



2026 RULES OF COMPETITION

REGIONAL COMPETITIONS



**FOOTBALL
VICTORIA**

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1. GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS

1. GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS

1.1. Application and Definitions

- 1.1.1. These Rules shall apply to all Community Competition Fixture(s) and Sanctioned Match(es) as defined in Rule 1.1.5.
- 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 the application thereof shall not be affected thereby and shall continue to be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.
- 1.1.3. These Rules shall be subject to amendment in FV's absolute discretion, including where required as a result of Government regulation(s). If these Rules are amended for any reason, FV will take reasonable steps to notify Clubs of the amendment(s).
- 1.1.4. Terms defined in the FV Constitution, 2026 FV Registration Regulations and/or the GDR shall have the same meaning in these Rules unless otherwise stated.
- 1.1.5. In addition to Rule 1.1.4 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 commenced but 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, GVVPL and Advanced Junior Boys (BVYPL 1, BVYL 2, BYSL 1 N/W, BYSL 1 S/E) competitions.
 - c. **Competition Regulations** or **Regulations** means the regulations which supplement these Rules, and which apply to the competitions administered by FV (other than Advanced Competitions) for Men's Football, Women's Football, Junior Football and Metro & Masters Football, as amended and updated by FV from time to time.
 - d. **Club** has the same meaning as in the FV Constitution and includes but is not limited to a Futsal Club.
 - e. **Club Associate(s)** has the meaning given to it in the GDR.
 - f. **Club Official(s)** means any person involved with the administration or management of the Club (whether paid or unpaid) including employees, contractors, consultants, officers, directors and representatives. Club Officials include Key Personnel.
 - g. **Competition Fixture** means any match that is administered by FV and includes matches to which FV appoints Match Official(s).
 - h. **Community Competition** means competitions administered by FV (other than Advanced Competitions) for Women's Football, Men's Football, Junior Football and Metro & Masters Football, including competitions based regionally in Victoria where referred to in these Rules e.g. Geelong, as amended and updated by FV from time to time.
 - i. **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

1. GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS

and includes, but is not limited to, the Dockery Cup, Australia Cup and Women's State Knockout Cup (currently the Nike F.C Cup).

- j. **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.
- k. **DRIBL** means FV's competition management system provider.
- l. **Division** means a particular grade or level of men's or women's competition within Victorian Football (e.g., State League Men's 1 or State League Women's 3 or Men's Metropolitan League 3).
- m. **FA** means Football Australia
- n. **FV** means Football Victoria.
- o. **Field** means to take the field of play or record a Player's name on the Match Sheet and "Fields", "Fielded", "Play" or "Participate" shall have corresponding meanings.
- p. **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 metres of the boundary line of the football pitch.
- q. **Final** means a Competition Fixture played to determine the champion of a Finals Series administered by FV.
- r. **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.
- s. **Futsal Club** means a Club which plays in a futsal competition administered by FV.
- t. **GDR** means the FV Grievance Discipline and Tribunal By Law (as amended from time to time).
- u. **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.
- v. **Home Club** means the Club named first in a Competition Fixture.
- w. **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.
- x. **ID Card** means identification cards created by DRIBL, which all Players and Teams must have.
- y. **IFAB** means International Football Association Board.
- z. **Key Personnel** means the personnel (paid or unpaid) that may be engaged by the Club including but not limited to president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, general manager, media manager, marketing manager and child protection manager.

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- aa. **League** (when referred to Men's or Women's football) means a particular competition within a Division (such as State League Men's 1 South-East or State League Women's 3 North or Men's Metropolitan League 3 North-West).
- bb. **Match Official** means a match official as defined in the GDR.
- cc. **Match Sheet** means the official log (hard copy or online) of the Competition Fixture recording all match details including participants and results.
- dd. **Misconduct** has the meaning given to it in the GDR.
- ee. **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.
- ff. **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.
- gg. **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.
- hh. **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 Leagues or Divisions.
- ii. **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 Sheet; or
 - (iv) If a player is originally listed on the Match Sheet and it is subsequently indicated on the Match Sheet 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 fixture.
- jj. **Player ID Card** means the DRIBL generated ID card containing recent photo, date of birth, FA number, full name, and Club name for that player.
- kk. **Postponed** means a Competition Fixture which has not commenced as scheduled.
- ll. **Private Academy** means a provider of football tuition which is not a club registered with FV or FA.
- mm. **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.
- nn. **Regrading Result** means a result which has been attributed due to a team that has been regraded into a Competition.

1. GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS

- oo. **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.
 - pp. **Rule** or **Rule of Competition** means a rule set out in a clause or clauses of these 2026 Rules of Competition.
 - qq. **Risk Assessment and Security Policy** is the FV policy which outlines minimum security requirements and responsibilities at Competition Fixtures.
 - rr. **Sanctioned Match** means any match to which FV appoints one (1) or more Match Official(s) but does not administer directly. This includes matches to which FV is unable to appoint one (1) or more Match Official(s) due to availability, but a request for appointment has been made and acknowledged.
 - ss. **Team** means a football team entered by a Club in a League or, in junior football (U7s to U21s) a team entered by a Club in a competition, administered by FV.
 - tt. **Technical Area** is as defined in the Minimum Facility Requirements set out in Schedule 8.
- 1.1.6. Decisions made by FV under these Rules are final, binding and unless stated to the contrary, not capable of being appealed.

1.2. Consequences of Breach

- 1.2.1. In addition to any consequences stated in the Rules or Regulations, any proven breach of or failure to comply with an obligation or requirement set out in these Rules or Regulations may amount to Misconduct and if so shall be subject to the provisions of the GDR.
- 1.2.2. To avoid doubt, where these Rules or Regulations do not specify the consequences of a breach or failure to comply with these Rules or Regulations, such breach or failure to comply may still amount to Misconduct and if so shall be subject to the provisions of the GDR.

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 GDR 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.
 - a. Regulation 1.3.3. is inclusive Match Official Travels Fees as outlined in the 2026 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:

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- a. 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.
 - b. Suspend or expel that Club (or Team(s)) from any Competition Fixture (including Cup Fixtures) and/or FV competitions.
 - c. Prohibit that Club (or Team(s)) from promotion whilst the debt remains unpaid.
 - d. Relegate that Club (or Team(s)) while the debt remains unpaid.
 - e. Deduct championship points from a Club (or Team) for the current season where the debt remains unpaid.
 - f. 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.
 - g. Prohibit that Club (or Team(s)) from referring to a Rules of Competition Match Determination matter to Independent Tribunal.
- 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 Owning 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 GDR.
- 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;

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- (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 GDR;
 - (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; or
 - (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 to ensure the integrity of football.
- g. **Unregistered** means a player who is not Registered.

Registration – Scope and 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 these Rules.
- 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:
- 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

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- (ii) reverse such Competition Fixture results 3-0 as necessary

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;
- (ii) whether a genuine administrative error occurred;
- (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;
- (v) the age-group affected; and/or
- (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.

- 1.4.5. Where FV learns of an 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 seven (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 Clause 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 junior competitions, 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:

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- 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.

Forfeits

- 1.4.8. Clubs must notify FV as soon as practicable in advance in the event that they are unable to participate in a Competition Fixture.
- 1.4.9. A Forfeit occurs when a Club or Team fails to participate in a Competition Fixture.
- 1.4.10. In the event of a Forfeit, the forfeiting Team:
 - a. is deemed to have lost the Competition Fixture 3-0; and
 - b. will receive a forfeit notice from FV;
- 1.4.11. Any Team which incurs Forfeits in four (4) Competition Fixtures within a Regular Season may be removed from its League at FV's absolute discretion.

Request for Information

- 1.4.12. 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 7 days (or as otherwise reasonably requested by the FV).
- 1.4.13. A failure to comply with Rule 1.4.12 above 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 1.4.12 above, such points will not be returned or Matches replayed.

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

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 a Sanctioned Match must abide by any and all codes of conduct or codes of behaviour prescribed by FV and/or FA from time to time, including the Codes of Behaviour attached to these Rules at Schedule 6 – Codes of Behaviour.

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- 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 GDR.
- 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 event 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 fulfil Competition Fixtures for a non-FV match or 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, license 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. Club Name or New Club Name Application

- 1.9.1. An application for either a new Club name or the change of an existing Club name must be made by the relevant Club in accordance with the [FA Inclusivity Principles for Club Identity](#) as published on the FA website.
- 1.9.2. FV will only assess an application under Rule 1.9.1 when all relevant information has been lodged with FV. FV may reject an application for a new name or a change of name as it sees fit.
- 1.9.3. The reference to 'Club name' in this Rule 1.9 includes the incorporated name, registered business name and/or approved playing name of a Club.
- 1.9.4. Process for new name application by a Club:

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- a. All submissions will be considered in accordance with [FA Inclusivity Principles for Club Identity](#)
 - b. The Club name must be approved in writing by the local government authority and be representative of the geographic area within which the Club is located.
 - c. The Club must:
 - (i) Submit its request for a change of Club name or new Club name on Club letterhead to registrations@footballvictoria.com.au with a completed [NRR02B](#) form
 - (ii) Provide full disclosure of the reasons for the requested change.
- 1.9.5. The application for change of Club name or new Club name must include a minimum of three (3) proposed names that can be assessed, again with full disclosure as per Rules 1.9.4.a.
- 1.9.6. Subject to Rule 1.9.4 (b) and (c), the new Club name must not contain any part of the name of any Club in the same or immediately adjoining municipalities, excepting the following traditional generic football names:
- United
 - Rovers
 - City
 - Old
 - Sporting
- 1.9.7. FV may, at its absolute discretion, permit a new Club name to share a similar geographic reference to an existing Club name within the same or adjoining municipality if, in FV's opinion, the new Club (and its name) will not negatively impact any existing Club.
- 1.9.8. Where a change of name also involves a Club proposing to relocate to a different local government municipality the application for change of name will not be considered unless evidence is provided to FV that there are no outstanding debts or other obligations to the former council/municipality.
- 1.9.9. FV will not approve the relocation of a Club to a different municipality unless it is in the best interests of Victorian football in general (to be determined at the absolute discretion of FV) and no existing Club in the municipality to which the relocating Club wishes to move is materially disadvantaged (to be determined at the absolute discretion of FV).
- 1.9.10. No Club will be allowed more than one (1) incorporated name or registered business/playing name.
- 1.9.11. *Incorporation*
- A Club must provide FV with documentary evidence of registration of any new name with the appropriate government authority. Failure to provide evidence in accordance with this Rule may result in previous approval by FV and/or FA of a new club name or a club name change being revoked.

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1.10. 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 FA or FV Pass, Match Official Pass or are aged 14 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. A copy of Rule 1.10 is to be displayed at the ticket box at all venues where admission fees are charged.
- 1.10.6. 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. Security at Home Pitches

- 1.11.1. The Home Club is responsible for providing appropriate arrangements to ensure the orderly behaviour of spectators and provide protection for 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.
- 1.11.2. All Clubs, players, Match Officials and Club Associates must comply with [FV's Match Day Risk & Security Policy](#) as promulgated by FV, and any security arrangements put in place as a result of the application of that policy.
- 1.11.3. 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 1.11.2 or as otherwise determined by FV.
- 1.11.4. Home Clubs and Host 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 or Host Club not being allocated Competition Fixtures at their home ground.
- 1.11.5. Rules 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.
- 1.11.6. The Home Club or the Host Club will be held responsible if it is found that Match Official(s) do not receive all personal items back.
- 1.11.7. Each Club is responsible for the valuables of its players, and valuables that are left in change rooms are done so at the owners' personal risk.
- 1.11.8. Rule 1.11. is subject to FV's Match Day Risk and Security Policy which may be amended from time to time.

1. GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS

1.12. Risk Fixtures

- 1.12.1 Should FV deem any Competition Fixture a Risk Fixture, the Match Day Risk Profile and requirements will be outlined and communicated to Clubs in line with the Match Day Risk & Security Policy.
- 1.12.2 Clubs must follow all directions from FV relating to a classified Risk Fixture in line with the Match Day Risk & Security Policy.
- 1.12.3 Any Club Compliance Requirements in line with the Match Day Risk & Security Policy as outlined by FV not met, may be considered a breach of the GDR.

1.13. Representative Teams

- 1.13.1. 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.
- 1.13.2. All Clubs must release players for training and preparation for, and participation in, representative matches, camps, or tours.
- 1.13.3. 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 Competition Fixture in which that Club or Team is required to participate, the Club may seek postponement of that Competition Fixture. Approved representative matches may include but are not limited to:
 - a. FA National Championships
 - b. FV State Teams
 - c. National Teams
- 1.13.4. All requests pursuant to Rule 1.12.3 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.
- 1.13.5. FV shall determine the outcome of any request under this Rule at its absolute discretion.

1.14. Member Protection

- 1.14.1. FV has adopted the FA National Member Protection Framework including for all FV affiliated competition administrators, Clubs, Players and Club Associates and Match Officials. The Member Protection Framework can be found by clicking the following [link](#).
- 1.14.2. FV has partnered with Proud2Play and Pride In Sport in order to eradicate discrimination, particularly against those who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex. We have also updated FV Dispensation Policy which provides clear and concise process to dispensation requests. Dispensation requests allow Clubs to submit a request for a player/s to be granted exemption from FV to participate in competitions that they would otherwise not be eligible.
- 1.14.3. 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. GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS

1.15. Club Membership and National Club Accreditation

- 1.15.1. 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 Membership Process;
 - b. The FA '[Club Changer](#)'- National Club Development Program criteria (if required);
- 1.15.2. In order to be eligible to compete in FV competitions, Clubs and their Club Officials must not have any contractual, financial or other relationship of any nature with a Private For Profit Academy.

1.16. Correspondence / Communication

- 1.16.1. All correspondence sent 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.
- 1.16.2. Clubs must ensure that their postal mailboxes, specified email accounts (including Spam and Junk folders) and the FV website are checked regularly, and that any information received is forwarded to the addressee or relevant parties within the Club.
- 1.16.3. 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.
- 1.16.4. 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 and checked regularly by Club Associates and/or Club Officials.
- 1.16.5. 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.
- 1.16.6. FV reserves the right to only communicate with nominated club contacts as listed on PlayFootball or the FV Club Contact Guide.

1.17. Government Health Orders and Protocols

- 1.17.1. All Clubs competing in FV Competitions are subject to and must adhere and comply with any mandated Government Health Orders and Protocols.

2. COMPETITION RULES

2. 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 Clubs, regional 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. All championship points along with goals scored (for & against) for that Team will be erased. All Coaches 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. Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team will be erased including all championship points along with goals scored (for & against).
 - b. All Best & Fairest and/or Coaches 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.

For the avoidance of doubt, FV may consider forfeited matches as Played for the purposes of Rule 2.1.4.

- 2.1.5. If a Team is withdrawn after the point of the Regular Season at which all Teams have played the withdrawing Team once, a 'BYE' will be inserted to replace the withdrawn Team in the fixture for the remainder of the season, and;
 - a. Played Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team will remain including all championship points along with goals scored (for & against).
 - b. All Coaches Votes gained in:
 - (i) Played Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team up to the point of the season at which all Teams have played the withdrawing Team once will remain;

For the avoidance of doubt, FV may consider forfeited matches as Played for the purposes of Rule 2.1.5.

- 2.1.6. If the withdrawing team causes the fixture to be imbalanced where all teams do not have the same amount of games played during the season, FV at its discretion will either:
 - a. schedule additional Competition Fixtures during their Regular Season; or
 - b. remove Competition Fixtures from their Regular Season.

2. COMPETITION RULES

If FV decides to proceed in accordance with Rule 2.1.6 (a), Competition Fixtures may be scheduled either mid-week or during a catch up round, at FV's discretion.

