



## OPTUS PREMIER LEAGUE 2022

The OPTUS Premier league will be the embodiment of the new game.

### THE GAME HAS EVOLVED

The game and how we play and deliver a professional Premier League has evolved.



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**OBJECTIVE:**

Provide a higher-level football league for our region / provide opportunities and genuine pathways to MORE players / provide greater development to players, coaches and officials.

To provide **inclusion** for all clubs, academies and players.

There are so many benefits to delivering a High-Performance Football League in our Region. The flow back to players & coaches' development, as well as local club development will then provide sustainable growth and a future for all involved.

This league will offer those clubs/teams/players looking for a higher level of Football, whilst still lifting the level and supporting the local football competitions.

Working hand in hand, together.

*This is a NEW Chapter: as we push forward into benchmark Football, league, coaching, playing, development and pathways.*



## THE PLAN – (SUMMARY)

- Work with all governing bodies including FMNC, NCF, NIAS, all Clubs and Academies.
- Introduce a High level / High Performance Premier Football League - OPTUS Premier League 2022.
- Open to all Academies, Clubs of FMNC, NCF, NIAS
- Offer a professional competition, with genuine pathways, including Talent Identification for A-league clubs eg BRFC
- Provide a higher level *NPL type* Football league in our Region. Controlled by our Region.
- We would support & recommend that players can play local club football, thus boosting local player numbers and lifting the level of Football in our Region
- Flexible more COVID/disaster proof season. Easily adjusted draws and Finals
- March - Sept 2022 Season

## BENEFITS of the 'OPTUS Premier League'

- Players can play Local club Football.
- Costs significantly reduced.
- Limited Travel requirements (No Newcastle weekly trips to play at a higher level)
- Identification opportunities (we will invite eg Central Coast Mariners, Newcastle Jets and BRFC Head Academy coaches to attend finals).
- Evolve Clubs to develop and represent at a higher level.
- Not locked into a 26+ week league (Which the past 2 x years has stopped/cancelled during the season, unable to complete due to COVID lockdowns)  
Gone are the days of long seasons which have a high risk of being cancelled.
- Develop and educate officials and referees at a higher level / offer more employment.

## WHY THE OPTUS PREMIER LEAGUE?

1. We need to provide a platform for our talented players and coaches, controlled within our Region.
2. We want to entertain the fans and supporters with high performance football.
3. We want NEW players to come into this sport.
4. We need to excite the sport.
5. Identification of many more players and coaches.
6. Retain existing clubs, players, families and bring back those lost over the years.



## **THE GAME**

The league will be played, every round at one central venue eg Port Macquarie (TBC)

This will allow families easier planning.

It will also allow our travelling teams/clubs eg Coffs/Tamworth/Armidale ease of travel planning.

The Season will start in March 2022 and end with Finals in Sept 2022

## **GAME DAYS**

Current consideration is:

U10 - U12 (SAP ages) every second Sunday of the month

U13 - U14 (NPL ages) every second Sunday of the month

U16 - Senior Women every third Sunday of the month

## **WHY THE SPACING OF GAMES?**

The spacing of competition rounds is critical for a number of reasons.

- It allows better training and development between game days.
- It allows clubs/teams the availability for other activities and events to be planned.
- It allows greater flexibility should there be an interruption to the league timing due to COVID and other unpredicted disasters Floods/bushfire etc. Games can be easily made up and managed without any loss of playing rounds.
- Ease of planning for families.
- Ease of planning for administration – venues, officials/referees etc.
- Ease of costs for families.
- Support Local Club competition.
- Local club players have sufficient recovery time.

## **REGIONS / ZONES INCLUDED**

For 2022 the OPL invitation extends to clubs and academies from the Manning zone, Port Macquarie/Wauchope/Macleay zone and the Coffs Harbour/Grafton, Tamworth/Armidale zones.

Bringing the best teams together to compete in a professional environment.



FUTURE: 2023 plans include adding a division 2

#### **AGE GROUPS**

##### **Male**

U10, U11, U12, U13, U14, U16, U18

(Open mens is covered by current CPL who can draw upon this league for future players, thus developing that league)

##### **Female**

U10, U12, U14, U16, Open Women

\*Other age divisions will be considered in 2023 planning.

