

2024 DRAFT LEAGUE CRITERIA ONLY

FA Standard No.	Standard	NPL Mens	Northern League 1	Zone League 1,2 & 3
Sporting				
S.01	Youth Development Program	The Licence Applicant must have a written Youth Development Program approved by the Licensor. The Licensor must evaluate the quality of the youth development program before approving it and should verify the implementation by periodic visits to the training and games	If involved in Premier Youth League: The Licence Applicant must have a written Youth Development Program approved by the Licensor. The Licensor must evaluate the quality of the youth development program before approving it and should verify the implementation by periodic visits to the training and games	Not Required
S.02	Registration of Players	All the Licence Applicant's players, including youth and junior players, must be registered with and Transfer of Players and the FA National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations.		
s.03	Registration of Members	All members of the Licence Applicant, including coaches, managers, medical staff, administrators, committee members and volunteers must be registered		
s.04	Child Protection & Welfare	The Club must adhere to the FA Member Protection Framework and the		
s.04	Child Protection & Welfare	The Club must abide by the relevant child protection legislation in each		
s.04	Child Protection & Welfare	The Club must appoint a Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO).		
S.05	FA/MF Pathway	The Club must release any player who has been selected for participation in an official FA/MF elite player pathway.		
S.06	Liaison with MF Technical Director	The Licence Applicant must prepare an annual report by the date specified by Licensor outlining coaching programs delivered, outcomes achieved and future planned enhancements for the youth development program. NOTE: For 2022/23, this report may be submitted after the Licensing Decision if deemed necessary by the MF.	If involved in the Premier Youth LeagueThe Licence Applicant must prepare an annual report by the date specified by Licensor outlining coaching programs delivered, outcomes achieved and future planned enhancements for the youth development program. NOTE: For 2022/23, this report may be submitted after the Licensing Decision if deemed necessary by the MF.	Not Required
S.07	Youth Teams	The Licence Applicant must field the required number of teams in the Premier Youth League Competitions	The Licence Applicant must field the required number of teams in the Premier Youth League Competitions	Not Required
S.11	Club Youth Academy	The Licence Applicant should submit a completed Youth Academy form, with all questions answered, based on FA's National Club Academy Scheme.	Not Required	Not Required
Below items are 'best practice' only - Not required in any leagues				
S.08	Medical Care of Players	The Licence Applicant should provide evidence that all players on first team have undergone an annual medical exam prior to the start of the season.		
S.09	Diversity & Inclusion Policy	(1) The Licence Applicant should establish a policy that addresses diversity and inclusion within its Club. (2) All players and staff of the Licence Applicant should be aware of and have access to the policy.		
S.10	Racial Equality Policy	(1) The Licence Applicant should establish a policy to tackle racism in football. (2) All players and staff of the Licence Applicant should be aware of and have access to the policy.		

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Sporting				
S.13	Educational Programs	<p>The Licence Applicant should ensure that players and all technical coaching staff of at least the first team have attended a session or an event related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) sports integrity matters; (b) FIFA Laws of the Game; (c) doping control; and (d) other topics as required by FA and/or the MF These sessions or events should be provided either by the Licence Applicant, Football Australia, the Member Federation or a third party in collaboration with the Licence Applicant / Football Australia / the Member Federation, during the year prior to the Season to be Licensed. 		

