



# 2026 RULES OF COMPETITION

## ADVANCED COMPETITIONS



# 2026 RULES OF COMPETITION – ADVANCED COMPETITIONS

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|---|-----------|
| <b>1.0 GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ADVANCED COMPETITIONS.....</b> | <b>5</b>  |
| 1.1 Applications and Definitions.....                               | 5         |
| 1.2 Consequences of Breach .....                                    | 9         |
| 1.3 Monies Owing To FV .....  | 10        |
| 1.4 Registrations, Forfeits and Abandonments .....                  | 11        |
| 1.5 Protection of Important Fixtures .....                          | 16        |
| 1.6 Sanctioned Matches.....   | 16        |
| 1.7 Insurance.....  | 16        |
| 1.8 Strict Liability of Clubs.....                                  | 17        |
| 1.9 Ticketing and Refunds of Money.....                             | 17        |
| 1.11 Representative Teams.....                                      | 17        |
| 1.12 Member Protection .....  | 18        |
| 1.13 Club Compliance.....   | 18        |
| 1.14 Correspondence / Communication .....                           | 19        |
| 1.15 For Profit Academies .....                                     | 19        |
| 1.16 Participation Licence.....                                     | 20        |
| <b>2.0 COMPETITION RULES.....</b>                                   | <b>20</b> |
| 2.1 General Information.....  | 20        |
| 2.2. Player Eligibility .....                                       | 21        |
| 2.3. Gender Rules .....   | 21        |
| <b>3.0 FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS .....</b>                               | <b>22</b> |
| 3.1. Facilities/ Pitch Arrangements .....                           | 22        |
| 3.2. The Technical Area .....                                       | 23        |
| 3.3. Match Records.....   | 24        |
| 3.4. Security at Competition Fixtures.....                          | 26        |
| 3.5. Ground Marshals .....  | 27        |
| 3.6. Player's Strip/ Apparel.....                                   | 29        |
| 3.7. Stretchers/ First Aid .....                                    | 31        |
| 3.8. Smoking / Drinking at Venues.....                              | 31        |
| 3.9. Risk Fixtures .....  | 31        |
| 3.10. National Flags, Slogans & Emblems .....                       | 31        |
| 3.11. Lighting Standards .....                                      | 32        |
| <b>4.0 FIXTURE DETAILS .....</b>                                    | <b>33</b> |
| 4.1. Duration of Competition Fixtures.....                          | 33        |
| 4.2. Abandoned Competition Fixtures.....                            | 34        |
| 4.3. Postponed/ Rescheduled Competition Fixtures.....               | 36        |
| 4.4. Weather Conditions .....                                       | 37        |
| 4.5. Match Points .....   | 37        |
| 4.6. Change of Venue / Fixture Requests by Club .....               | 39        |
| 4.7. Fixtures – NPLM/NPLW/VPLM/VPLW .....                           | 40        |
| 4.8. Fixtures – Advanced Junior Competitions.....                   | 41        |

|  |   |           |
|--|---|-----------|
| 4.9  | Substitution & Interchange.....                               | 41        |
| 4.10                                       | Match Balls.....  | 43        |
| 4.11                                       | Results of Competition Fixtures.....                          | 44        |
| 4.12                                       | Catering.....   | 46        |
| 4.13                                       | Recording of Matches.....                                     | 47        |
| <b>5.0</b>                                 | <b>MATCH OFFICIALS.....</b>                                   | <b>48</b> |
| 5.1.                                       | Match Official Fees.....                                      | 48        |
| 5.2.                                       | Assistant Match Officials .....                               | 49        |
| 5.3.                                       | Non- Attendance or Unavailability of Match Officials .....    | 49        |
| 5.4.                                       | Decisions of the Match Official .....                         | 49        |
| 5.5.                                       | Pitch & Facility Inspection Report.....                       | 50        |
| 5.6.                                       | Match Record & Misconduct Report .....                        | 50        |
| 5.7.                                       | Player Safety & Blood Rule.....                               | 50        |
| 5.8.                                       | Match Reporting.....  | 51        |
| <b>6.0</b>                                 | <b>REGISTRATIONS .....</b>                                    | <b>52</b> |
| 6.1.                                       | Player Rosters.....   | 52        |
| 6.2.                                       | Player Roster Composition (PRC) .....                         | 54        |
| 6.3.                                       | Advanced Junior Registration.....                             | 55        |
| 6.4.                                       | Playing Up or Across Squads.....                              | 56        |
| <b>7.0</b>                                 | <b>CODES OF BEHAVIOUR .....</b>                               | <b>58</b> |
| <b>8.0</b>                                 | <b>MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF EACH VENUE CATEGORY .....</b>      | <b>59</b> |
| <b>9.0</b>                                 | <b>MATCH COMMISSIONER BREACHES.....</b>                       | <b>60</b> |
| <b>10.0</b>                                | <b>ADVANCED COMPETITION STRUCTURE.....</b>                    | <b>63</b> |
| 10.1.                                      | General Information .....                                     | 63        |
| 10.2.                                      | National Premier League Men's Senior (NPLM Senior) .....      | 64        |
| 10.3.                                      | Finals .....  | 65        |
| 10.5.                                      | National Premier League Women's Senior (NPLW Senior) .....    | 66        |
| 10.9.                                      | Victorian Premier League Men's 1 Senior (VPLM 1 Senior) ..... | 67        |
| 10.10.                                     | Victorian Premier League Men's 2 Senior (VPLM 2 Senior) ..... | 68        |
| 10.12.                                     | Promotion & Relegation - Australian Championship.....         | 70        |
| 10.13.                                     | Under 23's Competition – NPLM/VPLM.....                       | 70        |
| 10.15.                                     | Under 20's Competition - NPLW .....                           | 71        |
| 10.16.                                     | GVYPL Competitions .....                                      | 71        |
| 10.17.                                     | Advanced Junior Boys Competitions .....                       | 71        |
| 10.18.                                     | Player Eligibility .....                                      | 72        |
| <b>11.0</b>                                | <b>COMPETITION DETAILS .....</b>                              | <b>74</b> |
| 11.1                                       | Admission to Competition Fixtures .....                       | 74        |
| 11.2                                       | Media & Other Passes .....                                    | 75        |
| <b>12.0</b>                                | <b>AWARDS.....</b>  | <b>77</b> |
| 12.1                                       | Prize Money .....   | 77        |
| 12.2                                       | Best & Fairest Votes.....                                     | 77        |
| 12.3                                       | Leading Goal Scorers.....                                     | 78        |
| <b>SCHEDULE 1 - CODE OF BEHAVIOUR.....</b> | <b>79</b>   |           |



# 1.0 GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ADVANCED COMPETITIONS

## 1.1 Applications and Definitions

- 1.1.1 These Rules shall apply to all Advanced Competition Fixture(s) and Sanctioned Match(es) as defined in Rule 1.1.4.
- 1.1.2 If any provision of these Rules is held invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction then the remainder of these Rules and their application shall not be affected and shall continue to be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.
- 1.1.3 Terms defined in the FV Constitution, 2026 FV Registration Regulations and/or the GDT shall have the same meaning in these Rules unless otherwise stated.
- 1.1.4 In addition to Rule 1.1.3 unless the context otherwise requires, the following definitions apply:
  - a. **Abandoned** means a Competition Fixture which has failed to commence for any reason or has been stopped by the Match Official prior to its conclusion in accordance with Rule 4.2.
  - b. **Advanced Competition** means NPLW, NPLM, VPLM, VPLW and Advanced Junior competitions.
  - c. **Advanced Competition Club** has the same meaning as Club in the FV Constitution, however, is specific to a Club that has signed a Participation Licence and is competing in an Advanced Competition.
  - d. **Advanced Junior Boy's Competitions** means the Boy's Victorian Youth Premier League 1, Boy's Victorian Youth Premier League 2, Boy's Youth State League 1 North-West and Boy's Youth State League 1 South-East
  - e. **Advanced Junior Competitions** means the Boy's Victorian Youth Premier League 1, Boy's Victorian Youth Premier League 2, Boy's Youth State League 1 North-West, Boy's Youth State League 1 South-East and Girl's Victorian Youth Premier League competitions.
  - f. **Australian Championship Clubs** means the Foundations Clubs (Avondale FC, Preston Lions and South Melbourne FC) as well as the highest placed non-foundation Victorian Club that will participate in the Australian Championship.
  - g. **Boy's Victorian Youth Premier League** means the Boy's Victorian Youth Premier League 1 and Boy's Victorian Youth Premier League 2 Competition.
  - h. **Boy's Youth State League** means the Boy's Youth State League 1 North-West and Boy's Youth State League 1 South-East

- i. **Competition Regulations** or **Regulations** means the regulations which supplement these Rules, and which apply to the competitions administered by FV for Men's Football, Women's Football, Junior Football and Metro & Masters Football, as amended and updated by FV from time to time.
- j. **Community Teams** means team participating in competitions other than Advanced Competitions.
- k. **Club** has the same meaning as in the FV Constitution.
- l. **Club Associate(s)** has the meaning given to it in the GDT.
- m. **Club Registered Logo** means the logo submitted to and approved by the Member Services Team.
- n. **Competition Fixture** means any match that is administered by FV and includes matches to which FV appoints Match Official(s).
- o. **Cup Fixture** means any knock-out cup match, fixture or other event organized and/or administered by FV or FA before, after or in conjunction with a Regular Season and includes, but is not limited to, the Dockerty Cup and the Australia Cup.
- p. **Default Notice** means a notice of default issued by FV in relation to an amount owed to FV by a Club or a player which that Club or player has failed to pay in accordance with Rule 1.3.
- q. **Divisions** means a particular grade or level of men's or women's competition within Victorian Football (such as VPLM 1, VPLM 2).
- r. **FA** means Football Australia.
- s. **FV** means Football Victoria.
- t. **Field** means to take the field of play or record a Player's name on the Match Record and "Fields", "Fielded", "Play" or "Participate" shall have corresponding meanings.
- u. **Field of Play** means:
  - (i) At an enclosed pitch the entire area within the temporary or permanent perimeter fencing; or
  - (ii) At an open pitch the entire area within 3 meters of the boundary line of the football pitch.
- v. **Finals** means a Competition Fixture played to determine the final standings or champion of a specific competition administered by FV.
- w. **Forfeit** means failure to participate in a Competition Fixture if the Club or Team in question has failed to notify FV at least three (3) days prior to the Competition Fixture.

- x. **FV Pass** means an accredited pass provided by Football Victoria and is displayed on a Football Victoria approved accreditation board.
- y. **GDT** means the FV Grievance, Discipline and Tribunal By Law (as amended from time to time).
- z. **Girls Victorian Youth Premier League** means the Advanced Competitions Girls Competition formerly known as Junior Girls National Premier League.

aa. **Goal Difference** means the difference between goals scored by a Club/Team (Goals For) and goals scored against a Club/Team (Goals Against) in a match or season.

bb. **Home Club** means the Club named first in a Competition Fixture.

cc. **Host Club** means a Club which hosts one or more Competition Fixtures or Finals at its home venue, whether or not that Club participates in one of those Competition Fixtures or Finals or not.

dd. **ID CARD** means identification cards created by PlayFootball/Dribl, which all Junior Competitions (Advanced Competitions Under 13–Under 18, Community Junior Competitions Under 5–Under 21) must have

ee. **IFAB** means International Football Association Board.

ff. **League** (when referred to in reference to Men's or Women's football), means a particular competition within a Division.

gg. **Match Official** means a match official as defined in the GDT.

hh. **Match Record** means the official log (hard copy or electronic/online) of the Competition Fixture recording all match details including participants and results.

ii. **Misconduct** has the meaning given to it in the GDT.

jj. **No Result** means recording a '0-0' score line in a Competition Fixture with no points or goals awarded to either Team. A 'No Result' is recorded as a Competition Fixture played.

kk. **Non-Participation in a Fixture** means failure to participate in a Competition Fixture having notified FV more than three (3) days prior to the Competition fixture.

II. **Normal Time** means the maximum length of two (2) equal periods not including added time as specified in Rule 4.1 and Table 4.1, unless any time reduction is otherwise determined in accordance with Rule 4.1.

mm. **NPLM** means National Premier League Men's Senior, Under 23's and Under 20's competitions.

nn. **NPLW** means National Premier League Women's Senior and Under 20's competitions.

oo. **NPLM National Finals Series** means the national playoff competition administered by FA post the Regular Season for NPLM.

Australian Championship

pp. **Participation Licence** means the non-exclusive licence agreement entered into by a Club and FV for the Club to enter teams into Advanced Competitions.

qq. **Play Off Match** means a Competition Fixture played to determine the final standings of a League or the eligibility for promotion/relegation of a Team between Divisions.

rr. **Played** means:

(i) A Team has participated in a Competition Fixture.

In specific reference to a player, **Played** means:

(ii) To have taken the field of play; or  
(iii) Been listed on the Match Record; or  
(iv) If a player is originally listed on the Match Record and it is subsequently indicated on the Match Record that the player is no longer to Participate in the Competition Fixture, that change must be acknowledged by signature of the senior Match Official prior to the commencement of the Competition Fixture. Failure to comply will deem the player to have 'Played' that Competition Fixture.

ss. **Player** means a person who is, from time to time, registered to a Club or is selected as a member of a National Team, whether that person is male or female, Junior or Senior or Amateur or Professional.

tt. **Player ID Card** means the PlayFootball generated ID card containing recent photo, date of birth, FA number, full name and Club name for that player.

uu. **Player Roster Composition** means the Player Roster Composition as outlined in the Participation Licence.

- vv. **Player Roster Principles (PRP)** mean the required composition of Player Rosters for Professional Leagues (NPLM, VPLM 1 and VPLM 2)
- ww. **Player Points Cap** means the number of points permitted for each club under the Player Points System.
- xx. **Postponed** means a Competition Fixture which has not commenced as scheduled.
- yy. **Registered** means registered and eligible in PlayFootball in accordance with the FA National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations as well as the 2026 FV Registration Regulations.
- zz. **Regular Season** means the time and Competition Fixtures between the first and last round of the relevant competition or as otherwise determined by FV acting in its absolute discretion, in addition to any Play Off Match(es) required for the purpose of promotion and relegation.
- aaa. **Risk Assessment & Security Policy** is the FV policy which outlines minimum security requirements and responsibilities required at Advanced Competition Fixtures.
- bbb. **Rule or Rules of Competition** means a rule set out in a clause or clauses of these 2026 Rules of Competition.
- ccc. **Sanctioned Match** means any match:
  - (i) to which FV appoints one (1) or more Match Official(s) but does not administer directly;
  - (ii) to which FV is unable to appoint one (1) or more Match Officials due to availability, but a request for appointment has been made and acknowledged by FV; or
  - (iii) that FV approves between two affiliated clubs or competing teams.
- ddd. **Standalone Fixture** means a single or coupled fixture comprising of Under 23's, Under 20's (NPLM and VPLM) or Under 20's (NPLW) and Senior match at a FV approved venue.
- eee. **Team** means a football team entered by a Club in an Advanced Competition.
- fff. **Technical Area** is as defined in the Advanced Competitions Facility Standards in Schedule 3.
- ggg. **VPLM** means VPL Men's senior competitions including Teams, Leagues and Divisions in VPLM 1 and VPLM 2 Under 23's, VPLM 1 and VPLM 2 Under 20's, and VPLM 1 and VPLM 2 Senior competitions.

## 1.2 Consequences of Breach

1.2.1 In addition to any consequences stated in these Rules, any proven breach of or failure to comply with an obligation or requirement set out in these Rules may amount to Misconduct and be subject to any applicable GDT Penalties or removal of Club as per the Club Compliance By-Law

## **1.3 Monies Owing To FV**

### **Monies Owing by a Club**

1.3.1 All amounts owed by a Club to FV (excluding Match Official Fees) must be paid within 30 days of the date of the invoice issued by FV in relation to that amount or such sooner time required under the GDT or stipulated by FV.

1.3.2 If a Club fails to pay any amount owing to FV in accordance with Rule 1.3.1, FV may issue a Default Notice giving the Club a further 14 days or less as stipulated by FV to pay that amount.

1.3.3 All amounts owed by a Club to FV in relation to Match Official Fees must be paid within 7 days of the date of the invoice issued by FV.

- Regulation 1.3.3. is inclusive Match Official Travels Fees as outlined in the 2025 Match Officials Fee Schedule.

1.3.4 If a Club fails to comply with a Default Notice issued in accordance with Rule 1.3.2, or agree to a repayment plan with FV for the amount owed, FV may, at its absolute discretion:

- Rule that Club (or the applicable Team(s) within that Club) ineligible to earn competition points in any Competition Fixture or Sanctioned Match in which the Club (or Team) plays, until the debt is paid.
- Suspend or expel that Club (or Team(s)) from any Competition Fixture (including Cup Fixtures) and/or FV competitions.
- Prohibit that Club (or Team(s)) from promotion whilst the debt remains unpaid.
- Relegate that Club (or Team(s)) while the debt remains unpaid.
- Deduct championship points from a Club (or Team) for the current season where the debt remains unpaid.
- Deduct championship points from a Club (or Team) for the following season where the debt remains unpaid or accrues after 31 October of the relevant year.

1.3.5 If FV and a Club agree to a repayment plan in relation to a debt owed by the Club to FV and the Club fails to meet any of the terms of that payment plan by the stipulated date and time, FV may immediately and without the need to issue a further Default Notice, impose one or more of the sanctions referred to in Rule 1.3.3.

### **Monies Owing By a Player**

1.3.6 All amounts owed by a player to FV must be paid within 30 days of the date of the invoice issued by FV in relation to the amount payable or such sooner time as required under the GDT.

1.3.7 If a player fails to pay any amount owing to FV in accordance with Rule 1.3.6, FV may issue a Default Notice giving the player a further 14 days to pay that amount.

1.3.8 If a player fails to comply with a Default Notice issued in accordance with Rule 1.3.7, or agree to a repayment plan with FV for the amount owed, FV may, at its absolute discretion, suspend that player from any or all FV competitions or representative Teams on such terms as it sees fit until such debt is paid or secured to the satisfaction of FV.

1.3.9 FV may offset any monies owed by FV to a Club or a player against any amount owed by a Club or a player to FV prior to the issue of an invoice to a Club or player for amounts owing to FV.

## **1.4 Registrations, Forfeits and Abandonments**

### **Definitions**

1.4.1 For the purposes of this Rule:

- a. **Change of Status** has the same meaning as in the FV Registration Regulations.
- b. **Dual Registration** has the same meaning as in the FV Registration Regulations.
- c. **Ineligible** means a player who is one of the following:
  - (i) Playing for the wrong Club or Team;
  - (ii) Playing within a stand-down period due to Change of Status;
  - (iii) Playing while registered for two clubs at the same time without a Dual Registration exemption to do so;
  - (iv) Playing while not Registered;
  - (v) Playing while under Suspension under the GDT;
  - (vi) A player who has been shown a red card earlier in a fixture that is still being played;
  - (vii) Playing while ineligible to do so for any other reason determined by FV;
  - (viii) A Player or Players in breach of Rule 2.2
- d. **Offence** means when FV has found upon investigation, audit, processing or notification there has been a breach of these Rules including any of the previous fixtures in which an Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) has Participated.

