



MEMORANDUM:

---

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016

---

**To:** Affiliated Leagues, Affiliated Clubs, Cherie Brockwell, Jenny Webber, Dean Wicks, Tony Saunders, Barry Gibson, Jack Barry

---

**From:** Dean Warren – CEO AFL Queensland

---

**Subject:** Youth Football Age Groups

---

AFL Queensland wishes to advise that the male youth competition age groups for 2017 and beyond will be Under 12, Under 14, Under 16 and Under 18.

The age groups were determined following a comprehensive review undertaken by the Youth Participation Project Group established earlier this year. The project group analysed youth participation data over the past five years, completed a literature review and received feedback from Clubs through a Youth (Male) Participation Survey.

In determining the age groups, other key considerations were:

- Age entry level for competitions
- Alignment and compliance with Australian Football Match Policy
- Alignment and compliance with AFL Youth Policy
- Alignment with talent pathway program

AFL Queensland's key objective is to provide a clear pathway that aims to maximise the recruitment and retention of youth players as they progress through the pathway to senior football. Critical to reducing drop out is the provision of well-graded competitions that are even and exciting for participants at every level.

AFL Queensland will work closely with our affiliated Regional Leagues to determine if and where any variations to the age groups are required.

The recent restructure of SEQ Senior Competitions which features a divisional model, will ensure that there is no adverse effect on players with the move from Under 19 to Under 18. Players transitioning to senior football will have an opportunity to find an appropriate level of football that matches their skill level and aspirations.

**AFL Queensland**

Cansdale Street, Yeronga QLD 4104 Telephone: 61 7 3033 5400 visit [aflq.com.au](http://aflq.com.au)  
All correspondence to P O Box 3132 Yeronga LPO QLD 4104 ABN: 66 090 629 342



Under 18 football will be managed by AFL Queensland Senior Football Operations Department and consultation will occur with Clubs as to the most appropriate competition model.

The Youth Participation Project Group will continue to meet throughout 2017 with the aim to develop a dedicated strategic plan for youth (male) football. The project group will now turn its focus to conducting further research to help inform the plan and importantly, ensure that we are delivering youth competitions that are mindful of the social issues and pressures of today's youth.

To that end, we have engaged Queensland University of Technology's (QUT) Children's Physical Activity Research Group to assist with the ongoing research and analysis.

We look forward to working with all affiliated leagues and clubs to ensure that we provide the very best environment possible for our participating players, coaches, umpires and volunteers.

Dean Warren  
Chief Executive Officer – AFL Queensland