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Infrastructure				
I.01	Stadium for first team matches	<p>The LicenceApplicant must have a Stadium (or Stadiums) available to play its NPL senior (e.g., first team) matches. The Licence Applicant either:</p> <p>(a) owns the Stadium(s); or</p> <p>(b) can provide a written contract with the owner of the Stadium(s) it will use. This contract must guarantee the use of the Stadium(s) for the NPL senior (e.g., first team) matches for the coming season.</p>		
I.02	Stadium: Field of Play Dimensions	<p>(1) The field of play must comply with the FIFA Laws of the Game.</p> <p>(2) The preferred dimensions of the field of play are 105m long and 68m wide.</p> <p>(3) The field of play dimensions must remain within a scope of 96m – 110m in length and 60m – 75m in width.</p>		
I.03	Stadium: Playing Surface	<p>(1) The playing surface must comply with the FIFA Laws of the Game.</p> <p>(2) The surface must be even and flat with complete coverage of grass.</p> <p>(3) The surface must be natural grass, reinforced natural grass (hybrid) or FIFA Quality approved artificial turf.</p> <p>(4) The surface must be free of potholes, foreign objects and protrusions of any kind through the surface or any deviations hazardous to players and officials.</p>		
I.04	Stadium: Goals & Corner Flags	<p>(1) The goals and corner flags must comply with the FIFA Laws of the Game.</p> <p>(2) Goal posts must meet Australian Standards, white in color, be made of aluminum or similar material, be round, pose no dangers to players and be firmly secured to the ground, with a height of 2.44m and a width of 7.32m and a diameter of no more than 12cm.(3) Goal nets must be attached to posts, conform to Australian standards and cannot obstruct the goalkeeper.</p> <p>(4) Corner flags are compulsory, with flag posts no less than 1.5m high.</p> <p>(5) At least 1 spare net and 1 set of spare corner flags must be available.</p>		
I.05	Stadium: Pitch Perimter Fence	<p>(1) A pitch perimeter fence must surround the field of play, which is at least 2m from the field of play and at least 900mm in height.</p> <p>(2) The fence must be constructed of substantial material.</p> <p>(3) Any signage attached to the fence must be properly secured.</p>	<p>(1) A pitch perimeter fence must surround the field of play, which is at least 2m from the field of play and at least 900mm in height.</p> <p>(2) Any signage attached to the fence must be properly secured.</p>	<p>(1) A pitch perimeter fence must surround the field of play, which is at least 2m from the field of play and at least 900mm in height.</p> <p>(2) Any signage attached to the fence must be properly secured.</p>
I.07	Stadium: Emergency Services	<p>There must be direct access to the stadium and the area around the field of play for emergency service vehicles.</p>		

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Infrastructure				
I.08	Stadium: Player Dressing Rooms	(1) The stadium must have separate dressing rooms near the field of play for the home and visiting teams. (2) The dressing rooms must be well-ventilated and lockable. (3) The dressing rooms should, at a minimum, include the below amenities: (a) Seating for at least 16 people; (b) 1 lockable toilet with sanitary bin; (c) 1 washbasin; (d) 2 lockable showers; (e) Hot and cold water; (f) 1 physio/massage table; (g) 1 whiteboard with markers and eraser; (h) 1 refrigerator and/or ice bucket; (i) 1 power point.	(1) The stadium must have separate dressing rooms near the field of play for the home and visiting teams. (2) The dressing rooms must be well-ventilated and lockable. (3) The dressing rooms should, at a minimum, include the below amenities: (a) Seating for at least 16 people; (b) 1 lockable toilet (c) 1 washbasin; (d) 2 showers; (e) Hot and cold water; (f) 1 whiteboard with markers and eraser; (g) 1 power point.	(1) The stadium must have separate dressing rooms near the field of play for the home and visiting teams. (2) The dressing rooms must be well-ventilated and lockable. (3) The dressing rooms should, at a minimum, include the below amenities: (a) Seating for at least 16 people; (b) 1 lockable toilet (c) 1 washbasin; (d) 2 showers; (e) Hot and cold water; (f) 1 power point.
I.09	Stadium: Referee Dressing Room	(1) The stadium must have a dressing room near the field of play for the referees. (2) The dressing room must be well-ventilated and lockable. (3) The dressing room should, at a minimum, include the below amenities: (a) Seating for at least 4 people; (b) 1 lockable toilet with sanitary bin; (c) 1 washbasin; (d) 1 lockable shower; (e) Hot and cold water; (f) 1 table; (g) 1 refrigerator and/or ice bucket; (h) 1 power point.	(1) The stadium must have a dressing room near the field of play for the referees. (2) The dressing room must be well-ventilated and lockable. (3) The dressing room should, at a minimum, include the below amenities: (a) Seating for at least 3 people; (b) 1 lockable toilet with sanitary bin; (c) 1 washbasin; (d) 1 lockable shower; (e) Hot and cold water; (f) 1 table; (g) 1 power point.	(1) The stadium must have a dressing room near the field of play for the referees. (2) The dressing room must be well-ventilated and lockable. (3) The dressing room should, at a minimum, include the below amenities: (a) Seating for at least 3 people; (b) 1 lockable toilet with sanitary bin; (c) 1 washbasin; (d) 1 lockable shower; (e) Hot and cold water; (f) 1 table; (g) 1 power point.
I.10	Stadium: Warm-up Area	(1) A warm-up area must be provided for the teams. (2) The warm-up area must: (a) be in close proximity to the player dressing rooms and field of play, or the field of play itself may be used if necessary; (b) be completely covered with natural grass or FIFA approved artificial grass; and (c) be free of any obstructions, foreign objects, potholes or any deviations that could be hazardous to players or officials as they move across the surface.		
I.11	Stadium: Field of Play Lighting	The field of play must have a maintained average horizontal floodlighting luminance of 200 lux to play night fixtures, otherwise no night fixtures can be scheduled.	The field of play must have a maintained average horizontal floodlighting luminance of 100 lux to play night fixtures, otherwise no night fixtures can be scheduled.	

