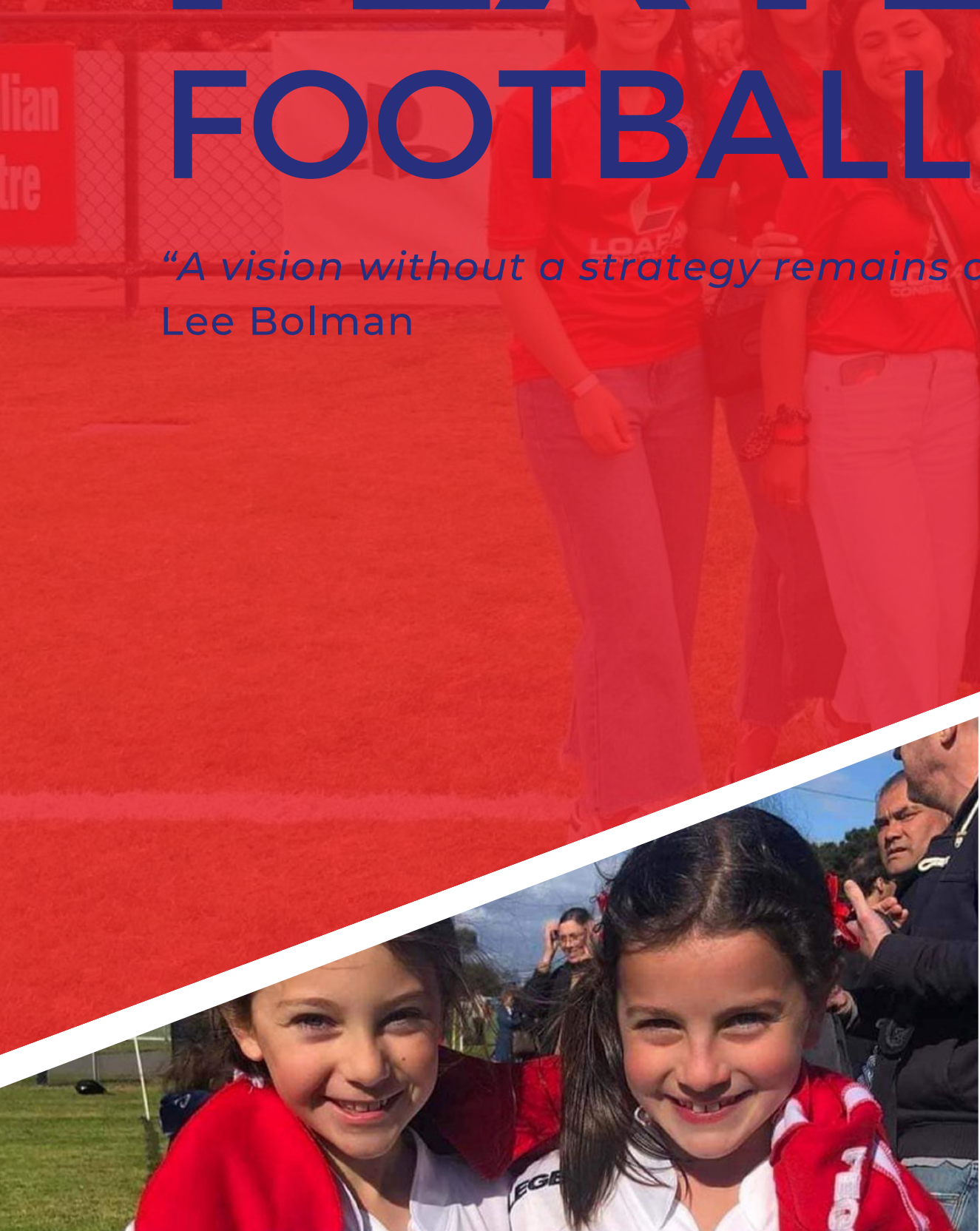


PLAYBOOK FOOTBALL STRATEGY

"A vision without a strategy remains an illusion."
Lee Bolman





CONTENTS

CURRENT STATE

- All ages: *Player pathways and progression opportunities*
- All ages: *Teams & competitions*

BEST PRACTICE

- All ages: *Player position profiles*
- Minirooms: *Selection principles*
- Minirooms: *Team management*
- Minirooms: *Team policies*

FUTURE VISION

- *Future programs*
- *Talent Identification*
- *Academy*

DOCUMENT PURPOSE

To outline the current football structure at North Geelong Warriors FC, and our vision for the near future.



ACADEMY VISION

To be the first choice for the best 5-11 year olds locally and regionally. To offer an academy program with optimal technical, tactical, physical and mental development. To develop decisive, technically-correct, competitive winners.

CURRENT STATE: PLAYER PATHWAYS

PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES



North Geelong Warriors FC senior men currently compete in the National Premier Leagues Victoria, the second tier of Australian football. Our senior women play in Victoria State League 1.

We have hundreds of registered players and coaches across NPL, State League, Melbourne metropolitan and Geelong community competitions.