- e. **Register** and **Registered** means a player who is registered in accordance with the applicable FV Registration Regulations, and/or FA National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations, including without limitation seeking an International Transfer Clearance (ITC) where applicable.
- f. **Request for Information** refers to where from time to time FV may request that a Club provide to it information in relation to player registration matters or otherwise as reasonably requested in order to ensure the integrity of football.
- g. **Unregistered** means a player who is not Registered.

### **Registration – Scope of Penalties**

- 1.4.2 All Clubs and Teams must Register all Players in accordance with the FV Registration Regulations and FA National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations.
- 1.4.3 FV may find Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) through random audits, daily processing or upon investigation following notification of a breach of this Rule.
- 1.4.4 Where a Club or Team Fields an Unregistered or Ineligible Player in a Competition Fixture, including Finals or Play-Off Matches, the following shall apply, subject to Rule 1.4.4(d):
  - a. Where a Team is found to have Fielded an Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) during a single Competition Fixture(s), the score for the respective Competition Fixture(s) may be amended as follows:
    - (i) where that Team loses the Competition Fixture, the result is the greater of the actual score or a 3-0 result;
    - (ii) where the score is a draw that Team is deemed to have lost the Competition Fixture 3-0; or
    - (iii) where that Team wins the Competition Fixture, the result is a 3-0 win to the non-infringing Team.
  - b. Where a Club or Team is found to have Fielded an Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) in multiple Competition Fixtures, FV may:
    - (i) deduct between 0-12 competition points from the Team without altering any of the corresponding individual Competition Fixture results; or
    - (ii) reverse such Competition Fixture results 3-0 as necessary.

- c. Matters that FV may take into account in making a decision under Rule 1.4.4. (a) or (b) above include, but are not limited to:
  - (i) whether or not in FV's opinion the Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) was intentionally or inadvertently Fielded; and
  - (ii) whether a genuine administrative error occurred; and
  - (iii) whether it can be demonstrated by the Club that it was misled by the Player in relation to eligibility/registration;
  - (iv) the experience of the Team or Club administrator; and
  - (v) the age-group affected; and
  - (vi) any other factors FV may consider relevant in the circumstances.

*By way of example: where FV learns in round 9 of a season that an Under 14's Team has inadvertently failed to correctly register a Player, rather than automatically deduct 27 points from that Team and reverse 9 Competition Fixtures, FV may either deduct up to 12 points from the Team and not reverse any individual Competition Fixtures, or reverse such Competition Fixtures as necessary.*

- d. Sub-Rules (a) and (b) above shall not apply where the Club has made enquiries to FV about the Player(s) prior to the Competition Fixture and was informed in writing by FV that the Player was Registered/Eligible as necessary.

1.4.5. Where FV learns of Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) via internal audits, and no Club or Team has raised a formal protest about those Players within the time set out in the next sub-Rule, FV *may* deal with the matter via a warning and reprimand for the first occasion in its absolute discretion. The matter is then considered finalised (see *Additional Notes* section below).

1.4.6. The time limit for a Club or Team to Protest from the date of the relevant Competition Fixture, after which the result of the Competition Fixture is considered finalised, is (7) calendar days.

*Note on Rule 1.4.6.: it is important for the integrity of the competition and league that the results of Competition Fixtures are considered final. The intention of this Rule is to prevent teams from "saving up" suspicions of Unregistered or Ineligible Players in other teams until shortly before finals, in order to make a last effort to accrue points for finals. Legitimate concerns by a team should be notified to FV promptly.*

*Additional notes: in state league junior football for Under 12's to Under 15's inclusive and junior metro football, the focus is on participation. Where Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) in these leagues are identified, FV will favour an interpretation of a genuine administrative error unless it can be shown that the Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) were Played intentionally. However in*

*Advanced Competitions, or other state league or metro competitions, FV's expectation is for greater administrative compliance by Clubs, and participation by Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) in these competitions may be interpreted against the Club or Team more stringently.*

### **System or Technical Error**

- 1.4.7. To avoid doubt, if there is a system or technical error in processing a registration (which does not include Players with multiple registrations as a result of, for example, name variants), the above sanctions will be imposed until such system or technical error is proven by the Club or Team or Player, save that;
  - a. Only those system or technical errors that occur on weekdays up until 5.00pm on a Friday, (excluding Public Holidays) will be taken into account; and
  - b. Should a Club or Team decide to process registrations on non-business days (Weekends and/or Public Holidays) or after 5.00pm on a Friday, the Club or Team is responsible for ensuring all registrations are successfully processed and valid for all Club and team fixtures.

### **Request for Information**

- 1.4.8. Where FV requests a Club to provide information in relation to a Club's registration matters, or otherwise as reasonably requested in order to ensure the integrity of football, the Club must comply within 3 days (or as otherwise reasonably requested by the FV).
- 1.4.9. A failure to comply with Rule 1.4.8. results in all of that Club's teams playing for no points until the requested information is provided. Should a Club subsequently comply with Rule 1.4.8, such points will not be returned or Matches replayed.

### **Forfeits**

- 1.4.10. Clubs must notify FV as soon as practicable in advance in the event that they are unable to participate in a Competition Fixture.
- 1.4.11. A Forfeit occurs when a Club or Team fails to participate in a Competition Fixture.
- 1.4.12. In the event of a Forfeit, the forfeiting Team:
  - a. is deemed to have lost the Competition Fixture 3-0;
  - b. will receive a forfeit notice from FV; and

- c. must respond to the forfeit notice and provide written reasons to explain why they were unable to Field a Team.
- d. In a Regular Season fixture (not including Play Off Semi Finals, Play Off Final, Elimination Finals, Preliminary Finals, Semi Finals or Grand Finals) incur the following fine:

| LEAGUE           | FORFEIT FINE |
|------------------|--------------|
| NPLM             | \$6,000      |
| NPLM U23         | \$1,000      |
| NPLM U20         | \$750        |
| NPLW             | \$6,000      |
| NPLW U20         | \$1,000      |
| VPLM 1           | \$4,000      |
| VPLM 1 U23       | \$1,000      |
| VPLM 1 U20       | \$750        |
| VPLM 2           | \$3,000      |
| VPLM 2 U23       | \$1,000      |
| VPLM 2 U20       | \$750        |
| VPLW             | \$1,000      |
| VPLW Reserves    | \$500        |
| Advanced Juniors | \$500        |

- e. In Play Off Semi Finals, Play Off Final, Elimination Finals, Preliminary Finals, Semi Finals or Grand Finals incur the following fine:

| LEAGUE | FORFEIT FINE |
|--------|--------------|
| NPLM   | \$12,000     |
| NPLW   | \$12,000     |
| VPLM 1 | \$8,000      |
| VPLM 2 | \$6,000      |

1.4.13. Any Team which incurs Forfeits in three (3) Competition Fixtures within a Regular Season may be removed from its League at FV's absolute discretion.

## Appeals

1.4.14. FV reserves the right during the Season to implement (and publish details of) an appeals mechanism against FV's decisions under Rule 1.4.4. Under such mechanism, Clubs who have had points so deducted may appeal that decision to the FV Tribunal, to be dealt with further to the GDT.

1.4.15. An appeal under Rule 1.4.14 shall constitute a Tribunal Referral for the purposes of the GDT.

1.4.16. The cost of an appeal under Rule 1.4.14 shall be as determined by FV from time to time and may be higher than standard Tribunal Request Fee referred to in the GDT.

## **1.5. Protection of Important Fixtures**

- 1.5.1. Where an A-League, International or an Inter-State match is scheduled in the State of Victoria, FV may determine that no other Competition Fixture or Sanctioned Match take place at the same time.

## **1.6. Sanctioned Matches**

- 1.6.1. Any Club taking part in any Sanctioned Match must abide by any and all codes of conduct or codes of Behaviour as may be prescribed by FV and/or FA from time to time, including the Codes of Behaviour attached to these Rules at Schedule 2.
- 1.6.2. By participating in a Sanctioned Match, the Club and any league or association to which that Club belongs, submits to the jurisdiction of FV, its Rules and Regulations and the GDT.
- 1.6.3. Any Club or Team, association, or organisation which administers or participates in any Sanctioned Match, must ensure that appropriate insurance and Work Cover arrangements are made to provide adequate and necessary coverage for their players, Match Officials, and all Club Associates involved in Sanctioned Matches
- 1.6.4. Any Club or Team, association or organisation wishing to participate in any interstate or international match, tournament or events must apply in accordance with the 2026 FV Registration Regulations, writing to the FV Registrations Team for prior approval.
- 1.6.5. All Competition Fixtures take precedence over non-FV matches or fixtures or tournaments. Failure to fulfill Competition Fixtures for a non FV Competition Fixture may result in disciplinary action in accordance with Rule 4.6.

## **1.7. Insurance**

- 1.7.1. FV will negotiate and appoint an insurance company or companies to provide cover for all Club Associates and players registered with FV as it sees fit, provided Clubs are incorporated at all times and meet the relevant affiliation, licence and registration requirements.

### **Insurance of Players**

- 1.7.2. All players taking the field of play (or training) must be insured through FV's Insurer (or as otherwise allowed by FV). Each player's insurance premium will be collected by FV at the time of player payment for registration via the Club Finance System (refer to the Summary of Cover as posted on the FV Website for policy details).

## **Insurance of Club Associates**

- 1.7.3. In addition to compulsory player insurance, FV shall provide through its insurance scheme insurance known as 'Not for Profit Organisation Liability' for Club Associates.

## **1.8. Strict Liability of Clubs**

- 1.8.1. Each Club shall be responsible for the conduct of its Club Associates at or in the vicinity of any Competition Fixture, Sanctioned Match or non-FV event in which a Club is engaged or is in attendance regardless of the responsibilities attaching to any other person or entity in respect of such a match or event.

## **1.9 Ticketing and Refunds of Money**

- 1.10.1 Ticket prices must be clearly displayed at the venue entry point and ticket box at all Competition Fixtures where admission fees are charged.
- 1.10.2 Clubs that charge admission fees must hand over an admission ticket to the paying customer when the exchange of money is made.
- 1.10.3 It is the customer's responsibility to ensure that he or she retains proof of purchase.
- 1.10.4 Customers that present an authentic FV pass as per the FV Advanced Competitions Accreditation Board distributed by FV from year to year or are aged 12 years or younger, will be granted free entry to Competition Fixtures and do not require an admission ticket unless otherwise communicated by FV (for example in relation to Finals or Playoffs).
- 1.10.5 Paying customers will be entitled to a full refund (including car park fees) on the day of the Competition Fixture if the main Competition Fixture on the day has been postponed or abandoned prior to the conclusion of the first half of that fixture.

## **1.11 Representative Teams**

- 1.11.1 Any player registered in Victoria will be eligible to represent Victoria in representative matches, camps or tours and each selected player must make themselves available for training, preparation and participation for representative matches, camps or tours when requested by FV.
- 1.11.2 All Clubs must release players for training and preparation for, and participation in, representative matches, camps or tours.

1.11.3 Where a Club has four (4) or more outfield players or two (2) goalkeepers from the same Team participating in an FV/FA approved representative match, camp or tour which conflicts with a FV Competition Fixture in which that Club or Team is required to participate, it may seek the postponement of that Competition Fixture. Approved representative matches may include but are not limited to:

- a. FA National Championships
- b. National Teams
- c. FV State Teams

1.11.4 All requests pursuant to Rule 1.11.3 must be received no less than 10 days prior to the Competition Fixture in question, unless the player is called up within the 10-day period by FV/FA for representative duty.

1.11.5 FV shall determine the outcome of any request under this Rule at its absolute discretion.

## **1.12 Member Protection**

1.12.1 FV has adopted the FA National Member Protection Framework including for all FV affiliated competition administrators, Clubs, players and Club Associates. The Member Protection Framework can be found by clicking the following [link](#).

1.12.2 FV welcomes and fosters diversity in the world game. All Persons, Clubs, players, Match Officials and/or Stakeholders involved with football are mandated to promote and provide safe and inclusive environments for all.

## **1.13 Club Compliance**

1.13.1 In order to be eligible to compete in FV competitions in 2026 a Club must comply with the requirements set out by the following:

- a. [FV's Club Compliance By-Law](#);
- b. Membership By-Law (ADD LINK)
- c. FV's Club Compliance Program (as applicable);
- d. Consumer Affairs Victoria;

- e. Australian Securities and Investment Commission (as applicable); and
- f. Australian Taxation Office.

## **1.14 Correspondence / Communication**

- 1.14.1 All correspondence by FV to Clubs shall be deemed to have been received by Clubs:
  - a. In the case of online communication, the day on which it was published online;
  - b. In the case of email communication, the time at which it was sent;
  - c. In the case of communication sent by mail, two (2) business days after such communication was posted.
- 1.14.2 Clubs must ensure that their postal mailboxes, specified email accounts, and the FV website are checked regularly, and that any information received is forwarded to the addressee or relevant parties within the Club.
- 1.14.3 All correspondence relating to Club requests, including, but not limited to Competition Fixtures, forfeits, grading, result disputes and disciplinary matters must be made by a Club representative listed on PlayFootball. Requests made by anyone not listed as a Club representative in PlayFootball may not be actioned by FV.
- 1.14.4 All Clubs must have an active email address and phone number and ensure that this address and phone number and all other relevant details are current, up to date in PlayFootball & FV club contact guide.
- 1.14.5 Failure by a Club to keep a current, active email address and phone number and to check that email address and any voicemail service connected to its phone number regularly, cannot be relied on by the Club in relation to the question of whether or not notice of any matter was received by the Club from FV or otherwise.
- 1.14.6 FV reserves the right to only communicate with nominated club contacts as listed on PlayFootball or the FV Club Contact Guide.

## **1.15 For Profit Academies**

- 1.15.1 Must have landowner consent, only to U12 SAP, no person on committee can be director or associated with an academy, cannot promote any academies via the club's social media channels and website.

## **1.16 Participation Licence**

The terms of the Participation Licence are incorporated in to and shall form part of these Rules of Competition and must be complied with at all times. To the extent of any inconsistency between the terms of these Rules of Competition and the terms of the Participation Licence, the terms of the Participation Licence will prevail.

## **2.0 COMPETITION RULES**

### **2.1 General Information**

- 2.1.1. All Competition Fixtures are played under the IFAB Laws of the Game, unless otherwise specified in these Rules.
- 2.1.2. Only Teams from FV registered clubs, country affiliates or representative Teams may enter FV Competitions.
- 2.1.3. If a Team is withdrawn on or before the point of the Regular Season at which all Teams have Played each other once a 'BYE' will be inserted to replace the withdrawn Team in the fixture, and all championship points along with goals scored (for & against) that Team will be erased. All Best & Fairest or Gold Medal votes gained in Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team will also be erased.
- 2.1.4. If a Team is withdrawn after the point of the Regular Season at which all Teams have Played each other an equal number of times, a 'BYE' will be inserted to replace the withdrawn Team in the fixture, and
  - a. All championship points along with goals scored (for & against) for:
    - (i) Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team will be erased.
  - b. All Best & Fairest or Gold Medal votes gained in:
    - (i) Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team up to the point of the season at which all Teams have Played each other an equal number of times will be erased;
    - (ii) Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team from the point of the season at which all Teams have Played each other an equal number of times, until the time the Team withdrew, will be erased.
  - c. For the avoidance of doubt, FV may consider forfeited matches as Played for the purposes of Rules 2.1.4.

- 2.1.5. If a Team withdraws prior to the start of the Regular Season and cannot be replaced, a “BYE” will be inserted into the fixture, or the fixture may be amended to accommodate the new number of Teams.
- 2.1.6. FV may alter the Regular Season, Competition Fixtures kick-off dates, venues and/or times as it deems necessary in its absolute discretion.

## **2.2. Player Eligibility**

- 2.2.1. A player is eligible to Play in their Team provided he or she:
  - a. has been registered in line with FA and FV Registration Regulations and remains eligible under the same;
  - b. is not under suspension by FV/FA and FIFA;
  - c. meets the competition’s age group and gender rules, where applicable and subject to any dispensation granted by FV;
  - d. they comply with the Match Record requirement set out in Rule 3.3;
  - e. presents a current Player ID Card via Dribl upon request to the Match Official in the Competition Fixture, where competitions require ID cards;
  - f. meets competition requirements for Finals or Play Off Matches.
- 2.2.2. Any Team which Fields an ineligible player may be subject to penalty under the GDT.
- 2.2.3. Any Player playing under a dispensation granted by FV must produce the letter of dispensation on match day upon request by the Match Official. Failing to produce a letter of dispensation upon request by the Match Official may result in a charge of Misconduct under the GDT.
- 2.2.4. If there is a dispute about any player(s) eligibility on the day of a Competition Fixture, the Match Official must note the details and send these to FV together with the Match Report. No Club Associate or Match Official may prevent a player from taking the field in an FV Competition Fixture on suspicion of ineligibility, unless that player is unable to present an ID Card in accordance with Rule 2.2.1.e.

## **2.3. Gender Rules**

- 2.3.1. Females are permitted to Play in Advanced Junior Boys Competition Fixtures up to and including Under 16 Advanced Junior Boys.

2.3.2. Males are not permitted to Play in NPLW, VPLW or Girl's Victorian Youth Premier League competitions.

2.3.3. FV retains the sole discretion to review any dispensation granted under Rule 2.3.1 during the Regular Season.

## **3.0 FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS**

### **3.1. Facilities/ Pitch Arrangements**

3.1.1. Clubs will:

- a. provide a venue that complies with the Advanced Competitions Facility Standards set out in Schedule 3 by no later than 5 January of the calendar year.
- b. provide a safe environment for players, Match Officials, Club Associates and spectators;
- c. ensure that their facilities and equipment are clean and fit for purpose;
- d. ensure that all applicable State and local government statutory and other requirements have been met in respect of their facilities including but not limited to:
  - (i) legitimate approved use of the facility by the owner or land manager; and
  - (ii) requirements under the Planning and Environment Act 1987, Food Act 1984, Building Act 1993 and Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (including but not limited to any directions issued by the Chief Health Officer); and,
  - (iii) any local laws;
  - (iv) have up to date liquor licence including RSA and food handling certificates.

3.1.2. A Club which advises FV prior to commencement of the Regular Season that it cannot provide facilities in accordance with Rule 3.1 or which, during the course of the season, has facilities which are found by FV to not comply with these requirements may:

- a. Have its home Competition Fixtures moved to an alternate venue at the cost of the Club or forfeit those home fixtures if a move to an alternate venue is not possible in FV's opinion.
- b. may be requested by FV to advise what steps the Club will take to ensure that it can meet these facility requirements and may be relegated to such League as FV deems appropriate.