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I.12	Stadium: Disabled Seating	The stadium must have dedicated seating for disabled spectators with easy access to parking and toilet facilities and which provides an unobstructed view of the field of play.	The stadium must have dedicated seating for disabled spectators with easy access to parking and toilet facilities and which provides an unobstructed view of the field of play.	The stadium must have a dedicated area for disabled spectators with easy access to parking and toilet facilities and which provides an unobstructed view of the field of play.
I.13	Stadium: Toilets	The stadium must have sufficient toilet facilities that are maintained in good and clean condition for spectators.		
I.14	Stadium: Canteen	(1) The stadium must have at least one (1) canteen in clean condition that meets local government standards and health regulations, with a variety of foods and drinks. (2) If the canteen sells alcohol, the Club must hold the required liquor licence.		
I.15	Stadium: Scoreboard	(1) There must be an elevated scoreboard that is visible from all areas of the stadium. (2) The scoreboard must be capable of showing the names of both teams (home/visitor is acceptable) and the match score.		Preferred but not required
I.16	Stadium: Medical Area	(1) The stadium must have a designated medical area undercover that is close to or within the player dressing rooms. (2) The medical area should, at a minimum, include the below amenities: (a) Treatment/physio/massage table; (b) Running water; (c) Sufficient lighting; and (d) Proper waste disposal.	(1) The stadium must have a designated medical area undercover that is close to or within the player dressing rooms. (2) The medical area should, at a minimum, include the below amenities: (a) Treatment/physio/massage table; (b) Running water; (c) Sufficient lighting; and (d) Proper waste disposal. The	Preferred but not required
I.17	Stadium: Medical Supplies	The stadium must be equipped with basic medical supplies, including a first aid kit, strapping tape and a defibrillator.	The stadium must be equipped with basic medical supplies, including a first aid kit, strapping tape and a defibrillator.	Preferred but not required
I.18	Stadium Stretcher	The stadium must be equipped with at least one (1) first aid stretcher, which complies with applicable standards, in a designated area near the field of play.		
I.19	Stadium: Fire Prevention	The stadium must be equipped with fire prevention devices as required by government and Australian standards. This should be part of lease or hire agreement with local council.		

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I.22	Stadium: Players Race	(1) The stadium must have a players race to provide direct and exclusive access for players and referees from the dressing rooms to the field of play.	A players race is strongly preferred, however, at minimum a direct line of entrey between the change rooms and the field of play must be makred and managed by duty officers	
I.23	Stadium: PA System	(1) The stadium must have a public address (PA) system with sufficient speakers installed to ensure messages are heard throughout the venue. (2) The PA system must have the ability to project spoken announcements (e.g., announcer microphone) and the playing of recorded elements (e.g., music).		Preferred but not required
I.24	Stadium: Seating	(1) The stadium must have seating for at least 200 spectators. (2) It is recommended that at least 100 of these seats are undercover, either via an undercover viewing area or with individual seats.		Preferred but not required
I.25	Stadium: Ticket Box	If tickets are sold to the general public, the stadium must have at least one (1) temporary or permanent ticket box at the entrance.	If tickets are sold to the general public, the stadium must have at least one (1) temporary (including a marquee) or permanent ticket box at the entrance.	Not Required
I.28	Stadium: Enclosed Venue	The venue should be completely enclosed with a temporary or permanent fence of at least 1.8m in height.	Preferred but not required	Preferred but not required
I.30	Stadium: Press Box / Media	The stadium should have a designated area for media members in the grandstand which includes: (a) covered seating; (b) writing surface for at least two (2) media members; (c) clear and unobstructed view of the pitch; and (d) access to necessary power.	Preferred but not required	Not Required
I.33	Stadium: Ground Rules	(1) The stadium should have all relevant codes of conduct and behaviour affixed to it and visible to spectators. (2) The ground rules should provide information on admission rights, abandonment or postponement of events, description of prohibitions and penalties, restrictions with regards to smoking, alcohol, fireworks, etc., seating rules and causes for ejection from the ground.		