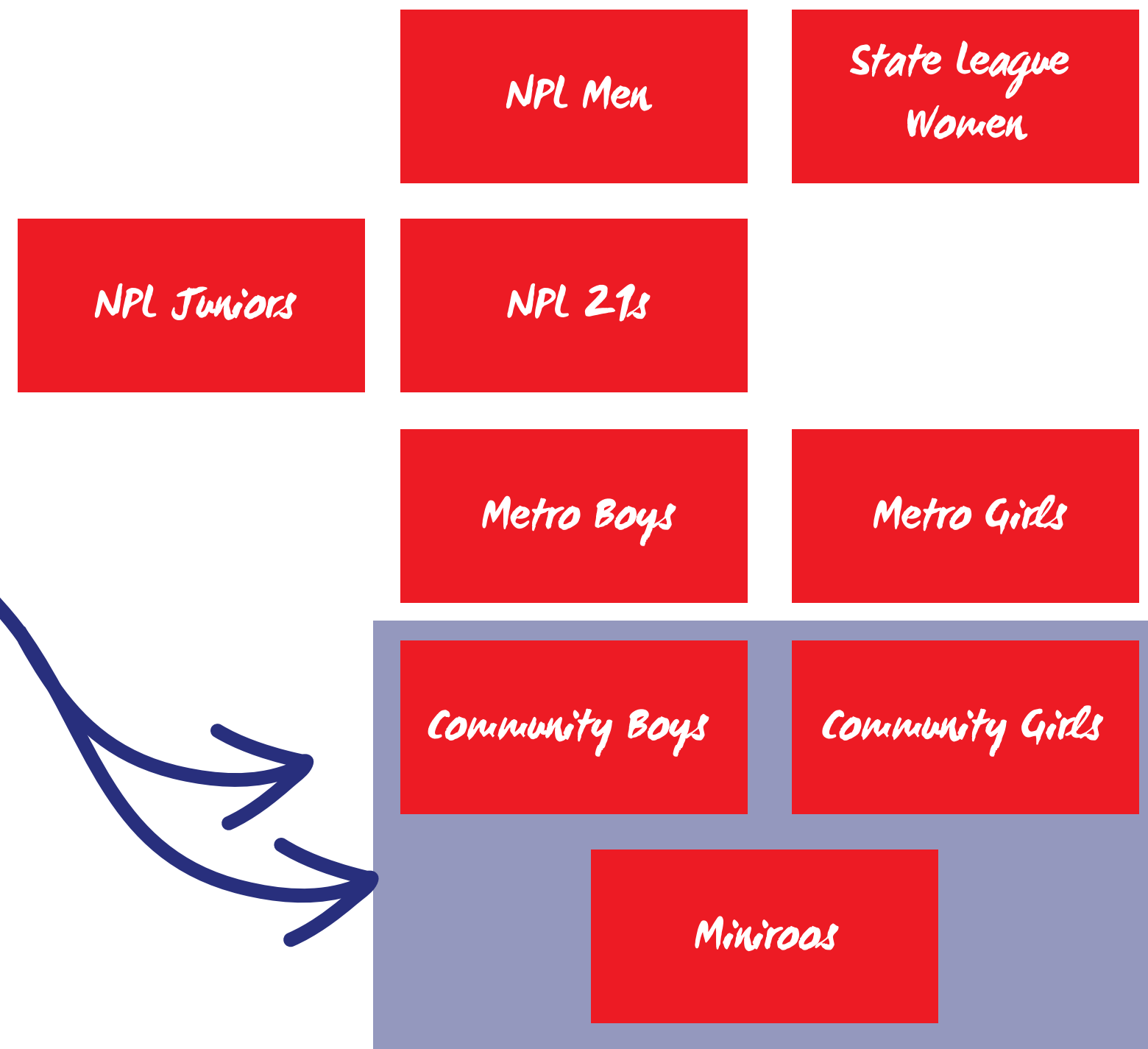
Progression opportunities exist at every level.

CURRENT STATE: PLAYER PATHWAYS

COMMUNITY & MINIROOS

The progression pathway for footballers (soccer players) in Australia typically begins with participation in local community leagues. Such leagues often include programs for young children, called "Miniroos", from where players can progress to higher levels of competition as they gain more experience and skill.

