



Hills Football 2020 Pathway Programs

The intention of this communication is to provide a concise summary of the Hills Football Girls Skill Acquisition Phase (GSAP) Program and the Boys Association Youth League (AYL) programs being delivered. The below will clear up any misunderstanding or confusion presently existing in the Hill community and provides clarity to the respective programs. We recommend that any families or persons that have any questions in respect to the programs contact HFI Office on dan.sheppard@hillsfootball.com.au and/or contact Dan Sheppard (Hills Football Technical Director) on M: 0455 142 591.

Hills Football Board derives its powers through the Deed of Affiliation with Football NSW and its mandate to deliver its Operations through the Hills Strategic Objectives approved by Member Clubs in 2016. The Strategic Objectives notes the following:

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

- To operate Association wide programs which provide the coaching and development opportunities to young players to position them to transition into NSW Institute or NPL teams.
- To provide a Girls SAP program to provide young females living within the Hills Shire the opportunity to develop their football skills and position them for future representative football opportunities should they desire.
- To provide bridging programs, whether at the FNSW competition or Association competition level, which allow young players to move between Community and Elite football at various stages of their development.

FEMALE FOOTBALL

- Develop marketing and development programs that will allow HFI to grow and develop a female football structure that will support a growing strong female football competition.
- To provide the player development and education opportunities at Association and Club level to increase player participation and skill levels.
- Increase the number of female participants involved in the football game at all levels of the association and Member Clubs.

On 26 September 2019 – HFI were awarded two licences GSAP and AYL, through the declaration of leagues process by Football NSW. The HFI Board after much collaboration and discussion decided to design and develop a new program for the delivery of GSAP and AYL for 2020 year.

The Board took its Vision and Mission from the Strategic Objectives,

- The Hills community will see our Association as a centre of excellence in the delivery of the football experience;
- To make football experiences both enjoyable and rewarding;
- Develop all levels of football in the Hills Community;
- Be inclusive and share the enjoyment of the game; and
- Be passionate and committed to football.

GSAP and AYL are integral layers of the Football NSW landscape and play a vital role for the football experience in the Hills community. Professional Footballers Australia (the PFA) has published a pioneering study into the 'Golden Generation' of Australian footballers, delivering an evidence-based framework for the emergence of internationally competitive football talent. The unparalleled project, entitled 'Culture Amplifies Talent: Building a Framework for Golden Generations', was the product of an 18-month undertaking in collaboration with PFA partner and leading sport management university, Victoria University. The key findings from the research include:

- the identification of six (6) key themes that recurred during the development journeys of the Golden Generation that delivered Australia onto the international landscape which were identified as:



- success: passion, family, mentality, environment, practice and pathway;
- the underlying importance of a deep emotional connection between the player and the sport from the earliest possible age that compounded intrinsically as the player matured;
- the fundamental role played by individual clubs in shaping the entire lives of the players and their families, in addition to their football journey;
- the importance of unstructured and informal play; with players spending more than twice as much time from the ages of 5 and 18 engaging in informal play than in formal team training;
- an early exposure to senior football, with players averaging their first appearances within senior competition before reaching the age of 18

More information and full article follow link below:

<http://pfa.net.au/uncategorized/news-pfa-publishes-pioneering-report-into-golden-generation-of-australian-footballers/>

The view of the Board was to develop an innovative new product for both GSAP and AYL, one that was aligned with some key principles by which the association was founded:

- To make Football pathway programs accessible for all that live in the Hills community
- To make Football pathway programs far more affordable as the current pricing model of Clubs and Associations is just too high for some families
- To give all participants clear metrics of performance, physical and football technical
- To provide all participants mentoring, training and coaching on various areas outside of Football to ensure they get trained in various facets that impact our communities, including:
 - Mindfulness
 - Social Awareness and Social Media
 - Bullying and Violence
 - Drug and Alcohol Awareness
 - School Tutoring

Hills Football is not interested in delivering the same type of programs that other Associations and Clubs are and have been delivering for the last 30 years. With the appointment of our Full Time Football Technical Director, Daniel Sheppard, Pathway Football Board Directors, Dino Digiulio and Giulio Martone we have developed a vision and plan for the program that is vastly different, and we are keen and proud to release the program to the community.