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I.34	Training Facilities: Availability	<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must have Training Facilities available for use by its teams throughout the duration of their season (e.g., pre-season and playing season).</p> <p>(2) The Licence Applicant either:</p> <p>(a) owns the Training Facilities; or</p> <p>(b) has a written contract with the owner of the Training Facilities.</p>		
I.35	Training Facilities: Minimum Infrastructure	<p>The Licence Applicant's Training Facilities must include, at a minimum,:</p> <p>(a) one (1) full-size outdoor pitch;</p> <p>(b) dressing rooms;</p> <p>(c) access to toilets; and</p> <p>(d) a medical room/area with a first aid kit, strapping tape, treatment table undercover, ice and a defibrillator.</p>		
Below items are 'best practice' only - Not required in any leagues				
I.26	Stadium: Ambulance	The stadium should have one (1) ambulance on-site for all matchdays.		
I.27	Stadium: Drainage	The field of play should have underground drainage to allow play during rain and periods of extended rainfall.		
I.29	Stadium: Parking	The stadium should have a designated parking area for match officials, the home team and away team in the closest lot to the stadium entry. It is recommended that this designated area be within 250m of the stadium.		
I.31	Stadium: Stadium Lighting	<p>(1) The stadium should have general lighting to seating and a pedestrian pathway that conforms to applicable safety standards.</p> <p>(2) The stadium should have emergency lighting in case of loss of power.</p>		
I.32	Stadium: Stadium Safety Documentation]	<p>(1) The stadium must be certified for safety as defined by the relevant laws, regulations, and codes.</p> <p>(2) Best Practice documentation submitted for this certification should include such items as safety status, compliance statement regarding safety/security regulations, approval of capacity, etc.</p>		

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Personnel				
P.01	Club Contacts & Org Structure	<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must have an email address, phone number and mailing address</p> <p>(2) The Licence Applicant must have an organisational chart that outlines its personnel and their functional responsibilities within the Club's administrative structure.</p>		
P.02	President / CEO / GM	<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed a President / CEO / General Manager to be responsible for running its daily business (operational matters). This individual may be full-time, part-time or a volunteer.</p> <p>(2) The appointment must have been done by the appropriate body (e.g. Executive Board) of the Licence Applicant.</p>		
P.03	Physio / Sports Trainer	Currently Under Review		No Requirement
P.04	Head Coach of First Team	<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must appoint a Head Coach with a valid coaching diploma/licence responsible for all football matters of the first team. This individual may be full-time, part-time or a volunteer.</p> <p>(2) The Head Coach must:</p> <p>(a) hold at least an FA "B" Licence or its equivalence recognised and approved by FA; or</p> <p>(b) already have started the required education course, recognised by FA, to achieve the required diploma as defined under (a) above.</p>		Preferred but not required
P.05	Asst Coach of First Team	<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must appoint an Assistant Coach with a valid coaching diploma/licence responsible for assisting the Head Coach in all football technical matters of the first team. This individual may be full-time, part-time or a volunteer.</p> <p>(2) The Assistant Coach must:</p> <p>(a) hold at least an FA "Senior C" Licence or its equivalence recognised and approved by FA; or</p> <p>(b) already have started the required education course, recognised by FA, to achieve the required diploma as defined under (a) above.</p>		Preferred but not required
P.07	Club Secretary	The Licence Applicant must have appointed a Club Secretary, who may be volunteer, part-time or full-time.		

