2025 FV COMMUNITY FINALS & PLAYOFFS

PARTICIPATING TEAM GUIDE

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GENERAL INFORMATION

As the 2025 season draws to a close, teams across all eligible Community Football Competitions will gear up for the excitement of Finals! The Finals Series is a celebration of the season's achievements and a chance for teams to compete for championship glory, promotion, or simply to finish the year on a high.

Finals formats may vary depending on the competition structure. Most leagues will conclude with either a Finals Series and/or Promotion Playoffs. League Premiers may also be invited to compete against top teams from other zones in a Finals Series.

For teams in stand-alone leagues (where no equivalent age/gender competition exists), a tailored Top Four Finals Series will be organised to ensure a competitive and rewarding finish to the season. More details can be found in the document below.

FINALS & PLAYOFF DATES

COMPETITION	DATES
VETO SPORTS State League Men's 1, 2 & 3 Grand Finals	Saturday 20 September 2025
VETO SPORTS State League Men's 4 & 5 Semi Finals/Grand Finals	Saturday 13 September 2025/ Saturday 20 September 2025
VETO SPORTS State League Women's 1 & 2 Grand Finals	Saturday 13 September 2025
VETO SPORTS State League Women's 3, 4 & 5 Semi Finals/Grand Finals	Sunday 14 September 2025/ Sunday 21 September 2025
Men's Metropolitan Under 21A Grand Final	Sunday 14 September 2025
Men's Metropolitan Under 21B Semi Finals/Grand Final	Sunday 14 September 2025/ Sunday 21 September 2025
Men's Metropolitan League 1 Semi Finals/Grand Final	Sunday 14 September 2025/ Sunday 21 September 2025
Men's Metropolitan Leagues 2 to 9 Grand Finals	Sunday 14 September 2025
Men's Metropolitan Masters Leagues Semi Finals/Grand Final	Sunday 14 September 2025/ Sunday 21 September 2025
Juniors Mixed & Girls (Saturday)	See Appendix 1
Juniors Mixed & Girls (Sunday)	See Appendix 1
Geelong Region Leagues (Seniors & Juniors)	See Appendix 2

All specific fixture information and teams will be updated upon completion of the Regular Season.

Mid-week fixtures will be included if matches are postponed or abandoned and need to be rescheduled for the Finals or Promotion/Relegation Playoffs to proceed. FV reserves the right to alter any fixture as required and all changes will be communicated to Clubs as soon as possible.

RULES OF COMPETITION

All matches of the 2025 Community Finals Series & Promotion/Relegation Playoffs will be conducted under the 2025 Rules of Competition except where varied within this document.

FINALS FORMATS

Guides regarding specific finals formats are available via the links below:

- Senior Competitions
- Junior Competitions
- Geelong Region Competitions

ELIMINATION FINALS FORMAT (EF) (RULE 22.1.2.A.)

i. If there are two (2) Leagues in a particular age and grade level across all zones, the Premiers of the two (2) respective Leagues will play each other in a one-off Grand Final; or
ii. there are four (4) Leagues in a particular age and grade level across all zones, the Premiers of each League will be fixtured in a Semi Final/Grand Final Format; or
iii. If there is a Standalone League (i.e., there is only one League in a particular age and grade level across all zones), the top four (4) Teams from that League at the end of the Regular Season will be fixtured in a Semi Final/Grand Final Format
iv. If there are five (5), six (6), seven (7), eight (8) or nine (9) Leagues in a particular age and grade level across all zones, the top four (4) Premiers will be fixtured in a Semi Final/Grand Final Format.

HOST VENUES

Venues for the 2025 FV Finals & Promotion/Relegation Playoffs have been selected based on their ability to accommodate specific finals formats and cater for teams, referees and supporters. Host venues will be responsible for but not limited to:

- Pitch line marking, corner flags, goal nets, stretchers, first aid kits and match standard lighting (if applicable);
- Three (3) match balls per fixture;
- Clean, accessible and secure change rooms and toilets for teams, match officials; and patrons;
- A designated area for FV staff;
- Canteen facilities for participants and patrons.

CHANGE ROOMS

For venues that host simultaneous fixtures on multiple pitches, FV will provide a roster allocation for the use of change rooms. Teams will be allocated to change rooms in 15-minute blocks and are expected to vacate the change room for the next user in a timely manner.