Current player progression pathways

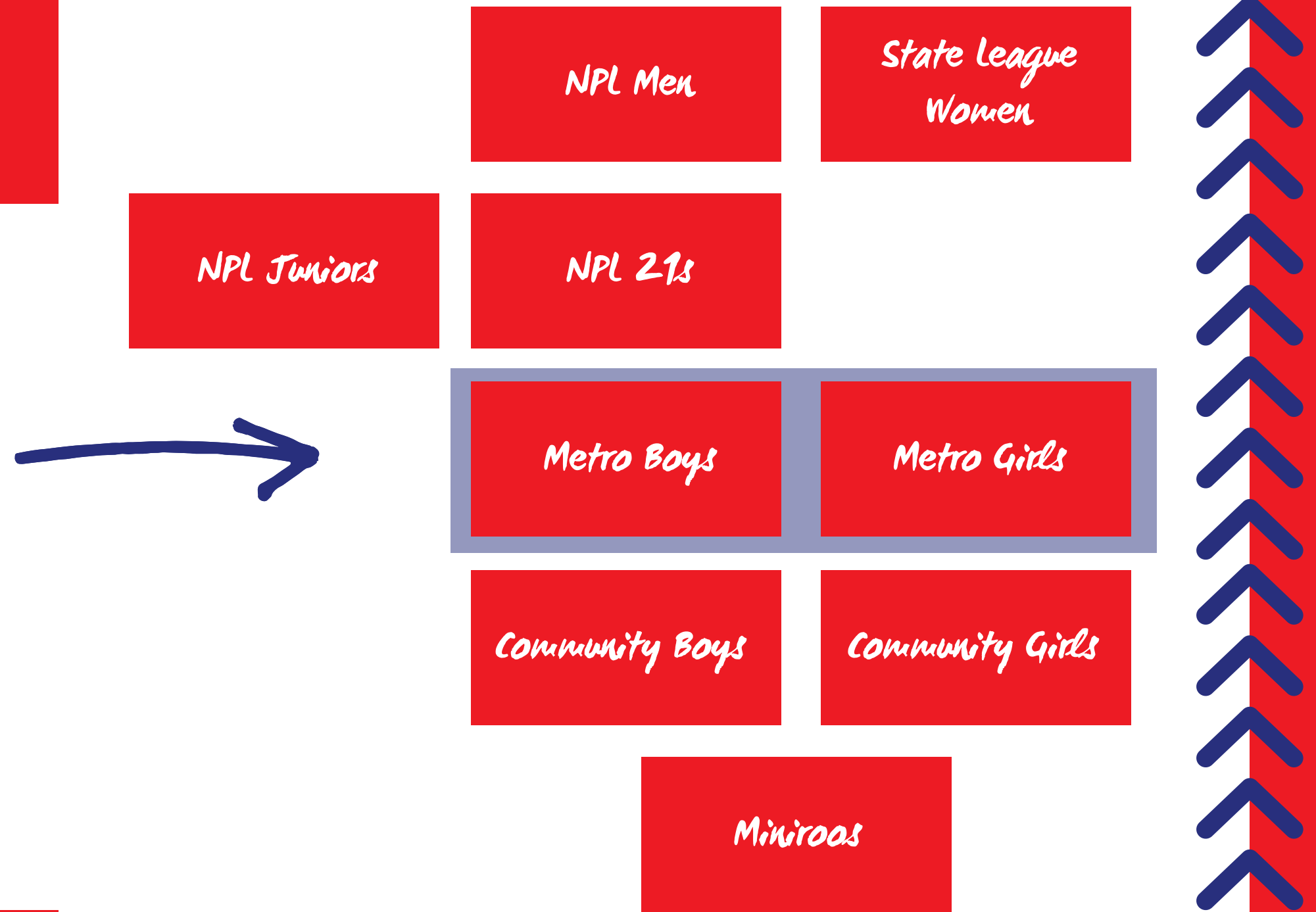


CURRENT STATE: PLAYER PATHWAYS

METROPOLITAN LEAGUE

The next level in the progression pathway is usually Metropolitan (Metro) League, or a regional competition that includes teams from various parts of the city. The Metro League is often seen as a stepping stone to the State League, which is a higher level of competition that involves teams from across the state or territory.

Current player progression pathways



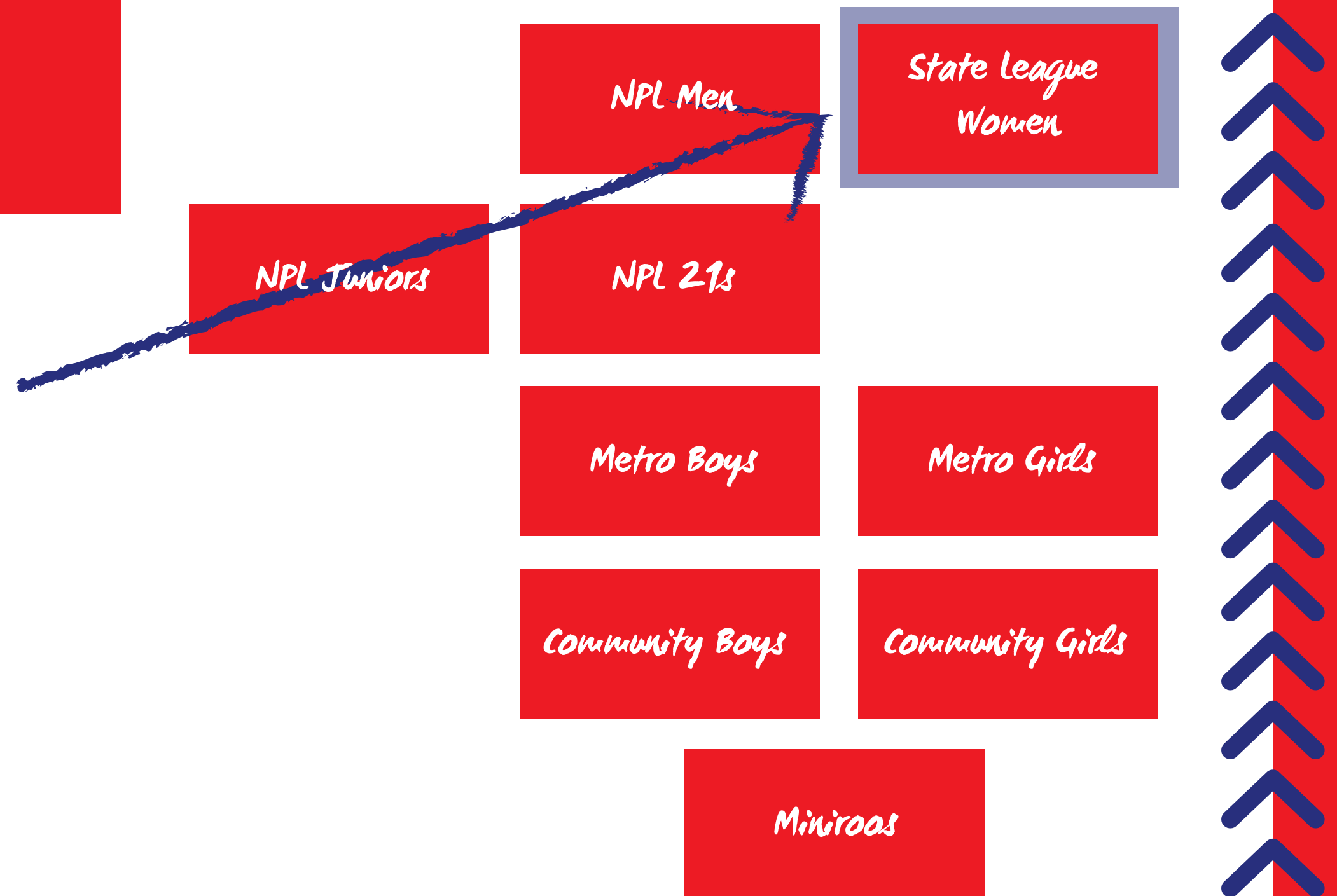
CURRENT STATE: PLAYER PATHWAYS

WOMEN'S

Skilled and motivated female footballers can progress from Metro to State League, with our senior women competing in the State League with a firsts and reserves team.

State League can be a stepping stone to WNPL, state and national representation.

