



FFA Circular

Circular No.20-13

3 July 2020

TO THE MEMBERS OF FFA

Cancellation of 2020 FFA Cup and NPL Finals Series competitions

The purpose of this Circular is to provide an update to the members of Football Federation Australia (**FFA**) on the status of both the FFA Cup and National Premier Leagues (**NPL**) Finals Series competitions for 2020.

Following extensive consultation with relevant stakeholders, FFA has regrettably decided to cancel the 2020 instalments of both the FFA Cup and NPL Finals Series due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As you all know, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant disruption to the Australian football calendar. The FFA Cup 2020 Preliminary Rounds have been suspended across the country. So too have the respective Member Federation administered NPL and grassroots competitions. Some NPL and grassroots competitions have resumed/commenced while others are in the process of resuming/commencing, with adjusted fixtures.

This has made scheduling and planning for the FFA Cup and NPL Finals Series competitions extremely challenging. Further, there remains some uncertainty regarding travel restrictions and the re-opening of borders across the country, which impacts on these truly national competitions.

Understandably this news will bring disappointment among Australia's football community, particularly for the 765 FFA Cup participating clubs. This was the second highest number of club entries in the competition's history and we are disappointed that we will not be able to follow their journey and crown a winner for 2020.

The upcoming period now allows FFA the time to continue to work together with the Member Federations, Clubs and other key stakeholders on enhancing future iterations of these competitions, which remain important parts of the eco-system of football in Australia.

Related to this, and as you may already be aware, FFA recently released its '***XI Principles for The Future of Australian Football***' – a living document that outlines eleven principles which we believe will be fundamental to the future growth of Australian football. For more information on the '***XI Principles for The Future of Australian Football***' please follow this [link](#).

Within the principles, FFA highlights the need to ‘reset and rebuild Australian Football products’ within a new landscape beyond COVID-19. We aim to turn this current challenge into an opportunity. The FFA Cup and NPL Final Series must be optimised and enhanced to promote the offering and experience for traditional football fans whilst also appealing to a broader audience. In doing so, FFA will be able to explore innovative broadcast platforms to deliver these competitions to fans.

Yours sincerely



James Johnson
Chief Executive Officer