



The Future



FFA National Curriculum



The National Football Curriculum

***“Making Australia a World Leader
in the World Game”***





The National Football Curriculum

It is FFA's vision that, in order to bring football in Australia to a higher level, outmoded views need to be replaced and a change of mentality is necessary



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In Australia there is too strong an emphasis on results at too young an age.

Therefore generally the biggest, strongest and fastest kids are being selected into the talented player pathways and not necessarily the most talented ones.

Although winning is the purpose of a game of football, the manner and importance differs per age group.

At the younger ages, youth development should focus on teaching children the skills to win a game of football 'the proper way' .

At the world's top level the most skilful players decide the games, not the biggest, strongest and fittest!



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As a result of the winning-at-all-cost mentality football in Australia, especially at youth level, is still very much a traditional long ball, physical type of game ('fightball').

The modern top level game though is a technical, high speed game of 'effective' possession with special ('match winning') players.

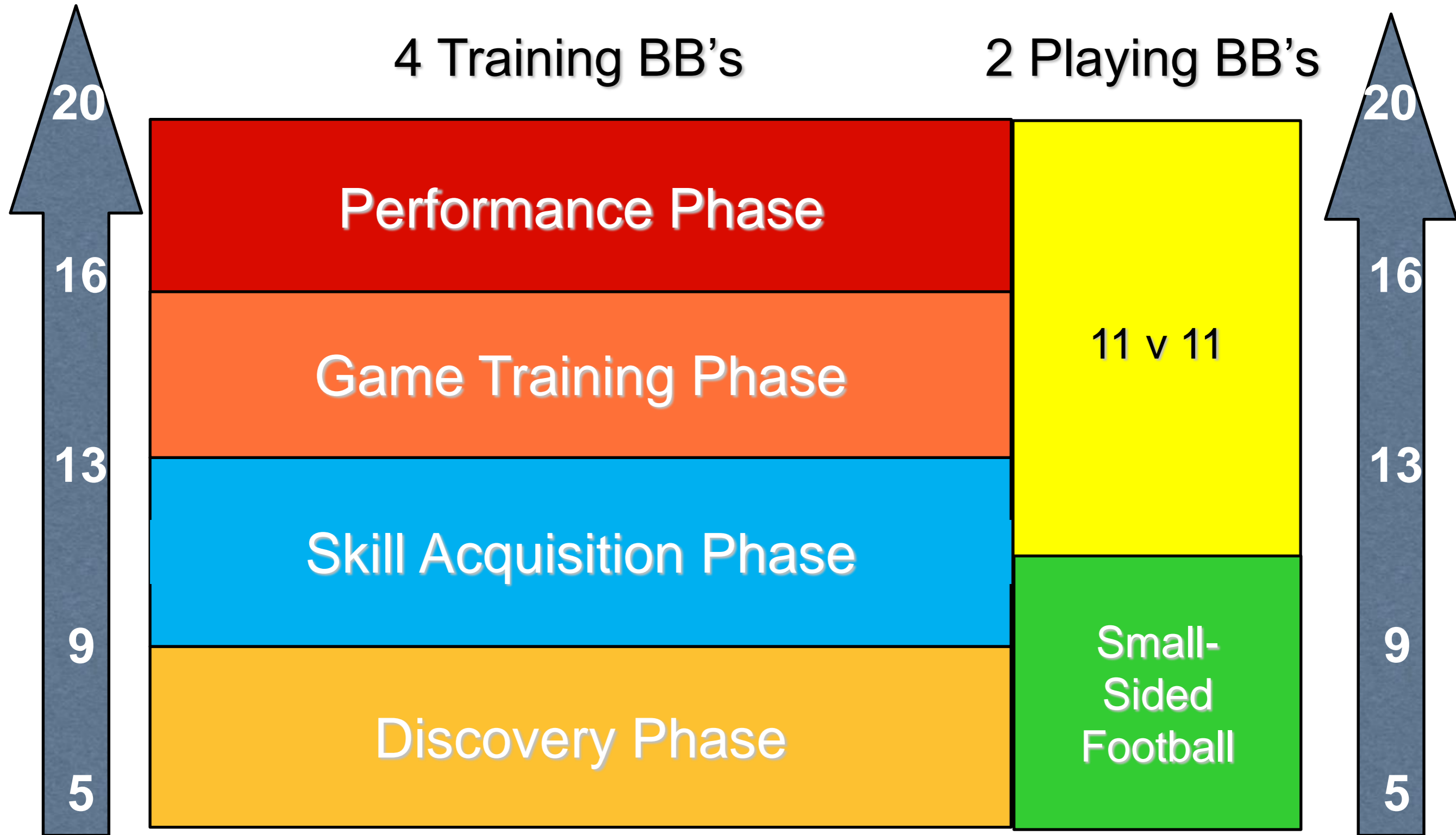
In order to bring about the necessary changes and improvements and provide a sound and consistent foundation for the future of the game, FFA has introduced