Current player progression pathways



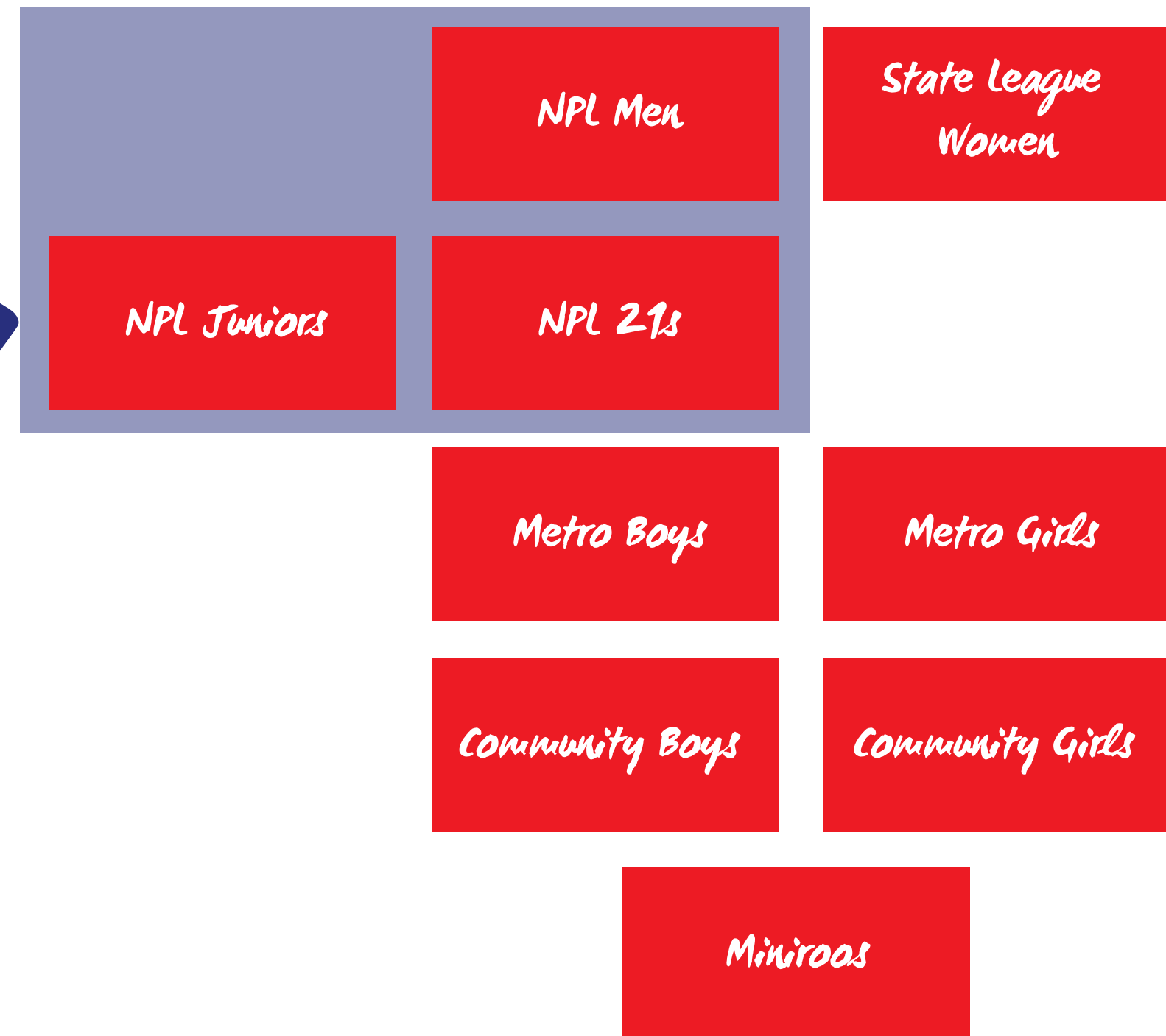
CURRENT STATE: PLAYER PATHWAYS

NPL

At the top of the pathway is the National Premier League (NPL), which is the highest level of competition in the country. The NPL includes teams from different regions of the country and is considered to be a pathway to professional football.

The player pathway is a progression from grassroots community leagues to the highest levels of competition in the country. Each level provides players with new challenges and opportunities for development and progression.

Current player progression pathways



CURRENT STATE: TEAMS & COMPETITIONS



NPL
METRO WOMENS
METRO GIRLS
METRO BOYS
COMMUNITY BOYS & GIRLS
MINIROOS

NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE



North Geelong Warriors (NGWFC) Men and Boys currently compete at this level in NPL1 the highest on offer in Victoria.

- Performance- and development-based competition.*
- Exposed to promotion and relegation.*
- Preseason grading for U14-U18 juniors.*

This pathway leads players who develop and perform the opportunity to progress to A League Academy Programs, Advanced Programs by FV inc TIDC, Victorian and National Representative.

METRO WOMENS



NGWFC currently compete at State League 1 (N/W). The competition requires a Reserves and First team squad. This is the 3rd tier of competition.

- Performance- and development-based competition.*
- Exposed to promotion and relegation.*

This pathway leads players who develop and perform the opportunity to progress to VPL and NPL competitions ahead of prospect for Advanced Programs by FV inc TIDC, Victorian and National Representation.

METRO GIRLS



NGWFC currently compete in the Metro West Competitions U12 and U14.

- Performance- and development-based competition.*
- Preseason grading.*

This pathway leads to Metro Womens.

METRO BOYS



NGWFC currently compete in the Metro West Competitions U12 and U13.

- Performance- and development-based competition.*
- Preseason grading.*

This pathway leads to NPL.

COMMUNITY BOYS & GIRLS



NGWFC currently compete in the FV Geelong Competition from U12 up to U17.