3.1.3. At the absolute discretion of FV, a Club which fails to meet its facility requirements under Rule 3.1 may be relegated to a lower Division in the following Regular Season.

3.1.4. FV may in its absolute discretion upon written request grant a temporary dispensation from compliance with Rule 3.1 to a Club which:

- a. is in the process of upgrading its facilities to meet FV's requirements; or
- b. due to circumstances beyond its reasonable control the Club cannot comply with these requirements; or
- c. has satisfied FV that the Club is taking all reasonable steps to ensure compliance with these facility requirements including temporary measures; or
- d. satisfies FV that any facility requirement(s) that need temporary dispensation do not impact fundamental match day operations including any impact on opposition Teams, spectators and officials.

3.1.5. FV will not grant dispensation under Rule 3.1 from compliance with any requirement that relates to matters of safety or legislative compliance.

## **3.2. The Technical Area**

3.2.1. A maximum of 12 persons are permitted to be within the Technical Area at any given time during a Competition Fixture. Those persons may only include:

- a. Head Coach
- b. Assistant Coach
- c. Goal Keeper Coach
- d. Strength & Conditioning Coach
  - i. Registered Health Practitioner or;
  - ii. Sports Trainer/ Physio
- e. Team Manager/ Match Analyst

- 3.2.2. Subject to Rule 3.2.4, all persons must remain seated within the confines of the Technical Area, except in special circumstances e.g., a physiotherapist or doctor entering the field of play, with the Match Official's permission, to assess an injured player.
- 3.2.3. Players may leave the Technical Area to warm up, provided it does not interrupt the view of any Match Official.
- 3.2.4. Only one (1) person may stand up at one (1) time within the Technical Area.
- 3.2.5. All persons within the Technical Area must be wearing colours that clearly distinguish them from all players and Match Officials on the field of play e.g. a bib, jackets.
- 3.2.6. The Match Official may expel any person from the Technical Area at any time as he or she sees fit. The Competition Fixture will not recommence until that person has left the Technical Area and field of play to the Match Official's satisfaction.
- 3.2.7. A player or Club Associate who is under suspension must not be present in the Technical Area. Should a player or Club Associate be in breach of this rule they will be subject to further penalties under the GDT.
- 3.2.8. All persons within the Technical Area must be registered on PlayFootball and be listed on the Team Sheet.

### **3.3. Match Records**

- 3.3.1. Clubs will adhere to any future requirements relating to the use of online match records, results reporting and match data recording, as prescribed by FV from time to time.
- 3.3.2. Clubs must list on the Match Record all players taking part in a Competition Fixture and must produce to the Match Official a Match Record:
  - a. In the case of NPLM, NPLW, VPLW and all VPLM competitions, not less than 60 minutes before the commencement of any Competition Fixture.
  - b. In the case of Advanced Junior Competitions, unless otherwise stated in the regulations, not less than 30 minutes before the commencement of any Competition Fixture.
  - c. For Senior Competitions including but not limited to NPL and VPL (inclusive of Under 20s and Under 23s) if a Club does not submit their Match Record 60 minutes prior to the fixture they may be subject to a \$500 fine.
  - d. For Advanced Junior Competitions if a Club does not submit their Match Record 30 minutes prior to the fixture, they will receive a warning.
- 3.3.3. A club may be charged with Misconduct if:

- a. Any player listed on the Match Record is ineligible in accordance with either these Rules, the FV Registration Regulations, FA National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations or the GDT;
- b. More than 17 players are listed on the Match Record.
- c. It fails to list on the Match Record the Dribl Photo ID, shirt number, full name and FFA ID number for each player, or adds players to the Match Record after the submission to the Match Official (and without the Match Officials permission) and shall be processed in accordance with the terms of the GDT.

3.3.4. A representative from each Team must acknowledge the Match Record on Dribl at the conclusion of the Competition Fixture and should do so only after the appointed Match Official has recorded all outstanding details.

3.3.5. If a Club disagrees with any of the details on a Match Record (either its own or the opposition's), the Club must sign and indicate any disputed information by circling the detail in question. Only the following information can be disputed:

- a. Goal Scorers;
- b. Red and Yellow Cards
- c. Final Score; or
- d. Player Eligibility.

3.3.6. Match Record Disputes will only be investigated by FV of its own volition or in the following circumstances:

- a. The Match Record and request to conduct a match investigation is lodged with FV within 7 days of the Competition Fixture; and
- b. The following evidence is submitted by the Club in support of its request for a match investigation:
  - (i) Full Match Record
  - (ii) Video and/or photographic evidence
  - (iii) Statutory Declaration(s); and
  - (iv) Any other information accepted from the Club at the absolute discretion of FV.

3.3.7. Match Records will only be amended if FV is satisfied that the information disputed is proven beyond reasonable doubt.

3.3.8. FV may extend or abridge the deadline referred to in Rule 3.3.6.a, in its absolute discretion.

## **3.4. Security at Competition Fixtures**

3.4.1. The Home Club is responsible for providing appropriate arrangements to ensure the orderly Behaviour of spectators and provide for the protection of Match Officials, players and Club Associates at Competition Fixtures including but not limited to any specific requirements of FV which are notified to the Home Club.

3.4.2. All Clubs, players, Match Officials and Club Associates must comply with the FV's Risk Assessment & Security Policy as promulgated by FV, and any security arrangements put in place as a result of the application of that policy.

3.4.3. Each Home Club is responsible for security and/or police as directed by FV. Ordinarily this will be wholly the responsibility of the Home Club but FV reserves the right to require any Club involved in a Competition Fixture to meet FV determined security requirements in accordance with Rule 3.4 or as otherwise determined by FV.

3.4.4. Home Clubs must provide a lockable facility for all valuables of Match Officials(s) and participating Clubs. Failure to provide such a facility may result in the Home Club not being allocated Competition Fixtures at their home ground.

3.4.5. Rule 1.11.1 – 1.11.4 apply to a Club's home ground or facility and any neutral ground or facility (including The Home of the Matilda's, the State Football Centre at Darebin and the Knox Regional Football Centre) where that Club is listed as the Home Club for the purposes of a Competition Fixture to be played at the neutral ground or facility.

3.4.6. The Home Club or FV in the instance of Finals and Play Offs will be held responsible if it is found that Match Official(s) do not receive all items back.

3.4.7. Each Club is responsible for the valuables of its players, and valuables that are left in change rooms. Any valuables that are left in changerooms are done so at the owner's personal risk.

3.4.8. Rule 3.4 is subject to FVs Risk Assessment and Security Policy which may be amended from time to time.

**Table 3.4 – Minimum Number of Security for Competition Fixtures**

| <b>League</b>            | <b>Minimum Number of Security Guards</b> |
|--------------------------|--|
| NPLM Senior              | 6  |
| NPLW Senior & Under 20's | N/A                                      |

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| VPLM 1 Senior          | 4   |
| VPLM 2 Senior          | 4   |
| VPLW Senior & Reserves | N/A |
| NPLM Under 23's        | N/A |
| VPLM 1 Under 23's      | N/A |
| VPLM 2 Under 23's      | N/A |
| NPLM Under 20's        | N/A |
| VPLM 1 Under 20's      | N/A |
| VPLM 2 Under 20's      | N/A |
| Advanced Juniors       | N/A |

3.4.9 All Clubs, Players, Match Officials and Club Associates must comply with FV's Match Day Risk & Security Policy as promulgated by FV from time to time, and any security arrangements put in place as a result of the application of that policy.

3.4.10 All NPLM Senior Teams are required to provide a minimum of 6 contracted security personnel to be present at each home Competition Fixture for their Senior Team.

3.4.11 All VPLM Senior Teams are required to provide a minimum of 4 contracted security personnel to be present at each home Competition Fixture for their Senior Team.

3.4.12 Clubs are not required to provide contracted security for NPLW, VPLW Senior, NPLW Under 20's or VPLW Reserve Competition Fixtures but it is recommended by FV to have a minimum of 2 contracted security present at such Competition Fixtures.

3.4.13 Clubs are not required to provide contracted security for Advanced Junior home Competition Fixtures.

3.4.14 Rule 3.4 is subject to FVs Risk Assessment and Security Policy as amended from time to time.

### **3.5. Ground Marshals**

3.5.1. Each Club must provide the number of marshals directed by FV.

3.5.2. Ground Marshals must:

- a. be at least 18 years old;
- b. be in clearly identifiable uniform;

- c. be visible from the Field of Play at all times;
- d. must not consume or be under the influence of alcohol;
- e. must be an active observer of the crowd, not a fan
- f. escort the Match Official(s) to and from the change rooms and the Field of Play at the commencement of the Competition Fixture, at half time and at full time; and
- g. where required, assist the Match Official(s) to ensure a safe playing environment for all players, Club Associates and spectators.

3.5.3. Match Officials must not leave their dressing rooms to enter the field of play or return to their rooms from the Field of Play until the identifiable Ground Marshals are present.

**Table 3.5 – Minimum Number of Ground Marshals for Competition Fixtures**

| League                               | Minimum Number of Ground Marshals |           |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
|                                      | Home Team                         | Away Team |
| NPLM Senior                          | 6                                 | 2         |
| NPLW Senior & Under 20's             | 4                                 | 2         |
| VPLM 1 Senior                        | 4                                 | 2         |
| VPLM 2 Senior                        | 4                                 | 2         |
| VPLW Seniors                         | 2                                 | 2         |
| NPLM Under 23's                      | 2                                 | 2         |
| VPLM 1 Under 23's                    | 2                                 | 2         |
| VPLM 2 Under 23's                    | 2                                 | 2         |
| NPLM Under 20's                      | 2                                 | 2         |
| VPLM 1 Under 20's                    | 2                                 | 2         |
| VPLM 2 Under 20's                    | 2                                 | 2         |
| VPLW Reserves                        | 2                                 | 2         |
| Advanced Junior Boys                 | 2                                 | 2         |
| Girls Victorian Youth Premier League | 1                                 | 1         |

3.5.4. FV may vary the minimum Ground Marshal and Security arrangements for any FV Competition Fixture at any time.

3.5.5. Each FV Club in all NPLW, Advanced Junior fixtures, home and away, must provide 50% of the Ground Marshals for all Competition Fixtures. Refer to table below for minimum number of Ground Marshals for NPLW and Advanced Junior fixtures.

3.5.6. Ground Marshal numbers may be varied in line with FV's Risk Assessment and Security Policy

3.5.7. To view the Football Victoria Ground Marshal Handbook, [click here](#).

## **3.6. Player's Strip/ Apparel**

3.6.1. *Clothing and Protective Gear*

- a) All Teams must nominate a 'Home' & 'Alternate' playing strip. That is compliant with the Football Victoria [Kit Guidelines](#) as distributed by Football Victoria and [linked here](#).
- b) All playing strips must be approved by FV.
- c) Any change to these strips must be communicated to FV five (5) working days prior to the Club's next Competition Fixture.
- d) These strips must be contrasting colours from one another.
- e) Predominantly black playing kits will not be permitted in Advanced Junior Competition Fixtures.
- f) The Home Club in each Competition Fixture is required to wear their nominated 'Home' playing strip.
- g) In the instance of a clash between the home and away Team as determined by the Match Official, the away Team is required to provide a sufficient alternate playing strip.
- h) In the instance of a strip not being available to a club, it will be deemed the responsibility of the club to ascertain written consent from the opposing club to avoid any strip clash. This written agreement must be sent to FV prior to the fixture.
- i) The purpose of Rule 3.6 is to ensure that the two Clubs wear playing strips that distinguish them from each other and also the Match Officials. Clubs and Match Officials should refer to the following table to determine whether or not a strip clash exists. The table lists which items of the strip are permitted to clash for different Divisions/Leagues:

**Table 3.6 – Clashes & Permissions**

|                      | <b>NPLM, NPLW and VPLM (Seniors)</b> | <b>NPLM, NPLW and VPLM (U23s, U19s and U20s)</b> | <b>VPLW and VPLW Reserves</b> | <b>Advanced Junior</b> |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Playing Shirt</b> | No Clash Permitted                   | No Clash Permitted                               | No Clash Permitted            | No Clash Permitted     |
| <b>Shorts</b>        | No Clash Permitted                   | Clash Permitted                                  | Clash Permitted               | Clash Permitted        |
| <b>Socks</b>         | No Clash Permitted                   | No Clash Permitted                               | No Clash Permitted            | Clash Permitted        |

- a. Bibs are not permitted to be worn in any Competition Fixture.
- b. All playing shirts must have a visible number on the back of the shirt.
- c. All playing numbers displayed on shirts must be unique within the Team.
- d. A Club may be penalised in accordance with Rule 4.2 if:
  - (i) a Competition Fixture does not commence due to an inability to resolve a clash of strips, and it can be established that such Club or Team did not comply with Rule 3.6.1; or
  - (ii) a Club changes their home playing strip without notifying FV Competitions via [competitions@footballvictoria.com.au](mailto:competitions@footballvictoria.com.au) and this change results in a FV Competition Fixture being postponed.
  - (iii) Goalkeepers may wear any colour, except predominately black in Advanced Junior competitions provided it does not clash with either Team or the Match Officials.
- e. All clubs must have two (2) goalkeeper strips available at all home & away fixtures.
- f. There are to be no for profit Football Academy logos displayed on the kit as either a sponsor or alongside the Club's Registered Logo.

### **3.6.2. Eyewear**

- a. Any player requiring vision correction should wear contact lenses, or wear spectacles that:
  - (i) are firmly secured with a sports band or adjustable strap,
  - (ii) have purpose-designed and closely fitted curled ends on the arms, or

- (iii) are specially designed protective sports glasses constructed of plastic with rubberised cushioning and no metallic parts.

### **3.7. Stretchers/ First Aid**

- 3.7.1. Each Home Club must allocate one (1) stretcher suitable for first aid and emergency use, for each pitch hosting a Competition Fixture.
- 3.7.2. Each Home Club must provide a First Aid Kit including, but not limited to:
  - a. Band Aids;
  - b. Bandages; and
  - c. Ice Pack (or other available ice).
  - d. Must provide a hospital register clearly visible in the first aid and match officials room.
- 3.6.3 Home Clubs competing in Advanced Junior fixtures are required to provide a L1 Sports Trainer and/or Physio for match day coverage. The L1 Sports Trainer and/or Physio must be made available for both home and away Teams during each Competition Fixture.

### **3.8. Smoking / Drinking at Venues**

- 3.8.1. It is prohibited for anyone to smoke or consume alcohol within the confines of the Field of Play.
- 3.8.2. Clubs are responsible for ensuring that smoking and drinking alcohol are confined to licensed and permitted areas. Clubs should be familiar with and refer to State legislation regarding smoking laws.

### **3.9. Risk Fixtures**

- 3.9.1. Clubs must adhere to the Football Victoria Match Day Risk & Security Policy.
- 3.9.2. Fixtures determined as a Risk Fixture must be played no later than 3:15pm.

### **3.10. National Flags, Slogans & Emblems**

- 3.10.1. Clubs must comply at all times with the [FA Diversity & Inclusion Policy](#).

3.10.2. All Clubs must have the prior written approval of FV before introducing or incorporating any design, emblem or slogan onto any Club logo or name, product or medium, including but not limited to playing strips, promotional material, Club letterhead, banners, advertisements, public announcements, website or any other form of communication.

3.10.3. Any banners displayed at a competition fixture must be approved by Football Victoria.

3.10.4. FV may require the immediate removal of any offending material at any time.

## 3.11. Lighting Standards

3.11.1. The Lighting Standards for Advanced Competitions night fixtures is as follows:

| COMPETITION                         |                         | MINIMUM LUX† | MINIMUM HORIZONTAL UNIFORMITIES |                | APPROVAL PERIOD<br>*SUBJECT TO FV CONFIRMATION |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|----------------|--|
|                                     |                         |              | U <sub>1</sub>                  | U <sub>2</sub> |  |
| PROFESSIONAL*                       | Competition             | 500          | 0.70                            | 0.50           | 4 Years*                                       |
|                                     | Match Practice Training | 200          | 0.60                            | 0.40           | N/A  |
| SEMI-PROFESSIONAL (NPL/NPLW & VPL1) | Competition             | 200          | 0.60                            | 0.40           | 4 Years*                                       |
|                                     | Match Practice Training | 100          | 0.50                            | 0.30           | N/A  |
| SEMI-PROFESSIONAL (VPL2)            | Competition             | 150          | 0.60                            | 0.40           | 3 Years*                                       |
|                                     | Match Practice Training | 100          | 0.50                            | 0.30           | N/A  |
| AMATEUR (All other competitions)    | Competition             | 100          | 0.50                            | 0.30           | 3 Years*                                       |
|                                     | Match Practice Training | 100          | 0.50                            | 0.30           | N/A  |

3.11.2. Clubs are subject to FV's Lighting Policy referred to in Rule 9.

## 4.0 FIXTURE DETAILS

### 4.1. Duration of Competition Fixtures

#### 4.1.1 *Periods of Play*

a. All Competition Fixtures will be Played over Normal Time as specified in Table 4.1.

**Table 4.1 – Duration of Normal Time across Age Groups**

| Age Group           | Duration of Competition Fixtures – Normal Time |
|---------------------|--|
| Advanced Boys U13   | 2 x 30 minute halves (= 60 minutes)            |
| Advanced Boys U14   | 2 x 30 minute halves (= 60 minutes)            |
| Advanced Boys U15   | 2 x 35 minute halves (= 70 minutes)            |
| Advanced Boys U16   | 2 x 40 minute halves (= 80 minutes)            |
| Advanced Boys U18   | 2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)            |
| Advanced Girls 13   | 2 x 30 minute halves (= 60 minutes)            |
| Advanced Girls 15   | 2 x 35 minute halves (= 70 minutes)            |
| Advanced Girls 17   | 2 x 40 minute halves (= 80 minutes)            |
| VPLW Reserves       | 2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)            |
| VPLW Seniors        | 2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)            |
| VPLM 20             | 2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)            |
| VPLM 23             | 2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)            |
| VPLM 1 & VPLM 2     | 2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)            |
| NPLW 20             | 2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)            |
| NPLM 20             | 2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)            |
| NPLM 23             | 2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)            |
| NPLM & NPLW Seniors | 2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)            |

b. Periods of play for specific competitions may be altered by FV provided they are implemented throughout the age group or competition.

c. The Match Official may cut short any Competition Fixture (including reducing the length of each half before the commencement of the Competition Fixture) if in the Match Official's opinion playing conditions compromise player safety or to prevent the delay to the commencement of any subsequent Competition Fixture from its scheduled kick-off time only if:

(i) it is in line with IFAB rules;

(ii) he or she has notified the coaches of each participating team.

d. For the avoidance of doubt, there will be no time added in NPLM Under 23's, NPLM Under 20's, NPLW Under 20's, VPLM 1 Under 23's, VPLM 1 Under 20's, VPLM 2 under 23's, VPLM 2 Under 20's, VPLW Reserves and Advanced Junior fixtures, unless in the event there is a serious injury requiring an ambulance to be called to remove an injured player from the playing field and then only at the discretion of the Match Official after the player has been removed.

