

FFA PRINCIPLES FOR CONGRESS EXPANSION

The Guiding Principles recommended by FFA are:

A BIGGER and BROADER CONGRESS

- The new Congress should be much larger than the existing 10 members. The benefits of a much larger Congress are the potential to increase the diversity of representatives and therefore a diversity of thinking that reflects the diversity in the game. A significantly larger Congress would bring Australia in line with its international counterparts in FIFA, and is in the best interests of the game.
- The Congress should be expanded both in absolute terms (ie number of members) and categories of members – it should be both bigger and broader.

B. GENDER EQUALITY

- Gender equality should mean gender equality. Whatever model is agreed by stakeholders as part of the review process, the resulting Congress membership should be 50 percent male and 50 percent female representation. These changes should also be reflected as closely as possible in the membership of FFA's Board. Given it has an uneven number of directors (9), the proposed requirement for the FFA Board is a minimum 40 percent male directors and minimum 40 percent female directors. Other stakeholder organisations in Australian football should commit to similar changes over time within their own organisations.
- As with other sectors (e.g. government, business, community) gender equality in football governance is for the betterment of governance in all aspects of the game, not just those concerning women. Whilst important, increasing female representation is not solely for the purpose of giving greater voice to matters concerning women's football as these are matters of responsibility and interest for all involved in the game's governance and administration. The female representatives in the various electoral, decision/policy-making and administrative bodies that form the total governance structure of the game are there to contribute equally with their male counter-parts to the development, promotion and growth of the whole game.

C. CONGRESS MEMBERSHIP INCLUDING SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

- The introduction of special interest groups representing a range of different interests in the game will be of benefit to the inclusiveness of the congress.
- All congress members, whether existing organisations or new SIGs, should be properly constituted and meet prescribed good governance standards.

D BALANCED CONGRESS

- The voting proportionality between the different stakeholder groups (e.g. the professional game, the Member Federations and SIGs) is a separate matter to the overall size of the Congress.
- The model the CRWG recommends for adoption by the voting members of FFA should strike a balance between these groups that reflects the make-up of the football community and the direct and indirect contribution of the stakeholder groups

that each of the Congress members represent to the development and advancement of Australian football in all its facets, from grassroots participation through to community, semi-professional and professional club football, and Australia's national teams.

E. ROLE OF CONGRESS AND BOARD INDEPENDENCE

- The role of the Congress should continue as currently set out in the FFA Constitution. It should be responsible for electing the FFA Board and for amending the FFA Constitution.
- The day to day management of FFA's business should continue to be the responsibility of the FFA Board and its management team.
- Expansion of the Congress should occur in such a way as to ensure the independence of the FFA Board. Board independence is the foundation of the governance system for Australian football, conforms with Australian corporate law and reflects corporate governance best practice.
- As custodians of the game and its finances, the reason for and significance of being independent is that FFA's Board members should not favour one area of the game over another but, in line with FFA's Constitution, take decisions in the best interests of the game as a whole.

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