



National Participation Framework Update

October 4, 2023

Online Information Session:
SEQ Clubs, Volunteers and Parents

Session Overview



- Welcome
- 1 hour information session
- Questions via the chat function
- Answers document compiled



Agenda



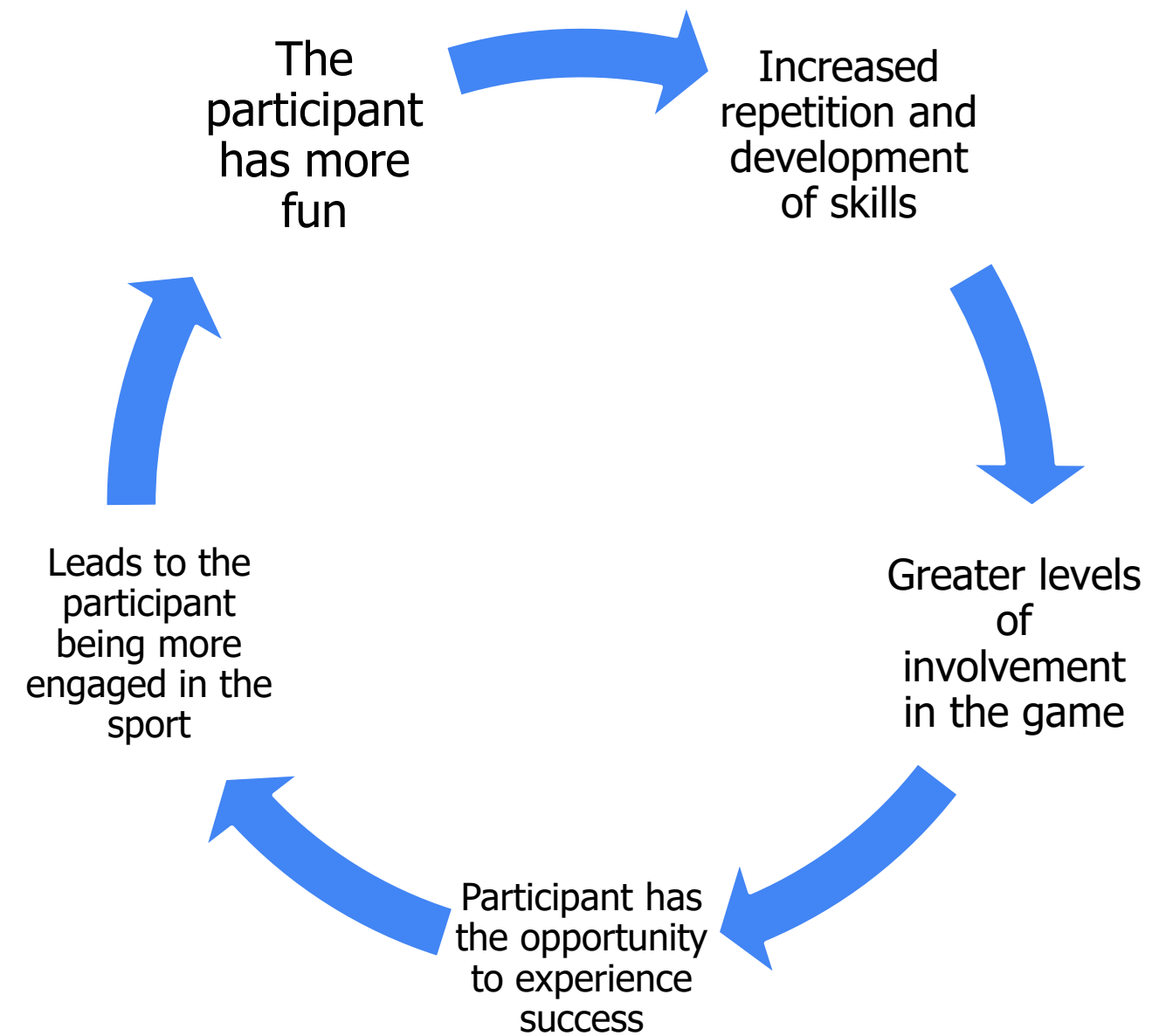
1. Purpose
2. What is the 'NPF'
3. Literature review of AFL Junior Match Policy
4. AFLQ Data & Research
5. National Recommendations
6. Club Feedback
7. Outcomes for 2024
8. Next steps



Purpose



More people playing AFL, having more enjoyment while playing, playing longer



More involvement = more fun = more participation

National Participation Framework



Recommended guidelines based off research/data/studies



Field Size, number of players on the field, ball size etc.



Skill development, enjoyment and experiences



Literature Review - Background



1. Junior Match Policy (2013)
2. Deakin University engaged to study:
 - Impact of its presence/absence
 - Actual impact on enjoyment and skill development
3. Research conducted by AFL Working Group:
 - Understand the experience of children in junior modified sport
 - 84-page document available
4. Recommendations provided
5. Further research and updated recommendations

Literature Review – Key Findings



- 1. Modified rules achieve two clear outcomes:**
 - Increases player involvement, perception of competence and enjoyment
 - Better match environment
- 2. Important to parents \neq important to kids**
 - #1 – kids play sport to have fun
- 3. Study of 81 characteristics of fun:**
 - Top 3 – trying hard, positive team dynamics, positive coaching
 - Winning = #48
- 4. Difference between competing and winning**
 - *‘Compete at all times, not win at all costs’*
- 5. Leagues that implemented the modified rules:**
 - Highest attraction of new participants (10% higher)
 - 5 times more likely to play at the elite level (male & female)