- Development-based competition.*
- Preseason grading may be required to determine team members.*

The exact number of teams differs each year, depending on the number of players who register. Pathways into Metro and NPL are possible.

MINIROOS



NGWFC offer Miniros teams for boys and girls from U5 to U11. Comprised of small teams with an emphasis on social interaction, foundational skill development and transition to match-based games.

- Development/social-based.*

Coaches act as development staff for individual teams; focus is on giving each player as much time on the ball as possible.

BEST PRACTICE: PLAYER POSITION PROFILES



GOALKEEPER
FULL BACK
CENTRE BACK
MIDFIELDER
WINGER
CENTRE FORWARD/STRIKER

GOALKEEPER

- *Our goalkeepers are seen as the first point of attack and an essential player in their team's defensive strategy.*
- *Possess a combination of technical and physical skills. They are confident with their feet and have excellent ball control, allowing them to contribute to the team's possession-based style of play by acting as an additional outfield player when necessary. Their ability to pass the ball accurately and confidently under pressure allows their team to build attacks from the back and maintain control of the game.*
- *In addition to their technical skills, this goalkeeper is also incredibly agile. They possess quick reflexes and are able to make acrobatic saves to keep the ball out of the net. Their agility and quick reactions also make them a formidable opponent during penalty shootouts, where their ability to read the shooter's body language and react quickly can make all the difference.*
- *Finally, this goalkeeper is also strong in the air. They are able to dominate their penalty area during crosses and set-pieces, using their height and jumping ability to punch or catch the ball out of the air with confidence. This skill is particularly important during corner kicks, where the goalkeeper's ability to command their area and make decisive decisions can prevent opposition goals and provide a valuable counter-attacking opportunity.*
- *Overall, this goalkeeper's technical ability with their feet, agility, and strength in the air make them a valuable asset to any team. They are able to contribute to the team's play beyond their role as a shot-stopper, and their athleticism and skill set make them a formidable opponent for any striker.*