- 2.1.7. If a Team withdraws prior to the start of the Regular Season and is not replaced, a "BYE" will be inserted into the fixture or the fixture may be amended to accommodate the new number of Teams where practicable.
- 2.1.8. If a Team withdraws from a league involving fewer than 9 Teams or greater than 10 Teams, additional Competition Fixtures may be added or removed to ensure all Teams play an equal number of Competition Fixtures during the Regular Season.
- 2.1.9. If a Team withdraws from a league once the Late Team Entry Period has commenced, the Clubs Team Entry Fee will not be refunded.
- 2.1.10. FV may alter the Regular Season Competition Fixture 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:
 - a. the player has been registered in line with FA and FV Registration Regulations and remains eligible under the same;
 - b. all registration fees for the player have been received by FV, subject to Rule 1.3
 - c. the player is not under suspension by FV, FA or FIFA;
 - d. the player meets the competition's age group and gender rules where applicable and subject to any dispensation granted by FV (refer to relevant FV Regulations);
 - e. the player complies with the Match Sheet requirements set out in Rule 3.3;
 - f. the player presents a current Player ID Card upon request to the Match Official for the player in the Competition Fixture, where that competition requires ID cards;
 - g. the player 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 GDR.
- 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 GDR.
- 2.2.4. The dispensation process and regulations are clearly defined in FV's Dispensation Policy. FV at its absolute discretion may amend any part of the dispensation policy as required from time to time.
- 2.2.5. At FV's discretion, Clubs/players may be given dispensation from Rule 2.2.1.b. for Cup Fixtures which take place prior to the commencement of the Regular Season.
- 2.2.6. If there is a dispute about a player(s) eligibility on the day of a Competition Fixture, the Match Official must note the details of that dispute and send those details to competitions@footballvictoria.com.au together with an incident report. No Club Associate or Match Official may prevent a player from taking the field in a Competition Fixture on suspicion of ineligibility.

2. COMPETITION RULES

Gender Rules

- 2.2.7. The Gender Rules form part of the FV Dispensation Policy. FV at its absolute discretion may amend any part of the dispensation policy as required from time to time.
- 2.2.8. Under the Victorian Equal Opportunity Act, it is permitted to treat people differently in certain circumstances on the grounds of sex or gender identity in terms of competitive sporting activities from the age of 12 years and over.
- 2.2.9. FV allows players to play in gendered competition of their choosing under the following guidelines:
- a. Players who identify as non-binary, transgender or intersex are permitted to participate in the competition of their choice, up to the age of U16.
 - b. Players who identify as male are permitted to play in female competitions up until Under 12 girls. The player must turn 12 or below during the 2026 calendar year and may play in their equivalent age group of female competitions without the prior approval of FV.
 - c. Players who identify as female are permitted to participate in male competitions up until Under 16. The player must turn 16 or below during the 2026 calendar year and may play in their equivalent age group of male competitions without the prior approval of FV.
 - d. Players who identify as female are not permitted to participate in male competitions in Under 17 and above with the exception of the player falling into the below category:
 - (i) the player is currently registered to a regional club without any reasonable female pathway available to the player. To be clear, a regional club is classified as a Club that has received prior written approval from FV to participate in FV community competitions excluding Geelong based clubs.
 - e. Players who have affirmed their gender identity by transitioning to a gender that is different to their sex assigned at birth; are in the act of transitioning via gender affirming practices; are eligible to nominate to play in a competition of their choosing conducted for their affirmed gender and not sex assigned at birth, unless it gives cause to a risk to themselves or others as determined by FV/FA acting in their discretion

Note: FV may request supporting documentation as part of any application under these guidelines.

All decisions are final and at the discretion of FV. These decisions are not appealable.

In the event of any inconsistency between these Gender Rules and the [FV Dispensation Policy](#), the latter shall take priority.

3. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

3. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

3.1. Facilities / Pitch Arrangements

3.1.1. It is the responsibility of all Clubs to:

- a. provide a venue that complies with the minimum facility requirements for FV Competitions as prescribed and promulgated by FV from time to time. The minimum class of facility required for relevant FV Competitions is:
 - (ii) State League Men's & Women's, Men's & Women's Metropolitan League, Men's & Women's Metropolitan Masters, FV Regional Competitions – Senior class; and
 - (iii) FV Metropolitan and FV Regional Competitions– Junior class

Current details of applicable facilities standards for each Division and League are set out in Schedule 8.
- 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.
 - (ii) requirements under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, the *Food Act 1984* and the *Building Act 1993* and *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* (including but not limited to any directions issued by the Chief Health Officer);
 - (iii) any local laws including gaming and liquor licence legislation; and
 - (iv) holding an up to date liquor licence (RSA) and/or food handling certificate if applicable.

3.1.2. A Club which advises FV prior to commencement of a 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 fixtures moved to an alternate venue or forfeit those home fixtures if a move to an alternate venue is not possible in FV's opinion.
- b. be required by FV to advise what steps the Club will take to ensure that it can meet its facility requirements.
- c. have Team(s) withdrawn from competition during the current Regular Season.

3.1.3. At the absolute discretion of FV, a Club which fails to meet its facility requirements under Rule 3.1 may have its Team(s) relegated to a lower Division in the following Regular Season if competing in the State League Men's/Women's competition .

3. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1.4. FV may in its absolute discretion upon written request with supporting evidence grant a temporary exemption 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 FV's requirements; or
 - c. has satisfied FV that the Club is taking all reasonable steps to ensure compliance with FV's facility requirements.
- 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 ten (10) persons are permitted to be within the Technical Area at any given time during a Competition Fixture. Those persons may only include the coach and assistant coach, the Team manager, the substitutes and a registered health practitioner, sports trainer or accredited first aider.
- 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 they do not interrupt the view or movement of any Match Official.
- 3.2.4. Only one (1) person may stand up at one (1) time within the Technical Area. It is the Home Club's responsibility to provide sufficient seating for both Clubs in the respective technical areas.
- 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., bibs, 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. They are subject to GDR Regulation 6.1.2 and should a player or Club Associate be in breach of this rule they will be subject to further penalties under the GDR.

3.3. Match Sheets

- 3.3.1. Clubs will adhere to any requirements relating to the use of online DRIBL Match Sheets, results reporting and match data recording, as prescribed by FV from time to time.
 - a. All FV Metropolitan & Regional Junior (U12 – Under 18) and Senior Competitions are to adhere to the Online Match Sheet process.
- 3.3.2. Clubs must list on the Match Sheet all players taking part in a Competition Fixture and must submit the Match Sheet to the Match Official not less than:
 - a. in the case of any State League Men's & State League Women's Competition Fixture, 60 minutes prior to the commencement of the fixture; or

3. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

- b. all other FV fixtures, 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the fixture.
- 3.3.3. If a Club disagrees with any of the details on a Match Sheet prior to the commencement of the fixture, the fixture must still take place as per the fixtured start time and refer to Rule 3.3.5.
- 3.3.4. A Match Official has the absolute discretion to allow amendments to a Match Sheet up until 30 minutes after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture. The Match Official can unconfirm the relevant Match Sheet, allowing the applicable changes to be made prior to being re-confirmed. The Match Official must inform a representative of both teams noting the changes.
- 3.3.5. Subject to Rule 3.3.7, a Club may be charged with Misconduct if:
 - a. any player listed on the Match Sheet is ineligible in accordance with either these Rules or the GDR; or
 - b. more than 17 players are listed on an U14 - U18 Junior Competition & Senior Competition Match Sheet; or
 - c. more than 14 players are listed on an U12 - U13 Junior Competition Match Sheet; or
 - d. it fails to list on the Match Sheet the shirt number, full name and FA ID number for each player;
 - e. or whereby a system error has occurred and a Club is required to use a hard copy Match Sheet, it adds players to the Match Sheet after submission to the Match Official without following Rule 3.3.4, shall be processed in accordance with these Rules or the GDR.
- 3.3.6. If a Club disagrees with any of the details on a Match Sheet (either its own or the opposition's) in relation to player eligibility, the Club must submit this the [Match Investigation Form](#) on the FV website.
- 3.3.7. If a Club disagrees with any of the statistical details on a Match Sheet (either its own or the opposition's), the Club must submit a Dispute via the DRIBL app or web.

Only the following information can be raised via a Dispute:

- a. Goal Scorers;
 - b. Red and Yellow Cards;
 - c. Final score
- 3.3.8. Match Investigations and Disputes will only be investigated by FV of its own volition or in the following circumstances:
- a. the request to conduct a Match Investigation or Dispute 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 Sheet;
 - (ii) video and/or photographic evidence;
 - (iii) statutory Declaration(s); and

3. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

- (iv) any other information accepted from the Club at the discretion of FV.
- 3.3.9. FV may extend or abridge the deadline referred to in Rule 3.3.7. at its discretion.
- 3.3.10. FV may issue a warning to the offending Club for minor inaccuracies on a Match Sheet.
 - a. Repeat offences of Match Sheet inaccuracies from a Club may result in a Misconduct charge as per Rule 3.3.5.
- 3.3.11. Match Sheets will only be amended if FV is satisfied that the information disputed is proven beyond reasonable doubt.
- 3.3.12. FV reserves the right to amend the Match Sheets and will only be amended if FV is satisfied that there was no malice or intent to gain an advantage. In this instance, Clubs may not be charged with Misconduct as per Rule 3.3.5.
- 3.3.13. For all fixtures that use Match Sheet Books, once signed by all parties at the conclusion of the Competition Fixture, each Club must make a copy of its Match Sheet available to the opposing Team.
- 3.3.14. For all fixtures that use Match Sheet Books, once signed by all parties at the conclusion of the Competition Fixture, each Club must upload the relevant Match Sheet and Team List onto DRIBL via the Pre-Game section for the applicable Competition Fixture.
- 3.3.15. For fixtures that use Online Match Sheets, Clubs must take visible photos of both team sheets post-match once all information has been verified.
- 3.3.16. In the event there is a discrepancy between the team sheet and the team listed on DRIBL, the team sheet will prevail.

3.4. Ground Marshals

- 3.4.1. Each Club must provide the number of marshals (Ground Marshals) directed by FV.
- 3.4.2. Ground Marshals must:
 - a. be at least 18 years old and provide the Match Official with their name;
 - b. be in a clearly identifiable uniform (hi-vis);
 - c. be visible from the Field of Play at all times;
 - d. escort the Match Official(s) to and from the change rooms and the Field of Play at the commencement of the Competition Fixture, at half time and at full time; and
 - e. where required, assist the Match Officials(s) to ensure a safe playing environment for all players, Club Associates and spectators.
- 3.4.3. Match Officials must not leave their dressing rooms to enter the Field of Play or return to their rooms from the Field of Play until the identifiable Ground Marshals are present.

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Table 3.4. – Minimum Number of Ground Marshals for all Competition Fixtures

League	Minimum Number of Ground Marshals
State League Men's 1 – 3	2 per team (4 in total)
State League Men's 4 – 7	1 per team (2 in total)
State League Women's 1 – 8	1 per team (2 in total)
Men's & Women's Metropolitan Leagues and Metropolitan Masters Leagues	1 per team (2 in total)
Junior Competitions	1 per team (2 in total)
All FV Regional Competitions	1 per team (2 in total)

- 3.4.4. FV may vary the minimum Ground Marshal requirements for any Competition Fixture at any time.
- 3.4.5. Ground Marshal numbers may be varied in line with FV's Risk Assessment and Security Policy.
- 3.4.6. Each home and away Club is required to provide 50% of the required Ground Marshals for each Competition Fixture, failure to do so may result in Misconduct under the GDR.
- 3.4.7. Clubs must ensure the [FV Ground Marshal Handbook](#) is provided to relevant persons prior to completing the duty.

3.5. Player's Strip / Apparel

3.5.1. Clothing

- a. All Teams must nominate a 'Home' and 'Alternate' playing strip. The Club's 'Home' and 'Alternate' playing strips must be entered into FV's online competition management system (DRIBL) or provided to FV if requested at least 10 days prior to Round 1 of the Regular Season or the Club in question may incur a penalty under the GDR.
- b. All playing strips must meet the requirements as outlined in the [On-Field Kit Guidelines 2026](#) document and be approved by FV.
- c. Any change to playing strips during the season must be communicated to FV 5 working days prior to the Club's next Competition Fixture
- d. Predominantly black playing shirts will not be permitted unless approved by FV.
- e. The Home Club in each Competition Fixture is required to wear their nominated 'Home' playing strip.
- f. In the instance of a playing strip clash between the home and away Team as determined by the Match Official, the away Team is required to provide a sufficiently alternate playing strip.
- g. In the instance of a playing 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 playing strip clash. This written agreement must be sent to FV prior to the fixture.

3. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

- h. The purpose of Rule 3.5 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 3.5. – Clashes and Permissions

	SLM	SLW	JUNIORS	METRO & MASTERS	REGIONAL COMPETITIONS
Playing Shirt	No Clash Permitted	No Clash Permitted	No Clash Permitted	No Clash Permitted	No Clash Permitted
Shorts	Clash Permitted	Clash Permitted	Clash Permitted	Clash Permitted	Clash Permitted
Socks	No Clash Permitted	No Clash Permitted	Clash Permitted	Clash Permitted	Clash Permitted

- i. All playing shirts must have a visible number on the back of the shirt.
- j. All playing numbers displayed on shirts must be unique within the Team.
- k. Where a playing shirt clash is present for an Under 12 & Under 13 Junior Competition Fixture, one Team may wear bibs which distinguish them from the opposing Team and Match Officials, subject to Rules 3.5.1.i and 3.5.1.j.
- l. A Club may be penalised in accordance with Rule 4.6 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 3.5.1, or
 - (ii) a Club changes their home playing strip without notifying FV Competitions via competitions@footballvictoria.com.au by no later than five days (5) prior to Competition Fixture, and this change results in a Competition Fixture being postponed as a result of a strip clash.
- m. Goalkeepers may wear any colour provided their strip does not clash with either Team or the Match Official.
- n. All Clubs must have two (2) goalkeeper strips available at all home and away fixtures.

3.5.2. Protective Gear

- 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. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

3.5.3. Players Equipment must be in line with IFAB Laws of the Game.

3.6. Stretchers / First Aid

- 3.6.1. Each Home Club must allocate one (1) stretcher suitable for first aid and emergency use for each pitch hosting a Competition Fixture.
- 3.6.2. Home Clubs must have at least one (1) trained first aid officer on site for all fixtures. They must hold at a minimum a HLTID011 Certificate to provide first aid (including CPR). The first aider must be available to both Home and Away Clubs.
- 3.6.3. 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. Defibrillator at venue.
 - e. Must provide a hospital register clearly visible in the first aid and match officials room.

3.7. Vaping/Smoking and Drinking at Venues

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

3.8. National Flags, Slogans & Emblems

- 3.8.1. Clubs must comply at all times with the [FA Diversity & Inclusion Policy](#)
- 3.8.2. 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.
- 3.8.3. FV may require the immediate removal of any offending material at any time.

3.9. Lighting Standards

- 3.9.1. Clubs wishing to play Competition Fixtures under lights must ensure that lighting for those Competition Fixtures complies with FV's Football Lighting Policy referred to as Rule 9.
- 3.9.2. Fixtures may not kick off after 3:15pm without approved lighting from FV.



4. FIXTURE DETAILS

4. 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. – Competition Fixtures Normal Time

Age Group	Duration of Competition Fixtures – Normal Time
Under Twelve (12) Mixed	2 x 30 minute halves (= 60 minutes)
Under Thirteen (13) Mixed	2 x 30 minute halves (= 60 minutes)
Under Fourteen (14) Mixed	2 x 30 minute halves (= 60 minutes)
Under Fifteen (15) Mixed	2 x 35 minute halves (= 70 minutes)
Under Sixteen (16) Mixed	2 x 40 minute halves (= 80 minutes)
Under Seventeen (17) Boys	2 x 40 minute halves (= 80 minutes)
Under Eighteen (18) Boys	2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)
Under Twelve (12) Girls	2 x 30 minute halves (= 60 minutes)
Under Thirteen (13) Girls	2 x 30 minute halves (= 60 minutes)
Under Fourteen (14) Girls	2 x 30 minute halves (= 60 minutes)
Under Fifteen (15) Girls	2 x 35 minute halves (= 70 minutes)
Under Sixteen (16) Girls	2 x 40 minute halves (= 80 minutes)
CPL Girls Under Seventeen (17)	2 x 40 minute halves (=80 minutes)
Under Seventeen (17) Girls / Eighteen (18) Girls	2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)
Senior Women's	2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)
Senior Men's	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. Prior to the commencement of the Competition Fixture, the Match Official may reduce the length of each half 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 Laws of the Game; and
 - (ii) he or she has notified the Coach/Team Manager of each participating Team.