Clubs are advised not to leave their belongings in the change rooms after their allocated time slot.

MATCH OFFICIALS & FEES

In the event FV cannot appoint Match Officials/Assistant Referees or they do not attend their allocated finals fixtures, participating teams must refer to rule 5.3 of the 2025 Rules of Competition.

Match Official fees will be split between the competing teams of each fixture. Clubs will be invoiced for these fees (Appendix 3) via the Club Finance System for all Junior, Metropolitan Men's, and Metropolitan Masters' Finals.

State League Men's & Women's Finals & Playoff Fees will be covered by FV.

GROUND MARSHALS

Each team must provide ground marshals for each fixture as per 3.4 of the 2025 Rules of Competition (Appendix 4). The host Club is not expected to provide ground marshals for any fixture.

SPECTATOR BEHAVIOUR

Clubs with teams participating in Finals/Playoffs are responsible for the behaviour of all spectators associated with their Club as directed in Schedule 8 of the 2025 Rules of Competition. The host Club may remind individuals of the relevant Codes of Behaviour but is ultimately not responsible for spectator behaviour.

CLASH STRIP/ALTERNATIVE STRIP

Teams listed second in a fixture will be the designated 'Away Team' as outlined under 3.5 of the 2025 Rules of Competition and are responsible for providing an alternate strip in the event of a strip clash. If no alternate strip is provided within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick off time, the designated 'away' team will forfeit the fixture.

All Teams must bring both Home & Clash Strips to respective fixtures to ensure games can take place without delay.

Table 3.5 – Clashes and Permissions

	SLM	SLW	Juniors	Metro & Masters
PLAYING SHIRT	No Clash Permitted	No Clash Permitted	No Clash Permitted	No Clash Permitted
SHORTS	Clash Permitted	Clash Permitted	Clash Permitted	Clash Permitted
SOCKS	No Clash Permitted	No Clash Permitted	Clash Permitted	Clash Permitted

Please note that bibs are only permitted to be worn where a clash occurs in Under 12 and Under 13 Competition fixtures only.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Clubs that play in the 2025 Finals Series must complete the Player Eligibility Roster online form by Thursday 11th of September for Metropolitan & Geelong Juniors Competitions, including a contact name and number for that team. This can be completed by clicking HERE.

All suspensions from the regular 2025 home and away season will carry over.

Players that receive a Red Card during the FV 2025 Finals or Promotion/Relegation Playoffs will automatically miss the next FV Competition Fixture and may be subject to any further sanction in accordance with the GDT.

Matches are to proceed as scheduled, even if there are concerns about the eligibility of a player/s on the basis, of suspension or their qualification for the FV 2025 Finals for that team.

Any concerns about player eligibility should be raised immediately after the conclusion of the match with the FV staff member present at the venue and via the FV Competitions Weekend line (0400 028 335). Reports will be investigated, and any team subsequently found by FV to have played an ineligible player will forfeit the FV 2025 Finals match/es in which the ineligible player participated.

If a Club is uncertain about the eligibility of one or more of their players for the FV 2025 Finals please contact FV Competitions as soon as possible on 9474 1800, press 2 or 0400 028 335 (FV Weekend line).

EXTRA TIME

Extra time will apply as below if scores are tied at the end of Normal Time of an Elimination or Playoff fixture.

AGE GROUP	DURATION OF MATCHES – NORMAL TIME	APPLICABLE EXTRA TIME
Mixed Under 12	2 x 30 min halves (= 60 mins)	2 x 5 min halves
Mixed Under 13	2 x 30 min halves (= 60 mins)	2 x 5 min halves
Mixed Under 14	2 x 30 min halves (= 60 mins)	2 x 5 min halves
Mixed Under 15	2 x 35 min halves (= 70 mins)	2 x 10 min halves
Mixed Under 16	2 x 40 min halves (= 80 mins)	2 x 10 min halves
Boys' Under 17	2 x 40 min halves (= 80 mins)	2 x 10 min halves
Boys' Under 18	2 x 45 min halves (= 90 mins)	2 x 15 min halves
Girls' Under 12	2 x 30 min halves (= 60 mins)	2 x 5 min halves
Girls' Under 13	2 x 30 min halves (= 60 mins)	2 x 5 min halves
Girls' Under 14	2 x 30 min halves (= 60 mins)	2 x 5 min halves
Girls' Under 15	2 x 35 min halves (= 70 mins)	2 x 10 min halves
Girls' Under 16	2 x 40 min halves (= 80 mins)	2 x 10 min halves
Girls' Under 17	2 x 40 min halves (= 80 mins)	2 x 10 min halves
Girls' Under 17/18	2 x 45 min halves (= 90 mins)	2 x 15 min halves
Seniors'	2 x 45 min halves (= 90 mins)	2 x 15 min halves