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P.08	Club Treasurer	<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed a Club Treasurer / Finance Officer to be responsible for its financial matters. This individual may be full-time, part-time or a volunteer.</p> <p>(2) This individual must hold a degree in accountancy, finance, business or related field or be issued a Recognition of Competence by the Licensor.</p>	<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed a Club Treasurer / Finance Officer to be responsible for its financial matters. This individual may be full-time, part-time or a volunteer.</p>	
P.10	Youth Team Head Coaches	<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must appoint a Head Coach for each Youth Team required in S.07, with each having a valid coaching diploma/licence and being responsible for all football matters of the team. These individuals may be full-time, part-time or volunteers.</p> <p>(2) The Head Coaches must:</p> <p>(a) hold at least an FA "C" Licence (Senior or Youth) or its equivalence recognised and approved by FA; or</p> <p>(b) already have started the required education course, recognised by FA, to achieve the required diploma as defined under (a) above.</p>	<p>IF the club is involved in PYL:(1) The Licence Applicant must appoint a Head Coach for each Youth Team required in S.07, with each having a valid coaching diploma/licence and being responsible for all football matters of the team. These individuals may be full-time, part-time or volunteers.</p> <p>(2) The Head Coaches must:</p> <p>(a) hold at least an FA "C" Licence (Senior or Youth) or its equivalence recognised and approved by FA; or</p> <p>(b) already have started the required education course, recognised by FA, to achieve the required diploma as defined under (a) above.</p>	Not Required

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P.11	Club Technical Director	<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must appoint a Club Technical Director to lead the technical development of the club. This individual may be full-time, part-time or a volunteer.</p> <p>(2) The Technical Director must:</p> <p>(a) hold at least an FA "B" Licence or its equivalence recognised and approved by FA; or</p> <p>(b) already have started the required education course, recognised by FA, to achieve the required diploma as defined under (a) above.</p> <p>(3) The Technical Director may not also be appointed as the Club's Head Coach of the First Team.</p> <p>(4) It is recommended that the Technical Director have supplementary qualities such as extensive playing and work experience at the professional club level, strong management skills, and/or have been a long-serving dedicated member of the Club as a player, coach, manager or advisor.</p>	<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must appoint a Club Technical Director to lead the technical development of the club. This individual may be full-time, part-time or a volunteer.</p> <p>(2) The Technical Director must:</p> <p>(a) hold at least an FA "B" Licence or its equivalence recognised and approved by FA; or</p> <p>(b) already enrol in the required education course, recognised by FA, to achieve the required diploma as defined under (a) above.</p> <p>(3) The Technical Director may not also be appointed as the Club's Head Coach of the First Team.</p> <p>(4) It is recommended that the Technical Director have supplementary qualities such as extensive playing and work experience at the professional club level, strong management skills, and/or have been a long-serving dedicated member of the Club as a player, coach, manager or advisor.</p>	Not Required
P.12	GK Coach - First Team	<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed a qualified Goalkeeper Coach with a valid coaching diploma/licence for the first team. This individual may be full-time, part-time or a volunteer.</p> <p>(2) The Goalkeeper Coach must:</p> <p>(a) hold at least an FA "Level 1" Goalkeeping Licence or its equivalence recognised and approved by FA;</p> <p>(b) already have started the required education course, recognised by FA, to achieve the required diploma as defined under (a) above.</p>	Preferred but not required	Not Required
P.13	Rights Responsibilities & Duties	<p>The Licence Applicant must prepare written position descriptions for all personnel mentioned in these Regulations.</p> <p>NOTE: It is recommended that the individuals filling these positions and club management sign these position descriptions.</p>	Preferred but not required	