The Curriculum Building Blocks

The Building Blocks methodology is the framework that provides the practical guidelines for coaches working at all levels of youth development.



The Building Blocks



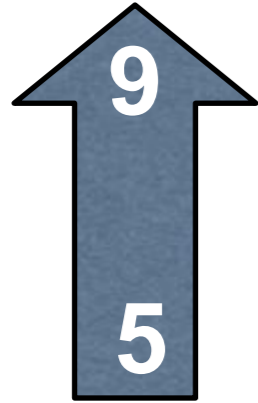


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The 4 Training Building Blocks



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Discovery Phase (grassroots)

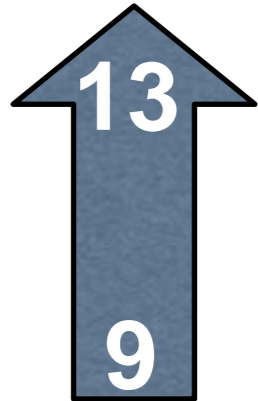
- **No 'coaching' but 'guided discovery'**
- **'Natural' development through playing FOOTBALL (copying the original 'street football' environment)**
- **Discovering one's (im)possibilities through trial & error**
- **Emphasis on fun, building a love of the game**
- ***Talented kids will automatically present themselves***

WRONG !





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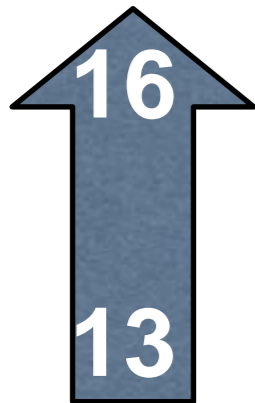


Skill Acquisition Phase

- **Providing the necessary technical ‘tools’ to be able to play the game as a senior at the highest possible level.**
- **Focus on FUNCTIONAL GAME SKILLS (as opposed to ‘tricks’)**
- **This is THE most decisive age bracket for acquiring the appropriate technical foundation (the ‘Golden Age’ of motor learning)**
- **From 2010 onwards, the Skill Acquisition Program (SAP) has been introduced and FFA Skill Training Specialists are being appointed to train the most talented U/13 players in every State & Territory.**



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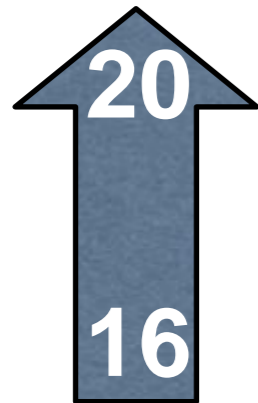


Game Training Phase

- **Applying the functional game skills**
- **Learning how to use the technical 'tools' playing as a team, using 1-4-3-3 as the preferred formation**
- **Developing of tactical awareness, insight and decision making through a game-related approach of training**



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Performance Phase

- **Perfecting the game-training components**
- **Adding FOOTBALL CONDITIONING to the program**
- **Performing / winning as a team in a competition environment becomes the aim**

