

11th March 2019

RE: INFORMATION FOR CLUB, PLAYERS AND PARENTS REGARDING THE YOUTH SPACE (14-17 Years) IN THE CAPITAL FOOTBALL REGION



www.capitalfootball.org.nz

Dear Capital Football Community,

Capital Football would like to share some information with everyone in regard to the Youth Space and our plans for 2019.

Our intention is to provide all the facts for Capital Football competitions and in the talent space which will enable players and parents to make informed decisions about their footballing options in 2019.

Late last year College Sport signalled their intention to run a Year 9 and 10 competition in 2019. We saw this as an opportunity to revisit the structure of our competitions and to use this year to engage with the footballing community to see how the Youth Space can look from 2020 onwards.

The only change we have made for this year is to double-age band the 14th and 15th boys' grade. This means that any players born in 2004 and 2005 can play in this age group in 2019. The purpose of this is to allow any players that might not yet be ready to step up to play Under 17's (or their club does not have an Under 17 team) to remain at their club if they choose. Please note that 2004 players can only play in the 14/15th grade competition or the Under 17 competition, not both. However, if a player starts in the 14th/15th grade competition and reaches a point during the season where they are ready to move up to Under 17's they can do this with approval from the Capital Football Development Manager, Steeve Sharpe, but then would be unable to drop back down again. All games will be played in the regular 14th grade timeslots.

The girls age bands will remain the same as previous years therefore there will not be a combined 14th/15th grade league for the girls, instead we are excited to announce we intend to introduce an U18 girls weekly league to build on the monthly competition which kicked off last year. The premise behind the U18 girls' leagues is as follows:

- The league is intended for players not currently catered for in the pathway (e.g. not registered with another team within a club);
- The format will be 9 v 9 (2 x 30-minute halves);
- Players must be turning at least 14 this year to partake.

It is our intention to make these competitions a priority for our referees, and as always if anyone is interested in refereeing at this level, please contact our Referee Development Manager, Jamie Cross.

We would again like to reiterate the method for players to be considered eligible to partake in Capital Football Talent Development Programmes, Federation Talent Centre Camps and the National Age Group Tournament:

- Players must be with a registered Capital Football club;

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- Players must attend either a Capital Football Talent Development Programme or club based provisionally approved Talent Development Programme;
- Players must attend a Federation Talent Centre Camp in either/or April and October 2019 (attending both camps will offer additional opportunity having been observed at least on two occasions across three days).

As part of the consultation for 2020 we intend to form a Youth Focus Group which will have members from the Football Community involved and there will be various opportunities to give feedback to them. We intend to send a survey out in June this year asking for feedback from all players, parents and any other stakeholders in our game, we strongly encourage everyone to have their say to help form a plan for the future. We will be holding a club consultation evening in July and further information on both of these will come out in due course.

The scope for the group will include (but not limited to):

1. Scheduling of games (who plays when)
2. Age groups
3. Talent pathway
4. Pathway from the junior football to senior football

We hope this note answers any questions people might have around the Youth space and we will be in touch again in the near future.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Jones', written in a cursive style.

Lisa Jones

Operations Manager

Capital Football