4. FIXTURE DETAILS

- d. Additional time shall not be played in FV Metropolitan and Regional Junior Competition Fixtures.

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 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

- a. The half-time interval must be a minimum of 5 minutes and no longer than 15 minutes in duration for all competitions except for the Under 12 & Under 13 competitions.
- b. The half-time interval must be a minimum of 5 minutes and no longer than 10 minutes in duration for the Under 12 & Under 13 competitions.

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. The Competition Fixture may be abandoned for any, but not limited to, one of the following reasons:

- a. if either Team has its playing numbers reduced for any reason below the minimum IFAB requirement of seven (7) players for 11 v 11 fixtures;
- b. if either Team has its playing numbers reduced for any reason below the minimum requirement of six (6) players for 9 v 9 fixtures.
- c. if the lighting at the venue fails such that in the opinion of the Match Official it is impossible or unsafe to continue to play;
- d. if the Match Official or FV determines that playing conditions have become unsafe or untenable for any reason;
- e. if the Match Official, in consultation with security staff and ground marshals where applicable, determines that the conditions for players, coaches, Match Officials or supporters have become unsafe or untenable for any reason;
- f. if one or both of the Teams is not ready to commence the Competition Fixture within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick-off time; or
- g. in accordance with Rule 4.4, and Clubs must use reasonable endeavours to report any likely abandonment circumstances to FV in advance, particularly in order to avoid unnecessary travel by regionally based Club and Teams.

4.2.3. If a Senior Competition Fixture (SLM/SLW, Metropolitan Men's/Women's, Metropolitan Masters, Regional Seniors) is abandoned due to a matter set out in Rule 4.2.2., FV may determine one of the following outcomes of the Competition Fixture at its absolute discretion:

4. FIXTURE DETAILS

- a. If the fixture is abandoned after the commencement of the second half, the result at the time of the abandonment may stand.
- b. If the fixture is abandoned prior to the commencement of the second half, the outcome may be determined as follows:
 - (i) Competition Fixture to be replayed in full.
 - (ii) Competition Fixture to be awarded as a 'No Result'.
 - (iii) Competition Fixture result is 0-0.
 - (iv) Competition Fixture result If 3-0 to the non-offending Team, unless the goal different at the time of the 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).
 - (v) Competition Fixture at the time of the abandonment shall stand.

4. FIXTURE DETAILS

- 4.2.4. If a Junior Competition Fixture (Under 12 – Under 18) is abandoned due to a matter set out in Rule 4.2.2., FV may determine one of the following outcomes of the Competition Fixture at its absolute discretion:
- a. If 70% or more of Normal Time of a Competition Fixture has been played, then the score at the time of the abandonment may stand. 'Played' in the context of this Rule will be determined by FV in consultation with the Match Official.
 - b. If the fixture is abandoned prior to 70% of the Competition Fixture being played, the result may be determined as follows:
 - (i) Competition Fixture to be replayed in full.
 - (ii) Competition Fixture to be awarded as a 'No Result'.
 - (iii) Competition Fixture result is 0-0.
 - (iv) Competition Fixture result If 3-0 to the non-offending Team, unless the goal different at the time of the 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).
 - (v) Competition Fixture at the time of the abandonment shall stand.
- 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 GDR.
- 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 by close of business on the next business day that the Competition Fixture has been abandoned.

4.3. Postponed/Rescheduled Competition Fixtures

- 4.3.1. Competition Fixtures may be cancelled, postponed, replayed, 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. In the event of a postponed or abandoned Competition Fixture which is required to be replayed, Clubs may, within five (5) business days from the originally scheduled Competition Fixture, 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 approved by FV, the Competition Fixture will be rescheduled at FV's absolute discretion.

4. FIXTURE DETAILS

- 4.3.3. FV may reschedule Competition Fixtures at its absolute discretion. In exercising that discretion, FV:
- is not subject to the deadlines or timeframes whether set out in these Rules or otherwise; and
 - will take into consideration all relevant circumstances including but not limited to league standings and the scheduling of Cup Fixtures.
 - will not compensate any clubs due to the cancellation, postponement or rescheduling of Competition Fixtures.
- 4.3.4. FV may determine the new time and date for the playing of a postponed/rescheduled Competition Fixture. Clubs are obliged to 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 be subject to penalty under the GDR.
- 4.3.5. Any postponed or abandoned Competition Fixture that requires rescheduling will be rescheduled to the next available catch-up round or midweek at FV's discretion.
- 4.3.6. 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'.
- 4.3.7. 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 Misconduct charges under the GDR. FV may also record the final score of any such Competition Fixture as a 'No Result'.
- 4.3.8. Any Player, coach, or team unavailability resulting in team non-participation of a 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 and/or pitch conditions such as but not limited to excessive heat/humidity, lightning or rain that may endanger participants' health and/or safety.
- 4.4.2. Refer to the [FV Extreme Weather Policy](#) for all rules and guidelines regarding extreme weather conditions.

4.5. Match Points

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

Result	Match Points Awarded
WIN	Three (3) points
DRAW	One (1) point
LOSS	Zero (0) points
FORFEIT	Three-nil loss

4. FIXTURE DETAILS

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. 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.
- 4.5.4. If more than one (1) Team finishes the Regular Season on the same number of points, their final position will be determined as follows:
- The Team with the greatest Goal Difference will finish higher.
 - If Goal Difference is the same, then the Team that has scored the most goals FOR will be deemed to have finished higher.
 - 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 season (excluding Cup Fixtures).
 - if the aggregate scores between the Teams are the same, then AWAY goals will count as double.
- 4.5.5. If more than one (1) Team has the identical number of Rule 4.6.4 then those Teams will be deemed to have tied.
- 4.5.6. If the final standing in any League is affected by a tie in accordance with Rule 4.5.5 so that it has a bearing on promotion or relegation to another League, Finals or Playoffs, then FV may fixture a Playoff Match between the tied Teams in accordance with these Rules to separate them.

4.6. Non- Participation in a Competition Fixture

- 4.6.1. If both Clubs/Teams refuse to play or are not ready to commence the Competition Fixture as scheduled (refer to Rule 4.2.2.e.), FV may award a 'No Result'.
- 4.6.2. Where a Team forfeits a Competition Fixture, the forfeiting Team shall be fined as follows, where notification of the forfeit is:
- before 9:00am, 2 days prior to the Match, no Fine shall apply;
 - after 9:00am, 2 days prior to the Match, a Fine in line with the below will be enforced.

Competition	Forfeit Fine
State League Men's 1	\$2,000
State League Men's 1 Reserves	\$750
State League Women's 1	\$750
State League Women's 1 Reserves	\$250
State League Men's 2 – 3	\$1,500

4. FIXTURE DETAILS

State League Men's 2 – 3 Reserves	\$500
State League Men's 4 – 5	\$1,000
State League Men's 4 – 5 Reserves	\$500
State League Women's 2 – 3	\$500
State League Men's 6 – 7	\$500
State League Men's 6 – 7 Reserves	\$250
State League Women's 4 – 5	\$250
State League Women's 6 – 8	\$150
Regional Senior Competitions	\$250
Regional Junior Competitions	\$150
Community Premier League – Girls	\$250
All other FV Metropolitan Junior & Senior Competitions	\$150

- (i) the Day of Play does not count towards the total days prior, for example, if notification of a Forfeit is received after 9:00am Friday for a Competition Fixture on Sunday, the relevant Forfeit Fine will be enforced.

4.6.3. Forfeit Fines are applicable for the following community competitions:

- a. State League Men's
- b. State League Women's
- c. Men's and Women's Metropolitan & Masters
- d. Regional Seniors
- e. Metropolitan Juniors

4.6.4. For avoidance of doubt late forfeit fines are not applicable for MiniRoos (Under 6 – Under 11) competitions.

4.6.5. Non-participation and forfeit fines for specific competitions may be altered by FV provided that they are implemented throughout the competition.

4.6.6. When insufficient players are available for a Competition Fixture:

- a. in applicable competitions, a senior Team within a Club must take priority over a reserves Team. Failure to field a senior team may result in a 3 – 0 forfeit for both the seniors and reserves fixtures.
- b. where a Club has multiple Teams within the same competition structure (i.e., League 1 and League 2), the Club must where possible forfeit the Team in the lowest division, ensuring the Team in the highest division can fulfill their fixture.

4. FIXTURE DETAILS

- 4.6.7. If a Club's reserves Team fails to participate in four (4) Competition Fixtures, FV may, at its absolute discretion, remove the Club's senior Team from its League during the Regular Season.
- 4.6.8. Forfeits may also constitute a Misconduct under the GDR and be dealt with as such.

4.7. Change of Venue/Fixture Requests by Club

4.7.1. *Change of Venue Requests*

- a. Change of venue requests may only be made on the basis of perceived unplayable pitch or venue 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 14 days prior to the scheduled 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 4.7.2.
- c. Fixtures may not be changed in the last round of the Regular Season Competition in the State League Men's and State League Women's to maintain integrity of promotion and relegation.
- d. Any change request based on deteriorating pitch or venue conditions may be considered with supporting evidence provided within the 14-day period prior to the Competition Fixture at the absolute discretion of FV.

4.7.2. *Fixture Date/Time Change Requests*

- a. FV will consider a fixture change request by a Club if the request is received no less than 7 days prior to the fixture with written consent provided to FV by Club Officials of both Clubs. Exemptions may be granted for Rounds 1-4 (and 5 for Leagues which have been subject to regrading).
 - (i) any fixture change that takes place within 7 days of a Competition Fixture, may result in the forgoing of an appointed FV Match Official.
- b. No date or time change request will be accepted for the final round of any State League Men's or State League Women's fixture.
- c. Scheduled FV competition catch-up and Cup Fixture rounds will only be used in the case of postponed or abandoned Competition Fixtures.
- d. Exemption from Rule 4.7.2.c may only be made if;
 - (i) a request is made in accordance with Rule 4.7.2.a; and
 - (ii) five (5) days prior to the catch-up or Cup Fixture round neither Club is involved in any other Competition Fixture being played in that catch-up or Cup Fixture round.

4.7.3. Rules 4.7.1 and 4.7.2 do not apply to Finals or Play Off Matches.

4.7.4. Any decision to reschedule a Competition Fixture (or otherwise) under Rule 4.7 is subject to FV's right to reschedule a Competition Fixture in accordance with Rule 4.3.3.

4. FIXTURE DETAILS

- 4.7.5. FV decisions in relation to rescheduling of Competition Fixtures are final and binding on all parties and are not subject to appeal.
- 4.7.6. FV holds ultimate power and absolute discretion over the fixturing of Competition Fixtures.

5. 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](#) are set out on the FV website and will apply for the duration of the Regular Season, although will be subject to change at any time.
- 5.1.3. All Match Official Fees shall be paid directly from the relevant Home Clubs DRIBL Connect Account in the week following the completion Competition Fixture.
- 5.1.4. If a Competition Fixture is abandoned or postponed, all Match Officials are entitled to receive match fees in accordance with Rule 4.2.6.

5.2. Assistant Match Officials

- 5.2.1. Where available, two (2) assistant Match Officials shall be appointed to a Competition Fixture to assist the Match Official.
- 5.2.2. If insufficient assistant Match Officials have been appointed, each Team must provide an assistant Match Official. Failure to comply will result in a forfeit by the Team which fails to provide an assistant.

5.3. Non – Attendance or Unavailability of Match Officials

- 5.3.1. If the Match Official fails to honour their appointment or is unable to complete the entirety of the fixture i.e. receives an injury after commencing the fixture, the next most senior Match Official will take charge of the Competition Fixture.
 - (i) A replacement assistant match official must be appointed by both clubs in line with Regulation 5.3.3, 5.3.4 & 5.3.5
- 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. If the match is not Played due to the away team disputing the Match Official appointment, the Away Team may be deemed to have caused the abandonment of the Competition Fixture.
- 5.3.4. If an appointed Match Official is unable to fulfill their appointment after the fixture has commenced (i.e., due to an injury sustained) and there is not one available to act as a replacement, both Clubs shall agree on a person to act as the Match Official for the remainder of the Competition Fixture. If, after ten (10) minutes no agreement can be reached, the Home Club must appoint a person to act as the Match Official for the Competition Fixture. If the match is not completed due to the Away Team disputing the

4. FIXTURE DETAILS

Match Official appointment, the Away Team may be deemed to have caused the abandonment of the Competition Fixture.

- 5.3.5. It is a requirement that the Club appointed Match Official has a valid Working with Children's Check.
- 5.3.6. 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 may be deemed to have forfeited the Competition Fixture.
- 5.3.7. All Clubs must fulfil 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 GDR.
- 5.3.8. No Player (s) listed on a Match Sheet or Team Sheet can act as a Match Official for that Competition Fixture.

5.4. Decisions of the Match Official

- 5.4.1. The decisions of the Match Official(s) about any fact connected with play are final and cannot be disputed by any party.

5.5. Pitch and Facility Inspection Report

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

5.6. Match Sheets and Misconduct Reports (Match Officials)

- 5.6.1. At the conclusion of each Competition Fixture, the Match Official shall consult with their assistant Match Officials, where appointed, and confirm the accuracy of all Competition Fixture information before completing each Team's Match Sheet.
- 5.6.2. Match Sheets must be submitted via the DRIBL Online Match Sheet process for relevant leagues) and:
 - a. submitted by the Match Official to FV in relation to all Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls and Senior Competition Fixtures
- 5.6.3. Match Sheets required to be submitted to FV in accordance with Rule 5.6.2 must be submitted within 24 hours of the completion of the relevant Competition Fixture.
- 5.6.4. Misconduct and Competition Incident Reports, must be submitted via DRIBL in accordance with the requirements set out in the GDR and Rule 5.6.3.

5.7. Player Safety and 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.
- 5.7.2. The Match Official may allow the injured player to re-join 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 on it, the Match Official may require the player to change their attire before re-joining the Competition Fixture.

4. FIXTURE DETAILS

- 5.7.4. If the injured player is required to change their uniform, and a shirt displaying the same number as the original shirt is unavailable, the Match Official may allow the player to wear an alternative numbered, or blank, playing shirt.

5.8. Body Camera Trial

- 5.8.1. FA & FV intends to participate in a limited trial involving certain Match Officials wearing body cameras (bodycams) during certain Matches, which is part of an overall endeavour to identify possible measures to improve player/coach behaviour during football matches (Body Cam Trial).
- 5.8.2. If the Body Cam Trial extends to Community Competitions, FA or FV will issue supplementary regulations and protocols governing the scope and application of the Body Cam Trial.
- 5.8.3. All Community Participants must comply with, and consent to the use of bodycams in accordance with, any regulations or protocols so issued.

5.9. Match Reporting

- 5.8.1. Match Officials must enter all match results & player data in accordance with Rule 11.4.
- 5.8.2. Match Officials will be required to adhere to any requirements relating to the use of online Match Sheets, results reporting and match data recording, as prescribed by FV from time to time



6. REGISTRATIONS

6. REGISTRATIONS

The Registration Process is set out in the [2026 FV Registration Regulations](#).



7. CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

7. CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

Please refer to Schedule 6 which sets out all relevant Codes of Behaviour and Codes of Conduct applicable to FV competitions, Competition Fixtures, Clubs, Players, Match Officials and Club Associates.



8. MINIMUM FACILITY REQUIREMENTS – COMMUNITY COMPETITIONS

8. MINIMUM FACILITY REQUIREMENTS – COMMUNITY COMPETITIONS

Please refer to Schedule 7 for all Minimum Facility Requirements - Community Competitions.



9. FOOTBALL LIGHTING POLICY & REQUIREMENTS

9. FOOTBALL LIGHTING POLICY & REQUIREMENTS

Applicable lighting standards and requirements for Competition Fixtures are set out in FV's [Football Lighting Policy](#) as published on the FV website and as amended from time to time.



2026 RULES OF COMPETITION

GEELONG



FOOTBALL
VICTORIA

SCHEDULE 1 – 2026 GEELONG REGION COMPETITION REGULATIONS

SCHEDULE 1 – 2026 GEELONG REGION COMPETITION REGULATIONS

10. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

10.1. General Information

- 10.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all FV Geelong Competition Fixtures. If a particular matter is not covered by these Regulations, the relevant Regulations listed in Section 1. General Matters Applicable to all Competitions will apply.
- 10.1.2. Number of teams is determined by FV in its absolute discretion.

