

MEMO 23 - 23

To: FQ Academy Clubs with Female Program
From: Football Queensland
Subject: U12 Girls in FQ Academy Leagues 2024
Date: October 6, 2023

Dear Clubs

Since its inception, a key objective of Football Queensland's Advanced Female Pathway strategy has been the incremental transition to reach full single year age cohorts, across all female age groups in the FQ Academy Leagues.

Football Queensland's unwavering commitment to reaching 50/50 gender parity in participation, the ongoing growth of the female game and the positive effects of the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023™ have enabled FQ to reach another review milestone in which the implementation of the next transition phase is considered achievable over the next few years.

Football Queensland recently sought feedback through direct consultation with advanced FQ Academy female clubs and has reviewed the detailed responses provided by clubs regarding their assessed readiness and ability to deliver. In line with FQ's own evidence-based positions referenced against female football strategies, we are now able to table the following next steps:

1. All currently licensed FQ Academy clubs with an advanced female program, and explicitly invited clubs with a confirmed FQ Academy rating for 2024, will be invited to 'opt in' to deliver talent identification sessions for U12 Girls during the confirmed talent identification time frame, starting early October 2023. Clubs are strongly encouraged to field the age group primarily with homegrown or retained U11 players.
2. Participating clubs are required to confirm their ability to field an U12 Girls team of 13 players (2012 born), playing 9v9 non-competitive FQ Academy League, no later than Wednesday, 15 November 2023, by submitting a provisional team list with at least 12 age-eligible players via email to competitions@footballqueensland.com.au
3. FQ will provide a declaration of the U12 Girls FQ Academy League composition by Thursday, 30 November 2023. This will be confirmed separately to other FQ Academy junior league declarations due to the viability check required for a new competing age group.

Please note that the following age groups will be mandatory for the 2024 season for FQ Academy licensed clubs with a female program and a confirmed academy rating.

- U11 Girls (non-competitive, 9-a-side)
- U13 Girls (competitive, 9-a-side)
- U15 and U17 Girls (both competitive, 11-a-side)

An exception to this will be new female programs fielding U11 and U13 Girls teams in the first year of their participation, in addition to the optional U12 Girls.

The planned timeline of implementation will see the introduction of the U12 Girls FQ Academy League in 2024 which will be optional for clubs and subject to final approval by FQ as per the above points. From 2025, participation in the U12 Girls FQ Academy League will be mandatory.

In the third quarter of 2024, talent identification will commence for the optional U14 Girls FQ Academy League, to be introduced from early 2025 alongside the mandatory U12 Girls FQ Academy League.

From 2026, it is proposed that participation in both the U12 Girls and U14 Girls FQ Academy Leagues will be mandatory.

End.