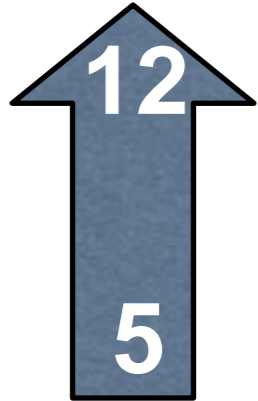


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The 2 Playing Building Blocks



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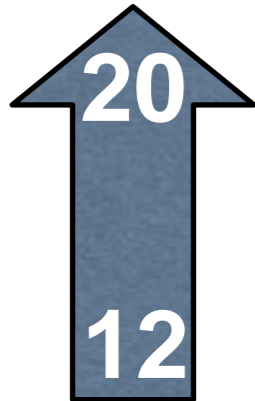


Small Sided Football

- **U/6-U/7 : 4 v 4 (no goalkeepers)**
- **U/8-U/9 : 7 v 7 (6 outfield players and a goalkeeper)**
- **U/10-U/11 : 9 v 9 (8 outfield players and a goalkeeper)**
- **From U/12 : 11 v 11**
- **Emphasis on fun, freedom of expression and 'learning by playing'.**
- ***WINNING SHOULD BE A SIDE ISSUE***



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- **From U/12 at the earliest !!!**
- **In youth football the development of the INDIVIDUAL should come first, each player should play at his/her appropriate level.**
- **Keeping a player in a team to win the competition, knowing he/she should move up is a CRIME**
- **Only in a regular, year-round competition environment we can develop game cleverness, game hardness and game experience (half a year of football is not enough!)**



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- **The weekly game is a vital element for the development of young players**
- **The game is the frame of reference that tells us if we are improving**
- **Winning the game is the purpose of playing football but not at all costs (especially not in youth football)**
- **Over-emphasis on results is detrimental for the technical and psychological development of young players**
- **Relative Age Effect becomes (already is) a major threat if winning is the main point**
- ***The game is for the players, the training for the coach***

Coach Education and *Youth Development* are the strategic spearheads to realize the Curriculum's objectives



