



MEMORANDUM

Date	5th October, 2023
To:	All SEQ Junior & Youth Clubs
From:	Mitchell Simpson (Competitions Manager - Queensland)
Subject:	SEQJ Participation Framework Update for 2024

Dear Presidents,

2023 was another record-breaking year for footy in Queensland. Over 16,100 participants were registered in Southeast Queensland Junior & Youth competitions – an amazing increase of **39%** since 2019. We would like to thank all of the volunteers involved that have made a massive contribution to this continued growth.

AFL Queensland (AFLQ) is committed to providing competitions for Junior and Youth participants that facilitate skill development, positive environments and fun engaging experiences. The National Participation Framework (NPF) was established through the review of numerous studies and analytical projects that will help ensure these objectives are achieved.

Whilst we work towards aligning with the NPF we acknowledge that Clubs have asked for more time, information and communication with their volunteers and parents to allow the rollout to be successful. AFLQ will work with Clubs over the next few months with the intention of providing any relevant updates for 2025 by June 30, 2024.

A high-level overview of the smaller changes and supporting rationale have been provided below. An online information hub has been set up to house relevant and supporting documentation that is accessible to all stakeholders: <https://www.aflq.com.au/seqj-participation-framework-update/>.

We appreciate the time you have taken to read this memo and we look forward to continuing working with you and your club in implementing the National Participation Framework.

Outcomes and Changes commencing in 2024

Under 11 Mixed

1. Maximum number of players on the field to remain at 15 per team

- Further review required before changes are made, which includes confirmation of the maximum number of players on the field in older age groups.

2. Quarter lengths adjusted to 4 x 13 minutes (was 15 minutes)

- Opportunity to obtain comparative data surrounding the impacts of quarter lengths on competitive matches and player engagement.
- Closer alignment between the U11 Mixed and U11 Girls competitions.

AFL Queensland

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Under 11 Girls

1. Quarter lengths to remain at 4 x 10 minutes

- The intention is to closer align the U11 Girls and U11 Mixed competitions moving forward. Before this change can be made, Clubs have asked for some time to find fixturing solutions with U9 & U11 Girls matches occupying the same timeslot (specifically Friday nights).

Under 13 Mixed

1. Maximum number of players on the field to remain at 18 per team, however the maximum number of players on the team sheet will be reduced to 20 per team (was 22)

- Before on field numbers are adjusted, the impact of potential extra teams in terms of the extra coaches, volunteers, umpires and greenspace needs further review.
- Average game time per player increases from 82% to 90%.
- Less focus on player rotations for coaches and instead greater focus on developing players.
- Anticipated reduction in issues with finals eligibility with players less likely to fill in for higher divisions/age groups just to fill a bench.

2. Minimum number of players to start a game reduced to 12 per team (was 14)

- Reducing the barriers to entry by making it easier for Clubs to field teams and build a full pathway.
- More opportunities for player involvement and engagement.

3. Maximum field size to remain as full field, however the minimum size will be reduced to 120m x 90m

- Allows for more appropriate field sizes, especially when on field numbers are lower than the maximum.
- Increases the number of ovals that can host U13 Mixed matches.

Under 13 Girls

1. Maximum field size to be extended to 140m x 100m (was 130m x 90m)

- Where appropriate, provides teams the ability to create more space in an attempt to reduce congestion and contested football. Recent data indicates this age group has the highest contested possession numbers at 86%.

2. The maximum number of players on the team sheet will be reduced to 14 per team (was 16)

- Average game time per player increases from 75% to 86%.
- Less focus on player rotations for coaches and instead greater focus on developing players.

3. 'Last possession' rule to be discussed with Clubs at upcoming meetings

- Implementation of this rule would reduce the number of stoppages and increase the percentage of uncontested possessions to foster skill development.

Under 15 & 17 Girls

1. The maximum number of players on the team sheet will be reduced to 19 per team (was 22)

- Average game time per player increases from 73% to 84%.
- Less focus on player rotations for coaches and instead greater focus on developing players.

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