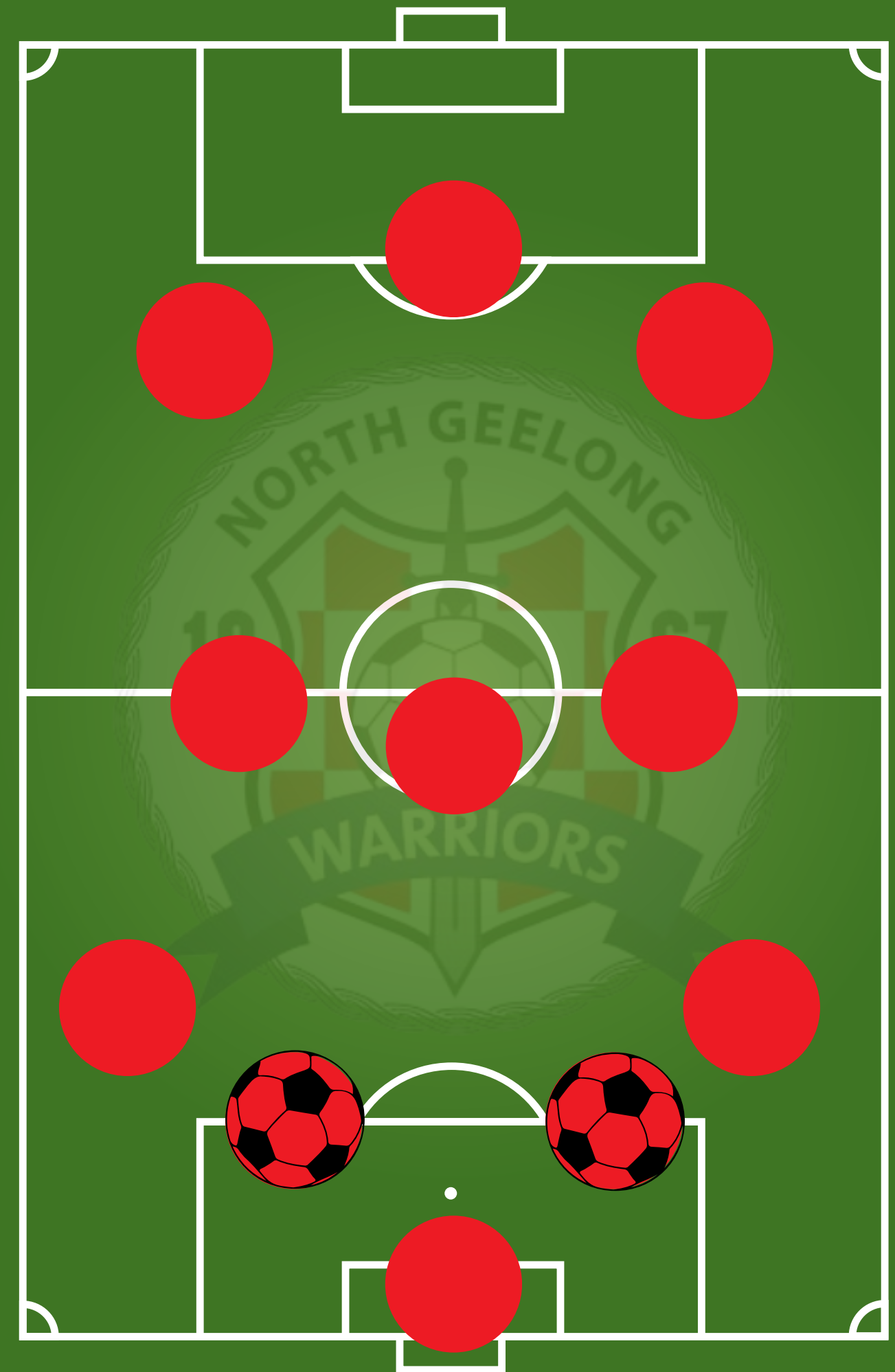
FULL BACK

- Full-backs are a solid defensive player who neutralises the opposition's attacking threats effectively. They are positionally aware, possess excellent tackling skills, and are adept at reading the game, which allows them to anticipate and intercept the opposition's passes effectively. Their strong defensive abilities make them a reliable option for their team, as they are able to provide defensive cover while also contributing to their team's attacking play.
- In addition to their defensive abilities, a full-back also possesses the ability to overlap down the flanks, providing width to their team's attacking play. Their speed and stamina enable them to make overlapping runs repeatedly throughout the game, which helps to create openings in the opposition defence. Their ability to cross accurately from wide positions also makes them a potent attacking threat.
- This full-back also has a range of passing skills, which allows them to launch counter-attacks and switch the play effectively. Their ability to play incisive through-balls and crosses from wide positions also makes them a potent attacking threat. They are also able to combine effectively in midfield, helping their team to retain possession and move the ball up the field.
- Overall, this full-back's solid defensive abilities, overlapping skills, range of passing, speed, and ability to combine in midfield make them an important player for any team. They are able to contribute to the team's attacking play while also providing strong defensive cover, and their versatility and well-rounded skill set make them a valuable asset to any team.



CENTRE BACK

- *The center back is a complete defender with a well-rounded set of skills that make them an integral part of their team's defence. They possess excellent tackling skills and are able to win the ball back from opposition players effectively. Their strength and positioning on the field make them difficult to bypass, and their ability to anticipate the opposition's attacking moves allows them to intercept the ball effectively.*
- *In addition to their defensive abilities, this center back is also confident with their feet and able to contribute to their team's attacking play. They are able to distribute the ball effectively from the back and can launch attacks with accurate long passes. Their ability to carry the ball forward also allows them to combine through the midfield and create opportunities for their teammates.*
- *This center back is also strong in the air, making them a valuable asset during set pieces for and against. They possess excellent heading abilities and are able to score goals or create scoring opportunities from set pieces. Defensively, they are able to clear the ball effectively from danger areas and can neutralise opposition threats.*
- *Furthermore, this center back is also strong in possession and able to play out from the back confidently. They are comfortable with the ball at their feet and can initiate attacks from the back. Their ball control and passing abilities are also key to their team's possession-based style of play.*
- *Overall, this center back's combination of defensive strength, technical ability, and attacking prowess makes them a valuable asset to any team. Their versatility and ability to contribute in both defense and attack make them a well-rounded player, and their tough-to-beat defensive qualities make them a nightmare for opposition attackers.*



