

Canterbury Development Leagues 2022 & Beyond

Background

In 2017, Mainland Football began on a journey to push Talent Development into clubs where previously this had been done centrally in the form of Federation Talent Centres.

The aim of the program was to further develop club capability and to put in sustainable processes to ensure a long-term approach to Talent Development. This resulted in a gradual approach to the Talent Development Programs (13th, 14th in 2017, 13th, 14th, 15th in 2018, 13th, 14th, 15th, 17th in 2019).

In 2019 there were significant changes in the structures of Mainland Football which meant there was an inability to support and audit clubs optimally and this led to no clubs being able to attain a 'Y' Licence for 2020.

In 2020, Mainland Football committed to a significant support and audit process to identify the level clubs were operating and where support was needed to attain 'Y' Licences in the future. It was found that 4 clubs attained a complete 'Y' Licence with a further 2 clubs attaining a New Zealand Football Skill Centre Accreditation and 1 club attaining a Talent Development Programme Accreditation.

During this time there has been significant changes in the delivery of football from the top to the bottom of the football pyramid including the transition to a club based National League in 2021. The new National League System Regulations do not currently require clubs to achieve a Skill Centre or Talent Development Programme to compete in the National League System but with the need for a continuous production line of under 20 players, it goes without saying that there is a need for programmes that support this production line.

The purpose of this paper is to understand the Christchurch based club's opinion on how the Canterbury Development League should look from 2022 and beyond with further information on how the National Age Group Tournament will operate from 2022 and data to help understand where we are regarding player and coach development and the journey we have been on.

Coach Development

One of the reasons Mainland Football work on a gradual process to the Talent Development Programmes implementation in 2017 was due to the number of qualified coaches in the region to the respective levels needed.

Below is comparative data of where we were in the region regarding qualified coaches.

Accreditation	2017	2021 (as of 15 th July)
Junior Level 3	0	26
C Licence	11	43
B Licence	5	21
A Licence	3	4

To provide some context, the Junior Level 3 was first ran in November 2017 and therefore the assessment process meant that there was nobody who could finish the qualification within the season.

The other metric to understand is the A Licence numbers, this is ever changing and tends to be more fluid due to the job opportunities that open up for coaches at this level which we envisage to change as the National League System changes meaning more high-quality coaches should stay in clubs if the right pathway is offered.

With the new National League System Regulations, the Talent Development Programme and Skill Centre Programmes, it means a club could if needed meet the minimum requirements with 1 x B Licence, 4 x C Licence and 1 JL3 coach in their club. This means that we could, based on Coach Accreditation requirements alone have upwards of 10 Skill Centre, Talent Development, National League Licensed clubs (please see table below for how this may work in our current environment).

Team	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
National League	C - Coach 1	C – Coach 1		C – Coach 1		C – Coach 1
Reserves	C - Coach 2	C - Coach 2		C - Coach 2		C - Coach 2
17 th	C - Coach 3	C - Coach 3		C - Coach 3		C - Coach 3
15 th	B – Coach 1	B – Coach 1	B – Coach 1		B – Coach 1	
14 th	C – Coach 4		C – Coach 4	C – Coach 4		C – Coach 4
13 th		C – Coach 4	C - Coach 3	B – Coach 1		C – Coach 4
11 th /12 th SKC		JL3 Coach		JL3 Coach		
9 th /10 th SKC	JL3 Coach		JL3 Coach			

Realistically there is a need for more coaches, if possible, to ensure there is the best learning environment possible for the players and to avoid burnout where possible of coaches but to meet the minimum requirements of the licensing, Mainland Football is now well placed to have several entities achieving this now in 2021.

Player Development

One of the aims of the National League System is to give more of an opportunity for young kiwi players to compete at the top level of football in New Zealand. By round 11 in our Mainland Premier League there has been a total of 23,725 minutes (27.23% of all game time) given to U20 eligible players, this in comparison to 9,142 minutes (10.49% of all game time) at the same stage of the season in 2020.

In the latest FIFA Talent Development Study there was a clear correlation between the minutes gained at a level of senior football by under 23's and their success on becoming a long-term professional football player. We must aim to shoot for the stars in producing professional football players yet also provide an environment for all players within our clubs.

To continue the development of U20 players that can compete at the top level of football in New Zealand, it is imperative that there are Talent Development Programmes at a level to produce players consistently for clubs across the city. The Talent Development Programme is a way of maintaining minimum standards in what we deliver to our players whilst giving an opportunity to clubs to go above and beyond for their players.

After our first round of support visits in the Talent Development Programmes, we are confident that we will be able to reach 6/7 clubs that meet the minimum requirements.

National Age Group Tournament

Historically National Age Group Tournament has been held in Wellington and teams have been entered by Federations to compete across a week-long competition in front of New Zealand Football Age Group Coaching Staff and Technical team.

In 2022 there is going to be a format change to the competition where club-based entities will be involved across the South Island. In 2022, these will be U16 and U18 age groups.

**Please Note, the below breakdown is an educated estimate and is not confirmed but used for the purposes of this discussion paper.*

Three Regional Conferences followed by a National Finals Series, mirroring the newly adopted National League System.

