

Memo: 25 – 18

TO: Men's Premier League and Coast League Clubs
FROM: Damien Bresic – General Manager
DATE: 20th March 2018
SUBJECT: Premier League Structure for 2019 and beyond

At our AGM on November 20th 2017 the structure for the PL and CL league for 2019 and beyond was tabled and discussed and agreed that with the demise of a few senior clubs and the pending departure of the GC Knights to the NPL 2019 would be a combined 15 team competition with the aim of getting back to an 8 team PL for the 2020 season.

This initiative of FGC received some criticism from clubs with a number of discussions taking place since the announcement. It was agreed that we wouldn't do anything in the first instance and that we would use the Club Health and Wellness Cup as a guide to what the future may look like. Unfortunately, the gulf in quality between the PL and CL was greater than we anticipated which has resulted in some lopsided games which delivered many blow out scores. This isn't / wasn't a great advertisement for our competition and as a result, FGC has listened to its clubs and has made some amendments to the structure of the PL and CL that was originally put forward.

The new structure was discussed, ratified and passed unanimously at the last board meeting and will come into effect immediately. The new structure is as follows :-

- 2018 – 10 team PL and 9 team CL with PL clubs permitted to enter teams in the CL.
- For 2019 the proposed 15 team competition will be scrapped.
- 2019 – PL will be 8 teams and CL open to nominations (PL clubs will be permitted to enter teams in the CL) – both PL and CL will require a first grade and reserves grade teams with NO age restrictions.
- GC Knights have confirmed that they will not be entering teams in the 2019 PL.
- At the conclusion of the 2018 season we will implement a 4 team play off with the winner offered entry into the PL for the 2019 season.

- **Game 1** – the lowest ranked team in PL will play a single “play-off” game against the highest ranked stand-alone team (non-PL) in CL which will be hosted by the CL club.
- **Game 2** - the second lowest ranked team in PL will play a single “play-off” game against the second highest ranked stand-alone team (non-PL) in CL which will be hosted by the CL club.
- **Game 3** - The winners from game 1 & 2 will play a single “final play-off” game with the winner offered a position in the PL for 2019 season.
- The three losing teams from Game 1 ; 2 & 3 will be placed in the CL for the 2019 season.
- To accommodate the play off games the regular draw will be slightly adjusted to allow for Game 1 and 2 to be played on **Tuesday 21st August** with Game 3 being played on **Saturday 24th August**.
- The highest ranked team will host Game 3 with the ranking order being CL 1 ; CL 2 ; PL 9 (second lowest) and PL 10 (lowest)
- note :- any club that has a team in Premier League will not be eligible for promotion from the Coast League regardless of the individual teams final standings.

We believe this is the best way forward to ensure we maintain the integrity of all divisions and that we have viable competitions for our senior men to participate in. We apologise for any inconvenience this change may cause your club but we feel that this is the best way forward for our top ranked men’s competition.