WHY PATHWAY PROGRAMS

Important to note that the Board undertook a review of the raw data (member clubs members participating in football at this age), players with registered addresses in Hills geography and playing Football in Associations/Teams outside of the Hills. The data was used to understand the impact of such programs on winter competition.



Rank	Association	Assoc Size	NPL Clubs (Seniors)	NPL Clubs (Youth)	SAP	AYL	Total
1	Manly	18749	2	1	3	1	7
2	Sutherland	18525	3	1	3	1	8
3	Canterbury	16727	12	7	6	0	25
4	Northern Subs	16461	3	2	5	0	10
5	Central Coast	14010	4	1	1	1	7
6	Gladesville Hornsby	12444	4	2	4	1	11
7	Nepean	12335	4	2	3	1	10
8	South Coast	12499	3	3	5	1	12
9	Hills Community	11527	1	2	2	0	5
10	Blacktown	10346	7	5	5	1	17
11	Macarthur	9742	3	3	4	1	11
12	St George	9387	4	4	4	1	13
13	Eastern Subs	8755	6	5	3	0	14
14	Southern Districts	7759	3	6	6	1	16
15	Bankstown	7179	4	3	3	0	10
16	Granville	6380	4	3	3	0	10

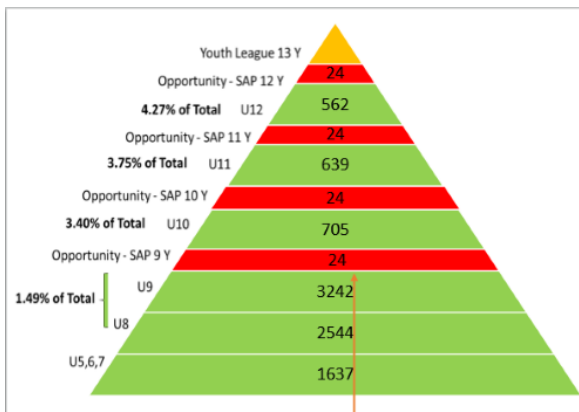
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11	Bankstown	7179	4	3	3	0	10
12	Granville	6380	4	3	3	0	10
13	Sutherland	18525	3	1	3	1	8
14	Manly	18749	2	1	3	1	7
15	Central Coast	14010	4	1	1	1	7
16	Hills Community	11527	1	2	2	0	5



Association Size
(Female/Male Players)

Player Development programs
(Female/Male Players)

Hills Football Pathways – **WHY**



Rank	Association	Assoc Size	NPL Clubs (Seniors)	NPL Clubs (Youth)	SAP	Total
16	Hills Community Opportunity		50	105	160	315
	Hills Community Non Opportunity		203	284	159	646
	% of Total playing outside Hills	11527	80.24%	73.01%	49.84%	67.22%

	Female	Male	Total
% of Total playing outside Hills	151	495	646



Hills Player Development Programs:
(Association Players - Female/Male numbers per age and number of opportunities within the 'current' Hills/FNSW Pathway Programs)

Non Hills Player Development Programs:
(646 Female/Male Players playing for 50 clubs 'outside' Hills/FNSW Pathway Programs)

Hills Football Pathways – **WHY**

GSAP (Girls Skill Acquisition Program)

GSAP should be more familiar to the local community being that Hills Football first engaged in this program as a part time program in 2016 and was developed into a full-time program in 2019. Hills United FC were engaged to deliver the on-field operations on behalf of HFI in 2019. A program that was delivered with professionalism on the field but had its issues off the field. In 2020, will see Hills Football take the lead both on and off the field for the delivery of this program.