The Future



National Teams

A-League / W-League



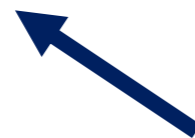
Coach

Education



Youth

Development



The Building Blocks



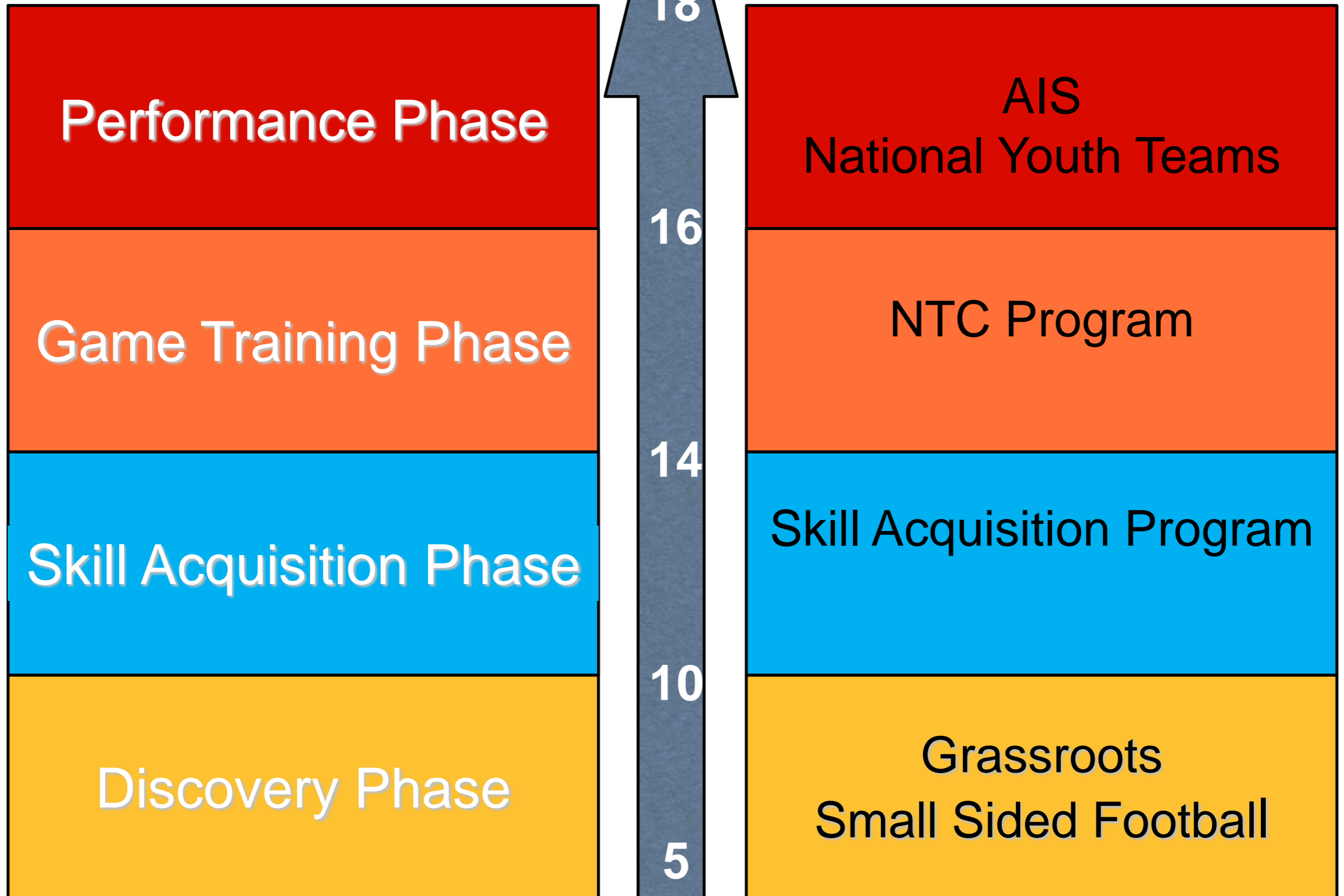
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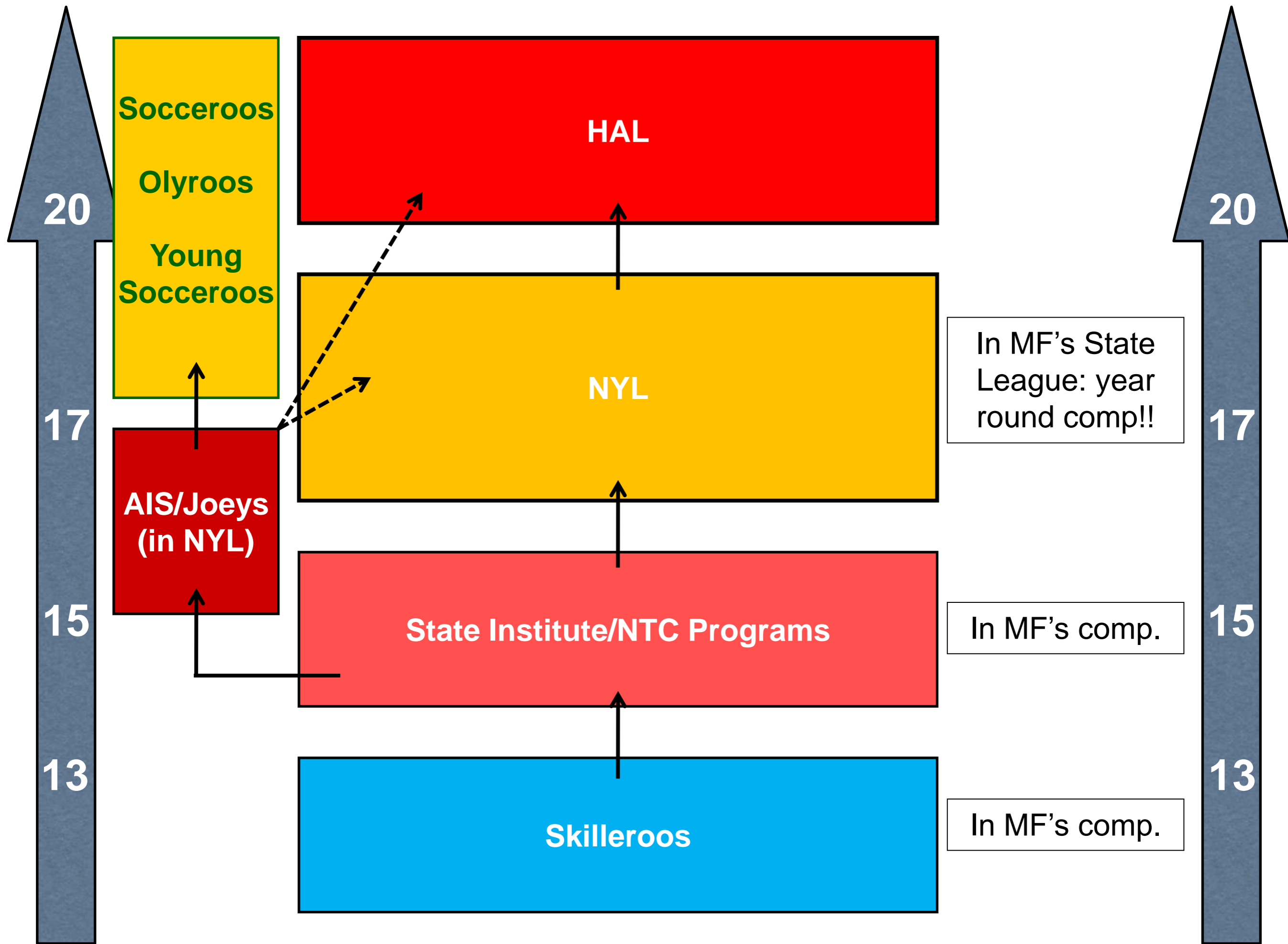
- The only way to influence the broad football community
- Long term process
- Total review/restructure of coaching courses about to be finalized
- Coach Education Update lecture

