

**Football Federation Victoria**  
**Promotion & Relegation System**  
**between**  
**National Premier Leagues 2/**  
**Men's State League 1**

# Promotion & Relegation System between NPL2 and MSL1

## November 2016

### 1. Introduction

This Policy is to be read in conjunction with FFV's Men's State League Rules of Competition & Men's National Premier League Rules of Competition.

In 2016, FFV developed a promotion and relegation system between National Premier Leagues 2 and Men's State League 1. The aim of this process was to ensure there was an open pathway in Victorian football for aspirational Clubs which provides the opportunity for Clubs that have demonstrated they have the personnel and processes in place to compete at that level, to move up to NPL. It is also critical that the NPL program and standards are not compromised simply to satisfy the need for promotion and relegation.

To allow for the introduction of new Clubs through promotion, relegation must also be introduced to keep the number of Clubs within the competition consistent. The aim of the relegation process was to ensure that the appropriate Clubs are relegated from the league in a manner which is fair, transparent and consistent with traditional systems in football.

Consultation with key stakeholders and interested parties was critical to helping to deliver a stable and widely accepted model, and as such it was imperative that all key stakeholders were provided with a voice during this process. In order to achieve this, the consultation was based around the formation of two working groups representing all relevant stakeholders.

Details of the Promotion and Relegation system developed and agreed upon are set out in the following documents:

- [MSL – NPL Promotion Working Group Proposal](#)
- [MSL – NPL Relegation Working Group Proposal](#)

Set out below is a summary of that system which will come into effect in Season 2017. All NPL2 Clubs and MSL1 Clubs should take careful note of the information contained in the documents above and summarised below. In particular, MSL1 Clubs interested in pursuing promotion to NPL at the end of the 2017 season should take careful note of the information and deadlines set out in section 2 below.

## 2. Relegation from NPL Men's 2

Clubs will only be relegated based on senior team performance as outlined in Rule 10.3.6 of the NPL Rules of Competition:

*10.3.6 Those Clubs finishing in 10<sup>th</sup> position in both NPL2 East and NPL2 West at the end of the NPL2 regular season may be relegated in the following Regular Season in accordance with the NPL/MSL Promotion and Relegation policy and NPL Participation Licence.*

Clubs relegated from NPL Men's 2 will be offered a senior team position in Men's State League 1 for the following Regular Season.

Should a Club's senior men's team be relegated, the Club's NPL Participation Licence will terminate in accordance with clause 13.1.c and 13.1.d of the NPL Participation Licence. In those circumstances, the Club's junior teams will also be removed from NPL Boys competitions (with the exception of regional NPL Clubs – see further information below). Clubs relegated from NPL competition will have the opportunity to enter their junior teams into equivalent 'A' division age groups in community competitions.

Any regional NPL Club which is relegated from NPL Men's 2 will:

- a. have the opportunity to retain its NPL Boys (under 12 – under 18) teams in NPL Boys competitions; and
- b. be offered Men's State League 1 positions for their Senior Men's team.

Relegated regional Clubs which take up the opportunity to retain junior teams in NPL competitions will be required to execute a participation licence which includes the same junior licensing criteria and set the same obligations and standards as exists for remaining NPL Clubs under their licence agreements.

Regional Clubs for the purpose of this policy in 2017 are:

- Murray United FC
- Goulburn Valley Suns FC
- Bendigo City FC
- Ballarat Red Devils SC
- North Geelong Warriors FC

The position of regional NPL clubs in the context of promotion and relegation post 2017 will form part of the NPL review to be conducted by FFV.

### 3. Promotion from Men's State League 1

Clubs wishing to pursue promotion at the end of the season will be required to declare their interest by submitting a standard Expression of Interest. FFV will then assess the Club for prequalification.

The prequalification process will require a Club to satisfy FFV that they meet, or have acceptable plans in place to meet, minimum criteria in the areas of junior teams, facilities, coaches and governance & finance. Once a Club satisfies those criteria it qualifies for promotion at the end of the season, subject to its final MSL1 finishing position.

#### a. Pre-qualification Process

<u>Step</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Timeline</u>
1	MSL1 Clubs which wish to pursue promotion to NPL2 at the end of the upcoming season are to lodge an Expression of Interest with FFV by no later than 1 <u>June</u> of the relevant season.	EOI must be submitted by <u>1 June</u>
2	Each Club which lodges an EOI is provided with a pre-qualification checklist by FFV. The check list sets out predetermined criteria in the following areas: <b>coaching, junior teams, facilities, governance and finance.</b>	Checklist will be provided by FFV no later than 14 days after submission of EOI
3	Each Club which receives the pre-qualification checklist must complete and submit that document to FFV by <u>30 June</u> of the relevant season, establishing that they meet the criteria in question or setting out their plan to meet the criteria by an agreed deadline.	All relevant information to be submitted by <u>30 June</u> . FFV may request further information after this date prior to pre-qualification status being granted
4	A Club which meets the criteria set out in the pre-qualification checklist will be confirmed by FFV as a Pre-qualified Club and become eligible for promotion at the end of the season, subject to final finishing position in their respective MSL1 league.	FFV will confirm a Club's pre-qualification status within 28 days of receiving a fully completed checklist
5	A final check will be undertaken at the conclusions of the MSL1 season to ensure the information provided by the Club during the pre-qualification process remains current and accurate.	FFV will conduct a final check prior to finalisation of NPL league structures for the following season

6	The Club which finishes first in its division of MSL1 will be offered promotion to NPL2 provided that Club has satisfied the prequalification criteria. If the Club has not satisfied the prequalification criteria (or does not wish to be promoted), promotion will be offered to the Club which finishes second in that division of MSL1. See further information below.	All final league structures will be confirmed within 28 days of the conclusion of the NPL season
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### **b. Pre –qualification Criteria**

In order to pre-qualify for promotion to NPL2 in the following season, a Club must meet the following criteria by 30 June of the current season, or have agreed plans in place with FFV to meet those criteria by a specified deadline.