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P.14	Duty of Replacement	<p>(1) If a function defined in these Regulations becomes vacant during the Licensing Season, the Licensee must ensure that, within a period of a maximum of sixty (60) days, the function is taken over by someone who holds the required qualification.</p> <p>(2) In the event that a function becomes vacant due to illness or accident, the Licensor may grant an extension to the sixty (60) day period only if reasonably satisfied that the person concerned is still medically unfit to resume duties.</p> <p>(3) The occurrence of a vacancy and replacement must be notified to the Licensor within seven (7) working days of the respective event.</p>		
Below items are 'best practice' only - Not required in any leagues				
P.06	Administrative Space	The Licence Applicant must have a designated space for administration activities to be conducted. This space may be an office space, at the stadium, and/or at the training facility.		
P.09	Media Officer	<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must have appointed a qualified Media Officer being responsible for media matters. This individual may be full-time, part-time or a volunteer.</p> <p>(2) The Media Officer must hold, as a minimum, one of the following qualifications:</p> <p>(a) a diploma in journalism, communications, media or related field;</p> <p>(b) concluded a media officer education course provided by Football Australia or an organisation recognised by Football Australia; or</p> <p>(c) a “recognition of competence” approved by the Licensor, which requires at least one (1) year experience in such matters.</p>		
P.15	Medical Doctor	<p>(1) The Licence Applicant should have appointed at least one doctor who is responsible for medical support during matches, as well as for doping prevention. This individual may be full-time, part-time or an independent contractor.</p> <p>(2) The qualification of the Medical Doctor must be recognised by the appropriate national health authorities.</p> <p>(3) The Medical Doctor should be on-call for the first team for all match days.</p>		
P.16	Youth Team Assistant Coaches	<p>(1) The Licence Applicant should appoint an Assistant Coach for each Youth Team required in S.07, with each having a valid coaching diploma/licence and being responsible for assisting the Head Coach in all football technical matters of the team. These individuals may be full-time, part-time or volunteers.</p> <p>(2) The Assistant Coaches for the U16 team and above should:</p> <p>(a) hold at least an FA “Senior Coaching Certificate” or its equivalence recognised and approved by FA; or</p> <p>(b) already have started the required education course, recognised by FA, to achieve the required diploma as defined under (a) above.</p> <p>(3) The Assistant Coaches for the U13 – U15 teams should:</p> <p>(a) hold at least an FA “Game Training Certificate” or its equivalence recognised and approved by FA; or</p> <p>(b) already have started the required education course, recognised by FA, to achieve the required diploma as defined under (a) above.</p>		
P.17	Fitness Coach of First Team	<p>(1) The Licence Applicant should have appointed a qualified Fitness Coach with a valid coaching diploma/licence for the first team. This individual may be full-time, part-time or a volunteer.</p> <p>(2) The Fitness Coach should:</p>		

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P.18	Security Officer	<p>(1) The Licence Applicant should have appointed a qualified Security Officer being responsible for safety and security matters. This individual may be full-time, part-time, or a volunteer.</p> <p>(2) The Security Officer should hold, as a minimum, one of the following qualifications:</p> <p>(a) a certificate as a policeman or security person according to national law; or</p> <p>(b) a safety and security diploma based on a specific course issued by Football Australia or by a state-recognised organisation; or</p> <p>(c) a “recognition of competence” approved by the Licensor, which is based on the participation in specific safety and security course of FA and at least one (1) year experience in such matters.</p>		
P.20	Legal Advisor	<p>(1) The Licence Applicant should appoint a qualified Legal Advisor who is responsible for handling all of the Licence Applicant’s legal matters. This individual may be full-time, part-time or a volunteer (including a member of the Board), or the club may contract with a firm that provides legal services.</p> <p>(2) The Legal Advisor must have the necessary legal qualifications.</p>		
P.21	Annual Report	<p>The Licence Applicant should prepare an annual report which summarises activities undertaken in all areas of the club, successes achieved and areas for further development.</p>		

