



**AFL Queensland strongly discourages players from changing clubs to play Division One football at under 16 or lower age groups.**

**The belief that it will enhance the players selection in State teams are not in fact true, AFL Queensland believe players can access quality training and games through the regional representative teams such as the Raiders without swapping clubs.**

**If at Under 16 level a player feels he is not getting the adequate level of Competition, he should either access Under 18 Football at his own club which is run by AFL Queensland not a junior League so that player can be registered for both, or if not available at his club he should sign with an Under 18 team within his region.**

**He then through negotiation between his existing club and the under 18 team he has signed with work out a schedule of games when he could possibly play at each level.**

**An easier method is for the player to play under 18 football and if not selected goes back to his original club to play under 16 football.**

**AFL Queensland recommends any member of the Young Scorpions under 16 State team in any given year should have access to playing some under 18 club football.**

**We strongly are against aggressive recruitment by Division One clubs in approaching players from lower Divisions which may in fact affect the ability of those lower division teams to field sides.**

**With the sustained growth of Junior Club football expected over the next few years, consultation and a range of initiatives needs to be implemented to fully develop the individual in a strong club environment.**

**AFL Queensland has requested assistance from the AFL to assist to develop Junior Competitions that will cater for the needs of all participants.**

**A current example of a program an identified talented u16 player will have access to in the next twelve months would be**

**October 2003            Attend a regional football academy one night per week for skills work.**

<b>Late November</b>	Commence football training with his regional Under 18 team maximum two nights per week plus attend regular State Academy sessions
<b>February</b>	Train with his regional under 16 team while still attending Academy sessions.
<b>March</b>	Play for his club in regional club days as part of selection process for selection in final thirty at regional level.
<b>April</b>	Train one or two nights per week with his regional team, attend club training and play for his club.
<b>May</b>	Play in State u16 Championships.
<b>May, June and July</b>	Attend State training two nights per week and play in a series of trials against quality opposition including other States and Under 18 rep team.
<b>Early July</b>	Compete at AFL National Championships in Sidney.
<b>August/Sept</b>	Play in Club finals plus State players if Queensland finish in the first two at the National Championships in Division Two play the final at the MCG on AFL Grand Final day.
<b>Mid September</b>	If selected attend first AFL/AIS academy camp in Adelaide
<b>Late October 2004</b>	