Should FFV and the Club agree to a deadline which is subsequently not met by the Club – the Club’s pre-qualification status may be revoked.

Criteria	Requirement
Teams	In the year prior to NPL promotion, a Club must field and maintain no less than 3 junior boys teams between the under 11 and under 16 age groups (inclusive) together with a mandatory team in either Under 17s or Under 18s competition.
Facilities	<p>All Clubs must meet FFV’s NPL Facilities Standard for NPL2. If a Club does not currently meet the NPL Facilities Standard it must submit either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A plan endorsed by the venue owner for upgrading of necessary facility requirements together with an approved timeline; or</li> <li>• An endorsed plan to utilise another NPL 2 standard facility, again endorsed by the venue owner.</li> </ul> <p>FFV will retain ultimate discretion as to whether such plan or plans satisfy the Facilities criteria for promotion and therefore pre-qualify a Club for promotion with respect to those criteria.</p>
Coaching	<p>All Clubs must meet the head coach requirements for at least 4 of the 8 NPL head coach position in NPL. FFV will work with MSL1 Clubs by allocating positions on advanced coaching courses to provide MSL1 Clubs with the opportunity to meet these criteria.</p> <p>Clubs that do not meet the minimum criteria at the date of application for pre-qualification must provide FFV with a written coach</p>

	<p>accreditation plan for approval. FFV will retain ultimate discretion as to whether such plan satisfies the Coaching criteria for promotion and therefore pre-qualifies a Club for promotion with respect to those criteria.</p>
<p>Governance &amp; Finance</p>	<p>All Clubs must establish that they meet minimum requirements of appropriate regulatory body (i.e. CAV or ASIC) with respect to their current governance structure and proof of submission of annual required documentation.</p> <p>Clubs must also provide an approved year 1 NPL operating budget together with cash flow, based on a supplied template from FFV.</p>

### **c. Vacancies in NPL 2**

From time to time it may be necessary to fill a vacancy in NPL2, for example where the Clubs which finish in 1st and 2nd position in a MSL1 division fail to meet the prequalification criteria, or a current NPL Club has its licence revoked due to non-compliance with obligations under the licence agreement. All vacancies will be dealt with in line with the following ROC to be included in NPL Rules of Competition from Season 2107 onward.

#### **1.1. Vacancies in National Premier League Men's 2 (NPL2)**

- 1.1.1. From time to time vacancies are created in NPL2 Divisions due to:
  - a. A Club withdrawing from a NPL Division or League;
  - b. A Club being expelled from a NPL Division or League;
  - c. A Club being removed from NPL competition due to non-compliance with the NPL Participation Licence.
  - d. Other reasons from time to time.
- 1.1.2. If a vacancy is created in a NPL2 division prior to the commencement of the Regular Season (whether that vacancy is created during the previous season or in the 'off-season' prior to the commencement of the Regular Season in question), that vacancy will be offered to Clubs in accordance with the priority set out below:
- 1.1.3. Vacancies created in accordance with Regulations 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 will be filled in the following order of priority:

- a. The best performing runner-up in Men's State League 1 division based on the order of merit outlined in section 1.1.14, provided the team is NPL pre-qualified in-line with NPL Regulations.
  - b. If the Club finishing runner-up in the relevant geographic MSL1 division, as per section 1.13.(a) has not pre-qualified, declines the opportunity to fill the vacancy, or has already accepted a vacancy or earned promotion to NPL2, the vacancy will then be offered to the remaining runner-up in Men's State League 1 division, provided the team is NPL pre-qualified in-line with NPL Regulations.
  - c. The best performing Team based on the order of merit outlined in section 1.1.4, that is to be relegated from NPL2 for the Regular Season in question.
  - d. Any remaining Teams which are to be, or have been relegated from NPL2, based on the order of merit.
  - e. The highest finishing Team in MSL1 in order of merit, provided that Team is NPL pre-qualified in-line with NPL Regulations, which misses out on promotion in accordance with these Regulations; and
  - b. Remaining Teams in MSL1 which miss out on promotion in accordance with these Regulations, provided the Team is NPL pre-qualified in-line with NPL Regulations
- 1.1.4. In deciding on order of merit for the purposes of Regulation 1.1.3.(e) or where two Teams are otherwise equal for the purposes of section 1.1.3, those Teams will be ranked according to the following (and in this order):
- a. Average points per game for the current Regular Season (i.e. the season before the Regular Season in which the vacancy needs to be filled);
  - b. Average goals FOR per game for the current Regular Season (i.e. the season before the Regular Season in which the vacancy needs to be filled);
  - c. The Team and the Club's disciplinary record for the current Regular Season (i.e. the season before the Regular Season in which the vacancy needs to be filled).
- 1.1.5. If Teams cannot be separated under Regulation 1.1.4 then those Teams may be required to play a Play Off Match in circumstances where they both seek promotion to NPL2.

- 1.1.6. FFV, at its discretion, may decide not to fill a vacancy in NPL2 where to do so would disrupt lower Leagues and/or Divisions, for example where a League vacancy is created in close proximity to the start of the Regular Season.
- 1.1.7. FFV reserves the right to alter the makeup of divisions in geographic regions in NPL and MSL competitions, based on the Teams competing year to year.

If you have any questions regarding the Promotion and Relegation system to be introduced between Nation Premier Leagues 2 and Men's State League 1 from Season 2017 onward, please contact [nplvictoria@ffv.org.au](mailto:nplvictoria@ffv.org.au) .