#### **4.1.2 Commencement Time**

- a. Teams must be ready to begin playing by the stated kick off time.
- b. If either team is not ready to begin playing within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick off time the Match Official may determine the Competition Fixture as Abandoned in accordance with Rule 4.2:
- c. In circumstances where both teams and the Match Official agree the FV Competition Fixture may commence up to 30 minutes after the scheduled kick off time, provided it does not delay the kick-off of subsequent Competition Fixtures either at that venue or to which the Match Official is also appointed on that day.

#### **4.1.3 Half Time Interval**

The half-time interval must be a minimum of 5 minutes and no longer than 15 minutes in duration.

### **4.2. Abandoned Competition Fixtures**

- 4.2.1. Competition Fixtures may only be abandoned by a decision of the Match Official or FV.
- 4.2.2. A Competition Fixture may be abandoned for any of, but not limited to, the following reasons:
  - a. any Team has its playing numbers reduced for any reason below the minimum FIFA requirement of seven (7) players;
  - b. the lighting at the venue fails such that in the opinion of the Match Official it is impossible or unsafe to continue to play;
  - c. the Match Official or FV determines that playing conditions have become unsafe or untenable for any reason;

- d. the Match Official, in consultation with security staff and ground marshals, determines that the conditions for players, coaches, Match Officials or supporters have become unsafe or untenable for any reason;
- e. One or both of the Teams is not ready to commence the Competition Fixture within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick-off time; or
- f. In accordance with Rule 4.4,

and Clubs must use reasonable endeavors to report any likely abandonment circumstances to FV in advance, particularly in order to avoid unnecessary travel by regionally based Clubs and Teams.

4.2.3. If a Competition Fixture is abandoned due to a matter set out in Rule 4.2.2 FV will determine one of the following outcomes of the Competition Fixture at its absolute discretion:

- a. If 80 per cent or more of Normal Time of a Competition Fixture has been played, then the score at the time of abandonment will stand. 'Played' in the context of this Rule will be determined by FV with reference to the Match Official.
  - i. For clarity below is a table outlining at what time of the match 80% is completed based on the length of the fixture (not including additional time).

| GAME LENGTH                  | 80%        |
|------------------------------|------------|
| 60 minutes (U13 and U14)     | 48 minutes |
| 70 minutes (U15)             | 56 minutes |
| 80 minutes (U16 and U17)     | 64 minutes |
| 90 minutes (U18 and Seniors) | 72 minutes |

- b. If a Competition Fixture has been abandoned between 70% and 80% of the Normal Time and the goal difference between the two teams exceeds 3 or more goals, FV may determine that the result be maintained at the time of abandonment. E.g 3-0, 4-1, 5-2.
  - i. For clarity below is a table outlining at what time of the match 70% is completed based on the length of the fixture (not including additional time):

| GAME LENGTH                  | 70%        |
|------------------------------|------------|
| 60 minutes (U13 and U14)     | 42 minutes |
| 70 minutes (U15)             | 49 minutes |
| 80 minutes (U16 and U17)     | 56 minutes |
| 90 minutes (U18 and Seniors) | 63 minutes |

- c. Competition Fixture to be replayed in full.
- d. Competition Fixture to be awarded as a 'No Result'.

- e. Competition Fixture result is 0-0.
- f. Competition Fixture result is 3-0 to the non-offending Team unless the score at the time of abandonment was greater and in favour of the non-offending Team, in which case the greater result will stand. In determining what is a 'greater' result, FV will give preference to goals FOR in the first instance (i.e. 4-1 will be considered a 'greater' result than 3-0).
- g. Competition Fixture at the time of abandonment is to stand.

4.2.4. For clarification, the time of abandonment of a competition fixture is determined as the time at which the Referee deems that fixture is abandoned.

4.2.5. Any Club or Club Associate found to be responsible either in whole or in part for the abandonment of a Competition Fixture may be subject to penalties under the GDT.

4.2.6. When a Competition Fixture is abandoned:

- a. After commencement of the Competition Fixture, all Match Officials are entitled to receive 100% of their normal Match Fee; or
- b. prior to commencement of the Competition Fixture, all Match Officials are entitled to receive 50% of their normal match fee if the Match Official(s) were present at the venue when the Competition Fixture was due to commence.

4.2.7. Match Officials may not claim more than one (1) postponed match fee from one venue on one day.

4.2.8. If a Competition Fixture is abandoned by the Match Official, both the Match Official and the Home Club must notify FV in writing by the following business day that the Competition Fixture has been abandoned.

### **4.3. Postponed/ Rescheduled Competition Fixtures**

4.3.1. Competition Fixtures may be cancelled, postponed or rescheduled by FV in its absolute discretion. Otherwise, Competition Fixtures may only be postponed or rescheduled by appointed Match Officials or FV competitions staff.

4.3.2. FV may reschedule Competition Fixtures at its absolute discretion. In exercising that discretion, FV:

- a. is not subject to any deadlines or timeframes whether set out in these Rules or otherwise;
- b. will take into consideration relevant circumstances including but not limited to the scheduling of Cup Fixtures; and

- c. will not compensate any clubs due to the cancellation, postponement or rescheduling of Competition Fixtures.

4.3.3. FV will determine the new time and date for the playing of a postponed/rescheduled Competition Fixture. Clubs must fulfill any postponed or rescheduled Competition Fixture as determined by FV and any Club which fails to do so will automatically forfeit the Competition Fixture and may face penalty under the GDT.

4.3.4. Any Competition Fixture scheduled by FV to be replayed must be completed by no later than one (1) week after the conclusion of the Regular Season unless otherwise approved or directed by FV in writing. FV may record the result of any Competition Fixture not completed within this time frame as a 'No Result'.

4.3.5. Any Club Associate or Club found guilty of rearranging a Competition Fixture or requesting the appointment of Match Officials outside a set kick-off time or date will be subject to penalty under the GDT. FV may also record the final score of any such Competition Fixture as a 'No Result'.

4.3.6. In the event of a postponed or rescheduled Competition Fixture which is required to be played, clubs have five (5) business days from the originally scheduled Competition Fixture to arrange an alternate date and venue. The date must fall within the Regular Season. Both date and venue must be approved by FV. If no venue and date is provided the FV Competition Fixture will be rescheduled at FV's absolute discretion.

4.3.7. With the exception of where the COVID-19 Rules – Impacted NPL Competitions apply, any other Player, coach or team unavailability resulting in team non-participation in the rescheduled fixture will result in a 3-0 forfeit to the offending team.

#### **4.4. Weather Conditions**

4.4.1. FV and/or the Match Official may postpone, delay or abandon any Competition Fixture due to weather, pitch conditions such as but not limited to excessive heat/humidity, lightning or rain that may endanger participants health and/or safety. Refer to [Extreme Weather Policy](#).

#### **4.5. Match Points**

4.5.1. In all Competition Fixtures, match points will be awarded as follows:

| <b>5. Result</b> | <b>Match Points Awarded</b>                               |
|------------------|---|
| WIN              | Three (3) points  |
| DRAW             | One (1) point   |
| LOSS             | Zero (0) points   |
| FORFEIT          | Three nil loss  |
| NO RESULT        | Zero (0) points and zero (0) goals awarded to either team |

4.5.2. FV reserves the right to record any Competition Fixture as a 'No Result' if the circumstances require or as a result of a breach of these Rules.

4.5.3. During the Regular Season, all Teams will be ranked from highest to lowest by virtue of the total number of match points received.

4.5.4. If one (1) or more Teams during the Regular Season on the same number of points, their final position will be determined as follows:

- a. The Team with the greatest Goal Difference will finish higher.
- b. If Goal Difference is the same, then the Team that has scored the most Goals FOR will be deemed to have finished higher.
- c. If Goal Difference is the same and Goals FOR is the same, then the final order will be determined by the aggregate results of Competition Fixtures Played between those Teams For the current Regular Season (excluding Cup Fixtures).
- d. If the aggregate scores between the Teams are the same, then AWAY goals will count as double.
- e. Alphabetical order.

4.5.5. At the end of the Regular Season, all Teams will be ranked from highest to lowest by virtue of the total number of match points received.

4.5.6. If one (1) or more Teams finish the Regular Season on the same number of points, their final position will be determined as follows:

- a. The Team with the greatest Goal Difference will finish higher.
- b. If Goal Difference is the same, then the Team that has scored the most Goals FOR will be deemed to have finished higher.
- c. If Goal Difference is the same and Goals FOR is the same, then the final order will be determined by the aggregate results of Competition Fixtures Played between those Teams For the current Regular Season (excluding Cup Fixtures).
- d. If the aggregate scores between the Teams are the same, then AWAY goals will count as double.
- e. Toss of a coin in the event of a tie of two (2) clubs.

4.5.7. If one (1) or more Teams have the identical number of match points, Goal Difference, Goals Scored & Conceded, and the results between the Teams is the same, then those Teams will be deemed to have tied.

4.5.8. If the final standing in any League is affected by a tie in accordance with Rule 4.5.6 so that it has a bearing on promotion or relegation to another League, Finals or Playoff, then FV will fixture a Play Off Match between those Teams in accordance with these Rules to separate them.

## **4.6 Change of Venue / Fixture Requests by Club**

### **4.6.1 Change of Venue Requests**

- a. Change of venue or pitch requests may only be made on the basis of perceived unplayable pitch conditions, or to relocate a Competition Fixture to an improved facility.
- b. A written request, including booking confirmation, to relocate a Competition Fixture to an improved facility must be received by FV no less than fourteen (14) days prior to a Competition Fixture. FV shall consider factors such as maintaining kick off times, relative distance to travel, and the quality of the facility and playing surface when considering such requests. Any request that involves a change to kick-off times or dates will be subject to Rule 4.6.2.
- c. Any change request based on deteriorating pitch or venue conditions may be considered within the fourteen (14) day period prior to the Competition Fixture at the absolute discretion of FV.
- d. Alternate venues will be assessed against the Advanced Competitions Facility Standard with any approval/dispenstation to rest at the absolute discretion of FV.

### **4.6.2 Fixture Date/ Time Change Requests – include process opposition approval**

- a. FV will consider a fixture change request by a Club if the request is received no less than fourteen (14) days prior to the fixture with written consent provided to FV by the Club Associates of both Clubs. Any request submitted within fourteen (14) days is subject to the availability of Match Officials and the absolute discretion of FV.
- b. No date or time change request will be accepted for the final round of any Senior Advanced Competition.
- c. Scheduled FV competition Catch Up rounds and Cup Fixture rounds will only be used in the case of postponed or abandoned Competition Fixtures.
- d. Exemption from Rule 4.6.2.c may only be made if:
  - (i) A request is made in accordance with Rule 4.6.2.a; and

(ii) Five (5) days prior to the catch-up or Cup Fixture round neither Club is involved in and other Competition Fixture being Played in that catch-up or Cup Fixture round.

4.6.3 Any decision to reschedule a Competition Fixture (or otherwise) under Rule 4.6 is subject to FV's right to reschedule a Competition Fixture in accordance with Rule 4.3.2.

4.6.4 FV decisions in relation to rescheduling of Competition Fixtures will be final and binding on all parties and are not subject to appeal.

4.6.5 FV holds ultimate power and absolute discretion over the fixturing of Competition Fixtures.

## **4.7 Fixtures – NPLM/NPLW/VPLM/VPLW**

4.7.1 NPLM, NPLW, VPLM and VPLW Teams may nominate the following days to host their home Competition Fixtures: Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary, or otherwise approved.

4.7.2 Friday or Monday night Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 6.15pm (NPLM, NPLW, VPLM, Under 20s/Under 23s/Under 20 and VPLW Reserves) or 7.30pm (NPLM, NPLW, VPL Senior), unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.or if there is a double header fixtured for the Men's and Women's teams.

4.7.3 Saturday or Sunday Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 9:30am (NPLM, NPLW, VPLM, Under 23s/Under 20 and VPLW Reserves) or 12:00pm (NPLM, NPLW, VPL Senior), unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.

4.7.4 Saturday or Sunday Competition Fixtures may not kick off later than 8.30pm (NPLM and VPLM Senior and Under 23's/Under 20's), unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.

4.7.5 The applicable kick off times for Saturday or Sunday Competition Fixtures apply to any Competition Fixtures held on public holidays.

4.7.6 Unless otherwise determined by FV, there must be 72 hours between two Football Victoria or Football Australia sanctioned competitions including but not limited to the following:

4.7.6.1 Regular Season fixtures;

4.7.6.2 Dockerty Cup Competitions;

4.7.6.3 Nike FC Cup Competitions ;

4.7.6.4 Cecil Earley Plate;

4.7.6.5 Steph Catley Plate; or

4.7.6.6 Australia Cup

4.7.7 FV may alter kick off times to accommodate travel to and from regional areas.

- 4.7.8 FV may alter kick off times upon the basis of a fixture clash.
- 4.7.9 There must be a minimum time from kick off of the Under20's/Under 23's until the kick off of the Senior fixture of 2 hours in the NPLM, should the fixtures be played on different pitches.
- 4.7.10 There must be a minimum time from kick off of the Under20's/Under 23's until the kick off of the Senior fixture of 2 hours and 15 minutes in the VPLM.
- 4.7.11 There must be a minimum time from kick off of the Under 20's/Reserves until the kick off of the Senior fixture of 2 hours and 15 minutes in the NPLW and VPLW.
- 4.7.12 NPLM/NPLW/VPLM fixtures may only be Played on public holidays with the prior permission of FV.
- 4.7.13 FV reserves the right to determine dates and times of Competition Fixtures with specific regards to the number of matches Played within the immediate proximity of the relevant Competition Fixture; including but not limited to Australia Cup, Nike F.C. Cup and Dockerty Cup commitments.

## **4.8 Fixtures – Advanced Junior Competitions**

- 4.8.1 Girls Victorian Youth Premier League Competition Fixtures may be played on Saturday or Sunday subject to AGSV/APS fixtures. Fixtures that are played with an AGSV/APS fixture must commence on or after 12:25pm.
- 4.8.2 Advanced Junior Boys Under 13 – Under 16 fixtures must occur on Sundays.
- 4.8.3 Advanced Junior Boys Under 18 fixtures can occur between Friday and Monday.
- 4.8.4 FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary, or otherwise approves.
- 4.8.5 Advanced Junior Competition Fixtures have flexible kick off times provided they do not kick-off earlier than 8:30am or later than 6:30pm unless the FV Competition Fixture has been rescheduled as per Rule 4.3, or as otherwise determined by FV.
- 4.8.6 Fixtures against regional clubs are unable to be fixtured on Friday/Monday nights, prior to 10:00am on weekends or later than 4pm on weekends unless agreed to by both clubs.
- 4.8.7 FV may alter preferred kick off times to accommodate travel to and from regional areas.
- 4.8.8 FV may alter kick off times upon the basis of a fixture clash.

## **4.9 Substitution & Interchange**

- 4.9.1 Each NPLM, NPLW and VPLM Senior Team may use a maximum of five (5) substitutes with a maximum of three (3) substitution opportunities and may additionally make substitutions at half time during any NPLM Competition Fixture. No more than six (6) substitutes permitted to be named on the Match Record.

4.9.2 Each NPLM, VPLM Under 20's and Under 23's Team may use a maximum of five (5) substitutes with a maximum of three (3) substitution opportunities and may additionally make substitutions at half time during any Competition Fixture. No more than six (6) substitutes permitted to be named on the Match Record.

4.9.3 For NPLM, NPLW and VPLM fixtures, each team must use substitution slips, to be provided to the 4<sup>th</sup> official for each substitute.

4.9.4 For VPLW Senior Competition Fixture, a maximum of seventeen (17) players may be listed on a Match Record. Each Team may use a maximum of five (5) substitutes with a maximum of three (3) substitution opportunities and may additionally make substitutions at half time during any Competition Fixture. No more than six (6) substitutes permitted to be named on the Match Record.

4.9.5 For VPLW Reserve Competition Fixture, a maximum of seventeen (17) players may be listed on a Match Record each Reserve Team is permitted to name six (6) substitutes and use a maximum three interchange periods in each half throughout that Competition Fixture.

4.9.6 For GVYPL Under 13's Competition Fixtures, a maximum of 14 Players may be named on the Match Record. There may be an infinite number of interchanges for any fixture that may take place during a maximum of 5 interchange periods during a Competition Fixture or as otherwise determined by FV in accordance with the following:

4.9.6.1 Teams may make any number of interchanges during the half-time break of a Competition Fixture or in the event of injury where the injured player is required to be replaced, and these shall not count towards the 5 interchange limit.

4.9.7 For GVYPL Under 15's, GVYPL Under 17's and NPLW Under 20's Competition Fixtures, a maximum of 17 Players may be named on the Match Record. Those Teams may make any number of interchanges during a Competition Fixture or as otherwise determined by FV in accordance with the following:

4.9.7.1 For Under 15's Competition Fixtures a maximum of two interchange periods per Team in each half;

4.9.7.2 For Under 17's and Under 20's Competition Fixtures a maximum of three interchange periods per Team in each half;

4.9.7.3 Teams must notify the Match Official when they intend to utilise their allocated interchange periods.

4.9.7.4 Teams may conduct any number of interchanges during the half time interval.

4.9.7.5 Match Officials may permit an interchange to take place outside of the allocated periods if, in their opinion and in consultation with the Team's first aid or medical staff, a Player has sustained an injury and is required to be replaced.

4.9.7.6 For clarity, a player who was brought off the field during an interchange period may re-enter the field of play in a later interchange period.

4.9.8 For Advanced Junior Boy's Competition Fixtures Under 14 to Under 18, a maximum of 17 Players may be named on the Match Record. Those Teams may make any number of interchanges during a Competition Fixture or as otherwise determined by FV in accordance with the following:

- a. For Under 14's Competition Fixtures, a maximum of two interchange periods per Team in each half;
- b. For Under 15s to Under 17's Competition Fixtures, a maximum of three interchange periods per Team in each half;
- c. Teams may conduct any number of interchanges during the half time interval;
- d. Teams must notify the Match Official when they intend to utilize their allocated interchange periods;
- e. Match Officials may permit an interchange to take place outside of the allocated interchange periods if, in their opinion and in consultation with Team first aid or medical staff, a player has sustained an injury and is required to be replaced.

4.9.9 For Advanced Junior Boys Under 13's Competition Fixtures, a maximum of 14 Players may be named on the Match Record. There may be an infinite number of interchanges for any fixture that may take place during a maximum of 5 interchange periods during a Competition Fixture or as otherwise determined by FV in accordance with the following:

4.9.9.1 Teams may make any number of interchanges during the half-time break of a Competition Fixture or in the event of injury where the injured player is required to be replaced, and these shall not count towards the 5 interchange limit.

