

## MEDIA RELEASE

Football Queensland today announced the composition of both the 2010 State League and the Youth State League.

This season, the senior competition will include eight teams over three rounds kicking off on the weekend of the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March 2010. Those teams are Brisbane Strikers, Bundaberg Spirit, Capricorn Cougars, FNQ Bulls, NQ Razorbacks, Queensland Academy of Sport, Sunshine Coast FC and Whitsunday Miners. The youth competition will be split into two groups to include all of the above teams plus representation from Gold Coast and South West Queensland zones.

CEO Geoff Foster said “we are delighted to welcome Gold Coast into the Youth League and expect to identify talented players who will progress to the Gold Coast United youth squad. It is a significant addition to our elite youth development program and will provide great opportunity to the youngsters in that region.”

When asked about two teams from Brisbane, Foster responded “given the 28,000 participants in Brisbane, the limited positions available through the Brisbane Strikers will be highly valued and will be at a premium. Given the current review of the Football Brisbane Men’s competition, we will work with them to consider options for season 2011. We believe that four teams from Brisbane is an appropriate number but it is critical we offer positions to Clubs that satisfy our elite youth development ambitions. We have not invited any new Brisbane based Clubs to participate in the 2010 League.”

Foster confirmed that The Board is absolutely committed to the League and cites that some of its’ successes including crowds exceeding 1500, players Tommy Oar, Adam Sarota, Matt Smith, Matt Ham, Jerrad Tyson signed A-League contracts, 15 players secured National Youth League agreements and the creation of a High Performance Unit to service Northern Queensland, as all being exceptional achievements that would not have been possible without the League.

“The League is a critical plank in both FFA and Football Queensland’s ambitions to develop technically proficient players and coaches and we welcome those who wish to be challenged at this level” Foster said.