



# MEMO

To: Football NSW Futsal Standing Committee  
Football NSW Futsal Premier League Clubs  
Futsal State League Clubs

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From: Competitions Manager

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Date: 30 May 2014

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Subject: FPL & FSL Girls Age Grade Change

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Dear Colleagues,

At their meeting on 29 May 2014 the Football NSW Board resolved to change the Girls age grades for the 2014/2015 Futsal season

The board determined that;

- The Grades will be U13, U15, U17 & Open Women's

## **Background**

Since Football NSW began administering the Futsal Premier League and State League Competitions the girls/women's age groups have been U12, U14, U16, and Open Women.

After the review of Women's Football in NSW, it was determined that, consistent with FFA National Competitions Review the age groups for Women's Football would be amended to reflect U13, U15, U17 age categories. For the 2013/2014 Futsal season it was determined that the age groups would remain as U12, U14, U16 with a review of the format to be considered by FNSW and Futsal Standing Committee.

At the most recent Futsal Standing Committee meeting held on Tuesday 11 March 2014 an agenda item was raised regarding conducting a Futsal Premier League & State League season review seminar. At the seminar an agenda item was raised in relation to the girl's age groups. It was unanimously supported by the Clubs in attendance that the girl's age groups should be consistent with the outdoor age groups and reflect U13, U15, and U17 as per the FFA national Competitions Review.

## **Rationale**

Football NSW considered the following outcomes in deciding to amend the girl's age groups for the 2014/2015 Futsal Premier & State League Competitions:

- Providing consistency between Outdoor Football & Futsal
- Providing opportunities for female Futsal players to participate specifically in relation to the U17 age group, research indicated that a 53% drop out rate occurred from the U16 to the open women age group. It is acknowledged that other factors may contribute to

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the dropout rate, though feedback from participating Clubs indicates that the jump from the U16 age group into Open Women's is a significant step. The players may benefit from another year playing within a formalised age category of U17 Girls.

This position was discussed and recommended by the Football NSW Competitions Department in consultation with the Futsal Premier & State League Clubs from the 2013/2014 Futsal Competitions. The decision demonstrates our commitment not only to the engagement process with the Futsal Standing Committee & Clubs that represent the futsal community, but also to the development opportunities provided to female futsal players.

### **Summary**

To further assist with your planning, from previous experience, we provide you with indication that the similar scenario in outdoor football resulted in impacts on senior team numbers due to U16 players progressing to U17 rather than senior teams. We suggest you consider this possibly during the trial and recruitment phase for your 2014/2015 Competition season.

Should you have any questions relating to the competition please contact the following Football NSW staff member in the first instance:

Emma Salzke

Competitions Coordinator

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Thanks for your continued support and development of Futsal in our State.

Kind Regards



Troy McColl

Competitions Manager

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