4.9.10 A Match Official may decline the interchange of players in the last five (5) minutes of a Competition Fixture if in his/her opinion the change is being made to deliberately delay play.

## **4.10 Match Balls**

4.10.1 The Home Team shall provide the Match Official with three (3) match balls (size 5) no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled Competition Fixture, subject to Rule 11.2.2. For all GVYPL Under 13 Competition Fixtures size 4 match balls must be provided.

4.10.2 All Clubs must use a licensed match ball from one of FV's licensed ball manufacturers in Competition Fixtures, as advised by FV from time to time.

4.10.3 Clubs must use the prescribed Mitre match ball in Competition Fixtures as follows:

| COMPETITION          | BALL MODEL                     |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| NPL VIC Men          | Mitre Ultimax PRO 26           |
| U23 - NPL VIC Men    | Mitre Ultimax ONE 26           |
| U20 – NPL VIC Men    | Mitre Ultimax ONE 26           |
| NPL VIC Women        | Mitre Ultimax PRO 26           |
| U20 - NPL VIC Women  | Mitre Ultimax ONE 26           |
| VPL 1 Men            | Mitre Ultimax EVO 26           |
| U23 - VPL 1 Men      | Mitre Ultimax ONE 26           |
| U20 – VPL 1 Men      | Mitre Ultimax ONE 26           |
| VPL 2 Men            | Mitre Ultimax EVO 26           |
| U23 - VPL 2 Men      | Mitre Ultimax ONE 26           |
| U20 – VPL 2 Men      | Mitre Ultimax ONE 26           |
| VPL Women            | Mitre Ultimax EVO 26           |
| Reserves – VPL Women | Mitre Ultimax ONE 26           |
| Advanced Juniors     | Mitre Ultimax EVO 26 or higher |

4.10.4 Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to FV by the Match Official.

4.10.5 A failure to comply with Rule 11.2 may result in a penalty under the GDT.

## 4.11 Results of Competition Fixtures

4.11.1 NPLM, NPLW, VPLM 1, VPLM 2, VPLW Senior Team Competition Fixtures – Minimum Requirements

- a. The Match Official must enter:
  - (i) Half Time Score;
  - (ii) Full Time Score;
  - (iii) Home & Away Team Player List (including starting XI) & Numbers;
  - (iv) Home & Away Team Captain and GK;
  - (v) Home & Away Team Officials;
  - (vi) Home & Away Team goal scorers;
  - (vii) Home & Away Team yellow cards;
  - (viii) Home & Away Team red cards; and

- (ix) Home & Away Team substitutions.
- b. Items outlined in Rule 11.3.1.a. must be entered within 90 minutes of the conclusion of the Competition Fixture.
- c. Match reports and player votes must be entered within 24 hours of the completion of the Competition Fixture.
- d. If no FV Match Official has officiated the Competition Fixture, then
  - (i) The Home Team must enter information outlined in Rule 11.3.1a (including match score and information relating to the home Team) in accordance with Rule 11.3.1.b and Rule 11.3.1.c.
  - (ii) The Away Team must enter information outlined in Rule 11.3.1a (excluding match score and including information relating to the away Team) in accordance with Rule 11.3.1.c.
  - (iii) Both the Home & Away Team must submit to FV a copy of their Match Record within 48 hours of the completion of the Competition Fixture.
  - (iv) Clubs who fail to comply with Rule 11.3.1.d. may face a penalty under the GDT.

#### 4.11.2 NPLM/VPLM Under 23's, NPLW Under 20's, VPLW Reserves, advanced Junior Competition Fixtures – Minimum Requirements

- a. The Match Official must enter:
  - (i) Full Time Score;
  - (ii) Home & Away Team Player List & Numbers;
  - (iii) Home & Away Team Officials;
  - (iv) Home & Away Team goal scorers;
  - (v) Home & Away Team yellow cards;
  - (vi) Home & Away Team red cards; and
  - (vii) Home & Away Team substitutions (U23's and U20's only).

- b. Items outlined in Rule 11.3.2. must be entered within 24 hours of the completion of the Competition Fixture.
- c. If no FV Match Official has officiated the Competition Fixture, then
  - (i) The Home Team must enter information outlined in Rule 11.3.2a (including match score and information relating to the home Team) in accordance with Rule 11.3.2.b and Rule 11.3.2.c.
  - (ii) The Away Team must enter information outlined in Rule 11.3.2a (excluding match score and including information relating to the away Team) in accordance with Rule 11.3.2.c.
  - (iii) Both the Home & Away Team must submit to FV a copy of their match record within 48 hours of the completion of the Competition Fixture.
  - (iv) Clubs who fail to comply with Rule 11.3.2.b may face a penalty under the GDT.

4.11.3 Clubs must adhere to any requirements relating to the use of online match records, results reporting and match data recording, as prescribed by FV from time to time.

## 4.12 Catering

4.12.1 Home Teams will provide the following catering for visiting Teams in NPL Competitions:

- a. Competition Fixtures in NPLM, NPLW, VPLM 1 and VPLM 2 Seniors;
  - (i) 1 Slab of water (24 Bottles), or sports drink equivalent to be placed in the opposition change rooms prior to kick off.
  - (ii) 1 Tray of sandwiches or equivalent hot food to be provided within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the match for the opposition team and the match officials.
  - (iii) Half a slab of water (12 bottles) or sports drink equivalent to be placed in the match official change rooms prior to kick off.
- b. Under 20 and Under 23 Competition Fixtures in NPLM, VPLM 1 and VPLM 2 and Under 20 Competition Fixtures in NPLW;
  - (i) 1 Slab of water (24 Bottles), or sports drink equivalent to be placed in the opposition change rooms prior to kick off.
  - (ii) Half a slab of water (12 bottles) or sports drink equivalent to be placed in the match official change rooms prior to kick off.

- c. There are no minimum catering requirements for VPLW, Advanced Junior fixtures.

## **4.13 Recording of Matches**

All Clubs are required to film all home matches of their NPLM, NPLW, VPLM 1 and VPLM 2 Teams (Senior and Under 20's/Under 23's/Under 20's). Footage must be filmed from at or near halfway, at the highest available elevation. Footage provided to FV must be match highlights (all goals, other highlights at Club's absolute discretion) in minimum 720p video quality.

- 4.13.1 Match highlights must be provided to FV no later than the Tuesday close of business following Friday, Saturday or Sunday Competition Fixtures, no later than Wednesday close of business for Monday Competition Fixtures, and no later than 2 working days after Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday Competition Fixtures.
- 4.13.2 VPLW Seniors and Reserves are not required to record all fixtures, but it is highly recommended by Football Victoria.
- 4.13.3 All Advanced Junior Competition fixtures must be recorded by the Home Team and made available to FV upon request.

## 5.0 MATCH OFFICIALS

### 5.1. Match Official Fees

- 5.1.1. FV will endeavour to appoint a Match Official to each Competition Fixture, subject to availability and applicable fixture schedule.
- 5.1.2. 2026 Match Official fees as set out on the FV website and will apply for the duration of the Regular Season, although are subject to change at any time.

| ADVANCED COMPETITIONS REFEREE FEE SCHEDULE |         |                   |              |
|--|---------|-------------------|--------------|
| Competition                                | Referee | Assistant Referee | 4th Official |
| NPLM SENIORS                               | \$340   | \$185             | \$150        |
| NPLM Under 23's                            | \$160   | \$90              | -            |
| NPLM Under 20's                            | \$130   | \$75              | -            |
| NPLW Seniors                               | \$310   | \$155             | \$125        |
| NPLW Under 20's                            | \$130   | \$90              | -            |
| VPLM 1 Seniors                             | \$260   | \$145             | \$120        |
| VPLM 1 Under 23's                          | \$135   | \$80              | -            |
| VPLM 1 Under 20's                          | \$125   | \$70              | -            |
| VPLM 2 Seniors                             | \$240   | \$135             | \$110        |
| VPLM 2 Under 23's                          | \$135   | \$80              | -            |
| VPLM 2 Under 20's                          | \$125   | \$70              | -            |
| VPLW Seniors                               | \$190   | \$100             | -            |
| VPLW Reserves                              | \$110   | \$60              | -            |
| Advanced Junior Boys Under 18's            | \$120   | \$70              | -            |
| Advanced Junior Boys Under 16's            | \$100   | \$65              | -            |
| Advanced Junior Boys Under 15's            | \$80    | \$55              | -            |
| Advanced Junior Boys Under 14's            | \$70    | \$45              | -            |
| Advanced Junior Boys Under 13's            | \$60    | \$40              | -            |
| GVYPL Under 17's                           | \$110   | \$65              | -            |
| GVYPL Under 15's                           | \$80    | \$55              | -            |
| GVYPL Under 13's                           | \$60    | \$40              | -            |

- 5.1.3. The full fee schedule can be found using the [link](#).
- 5.1.4. Payment of Referees will be made by the Home Club and facilitated online via Dribl. Following approval by FV, funds will be transferred automatically to match officials in the week following the fixture.
- 5.1.5. The Home Club will be invoiced in accordance with the invoicing process communicated to clubs, for the referee's attendance.

5.1.6. If a Competition Fixture is abandoned or postponed, all Match Officials are entitled to receive match fees in accordance with Rule 4.2.5.

## **5.2. Assistant Match Officials**

5.2.1. Where available two (2) assistant Match Officials shall be appointed to a Competition Fixture (including Advanced Junior Competition Fixtures) to assist the Match Official.

5.2.2. If insufficient assistant Match Officials have been appointed, each Team must provide an assistant to the Match Official. Failure to comply will result in a forfeit by the Team which fails to provide an assistant.

5.2.3. No player(s) listed on a Match Record or Team Sheet can act as a Match Official during any Competition Fixture.

## **5.3. Non-Attendance or Unavailability of Match Officials**

5.3.1. If the Match Official fails to honour his or her appointment, the next most senior Match Official (**Replacement**) will take charge of the Competition Fixture.

5.3.2. If the Match Official is late arriving at a Competition Fixture, the Replacement will take charge until the Match Official is ready to take over.

5.3.3. If no registered Match Official is present to act as the Replacement ten (10) minutes prior to scheduled start of the Competition Fixture, both clubs shall agree on a person to act as the Match Official for the Competition Fixture, or until the appointed Match Official arrives. If, by the scheduled kick off time, no agreement can be reached, the Home Club must appoint a person to act as the Match Official for the Competition Fixture.

5.3.4. If a Competition Fixture does not kick off within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick off time due to the absence of a Match Official the Home Club will be deemed to have forfeited the Competition Fixture.

5.3.5. All Clubs must fulfill all Competition Fixtures, regardless of whether or not the FV-appointed Match Official is present to take charge. Failure to do so may result in a penalty under the GDT.

## **5.4. Decisions of the Match Official**

5.4.1. The decisions of the Match Officials about any fact connected with play are final and cannot be disputed by any party.

## **5.5. Pitch & Facility Inspection Report**

5.5.1. At the conclusion of each Competition Fixture, the Match Official must complete the Pitch & Facility Inspection Report, where necessary, and then ensure all relevant Competition Fixture documentation is lodged with the FV within two (2) business days.

## **5.6. Match Record & Misconduct Report**

5.6.1. At the conclusion of each Competition Fixture, the Match Official shall consult with his or her Assistant Match Officials, where appointed, and confirm the accuracy of all Competition Fixture information before completing the Match Record on Dribl.

5.6.2. Match Records must be:

- a. Confirmed by the Club to FV via Dribl where no FV Match Official officiates an Competition Fixture

Match Records to be submitted to FV in accordance with Rule 5.6.2 must be submitted within 24 hours from the completion of the relevant Competition Fixture date (in accordance with Rule 5.6.2.a)

5.6.3. Misconduct Reports must be submitted in accordance with Dribl

## **5.7. Player Safety & Blood Rule**

5.7.1. The Match Official must ensure that any player who suffers an injury or wound which results in the loss of blood leaves the pitch immediately for the purpose of receiving medical attention and for the safety of other players and officials.

5.7.2. The Match Official may allow the injured player to rejoin the Competition Fixture only after the Match Official is satisfied that the injury or wound has been safely covered and contained.

5.7.3. If a player's uniform or attire has blood spilt on it, the Match Official may require the player to change his or her attire before rejoining the Competition Fixture.

5.7.4. If the injured player is required to change his or her uniform, and a shirt displaying the same number as the original shirt is unavailable, the Match Official may in his or her absolute discretion allow the player to wear an alternative numbered, or blank, shirt.

## **5.8. Match Reporting**

5.8.1. Match Officials must enter all match results & player data in accordance with Rule 11.3.

5.8.2. Match Officials will be required to adhere to any requirements relating to the use of online match records, results reporting and match data recording, as prescribed by FV from time to time.

## 6.0 REGISTRATIONS

**The Registration Process is set out in the 2026 FV Registration Regulations**

### 6.1. Player Rosters

6.1.1. Mandatory Rosters for the following leagues:

| Competition   | Maximum | Minimum |
|---------------|---------|---------|
| NPLM Senior   |         |         |
| VPLM 1 Senior | 23      | 20      |
| VPLM 2 Senior |         |         |
| NPLM U23      |         |         |
| VPLM 1 U23    | 20      | 16      |
| VPLM 2 U23    |         |         |
| NPLM U20      |         |         |
| VPLM 1 U20    | 20      | 16      |
| VPLM 2 U20    |         |         |
| VPLW Seniors  | 23      | 18      |
| VPLW Reserves | 20      | 16      |
| NPLW Senior   | 23      | 20      |
| NPLW U20      | 20      | 16      |
|               |         |         |
| Under 18's    | 20      | 16      |
| Under 17's    | 20      | 16      |
| Under 16's    | 20      | 16      |
| Under 15's    | 20      | 16      |
| Under 14's    | 20      | 16      |
| Under 13's    | 16      | 14      |

6.1.2. Players can only be added to the Club's Senior roster during the registration windows set out in below table, unless otherwise approved by FV:

|                             | OPEN                       | CLOSE                       |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>NPLM</b>                 |                            |                             |
| First Registration Window   | Wednesday, 14 January 2026 | Tuesday, 10 February 2026   |
| Second Registration Window* | TBC                        | TBC                         |
| <b>NPLW</b>                 |                            |                             |
| First Registration Window   | Tuesday, 2 December 2025   | Wednesday, 17 December 2025 |

|                             |                            |                           |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Second Registration Window  | Tuesday, 12 May 2026       | Tuesday, 26 May 2026      |
| <b>VPLM</b>                 |                            |                           |
| First Registration Window   | Wednesday, 14 January 2026 | Tuesday, 10 February 2026 |
| Second Registration Window* | TBC                        | TBC                       |
| <b>VPLW</b>                 |                            |                           |
| Registration Window         | Wednesday, 14 January 2026 | Tuesday, 26 May 2026      |
| <b>ADVANCED JUNIORS</b>     |                            |                           |
| Registration Window         | Tuesday, 9 December 2026   | Friday, 31 July 2026      |

\*dates to be determined based on Football Australia's Domestic Match Calendar

- 6.1.3. Clubs must submit to FV their NPLM/NPLW/VPLM/VPLW Rosters prior to closure of the above windows.
- 6.1.4. Each NPLM, NPLW, VPLW and VPLM club must nominate two (2) goalkeepers on both their Senior and /Under 23's/Under 20's/Reserves rosters by the dates outlined in Rule 6.1.2.
- 6.1.5.
- 6.1.6. Players registered in Under 20's or Under 23's Competitions in the NPLM and VPLM will only be permitted to Play up into seniors if they register prior to the close of the first professional registration window. Under 20's and Under 23's players who register after the first windows deadline day will be ineligible to Play up into the senior squad until the second professional window opens.
- 6.1.7. Any player registered for a Club's Under 20's or GVYPL Teams prior to the closure of the second registration window set out in above table 6.1.2 is permitted to Play for the NPLW Senior Team.
- Any player on a professional contract must be listed on club Senior roster at all times unless otherwise approved by FV.
- 6.1.8. The A-League Clubs Senior (NPL/VPL) side must consist of players no older than the age of 23 (born in 2003).

## Player Roster Principles

- 6.1.9. The Player Roster Principles are defined by Football Australia and communicated to Clubs.
- 6.1.10. The Player Roster Principles only applies to NPLM Senior Teams.
- 6.1.11. The Player Rosters for each Club must comply with the Player Roster Principles (PRP).
- 6.1.12. The Player Rosters for each Club must be maintained by the Club in the manner advised by FV and submitted to FV for approval.

6.1.13. Clubs may only list 2+1 AFC/OFC Visa players on any given senior NPLM Match Record.

6.1.14. Clubs may only list 3+1 AFC/OFC Visa players on any given senior NPLW/VPLW/VPLM Match Record.

6.1.15. A-League Clubs are not able to register any Visa players.

6.1.16. If a Senior Team participating in a Competition Fixture is in breach of the Player Roster Principles during a match the opposing team will be awarded a 3-0 win.

6.1.17. Players can only be added to the Club's roster during the registration windows set out in Rule 6.1.2 and subject to Rule 6.2.

6.1.18. FV and FA reserve the right to alter the Player Roster Principles to cope with unforeseen circumstances.

6.1.19. During the Mid-Season transfer window, a Professional Player must appear on the Senior Player Roster in compliance with the PRP at all times.

## **6.2. Player Roster Composition (PRC)**

6.2.1. NPLW Clubs must comply with the PRC at all times.

6.2.2. A mandatory player roster of between 20 and 23 players is required for each Club's NPLW Team.

6.2.3. A player roster of no more than 20 players is required for:

- a. NPLW Under 20's

6.2.4. Clubs must submit the below as requested by FV in line with each registration period:

- a. Senior Player Roster Composition (PRC); and
- b. NPLW Under 20's roster

6.2.5. All clubs must submit rosters for the Girl's Victorian Youth Premier League prior to the start of the season as requested by FV.

6.2.6. Each club must nominate two (2) goalkeepers on both their NPLW Senior and Under 20's rosters by the dates outlined in Rule 6.1.2.

6.2.7. Any change to a player roster must be communicated to and approved by FV prior to the player taking part in a NPLW Competition Fixture.

6.2.8. No player may be added to the NPLW Senior PRC roster outside of the designated registration periods (as outlined by FV).

6.2.9. If a Club participates in a Competition Fixture whilst in breach of the PRC, it will forfeit that match and the match will be awarded as a 3-0 win to its opposition.

6.2.10. In the event both Clubs are found to be in breach of the PRC in a Competition Fixture, that match will be recorded as a No Result.

6.2.11. Player lists from the PRC for all NPLW Senior Teams may be published on the FV Website at the discretion of FV.

6.2.12. Any player listed on a NPLW or GVYPL roster is not eligible to Play in the Club's Community teams at any time.

6.2.13. A Club which does not hold a NPLW Senior Participation Licence may Field players up in age groups from its GVYPL teams (Under 13's – Under 17's) into its Victorian Premier League Women's (VPLW) competition teams as follows:

- a. Unlimited players from a GVYPL roster can Play up per fixture at one time for the Club's reserves or VPLW Senior team. Players must be 15 years of age at 1 January 2026 to be eligible to Participate in the reserves or senior women's competition.