10.2. Team Entry / Age Groups

- 10.2.1. 2026 FV Geelong Competitions shall run in the following age groups;
 - a. Senior Men
 - b. Senior Women
 - c. Boys' Under 17
 - d. Mixed Under 15
 - e. Mixed Under 13
 - f. Girls' Under 15/16
 - g. Girls' Under 13
 - h. Mixed MiniRoos (U7, U8, U9, U10, U11)
 - i. Girls' MiniRoos (U7, U9, U11)
- 10.2.2. Clubs competing in FV Geelong Competitions may apply to enter any number of Teams, new or existing, in any one age group, however FV have absolute discretion when accepting Team Entries and allocating the composition of leagues.
- 10.2.3. Any Late Team Entries submitted after the closure of the Team Entry Period will only be accepted at FV's sole discretion.
- 10.2.4. Further to Regulation 10.2.3, if a vacancy does not exist, FV will consider entering a 'late' Team following the grading and regrading period which follows Round 4 (Juniors) and Round 6 (MiniRoos).
- 10.2.5. Where a Late Team Entry is accepted by FV and that Team commences in a League after the commencement of the Regular Season, FV will determine the allocation of forfeits for the number of Competition Fixtures missed by that Team (as a result of late inclusion in the League in question) at its absolute discretion.
- 10.2.6. No FV Regional Club competing in FV Regional Competitions or included as a member of a Regional Advisory Panel, will be permitted to enter Teams(s) into FV Metropolitan Competitions (excluding CPL, Junior Advanced Competitions, State League Men's/Women's, VPL and NPL Competitions) unless it satisfies criteria including all of the following:

SCHEDULE 1 – 2026 GEELONG REGION COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- a. That, in the opinion of FV, it is deemed that such a request does not directly or indirectly impact the viability of any FV Geelong Competition;
 - b. That the Club fields (and/or has already fielded) an additional Team(s) into the same or similar age group in FV Geelong competitions or in any other League as required by FV;
 - c. That in the opinion of FV, it is deemed that such a request has been reasonably made because the desired age group(s) Division and/or gender of the Team is not already available within FV Geelong competitions or that of any other regional association within reasonable proximity to the Club;
 - d. That the Club acknowledges that if is permitted to enter Team(s) into Metropolitan competitions, but thereafter fails to field the Team(s) in the FV Geelong competitions for the duration of the Regular Season, its Team(s) may be ineligible to earn match points or be subject to other penalties as determined at the sole discretion of FV; and
 - e. That the Clubs license agreement with FV allows them to enter teams within metropolitan structures; and
 - f. Any other criteria as promulgated by FV from time to time,
- 10.2.7. FV reserves the right in its absolute discretion to amend the structure of Geelong Competitions, including varying the number of Clubs in each Division and/or the number of Divisions, before, during or after the Regular Season. Amendments may be as a result of FA actions, including the establishment of any new or varied FA auspiced Leagues or Divisions (including a National Second Tier), or compulsory Player pathways.

10.3. Regrading / Grading Period

- 10.3.1. FV in its absolute discretion will determine whether a regrading / grading period will occur within a competition season.
- 10.3.2. Should a grading period be applicable to FV Geelong Competitions reference will be made within the specific Competitions regulations within the Rules of Competition.

10.4. Admittance to Competition Fixtures

- 10.4.1. Admittance to all FV Geelong Competition Fixtures is free of charge, including car parking.

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11. GEELONG REGIONAL FINALS SERIES

11.1. Competition Format

- 11.4.1. Subject to this Regulation and unless otherwise determined by the FV Competitions Team, the top four (4) Teams at the conclusion of the Regular Season in each League may progress to the Finals Series for that League.
- 11.4.2. The Finals Series format may be based on final ladder positions, as follows:
 - a. Week 1
Semi-Final #1 – 1st v 4th
Semi-Final #2 – 2nd v 3rd
 - b. Week 2
Grand Final – Winner Semi-Final #1 v Winner Semi-Final #2
- 11.4.3. The teams which finish in 1st and 2nd positions in each League at the conclusion of the Regular Season will be hosted at a venue to be determined by FV.
- 11.4.4. Each Club participating in Week 1 of the Finals Series will cover 50% of the Match Official fees.
- 11.4.5. FV will cover all Match Official fees in Week 2 of the Finals Series.
- 11.4.6. Details of each Finals Series for all Leagues will be released by FV prior to the conclusion of the Regular Season.
- 11.4.7. If any Finals Series Competitions Fixtures are postponed, abandoned or cancelled, that Competition Fixture will be played within 3 days of the original Competition Fixture at the sole discretion of FV. This may include the Competition Fixture being played on an alternative day or at an alternative venue.
- 11.4.8. FV will determine whether a Finals Series will run at their discretion.
- 11.4.9. FV will determine Finals Series venues at their sole discretion.

11.2. Procedure to Determine the Winner of Finals

- 11.2.1. All Competition Fixtures in the Finals Series will be played over one (1) leg.
- 11.2.2. If, at the conclusion of any Final, the scores between the Teams are tied, extra time of two equal periods will be used to decide the winner. If the scores are level at the end of extra time, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game to determine the winner of the Final.
- 11.2.3. The Team who wins the Grand Final will become the Finals Champion for their League, unless otherwise determined by FV.
- 11.2.4. The Team who loses the Grand Final will become the Finals Runner Up for their League, unless otherwise determined by FV.
- 11.2.5. Subject to this Regulation and unless otherwise determined by FV acting in its absolute discretion winning the Finals at the conclusion of the Regular Season may entitle the team to be named Champions.

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11.3. Discipline

- 11.3.1 All Suspensions from the Regular Season will carry over to the Finals Series.
- 11.3.2 A player that receives a Red Card during the Final Series will automatically miss the next Competition Fixture (whether or not that fixture is Final) and may be subject to further sanction in accordance with the GDR.
- 11.3.2 Yellow cards accumulated by a player during the Finals Series will not be counted for the purposes of clause 4.4(a) of the GDR. However, if a player receives their 5th yellow card in their Club's final Regular Season Competition Fixture they shall be suspended for their first Competition Fixture of the Finals Series.

11.4. Player Restrictions

- 11.4.10. Each player must have Played at least four (4) Regular Season Competition Fixtures for that Team to qualify to play Finals for that Team.
- 11.4.11. FV will only consider an exception to Regulation 11.4.10 in exceptional circumstances and where a Club/Team can establish that it is unable to field a Team for a Final (in compliance with Regulation 11.4.10) due to insufficient player numbers as a result of availability (including injury). Any Club wishing to rely on such an exception must apply to FV:
 - a. via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#);
 - b. at least five (5) days before the Final is due to take place;
 - c. setting out the reasons it requests an exception be granted to Regulation 11.4.10, providing evidence in support of player unavailability; and
 - d. provide FV with any further information required.
- 11.4.12. FV will consider any request made in accordance with Regulation 11.4.2 together with all information provided in support of that request and make a decision regarding any exception requested. Any decision made in this regard is at the sole discretion of FV and is not subject to review or appeal.
- 11.4.13. A player may be granted a dispensation to play down a maximum of one (1) age group at FV's sole discretion as per the regulations within the FV Dispensation Policy.
- 11.4.14. FV may request information or clarification from a player or Club applying for dispensation as it sees fit and will make a decision in relation to the dispensation request at its sole discretion.
- 11.4.15. FV may refuse to grant a dispensation requested at its sole discretion and this decision is considered as final.

SCHEDULE 1 – 2026 GEELONG SENIOR MEN’S LEAGUE COMPETITION REGULATIONS

12. GEELONG SENIOR MEN’S LEAGUE COMPETITION REGULATIONS

12.1. General Information

- 12.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all FV Geelong Senior Men's League Competition Fixtures. If a particular matter is not covered by these Regulations, reference will be made to the Metropolitan Men’s Regulations if they address that matter and the relevant regulation will apply.
- 12.1.2. FV Geelong competitions shall comprise three (3) Senior Men's Leagues or such other number as determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 12.1.3. Number of teams is determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 12.1.4. League 1 and League 2 shall each comprise of a maximum of ten (10) Teams.
- 12.1.5. If a Club with multiple Teams in the Senior Men’s competition intends to withdraw a Team prior to the commencement of the 2026 season, the Club’s lowest graded Team within the Competition will be withdrawn or otherwise determined by FV.
- 12.1.6. Decisions regarding the placing of Teams in particular Leagues are not appealable.
- 12.1.7. Competition Fixtures will be played on either Friday, Sunday or Monday, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary.
- 12.1.8. Friday or Monday night Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 6:30pm or later than 8:30pm, unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.
- 12.1.9. Competition Fixtures cannot be scheduled for a Friday or Monday night if the distance between the home venues of the two (2) Clubs exceeds 50km, unless upon written agreement of the two (2) Clubs or as determined by at the sole discretion of FV.
- 12.1.10. Sunday Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 11:00am or later than 8:30pm, unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.
- 12.1.11. Matches may only be played on public holidays with the permission of FV.
- 12.1.12. The applicable kick off times for Sunday Competition Fixtures apply to any matches held on public holidays.

12.2. Player Eligibility

- 12.2.1. To be eligible to participate in Senior Men’s Competitions run by FV, Players must turn 15 years (or older) as at 1 January 2026, unless an application to FV for an exemption from this Regulation is made via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#) by the Player’s Club on behalf of a Player and is accepted by FV.
- 12.2.2. An application made under Regulation 12.2.1. must meet the following minimum criteria:
 - a. The application is submitted via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#).
 - b. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player’s Club president supporting the application;
 - c. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player’s Club Technical Director;

SCHEDULE 1 – 2026 GEELONG SENIOR MEN’S LEAGUE COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- d. The application must be supported by a signed letter of consent from the player’s parent or guardian supporting the application;
 - e. The application must be supported by a signed letter of support from the player’s medical professional listing general medical details of the player including height and weight and;
 - f. The Club/player must provide FV with any further information requested.
- 12.2.3. An application made under Regulation 12.2.1. will be considered by FV. FV has sole discretion in relation to any application made under that Regulation.
- 12.2.4. Once a Player has played in five (5) State League Men’s Senior fixtures, that Player will be deemed ineligible to compete in any of his Club’s Geelong Senior Men’s League Competition Teams for the remainder of the Regular Season (including Finals). Players under the age of 18 as of 1 January 2026 are exempt from regulation 12.2.4.
- 12.2.5. Players who are participating in both the State League Men’s Competition and the Geelong Senior Men’s League Competition can only be registered to one (1) Registration Type on PlayFootball: ‘2.4 2026 State League Men’s’. Being registered and made active to this Registration Type will allow players to play in both Metropolitan and Geelong Competitions.
- 12.2.6. Once a Player has played at a higher Division(s) excluding State League Men’s (Seniors or Reserves) for ten (10) Competitions Fixtures or more, they will be considered ineligible for any Geelong Senior Men’s League matches in a lower category (e.g. Senior Men’s League 2) for his Club for the remainder of the Regular Season (including Finals). Players under the age of 18 as of 1 January 2026 are exempt from regulation 12.2.6.
- 12.2.7. For each Geelong Senior Men’s League Team, no more than three (3) players who were listed on a Match Sheet in any of their Club’s State League Men’s Seniors, Reserves or higher Geelong Senior Men’s League Teams on any given weekend will be eligible to play in a Geelong Senior Men’s League Competition Fixture that same weekend. Players under the age of 18 as of 1 January 2026 are exempt from regulation 12.2.7.
- a. For clarity if the player is listed on the Match Sheet they are deemed to have Played in the fixture, as such they will be included in the three (3) players eligible to play in the fixture.
- Example 1: Club 1’s State League Men’s Team and Geelong Senior Men’s League 1 Team both played on Friday night, only three (3) players in total are eligible to play in Club 1’s Geelong Men’s League 2 on that same weekend.*
- 12.2.8. Irrespective of the kick off time for games on a particular day. If a Men’s League 2 fixture is scheduled before a Clubs Men’s League 1 fixture, the Club must still only list a maximum of three (3) players who are able to play both matches.
- 12.2.9. For the purpose of Regulation 12.2.7, on a weekend where any of a Club’s higher Division Teams outlined are not scheduled to play in a Competition Fixture, that Team’s most recent Competition Fixture shall apply.
- 12.2.10. If a Club has two (2) Teams in the same League (of a particular Senior League) then Players are ‘team-tied’ following completion of the sixth (6th) round of the Regular Season to one of those Teams. Clubs will be required to submit a Team list for each Team for Round 7 onwards, listing each Player, which will be tied to that particular Team for the remainder of the regular season. Any new Player joining one of those Teams after the sixth (6th) round must be allocated to (and can only play for) one (1) of the tied-Teams for the

SCHEDULE 1 – 2026 GEELONG SENIOR MEN’S LEAGUE COMPETITION REGULATIONS

remainder of the Regular Season. Players under the age of 18 as of 1 January 2026 are exempt from regulation 12.1.10.

12.3. Composition of Leagues

- 12.3.1. Composition of Leagues is at the absolute discretion of FV.
- 12.3.2. Geelong Senior Men’s competitions will be structured based on a grading period of four (4) rounds that forms part of the Season as determined by FV.
- 12.3.3. Teams will be allocated into pools and subsequent groups within pools based on the overall Senior Men’s League ladder position from the previous season. For avoidance of doubt where teams have not played the same total number of games, the Order of Merit will apply.
 - a. Pool 1
Teams finishing in ladder positions 1 – 18 will be allocated to Pool 1.
Teams will then be allocated into three (3) groups of five (6).
 - b. Pool 2
Teams finishing in positions 18 and onwards will be allocated to Pool 2.
For avoidance of doubt, New Team entries will be allocated to Pool 2.
Teams will then be allocated into groups as determined by FV.
- 12.3.4. No Club shall have two (2) Teams competing within the same group.
Where a Club has two (2) Teams allocated to the same group, one of the Teams will swap with a Team similarly placed on the ladder in FV’s absolute discretion.
- 12.3.5. Upon completion of the four (4) grading rounds, Teams will be allocated into Divisions based on their overall pool ranking and will compete in a 14 Round Home/Away season.

Geelong Men’s League 1

The eight (8) highest ranked teams across the three groups in Pool 1 will make up Geelong Men’s Division 1, creating an 8 Team League 1 Competition.

No Club shall have more than one (1) Team in League 1, where a Club has two (2) Teams, the lower ranked Team shall be allocated to League 2 and replaced by the next highest ranked Team.

Geelong Men’s League 2

The 10 remaining Teams from Pool 1, and the highest ranked Teams from Pool 2, will be allocated to Geelong Men’s League 2, to a maximum of a 12 Team League 2 Competition.

Clubs are permitted to have more than one (1) Team in League 2.

Geelong Men’s League 3

Lowest ranked teams from Pool 2 to a maximum of 15 teams.

Clubs are permitted to have more than one (1) Team in League 3.

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13. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

13.1. Interchange / Substitution

- 13.1.1. A maximum of seventeen (17) Players may be named on the Match Sheet.
- 13.1.2. Clubs may make any number of interchanges during the course of the Competition Fixture, provided the Match Official has been consulted first.
- 13.1.3. A Match Official may decline the interchange of players in the last five (5) minutes of the second half of a Competition Fixture if in his or her opinion the change is being made to deliberately delay play.
- 13.1.4. All substitutes must be seated within the Technical Area.

13.2. Match Balls

- 13.2.1. The Home Club 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.
- 13.2.2. All Clubs must use a licensed match ball from FV’s official and exclusive match ball partner Mitre for all Competition Fixtures.
 - a. FV Geelong Men’s Competition Fixtures are recommended to use a Mitre Delta One or higher match ball.
- 13.2.3. Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to FV by the Match Official.
- 13.2.4. A failure to comply with Regulation 11.3 may result in a fine as set out in the GDR.

13.3. Additional Time

- 13.3.1. Additional time for FV Geelong Men’s Competition Fixtures must be played in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game.

