



**NORTHERN
SUBURBS
FOOTBALL**
EST. 1957

NSFA CLUB CIRCULAR 19/21

ALL CLUB PRESIDENTS

Dated 14th September 2021

Addition of U13 Girls Age Group 2022

In line with NSFA What's Best For Her strategy we are looking to expand our Competition offerings to support positive player experience, facilitate player development and work towards our player retention target of 75%!

Since 2015 Girls Under 12 player numbers have increased from 223 to 340 players in 2021.

In 2022 NSFA would like to offer Under 13 Girls 9v9 competition. NSFA player predictions for 2022 season are 300 G13 players and 200 G14 players.

Why 9v9

By continuing with the 9v9 format clubs will be able to maintain their currently formed teams which will support retention as friends can stay together. From our data, this age group is a critical stage in a player's journey as they enter high school and providing some continuity in this period could support retention.

Since 2017, Football NSW Girls Skills Acquisition Program (GSAP), of which Northern Tigers enter, plays the Under 13 Girls age group in a modified format; 10v10. This is catered for by either playing box to box on a full size field; with a decreased width, or sideline to sideline across the field.

The 9v9 format provides the same benefits as the FNSW Competitions while keeping player numbers (12 players) and team consistency. Globally the dominant football nations have played modified football formats for age groups up until Under 14 for many years due to the widely accepted research and evidence it has on player development and enjoyment.

The benefits of Under 13 adopting the proposed 9 vs 9 modified format include.

- Increase touches of the ball per player
- Increase engagement in match actions for players
- Enjoyable player experience
- Improves player development outcomes
- Improvement in team retention

The English FA –Video explanation -https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9Pc1vf_tlg&t=4s

In 2015, the NSFA adopted a modified format of football for the Girls Under 12 competitions, playing 9 vs 9 on a field 60m x 40m, whilst maintaining the ‘competition’ element through the publication of match results and the league table. Players continued to play with a Size 4 ball as well as 5m x 2m goals. This has been a positive format to develop individual technical skill. In that time NSFA U12 Girls teams have been competitive in FNSW competitions – see detail below:

State Cup	Champions of Champions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2 winners ○ 1 runner-up ○ 4 semi-finalists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2 winners ○ 1 semi-finalist
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1 winner ○ 3 semi-finalists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1 semi-finalist

2022 NSFA Competitions

In previous years the Competitions Department have found it very difficult finalising U14 Girls division allocations. Clubs have been unable to agree on division 2 and 3 allocations which has resulted in one big division 2 forming which included 17 teams. The player experience has been poor due to the significant difference in player ability from the top to bottom teams and the resulting goal difference disparity.

The below table provides a breakdown of female players per age group showing depth for the future.

2021 – Female Age breakdown						
Age	8	9	10	11	12	13
Number of female players	361	326	333	337	289	199

From the player numbers, current challenges of the GU14 competition and NSFA strategic goals we will be offering the following competitions from 2022 to 2024.

2022	2023	2024
G12 DL	G12 DL	G12 DL
G12 Div 2-4	G12 Div 2-4	G12 Div 2-5
G13 Div 2	G13 DL	G13 DL
G14 DL (13/14)	G13 Div 2	G13 Div 2-3
G14 Div 2	G14/15 DL	G14 DL
G16 DL	G14 Div 2	G14 Div 2
G16 Div 2-3	G16 DL	G16 DL
G18 DL	G16 Div 2-3	G16 Div 2-3
G18 Div 2	G18 DL	G18 DL
	G18 Div 2	G18 Div 2

New competitions have been highlighted yellow

Competition Changes

2022- Introduction of G13 div 2 competition. Diamond League will remain a combination of U13 and U14 players due to current player depth. Clubs apply for a license and meet requirements to become a Diamond League club.

2023 – G14/15 DL allows club to field competitive teams while transitioning G13 age group into DL. This will aid clubs as G14s will not have the player pool due to G13 age group and will be seen as a transition year where G15 players will play in either G14 or G16 team depending on the player ability and club requirements. Please note G14/G15 will only be in place for one year.

2024 – DL will return to G14 and G16 age groups. With the increased player numbers we want to set a target of 5 divisions in G12 and 3 divisions in G13.

Summary

NSFA are looking forward to establishing a U13 Girls 9v9 competition to help support player's experience with the game to ensure they continue playing. As well as provide an environment that will help with a player's technical development through a more balanced competition on modified field.