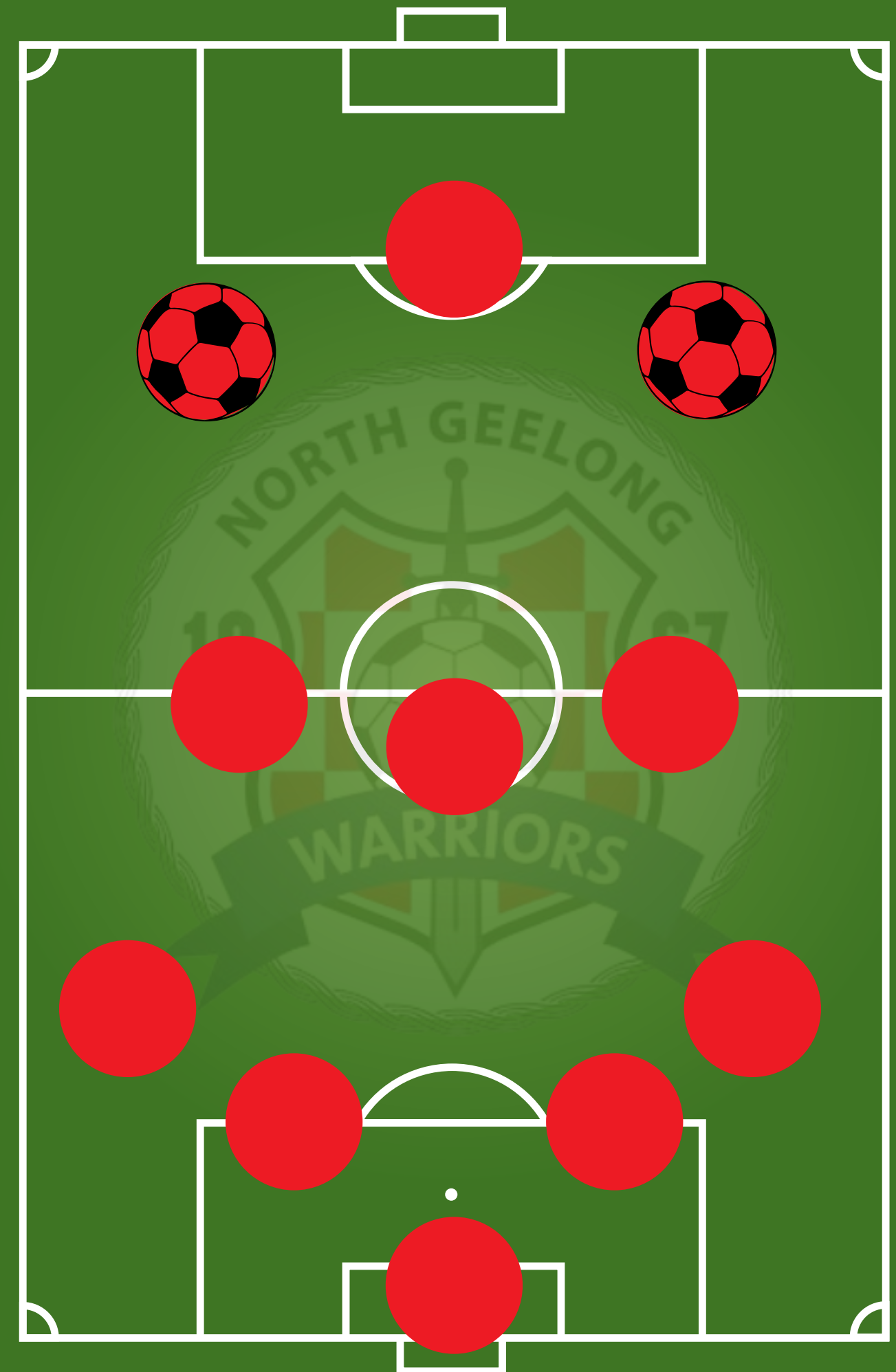
MIDFIELDER

- *The midfielder role is a dynamic player with an exceptional engine, able to cover large areas of the pitch with their strong running and high energy levels. They possess excellent ball-winning skills, able to make confident tackles and interceptions to regain possession for their team. They also have a great range of passing, able to distribute the ball accurately and efficiently to teammates in all areas of the pitch.*
- *In addition to their defensive and passing abilities, this midfielder has the skill to bypass opponents with their dribbling and ball-carrying abilities. They can beat defenders with their quick feet and quick changes of direction, creating space for themselves and their teammates.*
- *This midfielder is also a threat in attack, contributing to goal efforts with their passing and shooting abilities. They are able to read the game well, making intelligent runs into the box and providing a goal-scoring threat from midfield.*
- *Defensively, this midfielder is quick to recover and block passing lanes to help their team regain possession. Their high energy levels allow them to cover ground quickly and close down opposition players effectively.*
- *Another strength of this midfielder is their ability to use both feet equally well. This makes them more versatile and unpredictable, allowing them to pass, shoot, and dribble with ease on either side of the pitch.*
- *Overall, this midfielder is a complete player with a wide range of skills that make them a valuable asset to any team. Their tireless work rate, strong tackling, and great range of passing make them a key player both defensively and offensively.*



WINGER

- *The winger is an explosive player, blessed with incredible speed and quickness. They have excellent dribbling skills, able to take on defenders with ease and create space for themselves and their teammates. They also have great crossing abilities, able to deliver accurate and dangerous crosses into the box.*
- *Defensively, this winger is not afraid to put in a shift and help out their full back. They have the ability to track back and defend, as well as the skill to recover and get back into attacking positions quickly. They can also swap through the midfield, providing additional support for the central players.*
- *This winger is a significant attacking threat, with a keen eye for goal and an ability to shoot from distance. They are not only a great provider of assists but also a goal-scoring threat themselves. They have a knack for cutting in from the opposite side and creating opportunities for themselves to score or set up their teammates.*
- *Furthermore, this winger has a high level of energy and is very durable, able to keep up their speed and skill levels throughout the game. This allows them to maintain a high level of performance throughout the match and make an impact on the game until the final whistle.*
- *Overall, this winger is a complete package, combining speed, dribbling skills, great crossing abilities, the ability to recover and help the defense, an attacking threat with shots on goal, cutting in from the opposite side, and durable energy. They are a valuable asset to any team, providing an attacking outlet and an additional defensive presence on the flanks.*



CENTRE-FORWARD/ STRIKER

- *The centre forward/striker is a versatile player, possessing excellent ball control and dribbling skills. They are able to combine well with midfielders and wingers, creating dangerous attacking opportunities for the team. They are also useful if handy in the air, able to contest aerial duels and hold up play to bring other players into the game.*
- *Confidence to take on opponents is a significant trait of this striker, creating movement to displace opposition defenders and provide options to open up the defence. They use their quick feet and explosive speed to create separation from defenders, allowing them to get into dangerous positions to take shots on goal.*
- *Powerful and accurate shots and headers are a strength of strikers. They are a clinical finisher, able to strike the ball with both power and precision with both feet. Their heading ability is also impressive, able to direct headers towards goal with accuracy.*
- *Defensively, this striker is the first line of defence, pressing opposition defenders and forcing them into mistakes. They use their speed and energy to close down defenders and make life difficult for the opposition's backline. They are also not afraid to track back and defend from the front when necessary.*
- *Overall, this striker is a complete package, combining good feet, the ability to combine with midfielders and wingers, aerial prowess, ability to hold up play, confidence to take on opponents, creating movement to displace defenders, powerful and accurate shots and headers, and the first line of defence. They are a valuable asset to any team, providing both attacking and defensive contributions on the pitch.*



BEST PRACTICE: SELECTION PRINCIPLES



The following principles are a guide for selecting players for Miniroos teams. This should be a fun and rewarding process for coaches and players alike.



SELECTION PRINCIPLES

- *NGWFC cultivates a supportive atmosphere for footballers throughout the club. Equipping them with the skills to become effective leaders and contributors in the sporting community. Our focus on football excellence not only sets the stage for players to achieve success in their futures but also fosters a sense of knowledge and comprehension. We aim to keep the focus on the entire learning journey and not the year ahead in isolation with one specific team.*
- *We consider all the players available at any given point. Take into our evaluation, how you we provide a learning environment that promotes acceptance and teamwork, that all team and club mates should share time together in their learning cycle to appreciate the diverse groups we belong to and how we can foster a safe and comfortable community. These are essential skills as they are taught in a school environment*
- *Selection should only begin from U9 onwards and not earlier. Evidence has supported that at U9 the early signs of players wishing to accelerate learning and adapt to changes can be identified and with the right support encouraged through the player's lifecycle.*
- *Remember, the most important thing is to create a fun and inclusive environment for all players. So, make sure to give everyone a fair chance and to provide opportunities for players to develop their skills and confidence. Remember this is a guide and to always refer to the club's football director and senior technical members, providing you the opportunity to validate your process and provide the club with transparency in its process.*

MINIROOS SELECTION PRINCIPLES

SKILLS PROFILE

The first step is to assess the players' skills. Look for players who show good ball control, passing, and dribbling skills. Also, consider their ability to play as a team member, their communication skills, and their willingness to learn as well as game awareness attributes.

PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES

The physical attributes of a player are also important. Look for players who are agile, quick, and have good stamina. Consider their height, weight, and overall fitness level. There are other factors to consider also such as verbal communication and body language.

ATTITUDE

The attitude of a player is crucial. Look for players who are positive, enthusiastic, and willing to work hard. Also, consider their ability to take feedback and criticism, their sportsmanship, and their willingness to support their teammates.

AVAILABILITY

Make sure to consider players who are available for training and matches. Look for players who are committed and willing to attend practices and games regularly.

AGE

Finally, consider the players' age. Make sure they fall within the age range for your miniroos team.

BEST PRACTICE: TEAM MANAGEMENT



Managing players who miss training and matches can be a challenging task for coaches. Following are some general steps you can take to manage players who miss training and matches.

Remember, the goal is to create a positive and supportive environment for all players. Make sure to communicate openly and fairly with all players, provide support when needed, and consistently enforce team policies to establish accountability and promote a positive team culture.

TEAM MANAGEMENT

COMMUNICATE

Start by communicating with the player who missed training or the match. Find out the reason for their absence and discuss the importance of attending training and matches. Let them know how their absence affects the team and the consequences of missing training and matches.

TRACK ATTENDANCE

Keep track of attendance for all players. This will help you identify players who are regularly absent and develop a plan to address the issue.

FOLLOW TEAM POLICIES

Make sure you have clear policies and guidelines for attendance and communicate them to all players and their parents/guardians. Consistently enforcing these policies will help establish accountability and promote a positive team culture.

PROVIDE SUPPORT

If a player is missing training or matches due to personal or family issues, offer support and resources to help them manage their situation. This can include connecting them with community resources or offering individual training sessions to help them catch up.

ESTABLISH CONSEQUENCES

If a player consistently misses training or matches without a valid reason, establish consequences. This could include sitting out the next game or limiting their playing time. Be sure to communicate the consequences clearly and fairly to all players.

BEST PRACTICE: TEAM POLICY



Team policies regarding non-attendance is subjective as there could be an array of reasons to consider. Our club's general guidelines follow.

Remember, the goal of having team policies for non-attendance is to promote accountability, responsibility, and a positive team culture. Make sure to communicate the policies clearly, enforce them consistently, and be open to feedback and suggestions from players and their families.

TEAM POLICY

ATTENDANCE

Establish clear guidelines for attendance at practices, games, and other team events. Communicate these guidelines to all players and their parents/guardians at the beginning of the season and make sure everyone understands the expectations. If sessions or matches are missed with valid reasons the coach can elect to manage the game time accordingly.

COMMUNICATION

The coach will take note of attendance and flag with the player's family and Minirooms co-ordinators for transparency.

NOTIFICATION

Require players to notify the coach or team manager in advance if they are going to miss a practice or a game. This can help the coach plan for the session and ensure the team has enough players for the session/match.

REASONABLE ABSENCE

Distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. Excused absences are those that are due to a valid reason such as illness or a family emergency, while unexcused absences are those that are not justified. As a guide the same reasons you need to provide school for absence apply at the club.

CONSEQUENCES

Establish consequences for unexcused absences, options can include limiting playing time. Make sure to communicate the consequences clearly to all players and their parents/guardians and be consistent in enforcing them. This is naturally more of an impact to squads where talent ID is occurring and with social based teams, we try to continue that aspect. However, it is a team sport and we want everyone in and enjoying themselves whilst learning.

APPEALS PROCESS

The established appeals process for players who feel they were unjustly penalised for non-attendance is to speak with co-ordinators who will assess and consider the information in consultation with all parties. Under no circumstances are coaches and families to handle the appeals process between themselves. For transparency and clarity, it is important for the club to handle such matters. This can include a meeting with the coach or team manager to discuss the situation and identify a solution but run through the co-ordinators initially.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

ACADEMY 8-12 YEARS OLD

Additional program to build further on the growth and development of a player in Skill Acquisition seeking to achieve a spot in the METRO/NPL Squads. Provides METRO/NPL Staff visibility of players to potentially select in-season for a promotional call up or to be prepared in post season selections for the following year. Emphasis is to prepare further for the physical, tactical and technical elements required to compete in METRO/NPL. Also a building program for developing coaches and management staff to build on their skills and help transition into NPL coaches.

SKILL ACQUISITION (SAP)

Skills for U7 to U11 where further game awareness features particularly U9 and U11 aged players. Focus on players who are developing through the regular MINI ROOS Program aimed to prepare players for the transition to full field competition. Guidance for coaches to build on skills to prepare to the transition ages also.



FUTURE PATHWAYS

PROGRESSION



NPL Men

NPL Women

NPL J18

NPL 21s

WNPL
J18

WNPL 19s

Metro Boys



Metro Girls

Academy

Community Boys

Community Girls

Miniroos



A really great talent
finds its' happiness in
execution.

-Goethe





TALENT IDENTIFICATION

RUNNING WITH BALL

Identifying space, attack space with speed.

1v1 SKILLS

Ability to take on opponents, shielding, change of direction, dribbling under pressure in tight areas.

STRIKING THE BALL

Passing, shooting, crossing, heading.

FIRST TOUCH

Immediately ready to play on, in the right direction, away from opponent.

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

Two footedness, agility, balance and co-ordination, ability to learn and be coachable, eagerness and perseverance, winning mindset (with humility).

NGWFC ACADEMY

Develop, motivate and retain the best natural talent by providing the best possible experience.

Fulfilling potential, achieving greatness.



FUTURE: ACADEMY SETTING THE BENCHMARK

FUN...damentals. We are family.

THE
WARRIORS

Individually tailored,
whole-person
programs.

Train to develop.
Matchplay for
experience.

Technical
Tactical
Physical
Mental

Play with pride
Passion
Perseverance
Professionalism