13.4. Results of FV Competition Fixtures

- 13.4.1. All player lists must be submitted by the home/away Team prior to the commencement of the match as part of the DRIBL Online Match Sheet Process.
- 13.4.2. All results including goal scorers, substitutions and cautions and Best & Fairest votes must be submitted by the Match Official immediately after the conclusion of the Competition via DRIBL as part of the post-game submission process.
- 13.4.3. Should there be no Match Official appointed to the fixture, the Home Team must appoint and list a Non-Accredited Referee pre-game and confirm the following details from the match via DRIBL immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture:
 - a. Minimum Requirements
 - (i) Half Time Score
 - (ii) Full Time Score
 - (iii) Home & Away Team Goal Scorers

SCHEDULE 1 – 2026 GEELONG SENIOR MEN’S LEAGUE COMPETITION REGULATIONS

(iv) Home & Away Team Cautions

- 13.4.4. Clubs which fail to submit results, cautions goal scorers and substitutions (when requested or when a match official is not present) in accordance with Regulation 13.4.3 may be fined or otherwise penalised for Misconduct under the GDR.



SCHEDULE 1 – 2026 GEELONG SENIOR MEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

14. GEELONG SENIOR MEN'S LEAGUE AWARDS

14. GEELONG SENIOR MEN'S LEAGUE AWARDS

14.1. Best & Fairest Votes

- 14.1.1. At the conclusion of each Geelong Senior Men's League Competition Fixture, the Match Official must complete the Best & Fairest Votes and submit those votes to FV through the DRIBL Online Match Sheet Process immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture.
- 14.1.2. All votes must be recorded on DRIBL as part of the Online Match Sheet Process.
- 14.1.3. All votes must be treated with the highest confidentiality.
- 14.1.4. 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 each Competition Fixture.
- 14.1.5. A failure to comply with Regulation 14.1.1. may result in a Match Official being suspended from officiating or demoted to a lower Division.
- 14.1.6. A player who receives a Suspension (as defined in the GDR) during a Competition Fixture in a specific league during the Regular Season (excluding Playoff and Finals matches) shall be ineligible to win the Best and Fairest Award in that given League. To avoid doubt this includes but is not limited to a player who receives five (5) Yellow Cards or more in a Regular Season.
- 14.1.7. A player who has a Direct Red Card revoked for mistaken identity shall be eligible to win the award.
- 14.1.8. In the event of no appointed FV Match Official, no Best & Fairest votes will be awarded for that Competition Fixture.
- 14.1.9. If two (2) or more players have the same number of Best & Fairest votes at the conclusion of the Regular Season, multiple Best & Fairest winners will be awarded for the League.
- 14.1.10. Players that have played at more than one Club/Team or have played in more than one League in the 2026 season will have votes and/or goals recognized as follows:
 - a. Votes and/or goals in multiple Leagues: The Player's votes and/or goals earned in each League will be considered separate and do not carry over, irrespective of whether they were earned with the same Club or after transferring from one Club to another.

Example 1: Votes awarded to a Player in Men's League 1 cannot be counted in the final tally for the Best and Fairest Award for Men's League 2 in that Regular Season.
 - b. Votes and/or goals at multiple Clubs in the same League: if a Player plays for more than one Club in the same League in the same Regular Season, the player's votes and/or goals are tallied together, however the Player will only be recognized in terms of his or her award as a Player for the Club at which the player finishes the Regular Season.

Example 2: Votes awarded to the same Player whilst playing for multiple Clubs in Men's League 1 will be tallied together for the purposes of the Coaches Award for Men's League 1 in that Regular Season.
 - c. Votes and/or goals at multiple Teams from the same Club in the same League: if a Player has earned votes and/or goals for multiple Teams at the same Club in the

SCHEDULE 1 – 2026 GEELONG SENIOR MEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

14. GEELONG SENIOR MEN'S LEAGUE AWARDS

same League, they will only have been allocated votes and/or goals for the one Team in which the most votes and/or goals were earned.

Example 3: 6 Votes awarded to a Player for the 'Red' Team cannot be counted if they earned 11 Votes for the 'Blue' Team for the same Club in the same League.

14.2. Geelong Senior Men's League Top Goal Scorer Award

- 14.2.1. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV, the player who scores the most goals during the regular season will be awarded and deemed the Geelong Senior Men's League Top Goal Scorer of their respective competition.
- 14.2.2. FV will determine the Geelong Senior Men's League Top Goal Scorer based on the data submitted into DRIBL via the Online Match Sheet Process.

SCHEDULE 1 – 2026 GEELONG SENIOR WOMEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

15. GEELONG SENIOR WOMEN'S LEAGUE COMPETITION REGULATIONS

15.1. General Information

- 15.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all FV Geelong Senior Women's League Competition Fixtures. If a particular matter is not covered by these Regulations, reference will be made to the Metropolitan Women's Regulations if they address that matter and the relevant regulation will apply.
- 15.1.2. FV Geelong competitions shall comprise three (2) Senior Women's Leagues or such other number as determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 15.1.3. Number of teams is determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 15.1.4. League 1 shall each comprise of a maximum of ten (10) Teams.
- 15.1.5. If a Club with multiple Teams in the Senior Women's competition intends to withdraw a Team prior to the commencement of the 2026 season, the Club's lowest graded Team within the Competition will be withdrawn or otherwise determined by FV.
- 15.1.6. Decisions regarding the placing of Teams in particular Leagues are not appealable.
- 15.1.7. Competition Fixtures will be played on either Friday, Saturday or Monday, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary.
- 15.1.8. Friday or Monday night Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 6:30pm or later than 8:30pm, unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.
- 15.1.9. Competition Fixtures cannot be scheduled for a Friday or Monday night if the distance between the home venues of the two (2) Clubs exceeds 50km, unless upon written agreement of the two (2) Clubs or as determined by at the sole discretion of FV.
- 15.1.10. Saturday Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 11:00am or later than 8:30pm, unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.
- 15.1.11. Matches may only be played on public holidays with the permission of FV.
- 15.1.12. The applicable kick off times for Sunday Competition Fixtures apply to any matches held on public holidays.

15.2. Player Eligibility

- 15.2.1. To be eligible to participate in Senior Women's Competitions run by FV, Players must turn 14 years (or older) as at 1 January 2026, unless an application to FV for an exemption from this Regulation is made via the FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form by the Player's Club on behalf of a Player and is accepted by FV.
- 15.2.2. An application made under Regulation 15.2.1 must meet the following minimum criteria:
 - a. The application is submitted via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#).
 - b. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club president supporting the application;
 - c. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club Technical Director;

SCHEDULE 1 – 2026 GEELONG SENIOR WOMEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- d. The application must be supported by a signed letter of consent from the player's parent or guardian supporting the application;
 - e. The application must be supported by a signed letter of support from the player's medical professional listing general medical details of the player including height and weight and;
 - f. The Club/player must provide FV with any further information requested.
- 15.2.3. An application made under Regulation 15.2.1 will be considered by FV. FV has sole discretion in relation to any application made under that Regulation.
- 15.2.4. Once a Player has played in five (5) State League Women's Senior fixtures, that Player will be deemed ineligible to compete in any of his Club's Geelong Senior Women's League Competition Teams for the remainder of the Regular Season (including Finals). Players under the age of 18 as of 1 January 2026 are exempt from regulation 15.2.4.
- 15.2.5. Players who are participating in both the State League Women's Competition and the Geelong Women's Competition can only be registered to one (1) Registration Type on PlayFootball: '2.3 2026 State League Women's'. Being registered and made active to this Registration Type will allow players to play in both Metropolitan and Geelong Competitions.
- 15.2.6. Once a Player has played at a higher League(s) excluding State League Women's (Seniors or Reserves) for ten (10) Competitions Fixtures or more, they will be considered ineligible for any Geelong Senior Women's League matches in a lower category (e.g. Women's League 2) for his Club for the remainder of the Regular Season (including Finals). Players under the age of 18 as of 1 January 2026 are exempt from regulation 15.2.6.
- 15.2.7. For each Geelong Senior Women's Team, no more than three (3) players who were listed on a Match Sheet in any of their Club's State League Women's Seniors, Reserves or higher Geelong Senior Women's League Teams on any given weekend will be eligible to play in a Geelong Senior Women's League Competition Fixture that same weekend. Players under the age of 18 as of 1 January 2026 are exempt from regulation 29.1.18.
- a. For clarity if the player is listed on the Match Sheet they are deemed to have Played in the fixture, as such they will be included in the three (3) players eligible to play in the fixture.
- Example 1 Club 1's State League Women's Team and Geelong Senior Women's League 1 Team both played on Friday night, only three (3) players in total are eligible to play in Club 1's Geelong Senior Women's League 2 on that same weekend.*
- 15.2.8. Irrespective of the kick off time for games on a particular day. If a Senior Women's League 2 fixture is scheduled before a Clubs Senior Women's League 1 fixture, the Club must still only list a maximum of three (3) players who are able to play both matches.
- 15.2.9. For the purpose of Regulation 15.2.7, on a weekend where any of a Club's higher League Teams outlined are not scheduled to play in a Competition Fixture, that Team's most recent Competition Fixture shall apply.
- 15.2.10. If a Club has two (2) Teams in the same League (of a particular Senior League) then Players are 'team-tied' following completion of the sixth (6th) round of the Regular Season to one of those Teams. Clubs will be required to submit a Team list for each Team for Round 7 onwards, listing each Player, which will be tied to that particular Team for the remainder of the regular season. Any new Player joining one of those Teams after the sixth (6th) round must be allocated to (and can only play for) one (1) of the tied-Teams for the remainder of the Regular Season. Players under the age of 18 as of 1 January 2026 are exempt from regulation 15.2.10.

SCHEDULE 1 – 2026 GEELONG SENIOR WOMEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

15.3. Composition of Leagues

- 15.3.1. Composition of Leagues is at the absolute discretion of FV.
- 15.3.2. Geelong Senior Women's competitions will be structured based on a grading period of four (4) rounds that forms part of the Season as determined by FV.
- 15.3.3. Teams will be allocated into groups based on the overall Senior Women's League ladder position from the previous season. For avoidance of doubt where teams have not played the same total number of games, the Order of Merit will apply.

Example 15 Teams will be allocated into three (3) groups of five (5).

- 15.3.4. Teams will be allocated into groups as determined by FV.
- 15.3.5. No Club shall have two (2) Teams competing within the same group.
- 15.3.6. Where a Club has two (2) Teams allocated to the same group, one of the Teams will swap with a Team similarly placed on the ladder in FV's absolute discretion.
- 15.3.7. Upon completion of the four (4) grading rounds, Teams will be allocated into Leagues based on their grading round ladder position and will compete in a 14 Round Home/Away season.

Geelong Women's League 1

The eight (8) highest ranked teams across the three groups will make up Geelong Women's League 1, creating an 8 Team League 1 Competition.

No Club shall have more than one (1) Team in League 1, where a Club has two (2) Teams, the lower ranked Team shall be allocated to League 2 and replaced by the next highest ranked Team.

Geelong Women's League 2

The remaining Teams will be allocated to Geelong Women's League 2, to a maximum of a 12 Team League 2 Competition.

Clubs are permitted to have more than one (1) Team in League 2.

SCHEDULE 1 – 2026 GEELONG SENIOR WOMEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

16. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

16.1 Interchange / Substitution

- 16.1.1 A maximum of seventeen (17) Players may be named on the Match Sheet.
- 16.1.2 Clubs may make any number of interchanges during the course of the Competition Fixture, provided the Match Official has been consulted first.
- 16.1.3 A Match Official may decline the interchange of players in the last five (5) minutes of the second half of a Competition Fixture if in his or her opinion the change is being made to deliberately delay play.
- 16.1.4 All substitutes must be seated within the Technical Area.

16.2 Match Balls

- 16.2.1 The Home Club 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.
- 16.2.2 All Clubs must use a licensed match ball from FV's official and exclusive match ball partner Mitre for all Competition Fixtures.
 - b. FV Geelong Women's Competition Fixtures are recommended to use a Mitre Delta One or higher match ball.
- 16.2.3 Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to FV by the Match Official.
- 16.2.4 A failure to comply with Regulation 16.2 may result in a fine as set out in the GDR.

16.3 Additional Time

- 16.3.1 Additional time for FV Geelong Women's Competition Fixtures must be played in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game.

16.4 Results of FV Competition Fixtures

- 16.4.1 All player lists must be submitted by the home/away Team prior to the commencement of the match as part of the DRIBL Online Match Sheet Process.
- 16.4.2 All results including goal scorers, cautions and Best & Fairest votes must be submitted by the Match Official immediately after the conclusion of the Competition via DRIBL as part of the post-game submission process.
- 16.4.3 Should there be no Match Official appointed to the fixture, the Home Team must appoint and list a Non-Accredited Referee pre-game and confirm the following details from the match via DRIBL immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture:
 - a. Minimum Requirements
 - (i) Half Time Score
 - (ii) Full Time Score
 - (iii) Home & Away Team Goal Scorers
 - (iv) Home & Away Team Cautions

SCHEDULE 1 – 2026 GEELONG SENIOR WOMEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- 16.4.4 Clubs which fail to submit results, cautions goal scorers and substitutions (when requested or when a match official is not present) in accordance with Regulation 16.4.3 may be fined or otherwise penalised for Misconduct under the GDR.

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17. GEELONG SENIOR WOMEN'S LEAGUE AWARDS

17. GEELONG SENIOR WOMEN'S LEAGUE AWARDS

17.1. Best & Fairest Votes

- 17.1.1. At the conclusion of each Geelong Senior Women's League Competition Fixture, the Match Official must complete the Best & Fairest Votes and submit those votes to FV through the DRIBL Online Match Sheet Process immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture.
- 17.1.2. All votes must be recorded on DRIBL as part of the Online Match Sheet Process.
- 17.1.3. All votes must be treated with the highest confidentiality.
- 17.1.4. 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 each Competition Fixture.
- 17.1.5. A failure to comply with Regulation 17.1.1 may result in a Match Official being suspended from officiating or demoted to a lower League.
- 17.1.6. A player who receives a Suspension (as defined in the GDT) during a Competition Fixture in a specific league during the Regular Season (excluding Playoff and Finals matches) shall be ineligible to win the Best and Fairest award in that given League. To avoid doubt this includes but is not limited to a player who receives five (5) Yellow Cards or more in a Regular Season.
- 17.1.7. A player who has a Direct Red Card revoked for mistaken identity shall be eligible to win the award.
- 17.1.8. In the event of no appointed FV Match Official, no Best & Fairest votes will be awarded for that Competition Fixture.
- 17.1.9. If two (2) or more players have the same number of Best & Fairest votes at the conclusion of the Regular Season, multiple Best & Fairest winners will be awarded for the League.
- 17.1.10. Players that have played at more than one Club/Team or have played in more than one League in the 2025 season will have votes and/or goals recognized as follows:
 - a. Votes and/or goals in multiple League: The Player's votes and/or goals earned in each League will be considered separate and do not carry over, irrespective of whether they were earned with the same Club or after transferring from one Club to another.

Example 1: Votes awarded to a Player in Women's League 1 cannot be counted in the final tally for the Best and Fairest Award for Women's League 2 in that Regular Season.
 - b. Votes and/or goals at multiple Clubs in the same League: if a Player plays for more than one Club in the same League in the same Regular Season, the player's votes and/or goals are tallied together, however the Player will only be recognized in terms of his or her award as a Player for the Club at which the player finishes the Regular Season.

Example 2: Votes awarded to the same Player whilst playing for multiple Clubs in Women's League 1 will be tallied together for the purposes of the Coaches Award for Women's League 1 in that Regular Season.
 - c. Votes and/or goals at multiple Teams from the same Club in the same League: if a Player has earned votes and/or goals for multiple Teams at the same Club in the

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17. GEELONG SENIOR WOMEN'S LEAGUE AWARDS

same League, they will only have been allocated votes and/or goals for the one Team in which the most votes and/or goals were earned.

Example 3: 6 Votes awarded to a Player for the 'Red' Team cannot be counted if they earned 11 Votes for the 'Blue' Team for the same Club in the same League.