PENALTIES

If, at the conclusion of an Elimination Finals fixture, the scores between the Teams are tied, extra time of two equal periods will be used to decide the winner. Should the scores be level at the end of extra time penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game to determine the winner of the Final.

COMPETITION SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

The following outlines competition specific regulations which apply in conjunction to the Rules stated above, however are unique to specific competition Finals and/or Playoffs.

Information regarding the Finals & Playoffs formats for respective competitions can be found in the relevant 2025 Rules of Competition.

COMPETITION	REGULATION
State League Men's Finals and Playoffs	14. SLM Finals Series (p.52-53)
State League Women's Finals	19. SLW Finals Series (p.68-69)
Men's Metropolitan & Under 21 Leagues	26.1. Finals Series (p.96-97)
Men's Metropolitan Masters	26.2. Finals Series (p.97-98)
Juniors	22. Junior Finals Series (p.84-85)
Geelong Region	28. Geelong Region Finals Series (p. 101-103)

JUNIORS

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- Players must have been named on the match record for a minimum of four (4) Competition Fixtures within the Regular Season to be eligible to participate for that team in the Finals Series and subject to player restriction regulations.
- Player ID Cards are required at all 2025 Junior Finals fixtures. Hardcopy ID cards must include photos uploaded to Play Football. Player ID cards with a photo attached after printing of the card are invalid. ID cards presented in electronic format, including but not limited to smart phones, tablets, laptops and computers are valid.
- A player that receives a Red Card during the Junior Final Series will automatically miss the next Competition Fixture (whether or not that fixture is a Final) and may be subject to further sanction in accordance with the GDT.
- If a Club has two (2) teams in "A" competitions, then Players are team-tied from the fifth (5th) round FV Competition Fixture and will remain team-tied for the Finals Series.
    - Players playing up in age group will be exempt from the above Regulation in accordance with Regulation 20.1.9 from the 2025 Rules of Competition.

MATCH OFFICIAL FEES

Each Club/Team will be required to pay 50% of the Match Official fee for each Final in which the Club/Team participates.

STATE LEAGUE MEN'S & WOMEN'S FINALS/PLAYOFFS

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Each player must have Played at least five (5) Regular Season Competition Fixtures for that Team to qualify to play Finals & Playoffs in 2025 for that Team.

Competition Fixtures Played by a player in either the reserve or senior Teams for a Club count towards the player eligibility requirements.

MATCH OFFICIAL FEES

FV will cover all Match Official Match Fees for State League Men's and Women's Finals & Playoffs.

DISCIPLINE – SLM/SLW FINALS

Yellow cards accumulated by a Player during the Regular Season will not be counted for the purposes of clause 4.6 of the 2025 GDT. However, if a Player receives their 5th yellow card in their Club's final Regular Season FV Competition Fixture they shall be suspended for the relevant 2025 Finals Series and/or Playoff fixture.

If a Player or Team Official receives a Red Card in the 2025 FV Finals Series or Playoff, their Club will be notified of the Player's suspension in writing on Monday immediately following the FV Competition Fixture in which the Red Card was received.

MEN'S METROPOLITAN, UNDER 21'S & MASTERS

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Each player must have played at least five (5) Competition Fixtures for that particular Team during the current Regular Season to qualify for a Metropolitan or Metropolitan Masters Finals series in the same year for that Team.

If a Club is uncertain about the eligibility of one or more of their players for the FV 2025 Finals please contact the FV Competitions team as soon as possible on 9474 1800 and press 2, or 0400 028 335 (FV Competitions Weekend Line).