Hills Football will continue to engage with the technical department at Hills United, in particular Alex Tobin to ensure the on-field football continues to benefit the local players and aligned with the FFA national curriculum



for the delivery of football enabling the participants to have a clear pathway and opportunity to progress up the representative ladder.

A small select number of girls may play in the boy's program instead of GSAP. However, boys cannot participate in GSAP. The journey of a female football at HFI commences from the Miniroos-Kick-off program and completes at U13 GSAP. Selected players can then make themselves eligible for the Girls Conference League (GCL) U14 which is being operated and delivered by Hills United FC, which continues to U17.

Who can play for Hills GSAP?

- Girls participating in the 2020 U10, 11, 12, 13's grades.
- All players need to live within one of the following "Met West" football association boundaries; Hills Football, Granville District, Nepean and Blacktown in order to be eligible to the Hills Football program (as per FNSW rules).

Who do the GSAP play against?

- The opponents will be made up from the other Associations and "NPL clubs" such as Blacktown Spartans FC, Macarthur Rams, Manly United, St George FA, Sutherland Shire, Illawarra Stingrays and more. GSAP will have a 22-round season.

How many players are in each squad?

- GSAP squad number range but generally are made up of 14 players per squad.

Where are home games played?

- All home games will be played at Bella Vista Public School on Sunday's.

How many nights will training be?

- Maximum of three (3) field sessions (nights to be confirmed) at Bella Vista PS (during winter season)
- Plus one (1) additional night with our strength and conditioning program for U12 and U13.
- Field sessions may also be changed to be friendly games, lectures or other activities to provide the off-field learning areas being targeted.

Total registration cost?

- The Total Registration Cost is \$480 for the 2020 season.
- The program is going to be delivered as a completely self-funded model. The program does NOT require any funds being re-directed or funded through member clubs winter season competition fees.

AYL (Association Youth League)

The AYL competition is constructed from teams that represent Associations across FNSW, these programs are essential, and provide an important role for several reasons.

The AYL competition is positioned as an in-between NPL and Division 1 Youth Football at the Association level. The duration for the AYL is consistent with that of the NPL Program with a 22-round season.

AYL has been a successful competition in recent years across NSW in providing a platform for players to still participate with in the FNSW landscape and in many cases assisting players progress into the Boys NPL scene.

In 2020, we will see the first AYL season for the Hills area, bringing Hills Football in line with most Associations and areas across FNSW in order to provide this or other additional layers of the football pyramid.

**Who can play for Hills AYL?**

- Boys participating in the 2020 U13, 14, 15 and 16's grades.
- All players need to live within one of the following football association boundaries; Hills Football, Granville District, Nepean and Blacktown in order to be eligible to the Hills Football program (as per FNSW rules).

Who do the AYL play against?

- The opponents will be made up from the other associations such as Blacktown, Macarthur, Manly, St George, Sutherland and more. These will play under the name of the association, that they are representing.

How many players are in each squad?

- AYL squads are a maximum of 16 players per squad.

Where are home games played?

- All home games will be played at Bella Vista Public School on Saturday's.

How many nights will training be?

- A maximum of three (3) field sessions, and one (1) additional night with our strength and conditioning coaches. This has been all mapped out and the plan is position and age relative. Field sessions may also be changed to be friendly games, lectures or other activities to provide off field learning too. These include life skills and schoolwork assistance.

Total registration cost?

- The Total Registration Cost is \$480 for the 2020 season.
- The program is going to be delivered as a completely self-funded model. The program does NOT require any funds being re-directed or funded through member clubs winter season competition fees.

The Hills Football Community clearly deserves additional pathway programs based on the above-mentioned data and Community sentiment derived from the Information Nights. The overwhelming response to the programs were positive and in fact the Community is desperate for more.

Hills Football have courageously taken the leap with a view to establishing the new baseline in what we believe a pathway program should provide and deliver for the community. We will approach the program with a posture of maturity.

We look forward to you joining us on the journey.

Best Regards

Vargha Zare
Charmain
Hills Football Incorporated