17.2. Geelong Women's Division Top Goal Scorer Award

- 17.2.1. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV, the player who scores the most goals during the regular season will be awarded and deemed the Geelong Senior Women's League Top Goal Scorer of their respective competition.
- 17.2.2. FV will determine the Geelong Senior Women's League Top Goal Scorer based on the data submitted into DRIBL via the Online Match Sheet Process.

SCHEDULE 2 – 2026 GEELONG JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

18. GEELONG JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

18.1. General Information

- 18.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all FV Geelong Junior Competition Fixtures. If a particular matter is not covered by these Regulations, reference will be made to the Metropolitan Junior Regulations if they address that matter and the relevant regulation will apply.
- 18.1.2. Player ID cards (ID Cards) generated through DRIBL are required in all Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls Competition Fixtures. For clarity:
 - a. ID Cards must include an eligible photo uploaded to the participants PlayFootball account.
 - b. ID Cards are presented through DRIBL and can be presented via smart phones, tablets, laptops and computers.
 - c. Printed and photocopied ID cards from PlayFootball will no longer be required.
- 18.1.3. FV will determine the Junior League Structures at their absolute discretion. Where team numbers permit, Junior Leagues will be divided into 'A', 'B', 'C' or 'D' Grade.
- 18.1.4. The allocated day of play for all Geelong Junior Girls Competitions is Saturday:
Girls' Under 13
Girls' Under 15/16
- 18.1.5. The allocated day of play for all Geelong Junior Mixed and Boys Competitions is Sunday:
Mixed Under 13
Mixed Under 15
Boys' Under 17
- 18.1.6. FV Junior Mixed, Boys & Girls Competition Fixtures will only be played on Sunday's and Saturday's respectively, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary.

18.2. Player Eligibility

- 18.2.1. A player may only play up to four (4) years above his or her age group, , unless an application to FV for exemption from Regulation 18.2.1 is made via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#) by the player's Club on behalf of the player and is accepted by FV.
- 18.2.2. An application made under Regulation 18.2.1 must meet the following minimum criteria:
 - a. the application is submitted via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#).
 - b. the application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club president supporting the application;
 - c. the application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's State Team/Representative Team coach or Club Technical Director;
 - d. the application must be supported by a signed letter of consent from the player's parent or guardian supporting the application;

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- e. the application must be supported by a signed letter of support from the player's medical professional listing general medical details of the player including height and weight; and
 - f. the Club/player must provide FV with any further information requested.
- 18.2.3. Any application made under Regulation 18.2.1 will be considered by FV. FV has the absolute discretion in relation to any application made under that Regulation.
- 18.2.4. A Player who is participating above their age group will not be prevented from returning to play in his or her rightful age group unless that Player is suspended.
- 18.2.5. For all Junior Competitions, a player who has played at a higher division in a particular age group (e.g. 14As) for five (5) Competition Fixtures or more, cannot drop to a lower category (e.g. 14Bs) within the same age group for his or her Club for the remainder of the Regulation Season (including Finals). This Regulation does not, however, prevent a player who is playing 'up' an age group returning to his or her rightful age group in accordance with Regulation 18.2.4.
- 18.2.6. A player may be granted a dispensation to play down a maximum of one (1) age group at FV's sole discretion as per the regulations within the FV Dispensation Policy.
- 18.2.7. FV may request information or clarification from a player or Club applying for dispensation under Regulation 18.2.2 as it sees necessary and will make a decision in relation to the dispensation request at its sole discretion.
- 18.2.8. FV may refuse to grant a dispensation requested under Regulation 18.2.2 in circumstances where the player in question has played in football in school or other competitions not administered by FV or FA. FV may seek further information from the Club in question before making a determination under this Regulation and the Club must submit that information as part of the dispensation request.
- 18.2.9. If a Club has two (2) Teams in the 'A' Division of a particular age group then players are team-tied from the fifth (5th) round Competition Fixture of the Regular Season. Clubs with tied Teams will be required to submit a Team list for each Team, listing the players within their designated Team. Any new player joining a Team must be allocated to only one (1) of the tied-Teams.
- 18.2.10. Players who are participating in both the Metropolitan Junior League Competition and the Geelong Junior Competition can only be registered to one (1) Registration Type on PlayFootball: '2.2 Community Juniors'. Being registered and made active to this Registration Type will allow players to play in both Metropolitan and Geelong Competitions
- 18.2.11. Once a Player has Played in five (5) Metropolitan Junior League Competition Fixtures, that Player will be deemed ineligible to compete in any of their Clubs local Geelong Junior Competition Teams for the remainder of the Regular Season (including Finals). Players returning to play up in age group are exempt from regulation 18.2.11.

SCHEDULE 2 – 2026 GEELONG JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

18.3. Geelong Junior Mixed & Boys' Competition

- 18.3.1. Subject to Regulations 18.2.1 & 18.2.2, players in the following age groups may take part in the Junior Mixed & Boys' Competition 2026:

Age Group	Year of Birth
Thirteens (13s)	Born on or after 1 January 2013
Fifteens (15s)	Born on or after 1 January 2011
Seventeens (17s)	Born on or after 1 January 2009

- 18.3.2. The preferred kick-off times for Junior Mixed & Boys' Competitions shall be as follows:

Age Group	Kick-off Time
Thirteens (13s)	11:00 AM
Fifteens (15s)	12:15 PM
Seventeens (17s)	1:45 PM

- 18.3.3. FV alter kick-off times of any Competition Fixture within the Junior Mixed & Boys' Competition upon the basis of a fixture clash or otherwise at its discretion.

18.4. Geelong Junior Girls' Competition

- 18.4.1. Subject to Regulations 18.2.1 & 18.2.2, players in the following age groups may take part in the Junior Girls' Competition 2026:

Age Group	Year of Birth
Thirteens (13s)	Born on or after 1 January 2013
Fifteens/Sixteens (15s/16s)	Born on or after 1 January 2010

- 18.4.2. The preferred kick-off times for Junior Girls' Competitions shall be as follows:

Age Group	Kick-off Time
Thirteens (13s)	11:00 AM
Fifteens/Sixteens (15s/16s)	12:15 PM

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18.5. Under 12 & Under 13 (9v9) Competition.

- 18.5.1. As an exception to the Venue Requirements as set out in **Schedule 7**, the Junior Mixed and Girls' Under 12 & Under 13 Competitions in 2026 will be played as per regulation 18.5.1.

FV Community Under 12 & Under 13 Competition (9v9)	
Number of Players	9v9 Including Goalkeeper. Minimum of 7 players Max of 5 Substitutions
Field of Play	Length: 60 – 70m Width 40-50m
Goal Size and Type	Height: 2m Width: 5m Permanent or portable goal must be compliant with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's Notice. 28 of 2010
Field Marking	Cones, Markers or Painted Lines are allowed
Penalty Area	Depth: 10m Width: 20m Penalty Spot 7m from goal line
Duration of Game	2 x 30-minute halves
Half time	5 minutes
Referee	FV Appointed Green Armband Referees
Assistant Referees	Club appointed Assisted Referees
Interchange	Maximum 5 Players
Ball Size	4

- 18.5.2. The offside rule will apply for under 12 and under 13 9v9 competition as per IFAB Laws of the Game.
- 18.5.3. In accordance with IFAB Laws of the Game, a penalty kick will be awarded if a player commits a direct free kick offence inside their penalty area.
- 18.5.4. The goalkeeper is allowed to handle the ball anywhere in the penalty area. To restart play after a save or gathering the ball with their hands, the ball must be thrown or rolled from the hands or played from the ground with their feet within 6 seconds, the goalkeeper is not allowed to kick or dropkick the ball from their hands.
- 18.5.5. Goal kicks can be taken from anywhere within the penalty area. Opponents must be outside the penalty area until the ball is in play. The ball is in play once it is kicked and leaves the penalty area.
- 18.5.6. Opponents must be at least 6 metres away from the ball until it is in play. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.
- 18.5.7. Red and Yellow Cards will be issued as per IFAB Laws of the Game except in the following.
- 18.5.8. Where a player receives a red card, the match official will instruct the player to leave the field of play for the remainder of the match, any player sent from the field of play cannot be replaced by another player and that players Team who is dismissed is reduced by one (1).

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18.6. Composition of Leagues

- 18.6.1. Composition of Leagues is at the absolute discretion of FV.
- 18.6.2. Any provisions referred to in Regulation 18.6 are subject to FV Geelong Competitions continuing in 2027 in the same, or substantively the same structure.
- 18.6.3. FV reserves the right to determine dates and times of Competition Fixtures with specific regards to the number of matches played.
- 18.6.4. Divisions of no less than six (6) Teams or greater than fifteen (15) Teams will be created.
- 18.6.5. Where there are sixteen (16) or more Team entries in any given Division, Teams may be split geographically to alleviate travel time.
- 18.6.6. FV's preferred Division size will remain ten (10) teams, with the remaining Teams maintaining a viable League of between six (6) and fifteen (15) Teams.
- 18.6.7. League tables will be recorded in FV Geelong Junior Under 12 – 18 Competitions.

18.7. Grading/Regrading Period

- 18.7.1. Following the conclusion of Round 4, a request to re-grade to a new League may only be considered by FV if:
 - a. the League to which the Team wants to move contains a bye (i.e., an uneven number of teams); and
 - b. the League from which the Team wants to move does not contain a bye (i.e., an even number of teams); OR
 - c. there is a concurrent request from a Team to move between the two Leagues referred to in Regulations 18.7.1(a) and 18.7.1(b) above which would effectively result in a direct swap between the two Teams in question and, therefore, no disruption to either of the respective Leagues.
 - d. the Team has won all three (4) Grading Round fixtures.
 - e. the Team has lost all three (4) Grading Rounds fixtures, with scorelines of 4–0 or more.
- 18.7.2. If FV receives multiple requests to regrade into the same league, the regrade priority will be given based on results and standings.
- 18.7.3. No Club shall have more than two (2) Teams re-graded in the same competition age group except in extraordinary circumstances as deemed necessary by FV.
- 18.7.4. The following match determinations will apply to competitions affected by an approved request to re-grade in:
 - a. Any re-graded Team will commence in its new League in Round 5.
 - b. Results and ladders for the regraded impacted league will be reset from Round 5 onwards and previous results accounted for as 'grading games'.
- 18.7.5. The following match determinations will apply to competitions affected by an approved request to re-grade out:
 - a. All championship points along with goals scored (for & against) for that Team will be erased.

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- b. If the affected competition comprises of an uneven number of Teams a 'BYE' will be inserted into the fixture to replace the regraded-out Team.
- 18.7.6. For avoidance of doubt where a competition is affected by both a Team re-grade out and a separate Team re-grade in, Regulation 18.7.5 will apply.
- 18.7.7. The Re-grading Period will commence following Round 4 of the Regular Season. All re-grading requests must be received by FV no later than 24 hours after the conclusion of a Team's Round 4 Competition Fixture. Any request received after this time will not be considered unless, in the opinion of FV, the request benefits all affected Leagues.
- 18.7.8. All regrading requests must be submitted through the online form which can be found on the FV Website. One form will be required for each re-grading request that is submitted. Requests for re-grading or confirmation sought over the phone or via email will not be considered by FV.
- 18.7.9. FV will act in its absolute discretion regarding regrading requests. All decisions are considered final.

19. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

19.1. Interchange/Substitution

- 19.1.1. Interchange Rules – Mixed/Boys' /Girls' Under 12 – Under 18 Competitions:
 - a. For Under 12 – Under 13 a maximum of fourteen (14) players can be named on the Match Sheet. Clubs may take any number of interchanges during the course of the Competition Fixture, provided the Match Official has been consulted first and permits the substitution.
 - b. For Under 14 – Under 18 a maximum of seventeen (17) players can be named on the Match Sheet. Clubs may take any number of interchanges during the course of the Competition Fixture, provided the Match Official has been consulted first and permits the substitution.
 - c. A Match Official may decline the interchange if players in the last five (5) minutes of the second half of a Competition Fixture if in their opinion the change is being made to deliberately delay play.

19.2. Additional Time

- 19.2.1. Additional Time shall not be played for FV Geelong Junior Competition Fixtures.

SCHEDULE 2 – 2026 GEELONG JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

19.3. Match Balls

19.3.1. The following ball sizes apply:

Age Group	Ball Size
Under Thirteen (13) Mixed	Size 4
Under Fifteen (15) Mixed	Size 5
Under Seventeen (17) Boys	Size 5
Under Thirteen (13) Girls	Size 4
Under Fifteen (15) / Under Sixteen (16) Girls	Size 5

19.3.2. The Home Club shall provide the appointed Match Official with three (3) match balls of the appropriate size for that age group no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled Competition Fixture.

19.3.3. All Clubs must use a licensed match ball from FV's official and exclusive match ball partner Mitre for all Competition Fixtures.

a. Geelong Junior Competition Fixtures are recommended to use a Mitre Impel One or higher match ball.

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

19.3.5. A failure to comply with Regulation 19.3 may result in a fine as set out in the GDR.

19.4. Results of FV Competition Fixtures

19.4.1. All results including goal scorers and cautions (red and yellow cards) must be submitted by the Match Official immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture via DRIBL as part of the post-game submission process.

19.4.2. Should there be no Match Official appointed to the fixture, the Home Team must appoint and list a Non-Accredited Referee pre-game and confirm the following details of the match via DRIBL immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture:

a. Minimum Requirements

(i) Half Time Score

(ii) Full Time Score

(iii) Home & Away Team Goal Scorers

(iv) Home & Away Team Cautions

19.4.3. All red card cautions for U14 – U18 Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls Competitions must be submitted by the appointed Match Official or on an occasion where a non-accredited referee is appointed, by the Home Club via DRIBL.

19.4.4. For the purpose of 4.4.a of the GDR, accumulation of yellow cards does not apply to all Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls (U12 – U18) Community Competitions.

19.4.5. All Competition Fixture results must be submitted via DRIBL.

19.4.6. Clubs which fail to submit Competition Fixture results in accordance with 19.4.2 may be penalised under the GDR.

SCHEDULE 2 – 2026 GEELONG MINIROOS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

20. GEELONG MINIROOS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

20.1. General Information

- 20.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all MiniRoos Competition Fixtures in line with the [Football Victoria MiniRoos Guidelines](#).
- 20.1.2. All MiniRoos participants must be registered via Play Football and made active via Play Football and DRIBL in order to be eligible to participate in a MiniRoos fixture.
- 20.1.3. FV will determine the MiniRoos League structures at their absolute discretion.
- 20.1.4. MiniRoos Competition Fixtures will only be played on a Saturday or Sunday, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary, or otherwise approves.
- 20.1.5. Clubs will self-nominate their MiniRoos Teams during the Team Entry Period. All Teams will be placed in a league that corresponds to the requests of the Club where possible. FV advises Clubs to categorise their MiniRoos Teams according to the below guidelines:
 - a. Kangaroos
 - (i) strong grasp of football skills
 - b. Wallabies
 - (ii) beginning to develop football skills
 - c. Joeys
 - (iii) no or little previous experience

20.2. MiniRoos Mixed & Girls Competitions Age Groups

- 20.2.1. The following age groups may take part in the MiniRoos Mixed & Girls Competition in 2026:
 - a. Mixed/Girls Under 7s
 - b. Mixed Under 8s
 - c. Mixed/Girls Under 9s
 - d. Mixed Under 10s
 - e. Mixed/Girls Under 11s

SCHEDULE 2 – 2026 GEELONG MINIROOS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

20.2.2. MiniRoos Players can move freely between age groups (Under 7 – Under 11), playing above or below their age group as determined by their current stage of development, if the Player is unable to participate in their rightful age group, it is preferable that participants play down one (1), or no more than two (2), age groups

Age Group	Year of Birth
Sixes (6s)	Born on or after 1 January 2020
Sevens (7s)	Born on or after 1 January 2019
Eights (8s)	Born on or after 1 January 2018
Nines (9s)	Born on or after 1 January 2017
Tens (10s)	Born on or after 1 January 2016
Elevens (11s)	Born on or after 1 January 2015

20.3. MiniRoos Mixed & Girls Competition Format

20.3.1. All MiniRoos Competition Formats will be played as per Regulation 23.3.1.

FV MINIROOS COMPETITIONS			
	UNDER 6 & 7	UNDER 8 & 9	UNDER 10 & 11
Number of Players	4 v 4 (+3 SUBS)	7 v 7 (+ 4 subs)	9 v 9 (+ 5 subs)
Field of Play	30m x 20m	¼ Full Size Pitch Min: 40m x 30m Max 50m x 40m	½ Full Size Pitch Min: 60m x 40m Max: 70m x 50m
Goal Size	Width: 2m Height: 1m	Width: 3m Height: 2m	Width: 5m Height: 2m
Field Marking	Markers or line markings	Markers or line markings	Markers or line markings
Penalty Area	Nil	Depth: 5m Width: 12m	Depth: 10m Width: 20m
Duration of Game	2 x 20 minutes	2 x 20 minutes	2 x 25 minutes
Half time	5 minutes	5 minutes	5 minutes
Referee	Game Leader	Game Leader	Game Leader
Offside	No	No	No
Interchange	Maximum 3 Players	Maximum 4 Players	Maximum 5 Players
Ball Size	3	3	4
Slide Tackles	Coaches and Game Leaders should encourage all players to remain on their feet when defending.		
Points Table	No	No	No
Match Sheets	No	No	No

2026 RULES OF COMPETITION

LATROBE VALLEY



FOOTBALL
VICTORIA

SCHEDULE 2 – 2026 LATROBE VALLEY COMPETITION REGULATIONS

SCHEDULE 2 – 2026 LATROBE VALLEY COMPETITION REGULATIONS

21. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

21.1. General Information

- 21.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all FV Latrobe Valley Competition Fixtures. If a particular matter is not covered by these Regulations, the relevant Regulations listed in Section 1. General Matters Applicable to all Competitions will apply.
- 21.1.2. Number of teams is determined by FV in its absolute discretion.