Literature Review – Modified Rules



1. Less players on field:

- Increases player involvement
- **Involvement = enjoyment & perception of competence = participation**
- Lessens a barrier to entry

2. Smaller field:

- Increases in number of touches and skill development
- Increase in decision making/problem solving opportunities
- Decreased reliance on endurance and instead focus on skill development
- Increased concentration and engagement

3. Shorter quarters:

- Better skill execution (less fatigue)
- Less 'blow outs' = higher engagement

SEQJ Match Statistics - Disposals



PLAYERS	0 to 5	6 to 10	11 to 15	16 to 20	21+
12	24%	33%	21%	15%	7%
16	32%	29%	20%	11%	8%
18	35%	33%	19%	8%	5%
AVE	33%	32%	20%	10%	6%

Key Points

1. One third of players had 0-5 disposals
2. Two thirds of players had 10 or less disposals
3. % of players with 5 or less disposals increases as the number of players on the field increases *
4. 76% of disposals are contested

SUMMARY	D	CP	%	ED	DE
13G D1	736	632	86%	216	29%
13G D2+	1134	950	84%	382	34%
TOTAL	1870	1582	85%	598	32%
15G D1	751	610	81%	322	43%
15G D2+	1338	935	70%	555	41%
TOTAL	2089	1545	74%	877	42%
13M D1	1248	887	71%	646	52%
13M D2+	2822	1990	71%	1199	42%
15B D1	1364	995	73%	722	53%
15B D2+	2219	1793	81%	965	43%
TOTAL	7653	5665	74%	3532	46%
TOTAL	11612	8792	76%	5007	43%

SEQJ Match Statistics - Scorecards



1. 95% of teams winning at $\frac{3}{4}$ time went on to win
 - *Biggest margin to comeback from was just 14 points*
2. 73% saw the team leading at $\frac{3}{4}$ time increase their margin
 - By an average of 9 points
3. Of teams leading by 5+ goals at $\frac{3}{4}$ time:
 - 87% increased their lead
 - By an average of 14.1 points
 - *47% of matches had a 5+ goal lead at $\frac{3}{4}$ time*
4. Of teams leading by 10+ goals at $\frac{3}{4}$ time:
 - 96% increased their lead
 - By an average of 20.6 points
 - *15% of matches had a 10+ goal lead at $\frac{3}{4}$ time*



National Recommendations



AGE	FIELD SIZE		FOOTBALL	ON FIELD NUMBERS	
MALE	OPTIMAL	MAX	SIZE	OPTIMAL	MAX
U8 Mixed	70 x 50	80 x 60	Size 1	6	9
U9 Mixed	85 x 65	100 x 80	Size 2	9	12
U10 Mixed	85 x 65	100 x 80	Size 2	12	15
U11 Mixed	115 x 75	130 x 90	Size 3	12	15
U13 Mixed	125 x 95	140 x 110	Size 4	12	15
U15 Boys	130 x 100	150 x 120	Size 5	12	15
U17 Boys	Full	Full	Size 5	18	18

Club Feedback – Proposed Changes



1. U11 Mixed & Girls:

- Maximum 12 players on field
- 4 x 13-minute quarters

2. U13 Mixed:

- Maximum 14 players on field (up to 18 on team sheet)
- Maximum field size reduced to 150 x 110
- Div 1 remains 18 a side full field

3. U13 Girls:

- Maximum field size increased to 140 x 110



Club Feedback – Summary



1. 45 Clubs provided feedback
2. Some of the challenges raised:
 - Extra teams require volunteers/greenspace/umpires
 - Logistical challenges with fixturing
 - Communication with parents (reasons behind changes)
3. Main takeaways for 2024:
 - More time, communication and data required before major changes are implemented
 - Implement some smaller tweaks initially instead
 - Coaching education & investment required



Outcomes for 2024



U13 Mixed

1. Remain 18 a side but maximum 20 on team sheet (2 on bench)
 - Minimal disruptions
 - Average game time increases from 82% to 90%
 - Expected reduction in issues with finals eligibility
2. Retain maximum field length but reduce minimum to 120 x 90
3. Reduce minimum numbers to 12 (was 14)

U13 Girls

1. Field range of 100 – 140m x 80 – 110m
2. Reduce team sheet (bench) size from 16 to 14
 - Average game time increase from 75% to 86%
3. 'Last possession rule' to be discussed with Clubs

Outcomes for 2024



Under 11s

1. Keep U11 Mixed at 15 a side until clear on U13 Mixed
2. Adjust U11 Mixed quarter lengths to 13 minutes
 - Opportunity to obtain comparative data
3. Keep U11 Girls at 10-minute quarters
 - Friday night comps – allows timeslot alignment with U9 Girl games
 - Can play 2 games at same time

U15/U17 Girls

1. Reduce team sheet (bench) sizes in U15/17 Girls from 22 to 19
 - Average game time increase from 73% to 84%

Next Steps



- 1. Stakeholder Communication:**
 - Discussions with Clubs
 - NPF hub on AFLQ website
 - Video/podcast series
- 2. Coach education & investment:**
 - Communication, messaging and upskilling
 - Extra AFL resources
- 3. More umpires, volunteers, greenspace**
- 4. Additional research & analysis**
- 5. Any major updates for 2025 to be communicated by June 30, 2024**

THANK YOU!



Involvement = Fun = Participation