How does the Building Blocks Methodology relate to the National talented player development pathway ?



The National Pathway





‘Skilleroos’

The very best U/13 year old **boys and girls** train and play under the guidance of FFA-trained expert Skill coaches in a year-round, free of charge Elite program according to the guidelines of the National Curriculum (**Skill Acquisition phase**) .

The Skilleroos are the pinnacle of the Skill Acquisition Program which is a joint initiative of FFA and the Member Federations.

The State Institutes Program



State Institute Programs

The best U/16 year old boys in each MF train and play under the guidance of FFA-trained coaches in a year-round, free of charge Elite program according to the guidelines of the National Curriculum (**Game Training phase**)

AIS Program

The very best Australian U/17 boys enter the **Australian Institute of Sport (AIS)**. This is a full-time residential program under the guidance of FFA-selected top level coaches working according to the guidelines of the National Curriculum (**Performance phase**) and primarily targeted to the Joeys (Australian U/17 team).

- All programs in (male) pillar are now linked in a logical and efficient way
- Exerting direct influence is only possible on teams/programs under our direct control (limited numbers)
- The National Competition Review (NCR) will considerably increase the number of players being coached/developed the proper way



Youth development girls

Structure currently under review ('plan Sermanni')

Spear heads of proposal:

- Change in age groups girls NYC to U/13,14 & 15
- NTC programs (incl. NTC challenge) for U/17 girls
- AIS program age-related (aimed at young Matildas - U/20)
- Creating / maintaining sufficient quality programs for senior Matildas

Roadblocks/challenges:



1. Communication/awareness/education (coaches, administrators and **parents**) of the National Pathway and best practice
2. The diversity and self interest of parties involved (clubs; agents; private academies; schools; sport high schools; etc.)
3. Lack of tuning/communication, putting the **interest of the players** first

Still a long way to go but we
think we are on the right track



Thank you

