



FOOTBALL FEDERATION
TASMANIA

FROM THE DESK OF THE TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

2 APRIL, 2010

As the football season gets fully underway, so come the first of the national youth championships.

Next week, in Canberra, the under 13 females and under 13 males will take on the rest of the nation. For the females it is particularly notable. This is the first time we have entered a team at that age group at the nationals. The females will play games on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and the males play Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The competition is not only following a format of two shortened games per day for each team, but there are bonus points up for grabs for the teams that are seen to be following Football Federation Australia's national curriculum the best. That includes playing a 1-4-3-3 system and playing a possession game out from the back. The bonus points will be awarded by FFA observers, with a maximum of three available at the end of the tournament.

All the state teams are under instructions to play the same way, the key is which of them adhere to it come what may. In the lead up to the nationals, the Tasmanian under 13 male goalkeepers, for example, were banned from kicking the ball clear from their hands. It had to be played out from a throw or with the goalkeeper putting the ball down and playing it out with his feet. It has cost some goals, but so be it.

During recent friendlies in Launceston, the under 14 and under 13 male State teams won plaudits for the way they were playing the game, with both groups, especially the under 14s, playing against teams with players up to three years older.

Elsewhere, the under 15 male state team has begun its competitive season in Division One. The going will be tough, as demonstrated by a 5-1 loss to Hobart United, but the key is player development and the only way that will be achieved is by putting the boys in a competitive environment in which they have to adjust and learn.

Hobart United had already beaten the Tasmanian Institute of Sport 3-1, which helps put the State teams defeat into perspective.

It also has to be said that the TIS has been more than holding its own in the Premier Reserves and Summer Cup competitions. The team has been putting on some terrific demonstrations of possession football.

As we develop our young players, it is better to lose playing the right way than to kick the ball as far as possible down the field and hope for the best. Going down a new road will take time and require patience, but it is the only way to go.

*Footnote: *Some FFT regional development teams are still looking for coaches, namely the South Under 13 and Under 14 females and the North West Under 14 males. Please contact the FFT office if you are interested in one of these positions.