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 – MIXED, GIRLS & JUNIOR BOYS LEAGUES

Grade & Age	Last Round Date	Finals Weekend 1	Finals Weekend 2
Community Premier League Girls 13	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	
Community Premier League Girls 15	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	
Community Premier League Girls 17	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	
Girls' 12A	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	
Girls' 12B	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Girls' 12C	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Girls' 12D	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Girls' 13B	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	
Girls' 13C	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Girls' 13D	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	
Girls' 14B	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	
Girls' 14C	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Girls' 14D	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	
Girls' 15C	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Girls' 15D	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	
Girls' 16B	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	
Girls' 16C	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Girls' 17/18B	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	
Girls' 17/18C	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	
Mixed Saturday 12A	06/09/2025	13/09/2025	
Mixed Saturday 12B	06/09/2025	13/09/2025	
Mixed Saturday 12C	06/09/2025	13/09/2025	20/09/2025
Mixed Saturday 12D	06/09/2025	13/09/2025	20/09/2025
Mixed Saturday 12E	06/09/2025	13/09/2025	
Mixed Saturday 13E	06/09/2025	13/09/2025	
Mixed Sunday 12A	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Mixed Sunday 12B	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Mixed Sunday 12C	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Mixed Sunday 12D	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Mixed Sunday 12E	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Mixed Sunday 13A	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Mixed Sunday 13B	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Mixed Sunday 13C	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Mixed Sunday 13D	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Mixed Sunday 13E	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	
Mixed 14A	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Mixed 14B	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Mixed 14C	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025

Mixed 14D	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Mixed 15A	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Mixed 15B	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Mixed 15C	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Mixed 15D	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Mixed 16A	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Mixed 16B	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Mixed 16C	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Mixed 16D	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	
Boys' 17A	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	
Boys' 17B	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	
Boys' 17C	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	
Boys' 18A	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	
Boys' 18B	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	
Boys' 18C	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	

APPENDIX 2 – GEELONG LEAGUES

Grade & Age	Last Round Date	Finals Weekend 1	Finals Weekend 2
Geelong Girls' Under 13A	06/09/2025	13/09/2025	20/09/2025
Geelong Girls' Under 13B	06/09/2025	13/09/2025	20/09/2025
Geelong Girls' Under 13C	06/09/2025	13/09/2025	20/09/2025
Geelong Girls' Under 15/16	06/09/2025	13/09/2025	20/09/2025
Geelong Mixed Under 13A	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Geelong Mixed Under 13B	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Geelong Mixed Under 13C	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Geelong Mixed Under 13D	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Geelong Mixed Under 15A	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Geelong Mixed Under 15B	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Geelong Boys' Under 17	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Geelong Senior Women's Division 1	06/09/2025	13/09/2025	20/09/2025
Geelong Senior Women's Division 2	06/09/2025	13/09/2025	20/09/2025
Geelong Men's Division 1	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Geelong Men's Division 2	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025
Geelong Men's Division 3	07/09/2025	14/09/2025	21/09/2025

APPENDIX 3 – 2025 REFEREES FEE SCHEDULE

COMPETITION	REFEREE	ASSISTANT REFEREE 1	RESERVE REFEREE
State League Men's 1 & 2	$190	$95	$110
State League Men's 3	$170	$85	$110
State League Men's 4 & 5	$150	$80	$110
State League Women's 1	$170	$90	$110
State League Women's 2 - 5	$150	$80	-
Men's Metropolitan Leagues	$110	$55	-

AGE GROUP	REFEREES	ASSISTANT REFEREE
U21 & U19	$100	$50
U17 & U18	$80	$45
U16	$60	$40
U14 & U15	$55	$30
U12 & U13	$50	-

APPENDIX 4 – GROUND MARSHALS

COMPETITION	MINIMUM NUMBER OF CLUB MARSHALS
SLM 1, SLM 2 & SLM 3	4 (2 per team)
SLM 4 & SLM 5	2 (1 per team)
Men's Metropolitan Leagues & Metropolitan Masters League	2 (1 per team)
State League Women's	2 (1 per team)
Junior competitions	2 (1 per team)
All other competitions	2 (1 per team)

*FV may instruct participating clubs to have extra Club Marshalls

3.4.1. Each Club must provide the number of marshals (Ground Marshals) directed by FV.

3.4.2. Ground Marshals must:

a. Be at least 18 years old and provide the Match Official with their name;
b. Be in a clearly identifiable uniform;
c. Be visible from the field of play at all times;
d. Escort the Match official(s) to and from the change rooms and the Field of Play at the commencement of the fixture, at half time and a t full time; and
e. Where required, assist the Match Officials(s) to ensure a safe playing environment for all Players, Club Officials and spectators.