21.2. Team Entry / Age Groups

- 21.2.1. 2026 FV Latrobe Valley Competitions shall run in the following age groups;
 - a. Senior Men
 - b. Senior Women
 - c. Mixed Under 17
 - d. Mixed Under 15
 - e. Mixed Under 13
 - f. Girls' Under 15
 - g. Girls' Under 13
 - h. Mixed MiniRoos (U6, U7, U9, U11)
- 21.2.2. Clubs competing in FV Latrobe Valley Competitions may apply to enter any number of Teams, new or existing, in any one age group, however FV have absolute discretion when accepting Team Entries and allocating the composition of leagues.
- 21.2.3. Any Late Team Entries submitted after the closure of the Team Entry Period will only be accepted at FV's sole discretion.
- 21.2.4. Further to Regulation 21.2.3, if a vacancy does not exist, FV will consider entering a 'late' Team following the grading period for Junior & MiniRoos Under 11 competitions.
- 21.2.5. Where a Late Team Entry is accepted by FV and that Team commences in a League after the commencement of the Regular Season, FV will determine the allocation of forfeits for the number of Competition Fixtures missed by that Team (as a result of late inclusion in the League in question) at its absolute discretion.
- 21.2.6. No FV Regional Club competing in FV Regional Competitions or included as a member of a Regional Advisory Panel, will be permitted to enter Teams(s) into FV Metropolitan Competitions (excluding CPL, Junior Advanced Competitions, State League Men's/Women's, VPL and NPL Competitions) unless it satisfies criteria including all of the following:
 - a. That, in the opinion of FV, it is deemed that such a request does not directly or indirectly impact the viability of any FV Latrobe Valley Competition;

SCHEDULE 2 – 2026 LATROBE VALLEY COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- b. That the Club fields (and/or has already fielded) an additional Team(s) into the same or similar age group in FV Latrobe Valley competitions or in any other League as required by FV;
 - c. That in the opinion of FV, it is deemed that such a request has been reasonably made because the desired age group(s) Division and/or gender of the Team is not already available within FV Latrobe Valley competitions or that of any other regional association within reasonable proximity to the Club;
 - d. That the Club acknowledges that if is permitted to enter Team(s) into Metropolitan competitions, but thereafter fails to field the Team(s) in the FV Latrobe Valley competitions for the duration of the Regular Season, its Team(s) may be ineligible to earn match points or be subject to other penalties as determined at the sole discretion of FV; and
 - e. That the Clubs license agreement with FV allows them to enter teams within metropolitan structures; and
 - f. Any other criteria as promulgated by FV from time to time,
- 21.2.7. FV reserves the right in its absolute discretion to amend the structure of Latrobe Valley Competitions, including varying the number of Clubs in each Division and/or the number of Divisions, before, during or after the Regular Season. Amendments may be as a result of FA actions, including the establishment of any new or varied FA auspiced Leagues or Divisions (including a National Second Tier), or compulsory Player pathways.

21.3. Grading Period

- 21.3.1. FV in its absolute discretion will determine whether a regrading / grading period will occur within a competition season.
- 21.3.2. Should a grading period be applicable to FV Latrobe Valley Competitions, reference will be made within the specific Competitions regulations within the Rules of Competition.

21.4. Admittance into Competition Fixtures

- 21.4.1. Admittance prices for the 2026 season will be as follows. Please note that Clubs may only charge the full amount (GST Incl.) if they are registered for GST.

Category	Admittance Price
Adults	\$10.00 (inclusive of GST)
Students/ Pensioners/ Concession Holders	\$5.00 (inclusive of GST)
Holders of current FV Media Passes or current FA Media Passes	FREE
Current FV Special Pass Holders	FREE
Under 16	FREE

Car Parking

- 21.4.2. No Club may charge for car parking at any Latrobe Valley Senior Competition Fixture.

SCHEDULE 2 – 2026 LATROBE VALLEY COMPETITION REGULATIONS

22. LATROBE VALLEY CUP COMPETITIONS

22.1. Competition Format

- 22.1.1. Subject to this Regulation and unless otherwise determined by the FV Competitions Team, all Teams competing in Latrobe Valley Competitions will participate in a knock-out Cup Competition for their respective League.

Competition	Cup
LV Senior Men's League 1	Battle of Britain Cup
LV Men's Reserve League	Yallourn Shopwell Trophy
LV Senior Women's League	Browne-Huzier Cup
LV Senior Men's League 3	Nan Bosma Cup
LV Junior Competitions (U13 – U18)	LV Junior Cup

- 22.1.2. The draw for the Cup Competitions will occur prior to the halfway point of the regular season in FV's absolute discretion.
- All draws of Teams for the Cup Competitions will occur prior to the halfway point of the regular season
 - Where required, a bye round will fill any vacant slots in the draw process.
- 22.1.3. The format of the Cup Competitions shall be played in a knockout format.
- 22.1.4. All winners will proceed to the next round.
- 22.1.5. Host venues will be determined by FV.
- 22.1.6. FV will cover Match Official fees for all Cup Competition Finals.
- 22.1.7. The Battle of Britain Cup, Yallourn-Shopwell Trophy, Nan Bosma Cup and Junior Cup Competitions, are each treated as standalone Cup Competitions. As such if a Club has multiple teams competing in the Latrobe Valley Cup Competitions the forfeit of a single Cup Fixture will not impact the Club's ability to compete in the other applicable Latrobe Valley Cup Competitions.
- 22.1.8. Any Cup Competition fixtures that are postponed, abandoned, or cancelled, must be replayed within 3 days of the original scheduled fixture date.
- Should the fixture not be rescheduled within 3 days, FV will confirm a rescheduled date at its absolute discretion.

22.2. Procedure to Determine the Winner of Finals

- 22.2.1. All Cup Competition Fixtures will be played over one (1) leg.
- 22.2.2. If, at the conclusion of any Cup Competition Fixture, the scores between the Teams are tied, extra time of two equal periods of 15 minutes (seniors) & 10 minutes (juniors) will be used will be used to decide the winner.
- 22.2.3. If the scores are level at the end of extra time, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game to determine the winner of the match.

SCHEDULE 2 – 2026 LATROBE VALLEY COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- 22.2.4. The Team who wins the Cup Competition Final will become Cup Champions for their league, unless otherwise determined by FV.
- 22.2.5. The Team who loses the Cup Competition Final will become the Cup Competition Final Runner Up for their league, unless otherwise determined by FV.

22.3. Discipline

- 22.3.1. All Suspensions from the Regular Season will carry over to the Cup Competitions.
- 22.3.2. A player that receives a Red Card during the Final Series will automatically miss the next Competition Fixture (whether or not that fixture is Final) and may be subject to further sanction in accordance with the GDR.
- 22.3.3. Yellow cards accumulated by a player during the Finals Series will not be counted for the purposes of clause 4.4(a) of the GDR. However, if a player receives their 5th yellow card in their Club's final Regular Season Competition Fixture they shall be suspended for their first Cup Competition Fixture.

22.4. Player Restrictions

- 22.4.1. For both Junior and Senior Cup Competitions, each player must have Played at least four (4) Regular Season Competition Fixtures for that Team to qualify for that Cup Competition for that Team.
- 22.4.2. Players who play for multiple Senior Teams for the same Club across multiple Senior Leagues, the following will apply:
 - a. If a Player is eligible to Play in their Clubs higher division Cup Fixture (i.e., Men's Reserves League to Men's Senior League) and Plays in a fixture in which that Team loses, the Player will be deemed Cup Tied and ineligible to return to the Clubs next lower division Cup Competition Fixture.
- 22.4.3. FV will only consider an exception to Regulation 22.4.1 in exceptional circumstances and where a Club/Team can establish that it is unable to field a Team for a Final (in compliance with Regulation 22.4.1) due to insufficient player numbers as a result of availability (including injury). Any Club wishing to rely on such an exception must apply to FV:
 - a. via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#);
 - b. at least five (5) days before the Cup Competition Fixture is due to take place;
 - c. setting out the reasons it requests an exception be granted to Regulation 22.4.1, providing evidence in support of player unavailability; and
 - d. provide FV with any further information required.
- 22.4.4. FV will consider any request made in accordance with Regulation 22.4.3 together with all information provided in support of that request and make a decision regarding any exception requested. Any decision made in this regard is at the sole discretion of FV and is not subject to review or appeal.
- 22.4.5. A player may be granted a dispensation to play down a maximum of one (1) age group at FV's sole discretion as per the regulations within the FV Dispensation Policy.
- 22.4.6. FV may request information or clarification from a player or Club applying for dispensation as it sees fit and will make a decision in relation to the dispensation request at its sole discretion.

SCHEDULE 2 – 2026 LATROBE VALLEY COMPETITION REGULATIONS

22.4.7. FV may refuse to grant a dispensation requested at its sole discretion and this decision is considered as final.

SCHEDULE 2 – 2026 LATROBE VALLEY SENIOR MEN'S LEAGUE 1 & MEN'S RESERVES LEAGUE COMPETITION REGULATIONS

23. LATROBE VALLEY SENIOR MEN'S LEAGUE 1 & MEN'S RESERVES LEAGUE COMPETITION REGULATIONS

23.1. General Information

- 23.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all FV Latrobe Valley Senior Men's League 1 and Men's Reserves League Competition Fixtures.
- 23.1.2. FV Latrobe Valley Senior Men's League 1 and Men's Reserves League competitions shall comprise of one (1) Senior League and one (1) Reserves League, or such other number determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 23.1.3. Number of Teams is determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 23.1.4. FV Latrobe Valley Senior Men's League 1 and Men's Reserves League shall comprise of a maximum of twelve (12) Teams.
- 23.1.5. Clubs can only enter one (1) Team to compete in each Senior Men's League 1 and Men's Reserves League and must field a Team in both leagues as a requirement.
- 23.1.6. Competition Fixtures will be played on Sunday, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary.
- 23.1.7. Sunday Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 11:00am or later than 8:30pm, unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.
- 23.1.8. Matches may only be played on public holidays with the permission of FV.
- 23.1.9. The applicable kick off times for Sunday Competition Fixtures apply to any matches held on public holidays.

23.2. Player Eligibility

- 23.2.1. To be eligible to participate in Senior Men's Competitions run by FV, Players must turn 15 years (or older) as at 1 January 2026, unless an application to FV for an exemption from this Regulation is made via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#) by the Player's Club on behalf of a Player and is accepted by FV.
- 23.2.2. An application made under Regulation 23.2.1. must meet the following minimum criteria:
 - a. The application is submitted via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#).
 - b. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club president supporting the application;
 - c. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club Technical Director;
 - d. The application must be supported by a signed letter of consent from the player's parent or guardian supporting the application;
 - e. The application must be supported by a signed letter of support from the player's medical professional listing general medical details of the player including height and weight and;
 - f. The Club/player must provide FV with any further information requested.

SCHEDULE 2 – 2026 LATROBE VALLEY SENIOR MEN'S LEAGUE 1 & MEN'S RESERVES LEAGUE COMPETITION REGULATIONS

23.2.3. An application made under Regulation 23.2.1. will be considered by FV. FV has sole discretion in relation to any application made under that Regulation.

24. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

24.1. Interchange / Substitution

- 24.1.1. A maximum of seventeen (17) Players may be named on the Match Sheet.
- 24.1.2. Each 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. No more than six (6) substitutes are permitted to be named on the Match Sheet.
- 24.1.3. Each Reserves Team is permitted to name six (6) substitutes on the Match Sheet and use a maximum of five (5) substitutes throughout that Competition Fixture.
- 24.1.4. All substitutes must be seated within the Technical Area

24.2. Match Balls

- 24.2.1. The Home Club 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.
- 24.2.2. All Clubs must use a licensed match ball from FV's official and exclusive match ball partner Mitre for all Competition Fixtures.
 - a. FV Latrobe Valley Senior Competition Fixtures are recommended to use a Mitre Delta One or higher match ball.
- 24.2.3. Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to FV by the Match Official.
- 24.2.4. A failure to comply with Regulation 24.2 may result in a fine as set out in the GDR.

24.3. Additional Time

- 24.3.1. Additional time for FV Latrobe Valley Senior Men's League 1 Competition Fixtures must be played in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game.
- 24.3.2. Additional Time for FV Latrobe Valley Men's Reserves League Competition Fixtures shall not apply.

24.4. Results of FV Competition Fixtures

- 24.4.1. All player lists must be submitted by the home/away Team prior to the commencement of the match as part of the DRIBL Online Match Sheet Process.
- 24.4.2. All results including goal scorers, substitutions and cautions and Best & Fairest votes must be submitted by the Match Official immediately after the conclusion of the Competition via DRIBL as part of the post-game submission process.
- 24.4.3. Should there be no Match Official appointed to the fixture, the Home Team must appoint and list a Non-Accredited Referee pre-game and confirm the following details from the match via DRIBL immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture:
 - a. Minimum Requirements
 - (i) Half Time Score

SCHEDULE 2 – 2026 LATROBE VALLEY SENIOR MEN'S LEAGUE 1 & MEN'S RESERVES LEAGUE COMPETITION REGULATIONS

(ii) Full Time Score

(iii) Home & Away Team Goal Scorers

(iv) Home & Away Team Cautions

24.4.4. Clubs which fail to submit results, cautions goal scorers and substitutions (when requested or when a match official is not present) in accordance with Regulation 16.4.3 may be fined or otherwise penalised for Misconduct under the GDR.

SCHEDULE 2 – 2026 LATROBE VALLEY SENIOR MEN'S LEAGUE 1 & MEN'S RESERVES LEAGUE COMPETITION REGULATIONS

25. LATROBE VALLEY SENIOR COMPETITION AWARDS

25. LATROBE VALLEY SENIOR MEN'S LEAGUE AWARDS

25.1. Best & Fairest Votes

- 25.1.1. At the conclusion of each Latrobe Valley Senior Men's League 1 & Men's Reserves League Competition Fixture, the Match Official must complete the Best & Fairest Votes and submit those votes to FV through the DRIBL Online Match Sheet Process immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture.
- 25.1.2. All votes must be recorded on DRIBL as part of the Online Match Sheet Process.
- 25.1.3. All votes must be treated with the highest confidentiality.
- 25.1.4. 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 each Competition Fixture.
- 25.1.5. A failure to comply with Regulation 25.1.1. may result in a Match Official being suspended from officiating or demoted to a lower Division.
- 25.1.6. A player who receives a Suspension (as defined in the GDR) during a Competition Fixture in a specific league during the Regular Season (excluding Playoff and Finals matches) shall be ineligible to win the Best and Fairest Award in that given League. To avoid doubt this includes but is not limited to a player who receives five (5) Yellow Cards or more in a Regular Season.
- 25.1.7. A player who has a Direct Red Card revoked for mistaken identity shall be eligible to win the award.
- 25.1.8. In the event of no appointed FV Match Official, no Best & Fairest votes will be awarded for that Competition Fixture.
- 25.1.9. If two (2) or more players have the same number of Best & Fairest votes at the conclusion of the Regular Season, multiple Best & Fairest winners will be awarded for the League.
- 25.1.10. Players that have played at more than one Club/Team or have played in more than one League in the 2026 season will have votes and/or goals recognized as follows:
 - a. Votes and/or goals in multiple Leagues: The Player's votes and/or goals earned in each League will be considered separate and do not carry over, irrespective of whether they were earned with the same Club or after transferring from one Club to another.
 - b. Votes and/or goals at multiple Clubs in the same League: if a Player plays for more than one Club in the same League in the same Regular Season, the player's votes and/or goals are tallied together, however the Player will only be recognized in terms of his or her award as a Player for the Club at which the player finishes the Regular Season.

