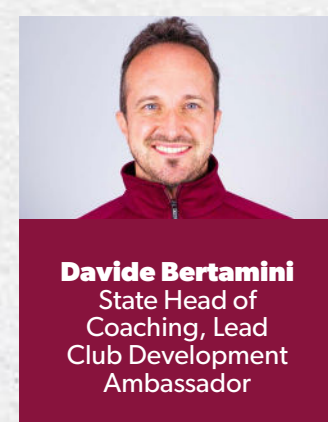
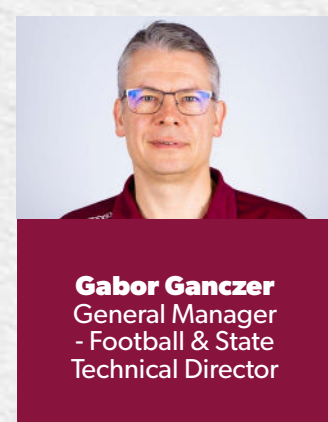
ASSESS AND REFINE SERVICES TO OUR CLUBS



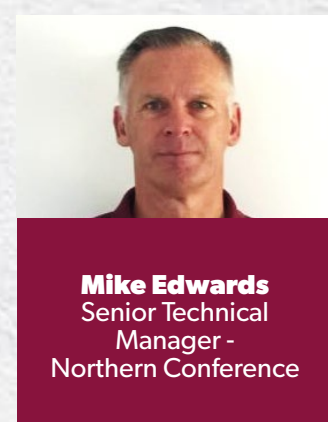
# THE FQ ACADEMY TEAM

The FQ Academy Team is committed to providing quality outcomes in the club development space.

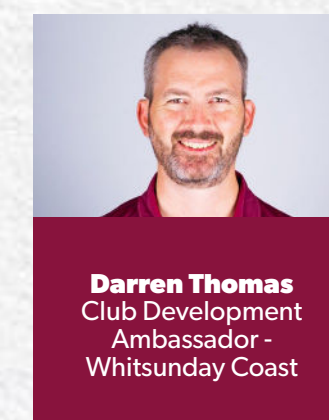
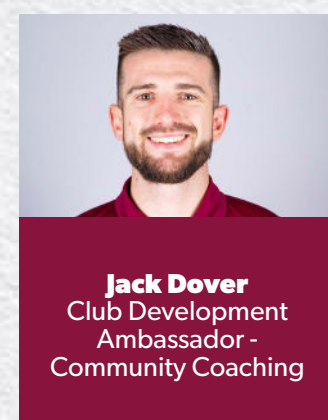
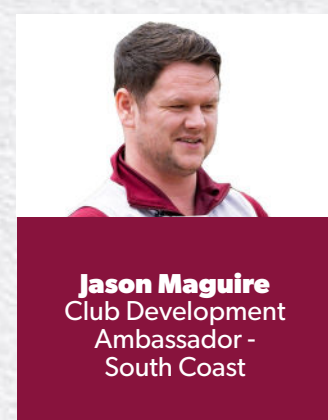
## STATE TEAM



## SENIOR TECHNICAL MANAGERS



## CLUB DEVELOPMENT AMBASSADORS



The FQ Academy team is supported by more than 85 casual coaches across the state at carnivals, clinics and training.