There will be - 12 x age divisions

Top 6 x teams per age division (this will be reviewed in planning 2023)

#### **SELECTION OF TEAMS:**

Selection will come from your Clubs registered Expressions of Interest and then consideration will be given to those who firstly

- demonstrate their achievements
- those teams who can provide a clear development plan
- Club and team integrity / how they perform on and off the pitch.

#### **CLUB / ACADEMY TEAMS – HOW TO SELECT A TEAM**

Many clubs have multiple teams in the same age division. So you can continue your areas regular local football league, but also draw upon these teams that you have, to select a Representative team for this League.

**example:** Open Women's team – a club may have 2 or 3 women's teams and also reserve grade teams and U18 teams. From these teams you can select a Representative club team to compete in the OPL.

There are also some teams who are very superior in their age divisions and need that next level of competition vs the best teams available from outside their zone.

Perhaps a club is smaller and not as strong in player/member numbers and might like to talk with another Club of similar resources to select a combined representative team.

There are many possibilities to enter this league. Inclusion is a key.

Teams can represent in their current club jersey/colours or offer a club representative kit.



## **CLUB FUTURE IDEAS**

This league can then open the door for Clubs wishing to extend their range or offer development type programs, higher level football training, etc.

*This is where the OPL fills that void, offering a high level football league.*

Another future plan might be that clubs have their own Technical Director or a head coach responsible for lifting and helping the needs of their coaching staff.

## **RELEGATION:**

Will start from the second year (2023) and then continue annually. This will be for all age divisions and allow invitation for those clubs who have developed in the local club competition over the year and want to play at a higher performance level.

*We want this league to be of the highest level & integrity.*

## **2022 SEASON:**

252 x games per season.

Every age division of 6 x teams will play each other once and then continue to Semi-Finals and Grand Final.

## **AGE FIELD COMMITMENTS**

### **U10 & U11**

Field: 60-65m x 40-50m pitch (half field)

2 x 15min halves

9 x players

### **U12**

Field: play (Half Pitch)

2 x 20min halves

9 x players

### **U13+**

Field: full pitch

2 x 35min halves

11 x players

Unlimited substitution

### **Seniors**

Field: Full pitch

2 x 40min x halves

Unlimited substitution

**GAME DAYS / TIMING (tbc)**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month – 24 x matches x 3 pitches*

8am – U10G  
9am – U10B  
10am – U11B  
11am – U12G  
12pm – U12B  
1pm – U13B  
2.30pm – U14G  
4pm – U14B

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month – 12 x matches x 3 pitches*

9am – U16G  
11am – U16B  
1pm – U18B  
3pm – Open Women

**AWARDS & PRIZES**

Champions – Trophy/shield, player medals + \$2000  
Runner-Up – Trophy/shield, player medals + \$1000  
*(prize money can be club development money)*

Special awards – Champion Team will receive team entry PAID for selected events (Nationally & Internationally)

Eg:

Nationally: Juniors - Kanga Cup / Seniors Viking Challenge

Internationally: We have many pathways for competition eg America's Cup Series USA

**OTHER EVENTS**

We will be confirming that the OPL finalists will have the opportunity to compete against other State/region premier league finalists/teams.

examples could include:

- the Finalists from the Academy Premier League Sydney
- BRFC Academy teams
- QLD NPL
- Representative level teams





### INTRODUCTION TO A-LEAGUE OR INTERNATIONAL CLUBS

Identification opportunities (we will invite contacts eg Central Coast Mariners, Newcastle Jets and BRFC Head Academy coaches to attend finals)

We are more than happy to share our National & International contacts with you.

I can confirm Brisbane Roar FC Academy coaches will attend matches with Talent id opportunities for their 2023 BRFC squads.

### PATHWAYS COULD INCLUDE

- National Cup - Championship vs finalist from Premier Academy League in SYD - MEL - SA - BRIS
- Entry to other FA events
- National events representation, including Kanga Cup.
- International opportunities including Tournaments and player development programs. These include our partnerships in the USA Soccer League, Cruzeiro Brazil, Serie Clubs Italy etc

### COSTS

There will be NO \$0 costs to the clubs.

The league will operate with a per player registration fee.

