

ADVISORY PANEL FRAMEWORK

5 November 2025

1. Introduction

Football Victoria Limited (**FV**) is a football membership-based organisation encompassing a multitude of diverse and complex activities relating to the football community, as well as an evolving entity responding to operational, economic and public factors that impact the game. It is governed by the FV Board, with important input from the various FV committees. Through direction and oversight from the FV Board, FV is managed by FV's CEO. Different focuses and scopes of responsibilities are required from each of the groups within FV to ensure a dynamic, contemporary and success driven organisation.

FV is committed to fostering a collaborative and inclusive environment where stakeholders are actively engaged in the development and growth of football in the state. This framework outlines the manner in which FV will engage with key stakeholders, ensuring that their views and insights are considered in football-related decision-making processes.

2. Objectives

The FV Football Development Committee (**FDC**) has an active role in providing review, guidance and oversight of football-related decision-making, with decision making responsibility delegated to the Board.

The FDC aims to provide rigour and accountability around football-related decisions and ensure there is appropriate structure in place by which football decisions are considered and reviewed.

To assist the FDC with fulfilling its role, an Advisory Panel will be established made up of experts, stakeholders and professionals who will assist with shaping changes relating to the game to ensure proposed changes align with expectations and foster collaboration. This panel will provide advice and guidance for specific projects to help the FDC make informed decisions when called upon. They do not participate in consensus decisions tabled at the FDC, nor have any voting rights.

The advisory panel will not be involved in all matters considered by the FDC and it will remain the discretion of the FDC to determine which matters it requires stakeholder engagement via the advisory panels with consideration toward the timeliness and relevance of particular matters.

The advisory panel does not act and operate like traditional committees but rather act as a “brains trust” offering strategic guidance on policies, plans, risks, and specific issues, drawing on their diverse skills and community representation to foster informed decision-making. The advisory panel’s informal structure allows for greater flexibility in approach to deliberations compared to a formal committee structure.

This framework outlines the key principles informing our approach to the Advisory Panel. It supports consistent, purposeful, meaningful, productive, and transparent stakeholder engagement that delivers benefits for all involved.

The key objectives of the FDC advisory panel are primarily to:

- a. allow FV to seek feedback and input as required from key stakeholders to assist in decision-making;
- b. build and maintain strong relationships and reinforce a culture of engagement and collaboration with FV key stakeholders; and
- c. enable transparent, collaborative and effective communication with FV key stakeholders and reinforce a culture of engagement and collaboration in the best interests of our sport.

3. Membership

The FDC’s Football Advisory Panel (FAP) is made up of a mixture of people across our eco system including relevant community members, FV staff, stakeholders, subject matter experts and professionals who will assist with shaping changes relating to the game to ensure proposed changes align with expectations of key stakeholders and foster collaboration.

The advisory panel provides advice and guidance on specific matters or projects to help the FDC make informed decisions and recommendations to the Board, following appropriate engagement with key stakeholders within the football community. Members of the FAP are therefore a conduit between key football stakeholders and the FDC and will be involved in analysing and developing solutions, with their recommendations considered in the FV decision-making process.

The membership of the FAP shall consist of a minimum of thirty (30) with remaining representation from external stakeholders to FV across football competition formats and ancillary structures. FV staff will be nominated by the respective Executive Managers across both Football Operations and Football Pathways.

Members will be selected via an expression of interest and endorsed via the FDC. Only Voting Member Clubs and FV Directors can support a nomination made via the expression of interest.

Members of FAP will hold a term of up to two (2)-years. The FDC can revoke an appointment at any time and any member may resign by giving written notice to the FDC. New members can be appointed at any time to fill any vacancies or increase the membership of the FAP as the FDC sees fit.

Members of the FAP cannot be Presidents, Vice-Presidents or paid General Managers or CEOs of a Club as there are other avenues and forums to interact with FV. The aim of the FAP is to widen the pool of contributors to football governance and enable growth for future leaders of the sport. Members of the advisory panel may concurrently serve as a committee member or paid employee (outside of the positions detailed above) of an FV affiliated club, however, are expected to act in the best interests of football with an unbiased and neutral viewpoint in all interactions with the advisory panel.

The FAP should maintain the 40:40:20 gender balance principles per the Constitution. The FDC is keen to increase the participation of people of people of cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds including First Nations peoples.

Members of FAP must sign a letter of appointment governing their participation. Members are engaged to inform, influence and provide a specific reference point to the FDC, yet do not participate in consensus decisions tabled at the FDC, nor have any voting rights.

4. Engagement with Advisory Panel

FV may engage with advisory panels around the following key areas:

- a. Advice and guidance to the FDC as it relates to important modifications to competition (i.e. size, formats or age groups) relating to NPL, Community and Regional football matters, Elite Pathways, Futsal and other football formats. This extends to ancillary representation (coach/referees)
- b. Input into structure of and amendments to the Grievance, Disciplinary and Tribunal (GDT)
- c. Input into review of registration and competition platforms (where not enforced by Football Australia)
- d. Input and review of Child Safety requirements where there are proposed deviation/s from legal requirement
- e. Potential change to competition/licensing that will have a significant impact on clubs (where not enforced by Football Australia)
- f. Any other matter referred by the FDC from time-to-time, which may include:
 - i. Medical (concussion and drug protocols)
 - ii. Gambling
 - iii. Sports integrity

The mechanism and engagement method by which FV may consult and engage with key advisory panel may vary and will be tailored based on stakeholder needs. It may include one or more of the following, dependent on the nature of the matter/s for review:

- **Consult:** obtain feedback from relevant or all advisory panel members, to ensure stakeholder views are considered on specific matters as required by FV. Example techniques include focus groups, surveys and questionnaires (i.e. jot forms), and ad hoc meetings.
- **Forums:** FV is expected to invite all advisory panel members to two forums per annum designed to engage with members to express opinions and gather information on specific issues. These forums, (which can be attended in-person or virtually), will allow advisory panel attendees to ask questions and participate in discussions, providing a platform for open dialogue between advisory panel members and FV on key football matters and future proposals.

6. Review of the Framework

This FDC Advisory Panel framework will be reviewed as required by the FDC and no less than every two (2) years to ensure it remains relevant and effective. Any changes will be subject to Board endorsement.