



NSFA SAP League 2024: Competition Restructure Proposal

Overview

The NSFA SAP League commenced in 2020 with the structure remaining relatively consistent over the past four seasons.

In response to NSFA Club requests to provide a more tangible link between their SAP teams and their underpinning aspirational/development teams, a review has been conducted to determine if the NSFA SAP League could be restructured to meet the needs of Clubs and continue to achieve and enhance the Development League objectives.

Development Leagues Objectives

- Lift the bar in NSFA community football to provide participants with a quality football experience.
- Competitive community football environment to challenge aspirational players and coaches.
- Sustainable Clubs in a healthy local football environment.
- Improve pathway opportunities for players and coaches (within local Clubs and to Representative football).
- Competitions that underpin each other - NSFA SAP League underpins Super League and Diamond League, that then underpins the NSFA Premier League Senior Competitions.
- Legitimate pathway for players and coaches from community football to representative football.

Summary: NSFA SAP League Restructure Proposal 2024

- Name change from NSFA SAP League to NSFA Junior Development League (JDL).
- Introduce an underpinning competition to JDL (formerly SAP), named the JDL 1 and JDL 2 competitions.
- JDL 1 would replicate the current SAP environment, JDL 2 would become the underpinning league which replicates JDL 1 in terms of the Clubs and teams participating, and the competition structure.
- The current hub ground format would be replaced with a more traditional format where Clubs are allocated a Home ground/s.
- JDL 1 and JDL 2 fixtures arranged so Club's teams play on the same day, at the same venue, with the full season draw published at the start of the season.
- Game Leaders trained, mentored and appointed by the NSFRA.

Detailed Review and Rationale for the Proposed Changes

Current 2023	Proposal 2024	Comment/Rationale
Competition is named NSFA SAP League.	Change the competition name to the Junior Development League (JDL).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better representation of what the competition is. • FNSW are changing the name from SAP to JDL in 2025.
One level – NSFA SAP League	Two levels of competition – JDL 1 and JDL 2. Introduce an underpinning level of competition to support the aspirational/development teams.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Development Leagues Model requires all SAP Licences to have at least one aspirational or development team – JDL 2 provides a competition structure for these teams. • Support Club requests for a competition format to support more players. • Support the development of aspirational players. • Enhance internal Club pathways for players and coaches. • Provide greater depth in terms of underpinning competitions.
Hub format for ground scheduling on match days	Each JDL Licence would be allocated a home ground/s to play at on alternate weeks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSFA will work through what grounds are available and suitable for each JDL licence. Note the grounds chosen may not be a traditional home ground for a specific Club. • Home Clubs will be responsible for dressing the ground on match days. • With the Hub format when scheduling fixtures NSFA attempt to share the access to “better” grounds, this may not be possible with the proposed structure.
SAP League teams all play at the same venue at pre-determined times with the full season draw confirmed from the start of the season.	JDL 1 and JDL 2 teams from the same licence will all play at the same venue at pre-determined times with the full season draw confirmed from the start of the season.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Club culture with all teams playing at the same venue. • Support Clubs with player and coach coverage. • More opportunities for aspirational players (JDL 2) to experience JDL 1. • Provide a better overall experience for the players and parents at the aspirational level.
Game Leaders appointed by NSFA	Game Leaders appointed by NSFRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve training and oversight of Game Leader development and ultimately performance. • Grow the pool of Game Leaders with strategies to access “cadet referees” within Clubs. • Improve coverage of JDL 1 and potentially increase the reach into JDL 2.

Competition Structure for JDL 1 and JDL 2

All Clubs issued with a SAP Licence for 2024 will be required to enter their underpinning aspirational or development teams into JDL 2. For Clubs that have been issued with two SAP Licences, these clubs will be required to also enter two teams in JDL 2. JDL 1 and JDL 2 with both be 14 team competitions.

In 2024 no minimum criteria will be set by NSFA for teams participating in the JDL 2 competition (apart from the normal requirements as per the competition regulations for the U8 to U11 age groups). For clarity there will be no requirements in terms of coach accreditation, training contacts, etc for JDL 2. This can be reviewed for 2025.

JDL 1 – 14 teams	JDL 2 – 14 teams
Berowra FC	Berowra FC
Hornsby Heights FC	Hornsby Heights FC
Kissing Point FC	Kissing Point FC
Lane Cove FC	Lane Cove FC
Lindfield FC – 1	Lindfield FC – 1
Lindfield FC – 2	Lindfield FC – 2
Mt Colah FC	Mt Colah FC
Northbridge FC – 1	Northbridge FC – 1
Northbridge FC – 2	Northbridge FC – 2
North Sydney FC – 1	North Sydney FC – 1
North Sydney FC – 2	North Sydney FC – 2
St Ives FC	St Ives FC
Turramurra United	Turramurra United
West Pymble FC	West Pymble FC

Match Day Draw Examples (two examples below)

Example 1 – Matches linked by competition level: same format as currently used with all JDL 1 matches played first, followed by all JDL 2 matches.

Time	Ground	Competition	Age Group	Home Team	Away Team
8.30am	Montview Field 4	JDL 1	U8	Hornsby Heights FC	St Ives FC
8.30am	Montview Field 5	JDL 1	U10	Hornsby Heights FC	St Ives FC
9.30am	Montview Field 4	JDL 1	U9	Hornsby Heights FC	St Ives FC
9.30am	Montview Field 5	JDL 1	U11	Hornsby Heights FC	St Ives FC
10.30am	Montview Field 4	JDL 2	U8	Hornsby Heights FC	St Ives FC
10.30am	Montview Field 5	JDL 2	U10	Hornsby Heights FC	St Ives FC
11.30am	Montview Field 4	JDL 2	U9	Hornsby Heights FC	St Ives FC
11.30am	Montview Field 5	JDL 2	U11	Hornsby Heights FC	St Ives FC

Example 2 – Matches linked by age group: whereby the JDL 1 U8 match is followed immediately by the JDL 2 U8 match (and the same for the other age groups).

Time	Ground	Competition	Age Group	Home Team	Away Team
8.30am	Montview Field 4	JDL 1	U8	Hornsby Heights FC	St Ives FC
8.30am	Montview Field 5	JDL 1	U10	Hornsby Heights FC	St Ives FC
9.30am	Montview Field 4	JDL 2	U8	Hornsby Heights FC	St Ives FC
9.30am	Montview Field 5	JDL 2	U10	Hornsby Heights FC	St Ives FC
10.30am	Montview Field 4	JDL 1	U9	Hornsby Heights FC	St Ives FC
10.30am	Montview Field 5	JDL 1	U11	Hornsby Heights FC	St Ives FC
11.30am	Montview Field 4	JDL 2	U9	Hornsby Heights FC	St Ives FC
11.30am	Montview Field 5	JDL 2	U11	Hornsby Heights FC	St Ives FC