South Island Conference

- 7 Christchurch entries (**depending on TDP Accreditations**)
- 1 Nelson entry
- 4 Football South Entries
- Two pools of 6 teams or 3 pools of 4 teams
- Double round robin in pool play (4 team pools) or single round (6 team pools)
- Top teams in each pool attends the final series (6 team pools)
- Top teams and best 2nd place play Semi Finals/Finals to find the top two to attend the final series (4 team pools)
- **6/7 games in total not including final series.**

National Component

For the boy's national component, there are a number of options being available and discussed ranging from a top 4 in each age group to a top 12 in each age group as below:

Boys National Component Options	Option One: 6 Teams	Option Two: 8 Teams	Option Three: 12 Teams	Option Four: 4 Teams
Format	4 games over 4 days – pools of 3 – round robin + semis/finals	3 games over 3 days – quarter, semi, final	2 games over 2 days – top 4/middle 4/bottom 4 – semi/final	2 games over 2 days Semi/final/3 rd , 4 th play off

Timing

It is envisaged that the competitions would run during September and October with the Finals Series running and being completed by Mid-October (please see proposed calendar below)

Month	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Activity			Regional Development Youth Leagues						SI/NYDC			

Who can participate?

NZF understand there are regional differences across New Zealand that will result in entries being a mix of Club Teams and Regional Representative teams. Entities must though, meet Talent Development Programme minimum criteria to participate.

Canterbury Development Leagues (CDL's)

On the back of all the information above, the journey we have been on as a region in relation to the club licensing, where we sit with qualified coaches and the need to continue to develop quality football players for our region, we have formulated a variety of options for our clubs.

The below section provides details of the primary options available for the Canterbury Development Leagues and you will find benefits and risks associated to each option.

Options	Benefits	Risks
<p>Option A – Status Quo</p> <p>If clubs meet the Match Day Standards, clubs can gain acceptance in to the CDL's at the discretion of the Federation Director of Football and Competitions Manager</p> <p>Clubs who attain TDP are given automatic entry into the competition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides an open linear competition in which all clubs have an opportunity to compete. There continues to be a standard being met by clubs to compete in the CDL's. Gives more people an opportunity to play in the top competition based on the ability for teams to compete. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard of the playing competition can vary dramatically based on teams getting entry on Match Day Standards Provides logistical issues with byes for teams even if clubs attain TDP accreditation. Clubs who currently meet the TDP requirements unsure of why to do the work as they can play against clubs who don't meet these minimum requirements
<p>Option B</p> <p>Full TDP Requirement Needed + Clubs who are meeting TDP in a consistent pathway (13th, 14th, for example).</p> <p>There are no exceptions for holes in a pathway (i.e. no 15th Grade but 13th, 14th, 17th)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Means all leagues will have clubs that will have to meet the minimum criteria of TDP therefore no need for match day standards. Allows clubs who are aspirational to have a sustainable way of building towards being a fully accredited TDP club. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A closed door to smaller clubs means players must migrate to accredited clubs to play in the CDL. Competitions could, in theory become 12 team leagues, unsure on Christchurch's ability to maintain a 12-team league for 'Talented Players'

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs who work hard to achieve minimum criteria get a guaranteed opportunity of playing in the top local competition. 	
<p>Option C</p> <p>Full TDP Requirement needed to compete in the CDL.</p> <p>A prescribed number of spaces in the CDL (6,8 or 10 Teams at Mainland Footballs discretion) and if there are any spaces, teams are handpicked by Mainland Football to participate in the competition to maintain a league without a bye. Match Day Standards would be required.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stops any byes that may occur due to the number of teams that are TDP accredited. There is a quantitative and qualitative control on the teams that may enter the competition by Mainland Football. Clubs on the most part must have a full pathway to be in the CDL allowing for 'club days' across the CDL Leagues (Club 1 vs Club 2 across 13th,14th,15th,17th Grade) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficult for clubs to build a sustainable model without giving access to the CDL therefore will have to move players and coaches on at Youth Grades. Encouraging teams outside of the accredited TDP space to win games in order to be considered for the CDL competition. No guaranteed entry year on year for teams that may get in depending on the meeting of TDP requirements

Next Steps and Timing

Mainland Football is seeking feedback from our clubs, New Zealand Football, and internal staff regarding these competitions. In addition to this, Mainland Football will engage with experienced external Youth Development Experts for their guidance.

We ask each club to engage and consult internally with coaches, administrators, and where necessary players to provide their position on the questions below:

- Ranking of the Options from 1-3 with 1 being your most preferred and 3 being your least preferred (i.e. 1 – Option A, 2 – Option B, 3 – Option C)**
- Do you have any feedback on the NAGT Format?**
(it is worth noting that the requirements to participate will not be altered and there will be a cost equalisation across the country)

Please can you provide your answers back to the above by Friday 6th August. The feedback will then be consolidated and compiled in to an Evaluation Report which will be circulated back to everyone that provided feedback.

Following the feedback, Mainland Football Technical and Competitions team will make a final decision on the format of the CDL competition. The decision will be of course heavily weighted on the feedback we receive from all stakeholders.