

2 May 2014

To: Club Representatives 2014 Competitions  
Football NSW Match Commissioners  
Men's Premier Competitions Standing Committee  
State Leagues Standing Committee  
Women's Standing Committee

Via email

### **2015 Stadium Technical Requirements**

Dear Colleagues,

I write to communicate an amendment to the Stadium Technical Requirements ahead of the 2015 football season.

At their meeting on 1 May 2014 the Football NSW Board approved an amendment to the 2015 Stadium Technical Requirements relating specifically to stadium seating. Attached as Annexure 1 is a table outing the amendment to the requirement.

In approving the change to the requirement, the board considered;

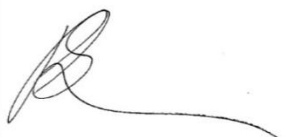
- A review of the downwards trend in attendance at National Premier League NSW Men's 1 first grade matches, dropping from an average in 2012 of 525 spectators to 297 in 2013 (against a minimum seating standard of 1,500 seats)
- The significant current non-compliance to the requirements, with only 7 of the 12 NPL1 and 4 of the 12 NPL2 clubs meeting the criteria relevant to their respective leagues
- The 2014 seating criteria created an artificial ceiling that obstructs promotion and relegation in senior football
- Local Councils, who are the primary funding source for venue redevelopment, reluctance to invest in grandstand seating that is in the most part left vacant
- Communicating a position to the football clubs, with advance notice to the 2015 season commencing, to allow decisions on facility funding to be made that results in investment to key football areas (i.e. quality of playing surfaces and floodlighting) rather than extensions to spectator seating that is surplus to attendance

As the amendments apply specifically to the National Premier Leagues NSW Men's 1 and 2 competitions, the topic was tabled for discussion by the Men's Premier Competitions Standing Committee. The recommendation from the Standing Committee was for the proposed amendments to be recommended to the Football NSW Board.

Should you have any questions relating to the Stadium Technical Requirements please contact your relevant Competitions Coordinator in the first instance.

Coordinator	Leagues	Email	Phone
Stacey Saggus	Men's NPL 1 & 2	<a href="mailto:staceys@footballnsw.com.au">staceys@footballnsw.com.au</a>	8814 4411
Debbie Abboud	Women's NPL 1 & 2 Women's State League	<a href="mailto:debbiea@footballnsw.com.au">debbiea@footballnsw.com.au</a>	8814 4410
Andrew Fathers	Men's State League 1 & 2 Regional League SAP	<a href="mailto:andrewf@footballnsw.com.au">andrewf@footballnsw.com.au</a>	8814 4461

Kind Regards,



Phillip Brown  
Head of Football

**Annexure 1: Amendments to the 2015 Stadium Technical Requirements**

**Section 6: Spectator Facilities**

**Article 3: Seating**

Previous Text	Amended Text																		
<p><b>3. Seating</b></p> <p>Following are the minimum Covered and Open Air Seating requirements for Stadiums;</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #d9e1f2;">League</th> <th style="background-color: #d9e1f2;">Covered Seating</th> <th style="background-color: #d9e1f2;">Open Air Seating</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>National Premier Leagues NSW Men's 1  1<sup>st</sup> Grade, U20, U18 and U16</td> <td style="text-align: center;">500 people</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1000 people</td> </tr> <tr> <td>National Premier Leagues NSW Men's 2  1<sup>st</sup> Grade, U20, U18 and U16</td> <td style="text-align: center;">250 people</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1000 people</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All other Competitions</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">300 people</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Covered Seating is defined as seating in a sheltered, purpose built covered Grandstand constructed of a material which protects spectators from the elements, or a private box or room enclosed by glass.</p> <p>Seating can be either bench or individual bucket style.</p> <p>In calculating the numbers of spectators a bench seat accommodates, the equation of two (2) people to every one (1) metre of bench seating is to be used.</p> <p>All seating must be elevated and tiered.</p>	League	Covered Seating	Open Air Seating	National Premier Leagues NSW Men's 1  1 <sup>st</sup> Grade, U20, U18 and U16	500 people	1000 people	National Premier Leagues NSW Men's 2  1 <sup>st</sup> Grade, U20, U18 and U16	250 people	1000 people	All other Competitions	0	300 people	<p><b>3. Seating</b></p> <p>a) Following are the minimum Covered and Open Air Seating requirements for Stadiums;</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #d9e1f2;">League</th> <th style="background-color: #d9e1f2;">Seating Requirement</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>National Premier Leagues NSW Men's 1 and 2  1<sup>st</sup> Grade, U20, U18 and U16</td> <td>Total seating for 500 spectators of which at least 250 seats must be under cover</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All other Competitions</td> <td>Total seating for 300 spectators of which there is no minimum requirement for under cover seating</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>b) Under cover seating is defined as seating in a sheltered, purpose built covered Grandstand constructed of a material which protects spectators from the elements, or a private box or room enclosed by glass</p> <p>c) Seating can be either bench or individual bucket style</p> <p>d) In calculating the numbers of spectators a bench seat accommodates, the equation of two (2) people to every one (1) metre of bench seating is to be used</p> <p>e) All seating must be elevated and tiered</p> <p>f) Football NSW will take into consideration Stadiums with capacity in excess of the minimum standard when determining locations for the Championships Series of each respective League</p>	League	Seating Requirement	National Premier Leagues NSW Men's 1 and 2  1 <sup>st</sup> Grade, U20, U18 and U16	Total seating for 500 spectators of which at least 250 seats must be under cover	All other Competitions	Total seating for 300 spectators of which there is no minimum requirement for under cover seating
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#### Rationale

The amendments above seek to:

- Set a reasonable and realistic standard considering historic attendance and standing of the competitions
- Motivate clubs to seek funding for “football” objectives including the field of play, floodlighting and coaching structures
- Consider local government preference to invest money on outcomes that have a benefit to the community (i.e. fields and floodlights) rather than stadium seating which is generally left empty
- Remove the artificial ceiling to promotion and relegation in senior football
- Recognise that in their current condition, the majority of venues do not meet the 2014 Stadium seating minimum standards