6.2.14. A Club which does not hold a Girl's Victorian Youth Premier League Participation Licence may Field players up from its Community Junior Teams into its NPL Women's (U20 or Senior Team) Competition as follows:

- a. Community Junior Girls

For clarity an NPLW Club who has a Community Senior Women's team are ineligible to borrow players into NPLW Senior Competition.

## **6.3. Advanced Junior Registration**

Advanced Junior Boys Registrations replicates clause 12 of Football Victoria's Registration Regulations 2026 for ease of reference.

- 6.3.1. A Player Registering for a Advanced Junior Boy's team must be listed on a Advanced Junior Boy's Player Roster in order to be eligible to play.
- 6.3.2. A Player Registered for a Club's Advanced Junior team cannot Play in that Club's Junior Community teams.
- 6.3.3. A Player registered for a Club's Community team can Play in that Club's Advanced Junior team so long as they are age eligible and have prior consent from FV and up to 9 games before being

required to de-register from the Community Competitions team and re-register to the Advanced Juniors product.

- 6.3.4. Each Player participating in a Club's Advanced Junior team must be Financial in order to be Eligible to play.
- 6.3.5. All Advanced Junior Players must have an ID photo uploaded on Dribl.
- 6.3.6. Each Advanced Junior Club is responsible for ensuring;
  - a. all Advanced Junior Players are Registered;
  - b. Advanced Junior Player Rosters are true and accurate;
  - c. Advanced Junior Player Rosters are submitted by deadline date(s);
  - d. Advanced Junior Player Eligibility; and
  - e. Advanced Junior Players have an ID photo in accordance with clause 11.1 in the FV Registration Regulations.

## **6.4. Playing Up or Across Squads**

- 6.4.1. Where a Club does not hold a Advanced Junior Participation Licence that Club may Field Players up in age groups from their Community teams (Under 15 – Under 21) only into their respective senior NPLM/VPLM squads (Under 20, Under 23 and Senior competitions). Players must be 15 years of age at 1 January 2026 to be eligible to Participate in NPL or VPL Competitions.
- 6.4.2. Where a Club does not hold a NPL/VPL Participation Licence, that Club may Field Players up in age groups from its Advanced Junior teams (Under 13's – Under 18's) into its Community Competitions teams as follows:
  - a. A maximum of four (4) players from a Advanced Junior Boys Roster can Play up per fixture at one time in the Club's Under 21's Community Competitions teams.
  - b. Unlimited players from a Advanced Junior roster can Play up per fixture at one time for the Club's Senior or Reserve Community Competitions teams (Veto Sports State League and Metropolitan Competitions). Players must be 15 years of age at 1 January 2026 to be eligible to Participate in reserves or senior Community Competition teams.
  - c. Players who participate in Community Competitions in Under 12's may play up into Advanced Junior so long as they were born in 2014.

d. Players who participate in Community Competitions may play a total of 9 Competition Fixtures in an Advanced Junior Competition before they are unable to return to Community Competitions. The player must deregister from the Community Competition product and re-register to the Advanced Junior product within the Registration window to continue playing in the Advanced Junior Competition.

6.4.3. The Advanced Junior and NPL/VPL are two separate competitions. Therefore, players who are listed and registered in the NPL or VPL as defined in the licence are only eligible to Participate as described below:

- a. Where an age eligible Player is listed on the Club's NPL or VPL, Under 20, Under 23 or Senior Roster, that Player may only play up/across squads (between Under 20, Under 23 or Senior NPL or VPL teams) if the Player is eligible to Participate in the competition pursuant to clause 2.2 (including age eligibility) and otherwise adheres to these 2026 Rules of Competition.
- b. For avoidance of doubt, a Player who is registered to a Club's NPL, VPL or State League team, Under 20, Under 23, Reserves or Senior Roster, who is age eligible, will be permitted to drop down to the Advanced Junior Competition. This includes age eligible goal keepers.

| <b>Advanced Junior Roster<br/>Size</b> | <b>Maximum</b> | <b>Minimum</b> |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Under 18's                             | 20             | 16             |
| Under 17's                             | 20             | 16             |
| Under 16's                             | 20             | 16             |
| Under 15's                             | 20             | 16             |
| Under 14's                             | 20             | 16             |
| Under 13's                             | 16             | 14             |

6.4.4. To the extent that this Rule 6.4 is inconsistent with the FV Registration Regulations 2026, the Registration Regulations shall apply to the extent of the inconsistency.

## 7.0 CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

Please refer to **Schedule 2** which sets out relevant Codes of Behaviour and Codes of Conduct applicable to FV competitions, Competition Fixtures, Clubs, Players, Match Officials and Club Associates.

Further codes may come into force during the 2026 season and shall be deemed applicable.

## **8.0 MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF EACH VENUE CATEGORY**

Please refer to **Schedule 3** for a copy of the FV Advanced Competitions Facility Standard.

## 9.0 Match Commissioner Breaches

Match Commissioner requirements and breaches for Competition Fixtures.

| ADMISSION TO COMPETITION FIXTURE  | FIRST BREACH | SECOND BREACH | THIRD BREACH |
|---|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 6 Car Parks for Officials   | Letter       | Letter        | Letter       |
| 1 Car Park for Opposition Kit/Team Manager Within Facility  | Letter       | Letter        | Letter       |
| 25 Car Parks for Home Team within 200m of the Ground  | Letter       | Letter        | Letter       |
| 25 Car Parks for Away Team within 200m of the Ground  | Letter       | Letter        | Letter       |
| Car Parking Requirements for High Risk Fixtures   | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Entry Prices Clearly Visible for Attendees  | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Provide a Proof of Purchase to Attendees  | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Spectator Code of Behaviour Visible   | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Current Accreditation and Passes Board Visible  | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| PLAYER AND OFFICIAL AMENITIES   | FIRST BREACH | SECOND BREACH | THIRD BREACH |
| Opposition Provided 2 Clean Change Rooms  | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| If U21 and Seniors Share Change Room Minimum 16 Seats Required                                      | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Massage Table in Each Room  | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Match Officials Have Lockable Dressing Room   | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Match Officials Room Must Be Accessible Without Entering Player Change Rooms                        | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Match Officials Rooms Have Access to Shower and Toilet Facilities                                   | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Match Officials Rooms Have Access to a Desk and Chair   | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| FIELD OF PLAY ENVIRONMENT   | FIRST BREACH | SECOND BREACH | THIRD BREACH |
| Ground Evenness   | Letter       | Letter        | Letter       |
| Grass Cover   | Letter       | Letter        | Letter       |
| Grass Length  | Letter       | Letter        | Letter       |
| Ground Hardness   | Letter       | Letter        | Letter       |
| Line Markings (Perimeter)   | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Line Markings (Penalty Area)  | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Line Markings (Half Way)  | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Line Markings (Corner Flag)   | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Team Bench Conditions   | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Lighting Quality  | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Team Bench (Minimum 9)  | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Technical Area Extends 1m Each Side of Bench, No Closer than 1m to the Touchline and Clearly Marked | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| 3m Runoffs From Tripping Hazards, Fences and Benches  | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |

| Pitch Fence Permanent Chain Wire or Similar Around the Pitch With a Minimum Height of 1.1m                       | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
|--|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Players Race With Roof, Covered in Shade Cloth or Similar From Dressing Room to Playing Area Minimum Height 2.2m | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| SPECTATOR AMENITIES  | FIRST BREACH | SECOND BREACH | THIRD BREACH |
| Public Toilets Fully Functioning No More Than 50m From Playing Field   | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Disabled Toilets Were Operational And Access Provided  | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| At Least Two Exits for Fully Enclosed Venues   | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Canteen Serving Hot and Cold Drinks and Snack Food   | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Perimeter Fencing Must Be 1.8m   | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Emergency Access to Venue  | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Spectator Viewing Area Permanent Undercover Seating for 150 People or Undercover Viewing for 200 People          | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Scoreboard Fully Functional With Home and Away Clearly Visible to the Majority of Spectators and Operating       | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| SPECTATOR CONDUCT  | FIRST BREACH | SECOND BREACH | THIRD BREACH |
| National/Racial/Political Flags/Offensive Banners Displayed  | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Spectator Verbal Abuse Directed to Other Spectators, Players or Match Officials                                  | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Flares Used by Either Home or Away Spectators  | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| PA Not Used During Fixture to Make Announcements About Spectator Conduct, Safety Procedure or Game Announcements | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Fixture Operations Checklist & Timelines   | FIRST BREACH | SECOND BREACH | THIRD BREACH |
| Team Sheets Provided 60 Minutes Prior to Kick Off to Match Officials   | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Correct Balls Used   | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Completing Warm Up and Leaving Field 15 Minutes Prior to Kick Off  | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Both Teams in Tunnel 5 Minutes Prior to Kick Off   | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Substitution Board Provided  | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Accreditations Worn  | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Kick Off At Scheduled Time   | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Second Half Kick Off at Scheduled Time   | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Medical Vest Worn  | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Substitution Slips Used  | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Signed the Team Sheet  | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| SECURITY AND GROUND MARSHAL  | FIRST BREACH | SECOND BREACH | THIRD BREACH |
| Security Guard Requirement   | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |
| Ground Marshal Requirement   | Letter       | \$200         | \$400        |

|   |                     |                      |                     |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Match Officials Escorted                  | Letter              | \$200                | \$400               |
| Marshals Provided Safe Environment        | Letter              | \$200                | \$400               |
| <b>FIRST AID ROOM AND SAFETY</b>          | <b>FIRST BREACH</b> | <b>SECOND BREACH</b> | <b>THIRD BREACH</b> |
| Operational First Aid Room                | Letter              | \$200                | \$400               |
| De-Fib in First Aid Room                  | Letter              | \$200                | \$400               |
| Hospital Registry in First Aid Room       | Letter              | \$200                | \$400               |
| Massage Table in First Aid Room           | Letter              | \$200                | \$400               |
| Basic First Aid Kit in First Aid Room     | Letter              | \$200                | \$400               |
| Stretcher Present                         | Letter              | \$200                | \$400               |
| Stretcher Bearers Available               | Letter              | \$200                | \$400               |
| <b>MEDIA/BROADCAST/FILMING AREA</b>       | <b>FIRST BREACH</b> | <b>SECOND BREACH</b> | <b>THIRD BREACH</b> |
| Media Operations Viewing Area Under Cover | Letter              | \$200                | \$400               |
| Safe Elevated Location at Half Way Line   | Letter              | \$200                | \$400               |
| Direct Power Source and Unobstructed View | Letter              | \$200                | \$400               |

## 10.0 ADVANCED COMPETITION STRUCTURE

### 10.1. General Information

10.1.1. In 2026 Advanced Competitions shall include the following:

| League Name                                 | Number of Clubs |
|---|-----------------|
| National Premier League Men's               | 14              |
| National Premier League Women's             | 14              |
| Victorian Premier League Men's 1            | 14              |
| Victorian Premier League Men's 2            | 14              |
| National Premier League Men's Under 23's    | 14              |
| National Premier League Women's Under 20's  | 14              |
| Victorian Premier League Men's 1 Under 23's | 14              |
| Victorian Premier League Men's 2 Under 23's | 14              |
| National Premier League Men's Under 20's    | 14              |
| Victorian Premier League Men's 1 Under 20's | 14              |
| Victorian Premier League Men's 2 Under 20's | 14              |
| Victorian Premier League Women's Seniors    | 12              |
| Victorian Premier League Women's Reserves   | 12              |
| Advanced Junior Boys Under 18's             | 52              |
| Advanced Junior Boys Under 16's             | 52              |
| Advanced Junior Boys Under 15's             | 52              |
| Advanced Junior Boys Under 14's             | 52              |
| Advanced Junior Boys Under 13's             | 52              |
| Advanced Junior Girls                       | 16              |

10.1.2. These Regulations are in addition to the Participation Licence signed by each Advanced Competition Club. Participation in Advanced Competitions is subject to compliance with both these Regulations and the terms of the Participation Licence.

10.1.3. Any promotion and relegation provisions referred to in Rule 10 are subject to the relevant Competitions continuing in 2026 in the same, or substantively the same, structure. For the

avoidance of doubt any promotion and relegation of teams is at the absolute discretion of FV. There is no right to promotion.

- 10.1.4. FV reserves the right in its absolute discretion to amend the structure of Advanced Competitions, including the number of Clubs in each Division, before, during or after the Regular Season, as a result of FA actions, including the establishment of any new or varied FA auspice Leagues or Divisions (including Australian Championship), or compulsory Player pathways.
- 10.1.5. Any promotion and relegation provisions referred to in Rules 10.2-10.14 are subject to clause 10.15 and the establishment of a Australian Championship.

## **ORDER OF MERIT**

- 10.1.6. The Order of Merit to fill a vacancy will occur as follows:
  - a) The highest finishing Team which is to be, or has been, relegated in accordance with these Regulations from the Division in which the vacancy arises;
  - b) Any remaining Teams which are to be, or have been, relegated in accordance with these Regulations from the Division in which the vacancy arises in order of merit;
  - c) The highest finishing Team (based on order of merit) which misses out on promotion in accordance with these Rules, from the Division below the Division in which the vacancy arises; and
    - i. If the division below consists of multiple zones with the same amount of rounds played by each zone (e.g. North/West and South/East both having 18 rounds played) the following will be the Order of Merit:
      1. Total points accumulated in the regular season, if the same;
      2. Goal difference accumulated in the regular season, if the same;
      3. Total wins accumulated in the regular season
    - ii. If the division below consists of multiple zones with differing amount of rounds played by each zone (e.g. North/West having 18 rounds and South/East having 22 rounds played) the following will be the Order of Merit:
      1. Points per game, which is the total points divided by games played
  - d) Remaining Teams which miss out on promotion in accordance with these Rules, from the Division below the Division in which the vacancy arises in order of merit.

## **10.2. National Premier League Men's Senior (NPLM Senior)**

- 10.2.1. NPLM Senior shall consist of a single Division comprising 14 Clubs or such other number as may be determined by FV in its absolute discretion, including as a result of participation in the Australian Championship.
- 10.2.2. Those Clubs finishing in the bottom three places on the ladder at the end of the NPLM Senior Regular Season may be relegated in the following season. Relegation is in the absolute discretion of FV.
- 10.2.3. If a Team is withdrawn from NPLM Senior prior to the start of the Regular Season, then that vacancy may be:

- a) Replaced by a Team determined by Order of Merit;
- b) replaced with a bye; or
- c) left vacant at the absolute discretion of FV.

10.2.4. NPLM Senior Teams will play each other on a home and away basis over 26 Rounds unless otherwise determined by FV in its absolute discretion.

10.2.5. All Competition Fixtures referred to in Rule 10.2.5 (including wins/losses, goals for, goals against) will count towards that Team's ladder position.

## 10.3.FINALS

10.3.1. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV the NPLM Senior Team finishing on top of the ladder at the conclusion of the Regular Season may be named NPLM Premiers. For the avoidance of doubt simply finishing on top of the ladder does not entitle the NPLM Senior Team to be named Premiers.

10.3.2. Unless otherwise determined by FV the NPLM Premiers may represent Victoria in the NPLM Australian Championship as determined by FA.

10.3.3. The Teams finishing in positions 1 to 6 at the conclusion of the NPLM Senior Regular Season may qualify for the Victorian NPLM Senior Finals Series (which shall proceed at FV's absolute discretion). The Victorian NPLM Senior Finals Series will be contested as follows:

10.3.4. FV will determine the fixture details (venue, date and kick off time) for each finals series' and playoff fixture.

| <b>Week 1 Elimination Final</b>   | <b>Venue</b>   |
|---|--|
| 1 & 2   | Bye  |
| 3 v 6 (losing team eliminated)  | Home v Away (3 <sup>rd</sup> placed team to host)        |
| 4 v 5 (losing team eliminated)  | Home v Away (4 <sup>th</sup> placed team to host)        |
| <b>Week 2 Preliminary Final</b>   |  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> place will host the lowest place qualifier from the Competition Fixture (Elimination Final)   | Home v Away  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> place will host the highest place qualifier from the Competition Fixtures (Elimination Final) | Home v Away  |
| <b>Week 3 Grand Final</b>   |  |
| The NPL Grand Final between the winners of the matches from Preliminary Final Competition                     | The Grand Final will be hosted at an FV appointed venue. |
| <b>Champions</b>  |  |

The winner of the NPL Grand Final may be named the Victorian NPL Champion.

## 10.4. Procedures to Determine the Winner of Finals

- 10.4.1. All Finals Played in the 2026 NPLM Senior Finals Series will be Played over one (1) leg.
- 10.4.2. If, after any Final, the scores between the Teams are tied, extra time of two equal periods of 15 minutes will be Played to decide the winner.
- 10.4.3. If scores remain equal at the conclusion of both periods of extra time, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game to determine the winner of the Final.

## 10.5. National Premier League Women's Senior (NPLW Senior)

- 10.5.1. NPLW Senior shall consist of a single Division comprising 14 Clubs or such other number as may be determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 10.5.2. Those Clubs finishing in the bottom two places on the ladder at the end of the NPLW Senior Regular Season may be relegated in the following season. Relegation is in the absolute discretion of FV.
- 10.5.3. NPLW Senior Teams will play each other on a home and away basis over 26 Rounds unless otherwise determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 10.5.4. All Competition Fixtures referred to in Rule 10.5.5 (including wins/losses, goals for, goals against) will count towards that Team's ladder position.

## 10.6. Finals

- 10.6.1. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV the NPLW Senior Team finishing on top of the ladder at the conclusion of the Regular Season may be named NPLW Premiers. For the avoidance of doubt simply finishing on top of the ladder does not entitle the NPLW Senior Team to be named Premiers.
- 10.6.2. The Teams finishing in positions 1 to 6 at the conclusion of the NPLW Senior Regular Season may qualify for the Victorian NPLW Senior Finals Series (which shall proceed at FV's absolute discretion). The Victorian NPLW Senior Finals Series will be contested as follows:
  - 10.6.3. FV will determine the fixture details (venue, date and kick off time) for each finals series' and playoff fixture.

**Week 1 Elimination Final**

**Venue**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 & 2   | Bye  |
| 3 v 6 (losing team eliminated)  | Home v Away (3 <sup>rd</sup> placed team to host)        |
| 4 v 5 (losing team eliminated)  | Home v Away (4 <sup>th</sup> placed team to host)        |
| <b>Week 2 Preliminary Final</b>   |  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> place will host the lowest place qualifier from the Competition Fixture (Elimination Final)   | Home v Away  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> place will host the highest place qualifier from the Competition Fixtures (Elimination Final) | Home v Away  |
| <b>Week 3 Grand Final</b>   |  |
| The NPL Grand Final between the winners of the matches from Preliminary Final Competition                     | The Grand Final will be hosted at an FV appointed venue. |
| <b>Champions</b>  |  |
| The winner of the NPL Grand Final may be named the Victorian NPL Champion.                                    |  |

## 10.7. Procedures to Determine the Winner of Finals

- 10.7.1. All Finals Played in the 2026 Finals Series will be Played over one (1) leg.
- 10.7.2. If, after any Final, the scores between the Teams are tied, extra time of two equal periods of 15 minutes will be played to decide the winner.
- 10.7.3. If scores remain equal at the conclusion of both periods of extra time, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game to determine the winner of the Final.