These costs are significantly lower than any other Representative playing level of this type.

**eg** SAP ranges from \$800 - \$1500 / NPL \$2,200+

Each Football club has the opportunity to adjust the costs and add-on for their own training or coach fees etc or include sponsors to help reduce the fee for each player/team.

The 2022 fees for the League will be:

Fees include 2022 season playing fees, registration and insurance.

U10 Boys Girls divisions - \$220 per player  
or team fee \$3,094

U11 & U12 Boys Girls divisions - \$260 per player  
or team fee \$3,640

U13 - Seniors divisions \$390 per person  
or Team fee \$6,240

\*There are no Club / Academy fees - \$0

*One major objective with delivering the OPL was to make High Performance & Representative level football inclusive and affordable for all.*

#### **REFEREE**

- Develop and educate officials and referees at a higher level / offer more employment.
- Offer opportunities which include referee pathways eg State and National competitions.
- OPL will be looking at employing a designated Referee coordinator.

#### **SPONSORS**

OPTUS is the league's naming rights sponsor and will bring a wealth of opportunities and knowledge including, live feed of games etc

#### **COMPETITION DRAW PLATFORM**

SPORTS BLOCK will sponsor and maintain the Competition Draw platform.

SportsBlock offers the complete package to sports organisations. Their centralised system solves administrative issues and facilitates the connection between players, teams and competitions. [www.sportsblock.com.au](http://www.sportsblock.com.au)

#### **EQUIPMENT**

Balls will be supplied by Pigeon Football. Quality footballs to footballers, teams, schools and clubs. <http://www.pigeonfootball.com/>

#### **COMPETITION DATES PLANNED**

10<sup>th</sup> April U10 – U14

\*24<sup>th</sup> April U16 – Open Mens & Womens (Due to Easter holiday)

8<sup>th</sup> May U10 – U14

15<sup>th</sup> May U16 – Open Mens & Women's

12<sup>th</sup> June U10 – U14

19<sup>th</sup> June U16 – Open Mens & Womens

10<sup>th</sup> July U10 – U14

17<sup>th</sup> July U16 – Open Mens & Women's

14<sup>th</sup> August U10 – U14

21<sup>st</sup> August U16 – Open Mens & Womens



### **SEMI FINALS**

11<sup>th</sup> September U10 -U14

18<sup>th</sup> September U16 – Mens & Womens

### **GRAND FINALS**

9<sup>th</sup> October U10 – U14

16<sup>th</sup> October U16 – Open Mens & Womens

*\*\*\*SPARE Rounds (in case of washout and or COVID interruption)*

July 31<sup>st</sup>

August 7<sup>th</sup>

*GF Spare Rounds (in case of washout and or COVID interruption)*

Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>

Oct 30<sup>th</sup>

### **CLUB COMPETITION LICENSES**

OPL Licenses will be awarded to Clubs or Academies to compete. (license fee \$0 no cost for ALL Local Football Clubs)

### **INSURANCE**

Will be provide by Sportscover Australia Pty Ltd / Underwriters at Lloyd's

A.C.N. 006 637 903

A.B.N. 43 006 637 903

AFS Licence No. 230914

### **VENUE CANTEEN/CAFÉ**

There is an availability for venue canteen services to be operated. OPL is happy to hand this opportunity to any club that would like to earn income from this.

We also have other organisations eg the Lions Club who would be happy to operate with all income donated back to Lions Club

### **MEDIA**

Media coverage is essential to building any product and we have confirmed that we will have fulltime photographers/video at matches, as well as support from PRIME7, NBN, ABC, Port News, Fairfax media, social media & OPTUS media hub with live streaming.



## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST REGISTRATION

[Expression of Interest - 2022 Optus Premier League](#)

or return email with your nominations

Expressions of Interest registration will close 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2021

~ We want to give every club / team good preparation, planning time and a preseason, leading into the 2022 Season.

~ It also gives clubs the opportunity to advertise that they are competing in the 2022 OPL securing their club and players future development.

Thank you for considering this revolutionary development in Football.

The **OPTUS Premier League** will start in March 2022

This is the start of a New Journey, a NEW Culture and a NEW Philosophy.

The OPTUS Premier League will be vital to genuine player development.