3.4.3. Match Officials must not leave their dressing rooms to enter the Field of Play or return to their rooms from the Field of Play unit the identifiable Ground Marshals are present.

3.4.4. FV may vary the minimum Ground Marshal requirements for any FV Competition Fixture at any time.

3.4.5. Each home and away Club is required to provide 50% of the required Ground Marshals for each FV Competition Fixture, failure to do so resulting in the Club being subject to a penalty under the GDT.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHEN WILL HOST VENUES & FIXTURES FOR THE 2025 FINALS & PLAYOFFS BE PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED?

FV intends to announce host venues and finals fixtures for all Competitions by Tuesday 9th September 2025.

WHO PAYS FOR THE REFEREES AT EACH FIXTURE?

2025 Referee Fee Schedule

The Fee Schedule lists applicable fees for all referees and assistant referees, which will be covered by both participating Clubs at neutral venues. For finals fixtures where clubs have earned the right to host, these Clubs will be responsible for the payment of referee fees.

Clubs will be invoiced for all referee payments once fixtures are confirmed.

Host Clubs are not responsible for the payment of referees.

FV will cover all Match Official Match Fees for State League Men's and Women's Finals & Playoffs.

WHO PROVIDES MATCH BALLS FOR EACH FIXTURE?

Clubs of host venues will provide all match balls which must be provided by one of FV's 2025 licensed manufacturers (Adidas, Decathlon, Deploy Football, Mitre, Nike. TX Football).

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BEHAVIOUR OF SPECTATORS AT EACH FIXTURE?

Clubs participating in the fixture are responsible for the behaviour of all spectators associated with their Club. In addition to escorting referees to and from the field of play, ground marshals play an important role in managing the behaviour of their own supporters.

The Host Club may remind individuals of the relevant Codes of Behaviour but is ultimately not responsible for the behaviour of the associates of participating Clubs.

Alcohol is not to be sold or consumed at any venues, which hosts Junior Finals (Under 12 to 18).

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR INFORMING FV OF THE RESULT IN THE MATCH?

Teams listed first in a fixture are considered, to be the Home Club for the purposes of the 2025 Rules of Competition. They are responsible for reporting results to FV by one of the following methods;

- Call or Message through match results to the FV Competitions Weekend Line immediately after the conclusion of a match. The contact number is 0400 028 335; or
- If a FV staff member is coordinating matches at your venue, verifying the result to this individual immediately after the conclusion of the match.
- Appointed Referees are responsible for entering the match results online immediately after the conclusion of a match.

DO THE 2025 RULES OF COMPETITION APPLY FOR THE 2025 FINALS & PLAYOFFS?

The 2025 Finals & Playoffs will be conducted under the 2025 Rules of Competition except where varied within this document and the 2025 Finals & Playoffs Participation Team Guide (to be published in September). FV reserves the right to amend the playing conditions and time, to ensure that all fixtures can be played in a timely manner.

WHAT DO COMPETING TEAMS RECEIVE?

Senior Teams who win their respective Grand Final will be awarded a championship pennant, medals and trophy. Where possible, awards will be presented by a FV representative on match day.

Senior Teams who are Runners Up in their respective Grand Final will be awarded a Finals Runner Up pennant & medals.

Junior Teams who win their respective Grand Final will be awarded a championship pennant and medals. Where possible, awards will be presented by a FV representative on match day.

Junior Teams who are Runners Up in their respective Grand Final will be awarded a Finals Runner Up pennant & medals.

HOME OF THE MATILDAS REMINDER

Please be reminded that no dogs are permitted to enter the venue at Home of The Matildas.

HOME OF THE MATILDAS & LATROBE UNIVERSITY SPORTS FIELDS – VENUE MAP

To assist with identifying your fields at Home of The Matildas & Latrobe University Sports Fields please see below venue map.

Do be mindful of Car Parking across these two venues (additional car parking can be found across Kingsbury Road at Latrobe University).