## 10.8. Player Restrictions

- 10.8.1. Players registered in the GVYPL Under 17's or NPLW Under 20's must have Played at least five (5) Regular Season Competition Fixtures for their Club during the current Regular Season to qualify to Play NPLW Senior Finals in 2026.

## 10.9. Victorian Premier League Men's 1 Senior (VPLM 1 Senior)

- 10.9.1. VPLM 1 Senior shall consist of 14 Teams or such other number as may be determined by FV in its absolute discretion, including as a result of participation in the Australian Championship.
- 10.9.2. Each VPLM1 Senior Team will play each other on a home and away basis over 26 Rounds unless otherwise determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 10.9.3. All Competition Fixtures referred to in Rule 10.9.4 (including wins/losses, goals for, goals against) will count towards that Team's ladder position.

10.9.4. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV, including as a result of participation in the Australian Championship:

- (a) the VPLM1 Senior Team finishing top of the ladder at the end of the Regular Season may be named VPLM 1 Premiers and may be promoted to NPLM in the following season.
- (b) the VPLM1 Senior Team finishing second on the ladder at the end of the Regular Season may be promoted to NPLM in the following season.
- (c) The VPLM 1 Senior Teams finishing, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth will compete in a play off series to determine the third team eligible for promotion into NPLM. The play off series will be determined as follows

| <b>Week 1 Semi Final</b>                        | <b>Venue</b>  |
|---|---|
| 3 v 6 (Winner Progressed to Play Off Final)     | Home Venue Team that finished 3 <sup>rd</sup> in regular Season competition |
| 4 v 5 (Winner Progressed to Play Off Final))    | Home Venue Team that finished 4 <sup>th</sup> in regular Season competition |
| <b>Week 2 Play Off Final</b>                    |   |
| Winner of Semi Final 1 v Winner of Semi Final 2 | Play Off Final will be hosted at an FV appointed venue.                     |
| <b>Play Off Winner</b>                          |   |
| The winner may be promoted to NPLM              |   |

10.9.5. For the avoidance of doubt simply finishing top or second on the competition ladder does not entitle the VPLM 1 Team to be promoted or crowned Premiers. Promotion is in the absolute discretion of FV.

10.9.6. Those Clubs finishing in the bottom three places on the ladder at the end of the VPLM 1 Senior Regular Season may be relegated in the following season. Relegation is in the absolute discretion of FV.

## **10.10. Victorian Premier League Men's 2 Senior (VPLM 2 Senior)**

10.10.1. VPLM 2 Senior shall consist of 14 Teams or such other number as may be determined by FV in its absolute discretion.

10.10.2. Each VPLM 2 Senior Team will play each other on a home and away basis over 26 Rounds unless otherwise determined by FV in its absolute discretion.

10.10.3. All Competition Fixtures referred to in Rule 10.10.4 (including wins/losses, goals for, goals against) will count towards that Team's ladder position.

10.10.4. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV:

- (a) the VPLM 2 Senior Team finishing top of the ladder at the end of the Regular Season may be named VPLM 2 Premiers and may be promoted to VPLM 1 in the following season.
- (b) the VPLM 2 Senior Team finishing second on the ladder at the end of the Regular Season may be promoted to VPLM 1 in the following season.
- (c) The VPLM 2 Senior Teams finishing third, fourth, fifth, and sixth will compete in a play off series to determine the third team eligible for promotion into VPLM 1. The play off series will be determined as follows

| <b>Week 1 Semi Final</b>                        | <b>Venue</b>   |
|---|--|
| 3 v 6 (Winner Progressed to Play Off Final)     | Home Venue Team the finished 3 <sup>rd</sup> in regular Season competition |
| 4 v 5 (Winner Progressed to Play Off Final))    | Home Venue Team the finished 4 <sup>th</sup> in regular Season competition |
| <b>Week 2 Play Off Final</b>                    |  |
| Winner of Semi Final 1 v Winner of Semi Final 2 | Play Off Final will be hosted at an FV appointed venue.                    |
| <b>Play Off Winner</b>                          |  |
| The winner may be promoted to VPLM 1            |  |

10.10.5. For the avoidance of doubt simply finishing top or second on the ladder does not entitle a VPLM 2 Team to be promoted or crowned Premiers. Promotion is at the absolute discretion of FV. For the avoidance of doubt simply finishing on top of the ladder does not entitle the Team to be named Premiers.

10.10.6. Those Clubs finishing in the bottom three places on the ladder at the end of the VPLM 2 Senior Regular Season may be relegated in the following season to Men's State League 1. Relegation is in the absolute discretion of FV.

## **10.11. Victorian Premier League Women**

10.11.1. VPLW Senior shall consist of a single Division comprising 12 Clubs or such other number as may be determined by FV in its absolute discretion.

10.11.2. VPLW Senior Teams will play each other on a home and away basis over 22 Rounds unless otherwise determined by FV in its absolute discretion.

10.11.3. All Competition Fixtures referred to in Rule 10.5.4 (including wins/losses, goals for, goals against) will count towards that Team's ladder position

10.11.4. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV:

- (a) the VPLW Senior Team finishing top of the ladder at the end of the Regular Season may be named VPLW Premiers and may be promoted to NPLW in the following season.

(b) the VPLW Senior Team finishing second on the ladder at the end of the Regular Season may be promoted to NPLW in the following season.

10.11.5. There will be no VPLW Finals in 2026.

## **10.12. Promotion & Relegation - Australian Championship**

10.12.1. FV reserves the right in its absolute discretion to amend the structure of Advanced Competitions, including the number of Clubs in each Division, before, during or after the Regular Season, as a result of FA actions, including the establishment of any new or varied FA auspice Leagues or Divisions (including Australian Championship), or compulsory Player pathways.

10.12.2. In the event the Australian Championship continues Australian Championship in 2026, the following promotion and relegation provisions may apply;

- (a) The Club finishing in the bottom position on the ladder at the end of the NPLM Senior Regular Season may be relegated in the 2026 Season.
- (b) The Club finishing in the bottom position on the ladder at the end of the VPLM1 Senior Regular Season () may be relegated in the 2026 Season.
- (c) The Clubs finishing in the bottom two places on the ladder at the end of VPLM2 Senior Regular Season () may be relegated in the 2026 Season.

## **10.13. Under 23's Competition – NPLM/VPLM**

10.13.1. Players born prior to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2003 will be deemed 'overage' Players.

10.13.2. Clubs may list and Field a maximum of 4 overage players from their Senior Roster in any one (1) Under 23's Competition Fixture.

10.13.3. In all Under 23's Competition Fixtures, Clubs must denote each overage player on the Match Record by placing an asterisk next to that player's shirt number.

10.13.4. The NPLM, VPLM 1 and VPLM 2 Under 23's League shall consist of a single division comprising of 14 Clubs or such other number as may be determined by FV in its absolute discretion

10.13.5. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV the Team finishing top of the NPLM, VPLM 1 and VPLM 2 Under 23's competitions respectively at the conclusion of the Regular Season may be named Premiers of their respective Leagues. For the avoidance of doubt simply finishing on top of the ladder does not entitle the Team to be named Premiers.

## **10.14. Under 20's Competition – NPLM/VPLM**

10.14.1. Players born prior to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2006 will be deemed 'overage' Players.

10.14.2. The NPLM, VPLM 1 and VPLM 2 Under 20's League shall consist of a single division comprising of 14 Clubs or such other number as may be determined by FV in its absolute discretion

10.14.3. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV the Team finishing top of the NPLM, VPLM 1 and VPLM 2 Under 20's competitions respectively at the conclusion of the Regular Season may be named Premiers of their respective Leagues. For the avoidance of doubt simply finishing on top of the ladder does not entitle the Team to be named Premiers.

10.14.4. There will be no additional time at the end of either half of an Under 20's Competition Fixture.

## **10.15. Under 20's Competition - NPLW**

10.15.1. Players born prior to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2006 will be deemed 'overage' Players.

10.15.2. Clubs may list and Field a maximum of 4 'overage' players from their Senior Roster in any one (1) Under 20's Competition Fixture.

10.15.3. In all Under 20's Competition Fixtures, Clubs must denote each overage player on the Match Record by placing an asterisk next to that player's shirt number.

10.15.4. NPLW Under 20s League shall consist of a single division comprising of 12 Clubs or such other number as may be determined by FV in its absolute discretion. NPLW competitions (including U20's) will include FV Talented Player Development Teams.

10.15.5. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV the NPLW U20's Team finishing on top of the ladder at the conclusion of the Regular Season may be named Premiers. For the avoidance of doubt simply finishing on top of the ladder does not entitle the Team to be named Premiers.

## **10.16. GVYPL Competitions**

10.16.1. GVYPL Under 13's to Under 17's Leagues shall consist of a single division comprising of 16 Clubs or such other number as may be determined by FV in its absolute discretion. JGNPL competitions (Under 17s and Under 15s) will include FV Talented Player Development Teams.

10.16.2. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV, each GVYPL Team finishing on top of the ladder at the conclusion of the Regular Season may be named Premiers. For the avoidance of doubt simply finishing on top of the ladder does not entitle the Team to be named Premiers for their respective competitions.

## **10.17. Advanced Junior Boys Competitions**

10.17.1. The Advanced Junior Boys for Under 13 to Under 18 divisions will be structured as follows:

- a. Boys Victorian Youth Premier League 1 – 16 Clubs;
- b. Boys Victorian Youth Premier League 2 – 16 Clubs;
- c. Boys Youth State League 1 South-East – 10 Clubs; and
- d. Boys Youth State League 1 North-West – 10 Clubs

## **PROMOTION AND RELEGATION**

- 10.17.2. The Advanced Junior Boys promotion and relegation will rank clubs on all Advanced Competitions Team age groups (Under 13 – Under 18), based on their aggregate performance.
- 10.17.3. The promotion and relegation will be as follows:
  - a. The bottom 2 clubs from BVYPL1 will be relegated to BVYPL2
  - b. The top 2 clubs from BVYPL2 will be promoted to BVYPL1
  - c. The bottom 2 clubs from BVYPL2 will be relegated to BYSL
  - d. The club finishing first in each of the BYSL leagues will be promoted to BVYPL2
  - e. Each of the bottom clubs in BYSL N/W & S/E will be relegated out of the pyramid
  - f. Two clubs competing in Community Competitions may be offered promotion into BYSL
- 10.17.4. For a vacancy the Order of Merit will apply.

## **10.18. Player Eligibility**

- 10.18.1. All Advanced Competition players must be registered in PlayFootball in line with the FV Registration Regulations.
- 10.18.2. Players must be at least 15 years old by January 1, 2026 to be eligible to Participate in NPLW, NPLM and VPLM Senior and Under20's/Under 23's/Under 20's competitions.
- 10.18.3. A Club may seek dispensation from Rule 10.218.2 provided it meets the following minimum criteria:
  - a. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club supporting the application;
  - b. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Technical Director;
  - c. The application must be supported by a signed letter of consent from the player's parent or guardian supporting the application; and
  - d. The Club/player must provide FV with any further information requested
  - e. The application must be supported by a document listing general medical details of the player by a medical professional; and
  - f. The application must be supported by a maturity offset report for the player provided by a sport science professional.

10.18.4. All decisions in relation to Rule 10.18.3 are at the absolute discretion of the FV Technical Department.

10.18.5. All players competing in Advanced Competitions (NPL, VPL and Advanced Juniors) must have an ID Card available via Dribl. The ID cards must:

- a. Have a current image of the player that clearly displays their face
- b. Be available via Dribl for the Match Officials and opposition team manager
- c. In the event of an electronic issue, hard copy ID cards printed from Dribl will be accepted.

10.18.6. Clubs may apply for a dispensation for one (1) player to Play down one age group under the guidelines for Bio Maturation / Late Developers (LD) which are reviewed and communicated from time to time by FV.

## 11. COMPETITION DETAILS

### 11.1 Admission to Competition Fixtures

11.1.1 Teams must be provided with the following admission passes entitling the bearer admission to the corresponding Competition Fixtures, subject to the conditions outlined on the pass:

| Competition       | Admission Passes |
|-------------------|------------------|
| NPLM Senior       | 23               |
| NPLM Under 23's   | 20               |
| NPLM Under 20's   | 20               |
| NPLW Senior       | 23               |
| NPLW Under 20's   | 20               |
| VPLM 1 Senior     | 23               |
| VPLM 1 Under 23's | 20               |
| VPLM 1 Under 20's | 20               |
| VPLM 2 Senior     | 23               |
| VPLM 2 Under 23's | 20               |
| VPLM 2 Under 20's | 20               |

11.1.2 These passes must be displayed upon entry by the visiting club on the day of the Competition Fixture.

11.1.3 In the event a Competition Fixture for which admission cannot be charged and a NPLM, NPLW, VPLM 1 or VPLM 2 Competition Fixture are Played at the same venue on the same day, no persons attending for the purpose of the non NPLM, NPLW, VPLM 1 or VPLM 2 Competition Fixture can be charged for entry into the venue.

11.1.4 Maximum admission prices for the 2026 season are as outlined below. Clubs may only charge the full amount (GST Incl.) if they are registered for GST.

| Category   | NPLM Senior & U23's | NPLW Senior & U20's<br>VPLM Senior & U23 |
|--|---------------------|--|
| Adults   | \$20.00 (inc GST)   | \$15.00 (inc GST)                        |
| Students/ Pensioners/ Concession Holders                       | \$15.00 (inc GST)   | \$10.00 (inc GST)                        |
| Holders of current FV Media Passes and current FA Media Passes | FREE                | FREE                                     |
| Current FV Special Pass Holders                                | FREE                | FREE                                     |
| 12 and Under   | FREE                | FREE                                     |

\*\* Under 23's and Under 20's Standalone Fixtures cannot incur a gate charge.

- 11.1.5 No admission fees may be charged for Advanced Junior Competition Fixtures.
- 11.1.6 For NPLM, NPLW, VPLM 1 and VPLM 2 Senior Competition Fixtures the Home Club shall comply with FV's conditions of entry to Club venues and shall display those conditions at each entry point to the venue.
- 11.1.7 For NPLM, NPLW, VPLM 1 and VPLM 2 Senior Competition Fixtures the Home Club must display an Accreditation Board at each entry point to the venue, as advised by FV.
- 11.1.8 NPLM, NPLW and VPLM Clubs may charge football patrons for entry into NPLM, NPLW, VPLM 1 and VPLM 2 Senior and Under 23's/Under 20's Competition Fixtures (but not for Under 23's/Under 20's/Under19's Standalone Fixtures), other than Match Officials, Event Assistants, FV Directors and staff and Holders of an FV or FA media pass.
- 11.1.9 A car parking fee at NPLM Senior, NPLW Senior and VPLM Senior Competition Fixtures must not exceed \$3.00. No Club may charge for car parking at any other Competition Fixture.
- 11.1.10 No Club may charge car parking for Under19's/Under 23's/Under 20's Standalone Fixtures.

## **11.2 Media & Other Passes**

- 11.2.1 FV Media Passes are provided at the absolute discretion of FV and entitle the holder entry into all FV Fixtures.
- 11.2.2 FV Season Passes are provided at the absolute discretion of FV and entitle the holder entry into specific FV Competitions Fixture.
- 11.2.3 FV may withdraw an FV Media or FV Season Pass at any time.
- 11.2.4 No Club may refuse entry to persons holding the following without FV's prior written consent unless the person poses a genuine security threat:
  - a. A current FV Media or FV Season Pass;
  - b. FA Media Pass or FA Match Pass
- 11.2.5 Season Passes allow for entry into Regular Season Fixtures but do not allow for the holder to gain free admission to any NPLM or NPLW Grand Final or to VPLM 1 and VPLM 2 Play Offs. The passes that are Season Passes include but are not limited to:
  - a. Football Victoria 2026 Season Passes
  - b. Football Victoria 2026 Referee Season Passes
  - c. Football Victoria 2026 Media Passes

11.2.6 Club specific Passes allow for entry into Regular Season Fixtures but do not allow for the holder to gain free admission to any NPLM or NPLW Grand Final or to VPLM 1 and VPLM 2 Play Offs if the team displayed on the pass is not participating in the fixture. The passes that are Club specific Passes include but are not limited to:

- a. Club Committee Pass
- b. Club Media Pass
- c. Club Player Pass
- d. Club Official Pass
- e. Club Head Coach Pass

## 12. AWARDS

### 12.1 Prize Money

12.1.1 Teams will be awarded Prize Money as follows:

| <b>NPL Competitions (NPLM/NPLW)</b> | <b>PRIZE MONEY</b> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Premiers                            | \$15,000           |
| Champions                           | \$10,000           |
| Grand Final Runner Up               | \$5,000            |

### 12.2 Best & Fairest Votes

- 12.2.1 At the conclusion of each NPLM, NPLW, VPLM 1, VPLM 2 and VPLW Senior Competition Fixture, the Match Official must complete the Best and Fairest Votes and submit these to FV within two (2) working days.
- 12.2.2 All votes must be recorded on the FV competition management system by the Match Official.
- 12.2.3 All votes must be treated with the highest confidentiality.
- 12.2.4 Votes shall be cast in a 3-2-1 format with three (3) votes given for the Player adjudged by the Match Official to be the best and fairest in the relevant Competition Fixture.
- 12.2.5 A failure to comply with Rule 13 may result in a Match Official being suspended from officiating or demoted to a lower competition division.
- 12.2.6 A player who receives a suspension as defined in the GDT, with the exception of a Y5 suspension, shall be ineligible to win a Best and Fairest award in the competition that the suspension was received. To avoid doubt this Rule includes but is not limited to a player who receives ten (10) Yellow Cards or more in a Regular Season.
- 12.2.7 A player who has a Direct Red Card revoked for mistaken identity shall be eligible to win a Best and Fairest award.
- 12.2.8 Best and Fairest awards will not apply in Under 23's, Under 20's, or Advanced Junior Leagues.
- 12.2.9 In the event an FV Match Official is not appointed to a Competition Fixture, no Best and Fairest votes will be awarded for that Competition Fixture.
- 12.2.10 Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV the player who has received the most Best and Fairest votes at the conclusion of the NPLM, NPLW, VPLM 1, VPLM 2 and VPLW Senior Regular Season and who is not deemed ineligible under Rule 13, will be deemed the Best and Fairest winner for that League.

12.2.11 Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV if two (2) or more players have the same number of Best and Fairest votes at the conclusion of the Regular Season, multiple Best and Fairest winners will be awarded for that League.

