



AFL GOLDFIELDS

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FRIDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 2017

Mr Ollie Matthews

Chairman – Riddell District FNL

By email: olliematthews28@gmail.com

Dear Ollie,

RE: Approved changes to RDFNL Junior competition in 2018

Thank you to the Riddell District FNL Board and clubs for the extensive consultation recently undertaken by all stakeholders to consider the preferred composition for the RDFNL Junior competition moving forward.

As you are aware, this process commenced with concerns expressed at the RDFNL Junior Presidents meeting regarding the negative impact differing age groups in neighbouring leagues was having on the RDFNL Junior competition.

As a means of considering Club preferences, a Survey was then conducted across all Senior and Junior Clubs on their preferred Junior and 3rd 18 age groups moving forward. This feedback was then considered at a Junior Summit hosted Sunday 16th July, with the recommendations from this Summit then distributed to Leagues and Clubs for further consideration and feedback.

The Club feedback was the submitted to the RDFNL Board for their consideration (18th August 2017) and the RDFNL Board's subsequent recommendations considered at the AFL Goldfields Junior Regional Advisory Committee meeting held Tuesday 5th September.

The AFL Goldfields Junior Regional Advisory Committee's recommendations were then considered by the AFL Goldfields Commission at their meeting held Wednesday 20th September 2017, and I am pleased to confirm that the following determinations were approved for implementation for the 2018 season:

1) That the Riddell District FNL shall increase the age group of the Under 18 ½ competition to Under 19 ½ for the 2018 season.

2) That the Riddell District FNL shall amend the Junior Football age groups to the following for the 2018 season –

- **Under 17**
- **Under 15**
- **Under 13**
- **Under 11**

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Note: The **Under 11 competition** would revert to an official competition, and will be played on full size grounds. This will also mean that these games will be played for Premiership Points and be regarded as official competitions and will include a full finals series in 2018.

3) That the Riddell District FNL Junior Netball age groups remain unchanged for the 2018 season, and will be as follows:

- 11 & Under
- 13 & Under
- 15 & Under
- 17 & Under

Further, there is no recommendation to grade RDFNL Under Age netball competitions. It is recommended that the RDFNL conduct a Junior Netball Co Ordinators meeting in October 2017, to further discuss and agree to a preferred Junior Netball competition structure for the 2018 season.

4) That the Riddell District FNL will commence a mid-week (possibly Friday night) Under 9's competition for the 2018 season.

Note: This competition is being created to help provide the following development opportunities for children and is primarily targeted as a transition from Auskick into competition football. Games would operate under the same modified rules as the current Under 10 competitions. All Riddell District FNL Clubs (and also the Darley FNC and Bacchus Marsh FNC) would be invited to affiliated sides in this competition in 2018. The RDFNL shall undertake further consultation with member Clubs to determine season and competition format, including preferred day & time of this mid-week competition. It is recommended that this competition shall include an end of season Lightning Premiership (in lieu of a finals series).

5) That the Gisborne Rookies JFNC, Melton Junior FNC, Rupertswood JFNC and Sunbury Lions JFNC remain in the RDFNL Junior competition, and will not join the Ballarat FNL as previously recommended.

6) That the RDFNL shall grade the Under 17 and Under 15 Junior football competitions for the 2018 season. The RDFNL shall conduct a 3 – 4 week grading period at the commencement of the 2018 season.

7) It is also recommended that the RDFNL grade the Under 13 and Under 11 Junior football competitions for the 2018 season, but it is acknowledged that this should involve further consultation with member clubs prior to an official decision being made by the RDFNL Board. If

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grading is also adopted for the Under 13 and Under 11 competitions the RDFNL shall also conduct a 3 – 4 week grading period at the commencement of the 2018 season.

8) That the RDFNL shall include a minimum of 6 teams in each graded competition in 2018. It was noted that this will allow for a season spanning 14 weeks, where first 4 weeks are grading, then each team (in a 6 team comp) would play each other team twice in a 10 week season proper. It is agreed that the RDFNL will host a Junior “Work shop” on how the grading games should be treated, with each club invited to send 1 approved delegate.

9) For competitions where grading is approved, that the RDFNL remove the score cap which was introduced in 2017. Goal kickers would be added to Sports TG, however there would be no league award for leading goal kicker in any junior age group (U11 to U17)

10) CAPPING:

That the RDFNL shall impose a “Team cap” for the 2018 season, with Clubs limited to affiliating 3 X Under 11 Football sides, 3 X Under 13 Football sides, 3 X Under 15 Football sides, and 2 X Under 17 Football sides in the RDFNL Junior competition.

It is acknowledged that the above determinations were supported by the overwhelming majority of the RDFNL Clubs, but it is recognised that concern was expressed by 2 clubs that they may be adversely effected by these changes being implemented for the 2018 season.

The RDFNL and AFL Goldfields are committed to working with these clubs to mitigate any negative impact that these changes may bring, and to providing any assistance we can assist these clubs moving forward.

It would be appreciated if this advice be forwarded to RDFNL Senior and Junior Clubs immediately to allow them to begin their planning for the 2018 season. It is also requested that the above be included on the Agenda for discussions at upcoming Senior and Junior Presidents meetings, and the RDFNL Junior Netball meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Rod Ward
Regional General Manager
AFL Goldfields