

## MEMO 23 - 25

**To:** Sunshine Coast United Participants  
**From:** Football Queensland  
**Subject:** Sunshine Coast United 2026 Transition  
**Date:** July 14, 2025

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Dear Sunshine Coast United participants and families,

As we continue through the 2025 season, we would like to provide you with an important update regarding the future of the Sunshine Coast United (SCU) program.

SCU was initially established in 2024 as a transitional initiative to maintain high-quality player development within FQ's Academy pathway in the region, while clubs like Noosa Lions FC worked through the Tier 2 Club Development Assessment process.

After successfully passing the initial screening and earning a 'Development Committed' rating in 2024, Noosa Lions FC began a phased transition into the FQ Academy Leagues in 2025, co-delivering U9-U12 Boys and U11-U13 Girls, alongside SCU's continued operation of the U13 and older Boys FQ Academy age groups.

Subject to maintaining Tier 2 status and final assessment confirmation in October 2025, Noosa Lions FC is provisionally set to assume full responsibility for the U10-U18 Boys Academy age groups from the 2026 season. **This transition will see the conclusion of the SCU program at the end of 2025.**

To ensure a smooth transition, both Noosa Lions FC and FQ Sunshine Coast staff will follow a retention protocol, with both parties honouring existing retention rights for selected players. A series of Player Identification sessions will be coordinated during Term 3, helping to identify the retained players for the 2026 season. This process will help us confirm the players who will continue within the FQ Academy pathway under the new structure.

In addition, FQ is working with Sunshine Coast Wanderers FC and Caboolture Sports FC to provide additional pathway options for players, in line with player preferences and geographic locations.

During its time, the SCU program has seen strong outcomes, with many players advancing to higher levels of competition. A recent example is 2024 participant Aiden Bowman, who was selected for the 2025 Queensland Shadow Squad for the CommBank Emerging Socceroos Championships, further reflecting the success of the development pathway established under the FQ Academy and Club Development framework.

Please note that all details are provisional until the final assessments are confirmed later this year. A further update will be shared as soon as more information becomes available.

End.