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Legal				
L.01	Declaration	<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must submit a legally-valid declaration confirming that the Licence Applicant:</p> <p>(a) recognises as legally-binding the statutes, rules and regulations and decisions of FIFA, the AFC, Football Australia and the Member Federation, as well as the jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne as provided in the relevant articles of the AFC Statutes;</p> <p>(b) recognises the exclusive jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (domiciled in Lausanne, Switzerland) for any dispute of international dimension and in particular involving FIFA and/or the AFC;</p> <p>(c) recognises the prohibition on recourse to ordinary courts under the FIFA Statutes, AFC Statutes and the FA Statutes;</p> <p>(d) At national level, it will play in competitions that are recognised and endorsed by Football Australia (e.g. national championship, national cup);</p> <p>(e) At international level, it will participate in competitions recognised and endorsed by the AFC and/or FIFA. To avoid any doubt, this provision does not relate to friendly matches;</p> <p>(f) will abide by and observe the provisions and conditions of the national Club Licensing Regulations;</p> <p>(g) All submitted documents are complete and correct;</p> <p>(h) authorises the competent Licensor to examine documents and seek information and, in the event of any appeal procedure, to seek information from any relevant public authority or private body according to national law; and</p> <p>(i) acknowledges that FIFA, the AFC and/or FA reserve the right to execute compliance audits at national level in accordance with clause 12 of the Regulations.</p> <p>(2) This declaration must be executed by an authorised signatory no more than three (3) months prior to the corresponding deadline for its submission to the Licensor.</p>		
L.03	Ownership & Control of Clubs	<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must submit a legally-valid declaration and related information outlining the ownership structure and Control mechanism of the Club.</p> <p>(2) The declaration must be executed by an authorised signatory no more than three (3) months prior to the corresponding deadline for its submission to the Licensor.</p>		Not Required
L.04	AGM	In accordance with applicable legislation, the Licence Applicant must hold an Annual General Meeting at which all Members shall attend and be entitled to participate.		
L.05	Private Academies / Overseas Clubs	The Licence Applicant must submit a legally-valid declaration outlining the existence and terms of any contractual, financial, or other relationship with a private academy or overseas club.		

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Legal				
L.02	Legal Documents	<p>The Licence Applicant must submit the following documents and information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a copy of its current company articles, constitution, statutes or similar-type governing document; (b) a certificate of registration; (c) a current extract from a public register (e.g. ASIC) which demonstrates that the Licence Applicant is a legal entity (e.g. company or incorporated association) and which should contain the following minimum information; (i) registered name; (ii) popular name; (iii) address of headquarters; (iv) legal form; (v) list of authorised signatories; and (vi) type of signature (e.g. individual, collective). (d) a signed declaration regarding the legal documents; and (e) (If applicable) the agreement between the Licence Applicant and the relevant member which has the right to participate in affiliated competitions of Football Australia. 	<p>The Licence Applicant must meet the minium legislative requiremernts of NSW and provide confirmation of this upon request.</p>	
L.06	Written Contract with Professional Players	<p>The professional players of the Licence Applicant must have a written contract with the Licence Applicant in accordance with the relevant provisions of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players and shall incorporate all key provisions required by the relevant national law and of FIFA, the AFC and Football Australia. The contracts must be lodged in accordance with the National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations</p>	Not Required	Not Required
L.07	Disciplinary Procedure & Code of Conduct	<p>As it relates to legally binding codes of conduct and disciplinary regulations for players and officials, the Licence Applicant, its players and officials must abide by the Football Australia National Code of Conduct and Grievance Resolution Regulations.</p>		
Below items are 'best practice' only - Not required in any leagues				
L.08	Membership	<p>If applicable, the Licence Applicant should ensure that all its key stakeholders, including registered players, coaches, administrators and volunteers, are recognised as Members under</p>		

FA Standard No.	Standard	NPL Mens	Northern League 1	Zone League 1,2 & 3
Legal				
L.09	Public Forums	The Licence Applicant must host at least one (1) public forum per calendar year inviting parents, players, members, sponsors, etc. to be presented club strategies and discuss ways to provide greater value to relevant stakeholders. Issues and feedback from this forum should be documented and incorporated into the Licence Applicant's strategic planning process.		
L.10	Board Representation	The Licence Applicant's Board of Directors should comply with the 40:40:20 principle: 40% women, 40% men, 20% either.		