### 12.3 **Leading Goal Scorers**

12.3.1 Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV the player who scores the most goals in a single competition during the Regular Season will be deemed the Leading Goal Scorer of that competition.

12.3.2 FV will determine Leading Goal Scorers based on data entered into FV's online competition management system.

13.2.3 Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV leading Goal Scorers will be awarded for NPLM, NPLW, VPLM 1,VPLM 2 and VPLW Senior Leagues. For clarification leading goal scorer will not be awarded to NPLM, NPLW, VPLM 1,VPLM 2 and VPLW Under 23's, Under 20's or Reserves.

# **SCHEDULE 1 - CODE OF BEHAVIOUR**

## **Overview**

The following codes are deemed to be incorporated into these Rules of Competition:

- [FA National Spectator Code of Behaviour](#),
- [FA National Code of Conduct](#),
- [Victorian Code of Conduct for Community Sport \(Fair Play Code\)](#)

  

- It is vital that everyone involved in Football, whether they are athletes, coaches, parents, officials or supporters, understand their responsibilities to ensure that all participants enjoy the sport.
- It is strongly recommended that all players, parents, officials, coaches and members be given a copy of these codes by their Club, and that each Club ensures the codes are clearly displayed in their Clubrooms.
- As well as reading and seeking to understand the instructions contained in the codes, FV asks all participants to recognise that there are underlying principles which extend beyond those specific instructions.

## **General Principles for all Persons Involved in Sport – TO CHANGE**

- Operate within the Rules and spirit of Football, promoting fair play over winning at any cost.
- Encourage and support opportunities for people to learn appropriate behaviours and skills.
- Support opportunities for participation in all aspects of the sport.
- Treat each person as an individual.
- Display control and courtesy to all involved with the sport.
- Respect the rights and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Respect the decisions of officials, coaches and administrators in the conduct of the sport.
- Wherever practical, avoid unaccompanied and unobserved one-on-one activity (when in a supervisory capacity or where a power imbalance will exist) with people under the age of 18 years.
- Adopt appropriate and responsible behaviour in all interactions.

- Adopt responsible behaviour in relation to alcohol and other drugs.
- Act with integrity and objectivity and accept responsibility for your decisions and actions.
- Ensure your decisions and actions contribute to a safe environment.
- Do not tolerate harmful or abusive behaviours.
- Do not bring the game of Football into Disrepute, by engaging in discriminatory, offensive or criminal behaviour.
- Ensure your decisions and actions contribute to a harassment free environment.
- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by engaging in harassment, including sexual harassment or any unwelcome sexual conduct which makes a person feel offended, humiliated and/or intimidated.
- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by provoking or inciting hatred or violence, including crowd violence.
- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by engaging in corruption, forgery or falsification, or by abusing a position to obtain a personal benefit.
- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by the throwing or fixing of a match, by accepting bribes, or by any conduct intended to unfairly effect the result of a match;
- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by any other conduct that materially injures the reputation and goodwill of Football.

*(NB for the purposes of this code of Behaviour 'Disrepute' means conduct, statement or appearance in public that is damaging to reputation).*

### **Players' Code of Behaviour – POTENTIALLY CHANGING**

- Give your best at all times.
- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit.
- Play by the Rules.
- Do not argue with the Match Official. If you disagree, have your captain or coach approach the Match Official during a break in play or after the Match is concluded.

- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other players, deliberately distracting or provoking another person is not acceptable or permitted in any sport.
- Be a good sport and be prepared to acknowledge good play whether it is from your Team or the opposition.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player.
- Co-operate with your coach, Teammates and opponents. Without them, there would be no competition.
- Remove all jewellery prior to training and Match play, as it is a hazard to you and those around you.
- Do not accept or use any banned or unauthorised drug(s), including the consumption of alcohol at any time.

### **Coaches' Code of Behaviour – POTENTIALLY CHANGING**

- Place the safety and welfare of the participants above all else.
- Be aware of and support the sport's injury management plans and return to play guidelines.
- Help each person (athlete, official, etc) to reach their potential. Respect the talent, developmental stage and goals of each person and encourage them with positive and constructive feedback.
- Encourage and support opportunities for people to learn appropriate behaviours and skills.
- Support opportunities for participation in all aspects of the sport.
- Treat each participant as an individual.
- Obtain appropriate qualifications and keep up to date with the latest coaching practices and the principles of growth and development of participants.
- Act within the rules and spirit of your sport.
- Promote fair play over winning at any cost.
- Respect the decisions of officials, coaches and administrators.
- Show respect and courtesy to all involved with the sport.
- Display responsible behaviour in relation to alcohol and other drugs.

- Act with integrity and objectivity and accept responsibility for your decisions and actions.
- Ensure your decisions and actions contribute to a harassment-free environment.
- Wherever practical, avoid unaccompanied and unobserved one-on-one activity (when in a supervisory capacity or where a power imbalance exists) with people under the age of 18.
- Ensure that any physical contact with another person is appropriate to the situation and necessary for the person's skill development.
- Be honest and do not allow your qualifications or coaching experience to be misrepresented.
- Never advocate or condone the use of illicit drugs or other banned performance enhancing substances or methods.
- Never participate in or advocate practices that involve match fixing.
- Respect the rights and worth of every person, regardless of their age, race, gender, ability, cultural background, sexuality or religion.
- Do not tolerate abusive, bullying or threatening behaviour.

#### **Administrators' Code of Behaviour – TO CHANGE**

- Act honestly, in good faith and in the best interests of the sport as a whole.
- Ensure that any information acquired, or advantage gained from the position is not used improperly.
- Conduct your responsibilities with due care, competence and diligence.
- Do not allow prejudice, conflict of interest or bias to affect your objectivity.
- Help coaches and officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development and assist in raising the standards of coaching and officiating.
- Ensure everyone involved in football emphasises fair play, and not winning at all costs.
- Be tolerant and calm under pressure and approach problem solving in a supportive manner as members and players will expect you to set an example for others.

## **Match Officials' Code of Behaviour**

- Place the safety and welfare of the athletes above all else.
- Be consistent and impartial when making decisions.
- Address unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all people.
- Modify your approach to suit the skill levels and needs of players.
- Praise and encourage all participants.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions.
- Do not tolerate unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
- Emphasise the spirit of the game rather than focus on negative aspects.
- Encourage and promote rule changes to all players and members.
- Be a good sport yourself, as actions speak louder than words.
- Keep up to date with the latest trends in refereeing.
- Remember that you set the example on the park, therefore, your behaviour and comments should always be positive and supportive.

## **Parents Code of Behaviour – CHANGING**

- Remember that children play the sport for their enjoyment, and not yours.
- Encourage children to participate and have fun.
- Focus on the child's effort and performance rather than winning or losing.
- Encourage children to always participate according to the rules.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- Remember that children learn best by example, so applaud good play by both Teams.

- Support all efforts to remove racial and religious vilification, verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
- Respect the match official's decisions and teach your child to do likewise.
- Show respect and appreciation to Club Associates, including coaches, officials and administrators. Ensure any issues are raised through the correct channels.
- Do not smoke or consume alcohol near the Team bench (Technical Area) or sideline.

### **Spectators' Code of Behaviour**

All spectators must comply with the [FA National Spectator Code of Behaviour](#).

It is important that all spectators at a Football Victoria (FV) approved fixture are able to enjoy the Match in a safe and comfortable environment. Accordingly, each person present at a FV fixture must:

- Respect the decisions of the Match Officials, and teach children to do the same;
- Never ridicule or unduly scold a child for making a mistake;
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, race, colour, religion, language, politics, national or ethnic origin; Not use violence in any form, whether it is against other Spectators, Team Officials (including coaches) or Players;
- Not engage in discrimination, harassment or abuse in any form including the use of obscene or offensive language or gestures, the incitement of hatred or violence or partaking in indecent or racist chanting;
- Comply with any terms of entry of a venue, including bag inspections, prohibited and restricted items such as flares, missiles, dangerous articles and items that have the potential to cause injury or public nuisance;
- Not display, or attempt to display, the following items within the Venue:
  - a. National, political or racial flags or emblems except for the recognised National flags of the competing teams;
  - b. Offensive or inappropriate banners in either English or a foreign language.
- Not throw missiles (including on to the field of play or at other spectators) and must not enter the field of play or its surrounds without lawful authority; and

- Conduct themselves in a manner that enhances, rather than injures, the reputation and goodwill of FV, FA, and football generally.
- It is the host Club's responsibility to ensure this Spectator Code of Behaviour is implemented and enforced against all spectators.

## **Victorian Code of Conduct for Community Sport**

Every person in Victoria has the right to participate in community sport that is safe, welcoming and inclusive. At the same time, everyone plays a part in ensuring their behaviour and their actions are supportive of these values.

State Sporting Associations, leagues and clubs also have a responsibility to ensure participation in any community sport event is free of any anti-social behaviour. This means that behaviour both on and off the field should not prevent others from taking part and getting active.

The [Victorian Code of Conduct for Community Sport \(Fair Play Code\)](#) outlines behaviours which are expected of every person involved in community sport, and behaviours which must not be tolerated.

The Code supports [Victoria's Strategy to Prevent Family Violence and all Forms of Violence Against Women](#) by taking a zero tolerance stance towards violence against women. The Code also aims to encourage cultural and behavioural change as a pre-emptive measure against violence.

Acts of [violence](#), [discrimination](#) and [vilification](#) are illegal acts in Victoria. It is a club's responsibility to report these to the appropriate legal authorities and ensure these acts are not tolerated by the sport or club.

## Schedule 2 – PLAYING ACROSS SQUADS

| COMPETITION NAME | COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY |   |   |                              |                              |                         |   |                             |                            |  |                  |
|------------------|-------------------------|---|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--|------------------|
|                  | NPL/VPL SENIORS         | NPL/VPL U23   | NPL/VPL U20   | ADVANCED JUNIOR BOYS 18      | ADVANCED JUNIOR BOYS 16      | ADVANCED JUNIOR BOYS 15 | ADVANCED JUNIOR BOYS 14                 | ADVANCED JUNIOR BOYS 13     | COMMUNITY SENIORS          | COMMUNITY JUNIORS  |                  |
|                  | NPL/VPL SENIORS         | ELIGIBLE TO PLAY  | ONLY 4 PLAYERS (24 AND OLDER) PER FIXTURE ABLE TO PLAY<br>AGE ELIGIBLE ABLE TO PLAY | MUST BE AGE ELIGIBLE TO PLAY |                              |                         |   | INELIGIBLE TO PLAY          |                            |  |                  |
|                  | NPL/VPL U23             | 15 ON OR BY 1 JANUARY 2026  | ELIGIBLE TO PLAY  | PLAYER MUST BE AGE ELIGIBLE  | MUST BE AGE ELIGIBLE TO PLAY |                         |   |                             | INELIGIBLE TO PLAY         |  |                  |
|                  | NPL/VPL U20             | AND REGISTERED IN SENIOR MEN'S FIRST TRANSFER WINDOW OR WAIT UNTIL THE SECOND WINDOW TO PLAY UP |   | ELIGIBLE TO PLAY             |                              | ELIGIBLE TO PLAY        |   |                             |                            | IF CLUB DOES NOT HAVE NPL/VPLM LICENCE AND ARE AGE ELIGIBLE THEY ARE ABLE TO PLAY INELIGIBLE TO PLAY |                  |
|                  | ADVANCED JUNIOR BOYS 17 |   |   | 15 ON OR BY 1 JANUARY 2026   |                              | ELIGIBLE TO PLAY        |   | PLAYER MUST BE AGE ELIGIBLE |                            | INELIGIBLE TO PLAY   |                  |
|                  | ADVANCED JUNIOR BOYS 16 |   |   |                              |                              | ELIGIBLE TO PLAY        |   | PLAYER MUST BE AGE ELIGIBLE |                            | INELIGIBLE TO PLAY   |                  |
|                  | ADVANCED JUNIOR BOYS 15 |   |   |                              |                              | ELIGIBLE TO PLAY        |   | ELIGIBLE TO PLAY            |                            | INELIGIBLE TO PLAY   |                  |
|                  | ADVANCED JUNIOR BOYS 14 |   |   |                              |                              |                         |   |                             |                            | ELIGIBLE TO PLAY   |                  |
|                  | ADVANCED JUNIOR BOYS 13 |   |   | INELIGIBLE TO PLAY           |                              |                         |   | ELIGIBLE TO PLAY            |                            | ELIGIBLE TO PLAY   |                  |
|                  | COMMUNITY SENIORS       | MUST BE REGISTERED IN WINDOW  | PLAYER MUST BE AGE ELIGIBLE   |                              |                              |                         | INELIGIBLE TO PLAY                      |                             | INELIGIBLE TO PLAY         |  | ELIGIBLE TO PLAY |
|                  | COMMUNITY JUNIORS       | 15 ON OR BY 1 JANUARY 2026 AND REGISTERED IN WINDOW *   | 15 ON OR BY 1 JANUARY 2026 *  |                              | MUST BE AGE ELIGIBLE*        |                         | U12 CAN PLAY INTO ADVANCED JUNIOR BOYS* |                             | 15 ON OR BY 1 JANUARY 2026 |  | ELIGIBLE TO PLAY |

\* Community Players may only play a maximum of 9 fixtures in the Advanced Junior Competition across the Competition Season including Finals

| COMPETITION NAME | COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY |  |  |   |                       |  |                            |                            |                    |                    |  |  |
|------------------|-------------------------|--|--|---|-----------------------|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|--|
|                  | NPLW                    | NPLW U20   | VPLW   | VPLW RESERVES                                 | GVYPL 17              | GVYPL 15   | GVYPL 13                   | COMMUNITY SENIORS          | COMMUNITY JUNIORS  |                    |  |  |
|                  | NPLW                    | ELIGIBLE TO PLAY   | 4 SENIOR PLAYERS (21 AND OVER) ABLE TO PLAY<br>AGE ELIGIBLE ABLE TO PLAY | INELIGIBLE TO PLAY                            |                       | MUST BE AGE ELIGIBLE TO PLAY<br>MUST BE AGE ELIGIBLE AND MUST BE REGISTERED PRIOR TO THE SECOND WINDOW |                            |                            |                    | INELIGIBLE TO PLAY |  |  |
|                  | NPLW U20                | MUST BE REGISTERED PRIOR TO THE SECOND WINDOW  | ELIGIBLE TO PLAY   | INELIGIBLE TO PLAY                            |                       |  |                            |                            |                    |                    |  |  |
|                  | VPLW                    | INELIGIBLE TO PLAY   |  | MUST BE REGISTERED PRIOR TO THE SECOND WINDOW |                       |  |                            |                            |                    |                    |  |  |
|                  | VPLW RESERVES           |  |  |   |                       | INELIGIBLE TO PLAY   |                            |                            |                    |                    |  |  |
|                  | GVYPL 17                | 15 ON OR BY 1 JANUARY 2026 AND REGISTERED PRIOR TO SENIOR WOMEN'S SECOND TRANSFER WINDOW | 15 ON OR BY 1 JANUARY 2026   |   | ELIGIBLE TO PLAY      | MUST BE AGE ELIGIBLE   |                            | 15 ON OR BY 1 JANUARY 2026 | INELIGIBLE TO PLAY |                    |  |  |
|                  | GVYPL 15                | INELIGIBLE TO PLAY   |  |   | ELIGIBLE TO PLAY      |  | MUST BE AGE ELIGIBLE       |                            | INELIGIBLE TO PLAY |                    |  |  |
|                  | GVYPL 13                |  |  |   | ELIGIBLE TO PLAY      |  | INELIGIBLE TO PLAY         |                            |                    |                    |  |  |
|                  | COMMUNITY SENIORS       | INELIGIBLE TO PLAY   |  | ELIGIBLE TO PLAY UP TO 6 MATCHES              |                       | MUST BE AGE ELIGIBLE   |                            | INELIGIBLE TO PLAY         | ELIGIBLE TO PLAY   |                    |  |  |
|                  | COMMUNITY JUNIORS       | 15 ON OR BY 1 JANUARY 2026 AND REGISTERED PRIOR TO SECOND WINDOW *                       | 15 ON OR BY 1 JANUARY 2026 *   |   | MUST BE AGE ELIGIBLE* |  | 15 ON OR BY 1 JANUARY 2026 |                            | ELIGIBLE TO PLAY   |                    |  |  |

\* Community Players may only play a maximum of 9 fixtures in the Advanced Junior Competition across the Competition Season including Finals

# **Schedule 3 – AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPAUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP ELIGIBILITY**

## **Definitions**

**FA** means Football Australia Limited.

**Foundation Club** means one of the eight original Clubs admitted to the Australian Championship Competition by FA. (APIA Leichardt FC (NSW), Avondale FC (VIC), Marconi Stallions FC (NSW), Preston Lions FC (VIC), South Melbourne (VIC), Sydney Olympic FC (NSW), Sydney United 58 FC (NSW), Wollongong Wolves FC (NSW))

**NST Club Participation Agreement** means the agreement setting out the terms on which FA grants, and Clubs accept, the right to participate in the Australian Championship Competition.

**Australian Championship Competition** means the national competition staged by FA between the NST Clubs, known as the “Australian Championship” or any other name notified by FA from time to time.

**NST Club** means any entity admitted by FA to field a team in the Australian Championship Competition.

## **Section 1: Eligibility for Australian Championship Competition**

### **1. Determination of National Premier League Men’s Premiers**

- (a) The 2026 Football Victoria National Premier League Men’s Premiers shall be determined in accordance with 10.3.1 of the Regulations.
- (b) Subject to rule 10.3.1 of these regulations and unless otherwise determined by FV the NPLM Senior Team finishing on top of the ladder at the conclusion of the Regular Season may be named NPLM Premiers. For the avoidance of doubt simply finishing on top of the ladder does not entitle the NPLM Senior Team to be named Premiers.

### **2. Eligibility Criteria**

- (a) Subject to compliance with Section 1 article 2b), the 2026 Football Victoria National Premier League Men’s Premiers shall be eligible to represent Football Victoria in the Australian Championship Competition.
- (b) The Club qualifying for the Australian Championship Competitions must, by the dates prescribed by Football Australia:
  - i. Submit to Football Australia a duly executed NST Club Participation Agreement; and
  - ii. Meet Football Australia’s minimum club licensing standards for Member Federation Clubs participating in the Australian Championship Competition.
- (c) In the event that:
  - i. A Foundation Club finishes as the 2026 NPL Men’s Premiers; or
  - ii. The Club that finishes as 2026 NPL Men’s Premiers fails to comply with Section 1 article 2b) of the Regulations,the allocated slot for the Australian Championship Competition shall be awarded to the next-best placed Club, as determined under 10.3.1 of the Regulations, that is not a Foundation Club, but always subject to compliance with Section 1 article 2(b) of the Regulations.
- (d) Football Australia reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to make determinations regarding any aspect of the awarding of Australian Championship Competition slots.



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