

## **The role of Academies within the MWFA (V7)**

### **Objective,**

To establish a policy document that is approved by the clubs which clearly sets out the role of academies within the MWFA.

We need to have a clear understanding of what is acceptable within the clubs of MWFA. All clubs need to know that they are all playing on a level playing field.

There are many issues which have surfaced because of the growth of private football and club academies within the Manly Warringah area.

The ultimate decision of what role academies play will be up to the clubs, who ultimately will need to conform to the policy.

### **Club Services from private academies:**

MWFA Clubs are incorporated not for profit organisations whereas most private academies are commercial entities seeking to make both a living and profit out of their provision of services.

MWFA Clubs should not be available as a means to further the expansion of academy programs within the commercial goals of a private academy.

The relationship must be solely based on the Club engaging the private academy to perform specific and well defined services for coaching and skills acquisition for their coaches and players. The club must not become nor be perceived to be a branch of the private academy.

Any MWFA club which engages a private academy to provide coaching services or enters into a relationship with a private academy must provide the MWFA with details of the services to be performed and the terms of the relationship with between the club and the private academy.

A club or team cannot be sponsored by a private academy.

A club or team cannot be seen to be endorsing a private academy program. Examples are advertising a private academy on the club's website or on a playing strip, identifying club teams who have training provided by a private academy.

This does not preclude any club engaging a private academy to run school holiday camps and advertising these camps.

Any paid skills coaching provided to individual teams cannot be identified as being provided by an academy in any advertising or academy or club website.

A private academy may be engaged to run age group skills programs for groups of MWFA registered players.

## **Internal Club Academy:**

Where an MWFA Club chooses to form its own academy/development program/train-on squad for the improvement of its own players the MWFA must approve the arrangement. This will be based on the following details:

- a. The name and ownership details of the proposed academy/development program/train-on squad.
- b. The aims and objectives of the proposed academy/development program/train-on squad.
- c. The dates of the proposed academy/ development program/train-on squad.
- d. The venue and times of the proposed academy/ development program/train-on squad.
- e. Costs to participants of the proposed academy/ development program/train-on squad.
- f. Full details of all Coaches or Instructors, including
  - i) Qualifications
  - ii) Current coaching commitments
- g. Certification that all persons who will be working with the players at the proposed academy/development program/train on squad have satisfied all working with children (WWC) requirements.
- h. Copies of any paperwork including
  - i) Advertising or promotional material
  - ii) Application forms
  - iii) Any Rules or Regulations
- i. Where a private academy or external provider is to be used to provide services for the academy, the details of the services and agreement must be provided.

The members of the academy/development program/train-on squad may only come from players registered with the Club.

## **Academy Teams**

FNSW and MWFA organised divisions and competitions are not there to provide an environment in which academies/development programs/train-on squads can further their training programs.

The MWFA recognises that individual football players may feel the need to use academies/development programs/train-on squads for obtaining extra skills training, but the running of a team and the composition of the team should be maintained by the club.

Academies/development program/train-on squads may not enter teams to participate in the MWFA.

Any academy/development program/train-on squads may not subvert this requirement by either:

- Instructing team members to register at a club and not revealing the academy association
- Forming a relationship with a club and then having players move to a club to be in one of the club's teams.

Teams formed in this way will be removed from participation.

### **Team Use of Academies:**

The MWFA recognises that clubs and teams may engage paid services to conduct additional training sessions to assist in skills acquisition by the players, strictly in the role of team trainer.

The MWFA does not want to have elite teams formed based around academies/development programs/train-on squads in any age group, and the participation in any paid skills programs must be totally voluntary.

### **Registration:**

Where an academy/development program/train-on squad provides services on an individual team basis for any teams U18 and below, that usage must be registered with the MWFA.

All persons from an academy providing such training must register with the MWFA as a trainer. Details of the qualifications of the trainer(s) used and proof of their working with children's compliance. Details of the player insurance must be provided.

### **Penalty for Non-Reporting**

Any club or team which fails to report the use of an academy/development program/train-on squad and/or uses trainers from academies who are not registered with the MWFA will be sanctioned by the MWFA, including removal of the team.

Any club which does not declare the engagement or use of an academy to provide training services will be sanctioned by the MWFA and the team may be removed.

### **Team Coach**

For teams U18 and below a person acting in the position of team coach may not receive payment for acting in that position. Any person receiving payment to coach a side needs to be registered as the team trainer.

The MWFA will not register any person who is a paid employee of an academy in the position of a team coach of a team they are paid to train.

**Recruiting of players from other clubs:**

Players registered with other clubs are not to be included in any club academy/development program/train-on squads.

Where a club or team is in a relationship with a academy, players who are registered players at other clubs and also members of any private academy may not move to a club team which receives training from an academy.

Players may not be enticed by a academy to join a club with which it has a relationship for the purposes of joining a team and the academy.

**Insurance and Grounds**

The MWFA has allocation of grounds during the playing season. The allocation of grounds for training by teams and clubs is made by the MWFA. The MWFA may refuse to allow paid training sessions by academies to take place during the MWFA allocated times.

Any training sessions provided by academies must be covered by the appropriate insurance as the FNSW Accident Support Program insurance does not cover paid training provided by academies.

**Academy Participation:**

Membership of an academy/development program/train-on squads must not be used as a basis for the selection of any MWFA team.

A player selected in a team who engages an academy/development program/train-on squad, the player cannot be compelled to pay for any academy services.

A player cannot be prevented from being in a team because they refuse to participate in a paid training program.

All players in a team must be given an opportunity to train. Players cannot be excluded just because they do not pay and must be given the opportunity to train.

**Penalty for Non-Compliance:**

If a team is accepted into a competition and subsequently be found to breach the eligibility condition relating to academies/development programs/train-on squads, that team may be removed from the competition.

**FNSW Rules:**

The MWFA will apply the FNSW rules to its own teams. The FNSW rules for state cup and champion of champion's participation are given below:

- a) Teams will not be permitted to enter the competition if;
- i. The club of the nominated team engages a private academy or other external provider to deliver the match day and/or training of any teams at the club that results in increased fees to the individual player, or
  - ii. The club of the nominated team engages a private academy or other external provider in a model that promotes participation in the private academy to ensure selection in any individual team of the club, or
  - iii. The club of the nominated team endorses or recommends a private academy or other external provider that promotes or offers players a real or perceived “pathway” to a professional football club, either domestic or international, or
  - iv. There is any other formal or informal activity that Football NSW may determine, in its absolute discretion, as constituting a relationship between the club of the nominated team and a private academy or other external provider, and
  - v. The same applies for items i. through iv. should the team engage a private academy or other external provider independently to its club’s direction.
- b) Should a Team be accepted into the competition and subsequently be found to breach the eligibility condition relating to private academies, that team may be removed from the competition