FA Standard No.	Standard	NPL Mens	Northern League 1	Zone League 1,2 & 3
Financial				
F.01	Annual Financial Statements - Audited	<p>(1) Regardless of the legal structure of the Licence Applicant, Annual Financial Statements shall be prepared in accordance with Australian accounting standards and Audited by an Independent Auditor.</p> <p>(2) The Audited Annual Financial Statements shall be in respect of the Statutory Closing Date immediately prior to the deadline for submission of the MF List of Licensing Decisions (unless the deadline for the Licence Applicant to submit these Audited Annual Financial Statements in accordance with Australian law is after the F.01 Criterion submission date, in which case the Licence Applicant may submit its Audited Annual Financial Statements for the previous Statutory Closing Date). The statements must consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a balance sheet; (b) a profit and loss account; (c) a cash flow statement; (d) notes, comprising a summary of significant Accounting Policies and other explanatory notes; and (e) a financial review by management. 		Not Required
F.02	Financial Records	<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must maintain financial records in the form and nature required under Australian law.</p> <p>(2) The Licence Applicant must utilise an accounting system to enable it to properly maintain its financial records. This may include Excel for 2022/23.</p>		
F.03	Inspection of Financial Records	The Licence Applicant must make available financial information requested by its Member Federation or Football Australia within five (5) business days of receiving notice of an inspection.	Not Required	Not Required
F.04	Annual Budget	<p>The Licence Applicant must submit its annual Budget for the coming Financial Year, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) projected income for the coming Financial Year; (b) projected expenditure for the coming Financial Year; (c) all sources of income projected for the coming Financial Year along with the amount; and (d) all sources of expenditures projected for the coming Financial Year along with the amount. 		Preferred but not required

FA Standard No.	Standard	NPL Mens	Northern League 1	Zone League 1,2 & 3
Financial				
F.05	Written Representations Prior to Licencing Decision	<p>(1) Within seven (7) days prior to the date on which the licensing decision is to be made by the First Instance Body, the Licence Applicant must make written representations to the Licensor.</p> <p>(2) The written representations shall confirm:</p> <p>(a) that all documents submitted to the Licensor are complete and correct;</p> <p>(b) whether or not any Significant Change in relation to all the licensing Criteria has occurred;</p> <p>(c) whether or not any Events or Conditions of Major Economic Importance have occurred that may have an adverse impact on the Licence Applicant's financial position since the balance sheet date of the preceding Audited Annual Financial Statements. If any Events or Conditions of Major Economic Importance have occurred, the management representations letter must include a description of the nature of the event or condition and an estimate of its financial effect, or a statement that such an estimate cannot be made</p>	Not Required	Not Required
F.09	Fee Transparency, Capping & Report	<p>(1) The Licence Applicant must submit a report by the deadline specified by the Licensor outlining its proposed player fees for the upcoming year.</p> <p>(2) If the MF prescribes any minimum/maximum player registration fees that clubs may charge players for registration to their age-eligible teams, the Licence Applicant must comply with these requirements.</p> <p>(3) The report must contain a breakdown of the costs incurred in delivering the programs (e.g., estimated costs by type incurred per season for each age group/team) and will be assessed by the Licensor for their reasonableness.</p> <p>(4) Both FA and the MF have the power to require the club to validate information contained in the report or require the club to revise its proposed fees if they are determined to be unreasonable.</p> <p>(5) The MF may publicly advertise club fees centrally to facilitate easier comparison.</p>		Not Required

FA Standard No.	Standard	NPL Mens	Northern League 1	Zone League 1,2 & 3
Financial				
F.10	Duty to Notify of Subsequent Events	(1) Following the licensing decision by the decision-making body, the Licensee must promptly notify the Licensor in writing about any Subsequent Events that may cast significant doubt upon the Licensee's ability to continue as a Going Concern until at least the end of the season for which the Licence has been granted. (2) Compliance with this criterion shall be assessed by the Licensor in respect of the following Licensing Cycle.		
Below items are 'best practice' only - Not required in any leagues				
F.06	No Overdue Payments Towards Football Clubs	The LicenceApplicant must prove that it has no overdue payables towards football Clubs arising from transfer activities as at 30 June preceding the Season to be Licensed, unless by the following 30 August they have been fully settled, deferred by mutual agreement with the creditor or are subject to a not obviously unfounded dispute submitted to a competent authority.		Not Required
F.07	No Overdue Payments Towards Employes / Member Feds / Tax Authorities	(1) The Licence Applicant must prove that, in respect of contractual and legal obligations with its current/former employees, the Member Federation and social/tax authorities it has no overdue payables at 30 June preceding the Season to be Licensed, unless by the following 30 August they have been fully settled, deferred by mutual agreement with the creditor or are subject to a not obviously unfounded dispute submitted to a competent authority. (2) The term "employees" shall include but not be limited to: (a) all professional players according to the applicable FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of players; and (b) the administrative, technical, medical and security staff specified in the FA/MF Club Licensing Regulations.		