

## MEMO 27 - 25

**To:** FQ Academy League 1-4 Clubs  
**From:** Tom Laxton: Technical Director – Player Development  
**Subject:** 2026 Club Trial Information  
**Date:** August 1, 2025

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Dear Clubs

As the conclusion of another FQ Academy club assessment period draws nearer, Football Queensland wishes to reinforce the expected end of season protocol regarding talent identification and trials at FQ Academy League clubs.

As in previous years, clubs are reminded that compliance with junior player selection timelines is a requirement of the current FQ Academy Licence and upholding high ethical standards is an agreed mutual obligation between clubs.

Each year, a number of advanced clubs use 'Talent ID' and 'Come & Try' clinics to encourage participants from other clubs to trial in preparation for the following season.

If clubs attempt to use this method and conduct early trials or offer positions to players who have ongoing commitments at their current club, they will be asked to show cause, and club scores on Talent Identification protocols may be significantly lowered in the Advanced Club Assessment.

Clubs may provide information and EOI forms for external players from Monday, 1 September 2025, however physical trial and talent ID opportunities should not be extended unless the player's current club provides written consent. If a club currently has an EOI form online, FQ requests that they remove the form until the outlined date.

Players are expected to honour their club commitments, and therefore no trial process should take place until the week commencing Monday, 13 October 2025 for Under 14 to Under 18 age groups (based on player age group for 2025 season).

As the season for younger age groups finishes earlier, FQ Academy Under 9 to Under 13's (for 2025 season) are the **only** exception to this and trials can commence on Monday, 29 September 2025.

Providing a consistent and challenging environment is the most effective way to achieve long term development goals. Clubs are encouraged to prioritise the retention of players if both parties are satisfied. All players should be afforded the opportunity to consider their position at season's end, after they have honoured their commitment to their current club.

Any player that is offered a position within a club for the new season must be done so unconditionally. More specifically, players must not be told they can play outside of any birth year age group for the new season before any decision has been made by FQ via the age exemption request windows.

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Only through mutual agreement/communication between two clubs can higher placed clubs arrange for in-season training sessions. This aligns with the Progressing Players line item in the Club Assessment framework, which encourages higher-placed clubs to identify and recruit a minimal number of players through collaborative dialogue - reducing the need for open trials at the conclusion of the season.

As FQ's club assessment process rewards high player retention rates, open squad positions should remain limited on teams where youth development is acknowledged to be a long-term process based on strong club values and good coaching services.

It is also noted that there are examples of unethical practices where clubs charge a fee for talent identification. This practice further decreases the talent pool by setting a financial requirement and limiting opportunities for players to showcase their abilities and skills.

FQ Academy clubs are expected to set high standards, and Football Queensland remains committed to monitoring player movement and club changes to ensure these standards are being upheld. Deliberate avoidance of the guidance in this memo may result in reduced scores in the club assessment process.

Thank you for your continued commitment to fostering a player development-focused environment in Queensland.

End.