25.2. Latrobe Valley Senior Men's League 1 & Men's Reserves Top Goal Scorer Award

- 25.2.1. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV, the player who scores the most goals during the regular season will be awarded and deemed the Latrobe Valley Senior Men's League 1 & Men's Reserves League Top Goal Scorer of their respective competition.
- 25.2.2. FV will determine the Latrobe Valley Senior Men's League 1 & Men's Reserves League Top Goal Scorer based on the data submitted into DRIBL via the Online Match Sheet Process.

SCHEDULE 2 – 2026 LATROBE VALLEY SENIOR WOMEN'S LEAGUE COMPETITION REGULATIONS

26. LATROBE VALLEY SENIOR WOMEN'S LEAGUE COMPETITION REGULATIONS

26.1. General Information

- 26.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all FV Latrobe Valley Senior Women's League Competition Fixtures.
- 26.1.2. FV Latrobe Valley Senior Women's League competitions shall comprise of one (1) League, or such other number determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 26.1.3. Number of Teams is determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 26.1.4. FV Latrobe Valley Senior Women's League shall comprise of a maximum of twelve (12) Teams.
- 26.1.5. Clubs can submit a maximum (1) Team to compete in the Senior Women's League, unless otherwise determined by FV.
- 26.1.6. Competition Fixtures will be played on Sunday, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary.
- 26.1.7. Sunday Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 11:00am or later than 8:30pm, unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.
- 26.1.8. Matches may only be played on public holidays with the permission of FV.
- 26.1.9. The applicable kick off times for Sunday Competition Fixtures apply to any matches held on public holidays.

26.2. Player Eligibility

- 26.2.1. To be eligible to participate in Senior Women's Competitions run by FV, Players must turn 14 years (or older) as at 1 January 2026, unless an application to FV for an exemption from this Regulation is made via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#) by the Player's Club on behalf of a Player and is accepted by FV.
- 26.2.2. An application made under Regulation 26.2.1. must meet the following minimum criteria:
 - a. The application is submitted via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#).
 - b. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club president supporting the application;
 - c. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club Technical Director;
 - d. The application must be supported by a signed letter of consent from the player's parent or guardian supporting the application;
 - e. The application must be supported by a signed letter of support from the player's medical professional listing general medical details of the player including height and weight and;
 - f. The Club/player must provide FV with any further information requested.
- 26.2.3. An application made under Regulation 26.2.1. will be considered by FV. FV has sole discretion in relation to any application made under that Regulation.

SCHEDULE 2 – 2026 LATROBE VALLEY SENIOR WOMEN'S LEAGUE COMPETITION REGULATIONS

27. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

27.1. Interchange / Substitution

- 27.1.1. A maximum of seventeen (17) Players may be named on the Match Sheet.
- 27.1.2. Clubs may make any number of interchanges during the course of the Competition Fixture, provided the Match Official has been consulted first.
- 27.1.3. A Match Official may decline the interchange of players in the last five (5) minutes of the second half of a Competition Fixture if in their opinion the change is being made to deliberately delay play.
- 27.1.4. All substitutes must be seated within the Technical Area.

27.2. Match Balls

- 27.2.1. The Home Club 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.
- 27.2.2. All Clubs must use a licensed match ball from FV's official and exclusive match ball partner Mitre for all Competition Fixtures.
 - a. FV Latrobe Valley Senior Competition Fixtures are recommended to use a Mitre Delta One or higher match ball.
- 27.2.3. Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to FV by the Match Official.
- 27.2.4. A failure to comply with Regulation 24.2 may result in a fine as set out in the GDR.

27.3. Additional Time

- 27.3.1. Additional Time for FV Latrobe Valley Senior Women's League Competition Fixtures shall not apply.

27.4. Results of FV Competition Fixtures

- 27.4.1. All player lists must be submitted by the home/away Team prior to the commencement of the match as part of the DRIBL Online Match Sheet Process.
- 27.4.2. All results including goal scorers and cautions and Best & Fairest votes must be submitted by the Match Official immediately after the conclusion of the Competition via DRIBL as part of the post-game submission process.
- 27.4.3. Should there be no Match Official appointed to the fixture, the Home Team must appoint and list a Non-Accredited Referee pre-game and confirm the following details from the match via DRIBL immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture:
 - a. Minimum Requirements
 - (i) Half Time Score
 - (ii) Full Time Score
 - (iii) Home & Away Team Goal Scorers
 - (iv) Home & Away Team Cautions

SCHEDULE 2 – 2026 LATROBE VALLEY SENIOR WOMEN'S LEAGUE COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- 27.4.4. Clubs which fail to submit results, cautions goal scorers and substitutions (when requested or when a match official is not present) in accordance with Regulation 27.4.3 may be fined or otherwise penalised for Misconduct under the GDR.

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28. LATROBE VALLEY SENIOR COMPETITION AWARDS

28. LATROBE VALLEY SENIOR WOMEN'S LEAGUE AWARDS

28.1. Best & Fairest Votes

- 28.1.1. At the conclusion of each Latrobe Valley Senior Women's League Competition Fixture, the Match Official must complete the Best & Fairest Votes and submit those votes to FV through the DRIBL Online Match Sheet Process immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture.
- 28.1.2. All votes must be recorded on DRIBL as part of the Online Match Sheet Process.
- 28.1.3. All votes must be treated with the highest confidentiality.
- 28.1.4. 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 each Competition Fixture.
- 28.1.5. A failure to comply with Regulation 25.1.1. may result in a Match Official being suspended from officiating or demoted to a lower Division.
- 28.1.6. A player who receives a Suspension (as defined in the GDR) during a Competition Fixture in a specific league during the Regular Season (excluding Playoff and Finals matches) shall be ineligible to win the Best and Fairest Award in that given League. To avoid doubt this includes but is not limited to a player who receives five (5) Yellow Cards or more in a Regular Season.
- 28.1.7. A player who has a Direct Red Card revoked for mistaken identity shall be eligible to win the award.
- 28.1.8. In the event of no appointed FV Match Official, no Best & Fairest votes will be awarded for that Competition Fixture.
- 28.1.9. If two (2) or more players have the same number of Best & Fairest votes at the conclusion of the Regular Season, multiple Best & Fairest winners will be awarded for the League.
- 28.1.10. Players that have played at more than one Club/Team or have played in more than one League in the 2026 season will have votes and/or goals recognized as follows:
 - a. Votes and/or goals in multiple Leagues: The Player's votes and/or goals earned in each League will be considered separate and do not carry over, irrespective of whether they were earned with the same Club or after transferring from one Club to another.
 - b. Votes and/or goals at multiple Clubs in the same League: if a Player plays for more than one Club in the same League in the same Regular Season, the player's votes and/or goals are tallied together, however the Player will only be recognized in terms of his or her award as a Player for the Club at which the player finishes the Regular Season.

28.2. Latrobe Valley Senior Women's League Top Goal Scorer Award

- 28.2.1. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV, the player who scores the most goals during the regular season will be awarded and deemed the Latrobe Valley Senior Women's League Top Goal Scorer of their respective competition.
- 28.2.2. FV will determine the Latrobe Valley Senior Women's League Top Goal Scorer based on the data submitted into DRIBL via the Online Match Sheet Process.

SCHEDULE 2 – 2026 LATROBE VALLEY MEN'S LEAGUE 3 COMPETITION REGULATIONS

29. LATROBE VALLEY MEN'S LEAGUE 3 COMPETITION REGULATIONS

29.1. General Information

- 29.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all FV Latrobe Valley Men's League 3 Competition Fixtures.
- 29.1.2. FV Latrobe Valley Men's League 3 competitions shall comprise of one (1) League, or such other number determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 29.1.3. Number of Teams is determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 29.1.4. FV Latrobe Valley Men's League 3 shall comprise of a maximum of twelve (12) Teams.
- 29.1.5. Clubs can enter any number of Teams to compete in the FV Latrobe Valley Men's League 3 Competition.
- 29.1.6. Competition Fixtures will be played on Sunday, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary.
- 29.1.7. Sunday Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 11:00am or later than 8:30pm, unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.
- 29.1.8. Matches may only be played on public holidays with the permission of FV.
- 29.1.9. The applicable kick off times for Sunday Competition Fixtures apply to any matches held on public holidays.

29.2. Player Eligibility

- 29.2.1. To be eligible to participate in Senior Men's Competitions run by FV, Players must turn 15 years (or older) as at 1 January 2026, unless an application to FV for an exemption from this Regulation is made via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#) by the Player's Club on behalf of a Player and is accepted by FV.
- 29.2.2. An application made under Regulation 29.2.1. must meet the following minimum criteria:
 - a. The application is submitted via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#).
 - b. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club president supporting the application;
 - c. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club Technical Director;
 - d. The application must be supported by a signed letter of consent from the player's parent or guardian supporting the application;
 - e. The application must be supported by a signed letter of support from the player's medical professional listing general medical details of the player including height and weight and;
 - f. The Club/player must provide FV with any further information requested.
- 29.2.3. An application made under Regulation 29.2.1. will be considered by FV. FV has sole discretion in relation to any application made under that Regulation.
- 29.2.4. Where a Club has Teams in the same FV Latrobe Valley Men's League 3 Competition, then players are deemed 'team-tied' following completion of the sixth (6th) round of the

SCHEDULE 2 – 2026 LATROBE VALLEY MEN'S LEAGUE 3 COMPETITION REGULATIONS

Regular Season to one of those Teams. Clubs will be required to submit a Team List for each Team from Round 7 onwards, listing each player, which will be tied to that particular Team for the remainder of the Regular Season. Any new player joining one of those Teams after the sixth (6th) round must be allocated to (and can only play for) one (1) of the tied-Teams for the remainder of the Regular Season. The exception to this is where a player has not yet attained the age of 18 as of the 1st of January 2026 of the current competition season, this player will be considered exempt from regulation 29.2.4.

- 29.2.5. No more than three (3) players who have Played in their Club's FV Latrobe Valley Men's Reserves League Team on any given weekend may play in a FV Latrobe Valley Senior Men's League 3 Competition Fixture that same weekend. Players under the age of 18 as of 1 January 2026 are exempt from regulation 29.2.5.
- 29.2.6. Irrespective of the kick off time for games on a particular day. If a FV Latrobe Valley Senior Men's League 3 match is scheduled before a Clubs FV Latrobe Valley Men's Reserves League, match the Club must still only list a maximum of three (3) players who are able to play both matches.
- 29.2.7. For the purpose of Regulation 29.2.5, on a weekend where the Clubs Men's Reserves League Team are not scheduled to play in a Competition Fixture, that Team's most recent Competition Fixture shall apply.
- 29.2.8. Where a Club has a Team in both Latrobe Valley Senior Men's League 1 and Latrobe Valley Men's League 3, once a player has Played in a Latrobe Valley Senior Men's League 1 Competition Fixture, they will be ineligible to return and play in the Latrobe Valley Men's League 3 Competition (including relevant Cup Competitions). The exception to this is where a player has not yet attained the age of 18 as of 1st January 2026 of the current competition season, this player will be considered exempt from regulation 29.2.8.

30. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

30.1. Interchange / Substitution

- 30.1.1. A maximum of seventeen (17) Players may be named on the Match Sheet.
- 30.1.2. Clubs may make any number of interchanges during the course of the Competition Fixture, provided the Match Official has been consulted first.
- 30.1.3. A Match Official may decline the interchange of players in the last five (5) minutes of the second half of a Competition Fixture if in their opinion the change is being made to deliberately delay play.
- 30.1.4. All substitutes must be seated within the Technical Area.

30.2. Match Balls

- 30.2.1. The Home Club 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.
- 30.2.2. All Clubs must use a licensed match ball from FV's official and exclusive match ball partner Mitre for all Competition Fixtures.
 - b. FV Latrobe Valley Senior Competition Fixtures are recommended to use a Mitre Delta One or higher match ball.
- 30.2.3. Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to FV by the Match Official.

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30.2.4. A failure to comply with Regulation 30.2.2 may result in a fine as set out in the GDR.

30.3. Additional Time

30.3.1. Additional Time for FV Latrobe Men's League 3 Competition Fixtures shall not apply.

30.4. Results of FV Competition Fixtures

- 30.4.1. All player lists must be submitted by the home/away Team prior to the commencement of the match as part of the DRIBL Online Match Sheet Process.
- 30.4.2. All results including goal scorers and cautions votes must be submitted by the Match Official immediately after the conclusion of the Competition via DRIBL as part of the post-game submission process.
- 30.4.3. Should there be no Match Official appointed to the fixture, the Home Team must appoint and list a Non-Accredited Referee pre-game and confirm the following details from the match via DRIBL immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture:
 - a. Minimum Requirements
 - (i) Half Time Score
 - (ii) Full Time Score
 - (iii) Home & Away Team Goal Scorers
 - (iv) Home & Away Team Cautions
- 30.4.4. Clubs which fail to submit results, cautions goal scorers and substitutions (when requested or when a match official is not present) in accordance with Regulation 30.4.3 may be fined or otherwise penalised for Misconduct under the GDR.

SCHEDULE 2 – 2026 LATROBE VALLEY JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

31. LATROBE VALLEY JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

31.1. General Information

- 31.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all FV Latrobe Valley Competition Fixtures. If a particular matter is not covered by these Regulations, reference will be made to the Metropolitan Junior Regulations if they address that matter and the relevant regulation will apply.
- 31.1.2. Player ID cards (ID Cards) generated through DRIBL are required in all Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls Competition Fixtures. For clarity:
 - a. ID Cards must include an eligible photo uploaded to the participants PlayFootball account.
 - b. ID Cards are presented through DRIBL and can be presented via smart phones, tablets, laptops and computers.
 - c. Printed and photocopied ID cards from PlayFootball will no longer be required.
- 31.1.3. FV will determine the Junior League Structures at their absolute discretion. Where team numbers permit, Junior Leagues will be divided into 'A' or 'B' Grade.
- 31.1.4. The allocated day of play for all Latrobe Valley Junior Competitions Saturday.
- 31.1.5. FV Latrobe Valley Junior Competition Fixtures will only be played on Saturday's, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary.

31.2. Player Eligibility

- 31.2.1. A player may only play up to four (4) years above his or her age group, , unless an application to FV for exemption from Regulation 31.2.1 is made via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#) by the player's Club on behalf of the player and is accepted by FV.
- 31.2.2. An application made under Regulation 32.2.1 must meet the following minimum criteria:
 - a. the application is submitted via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#).
 - b. the application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club president supporting the application;
 - c. the application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's State Team/Representative Team coach or Club Technical Director;
 - d. the application must be supported by a signed letter of consent from the player's parent or guardian supporting the application;
 - e. the application must be supported by a signed letter of support from the player's medical professional listing general medical details of the player including height and weight; and
 - f. the Club/player must provide FV with any further information requested.
- 31.2.3. Any application made under Regulation 32.2.1 will be considered by FV. FV has the absolute discretion in relation to any application made under that Regulation.
- 31.2.4. A Player who is participating above their age group will not be prevented from returning to play in his or her rightful age group unless that Player is suspended.

SCHEDULE 2 – 2026 LATROBE VALLEY JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- 31.2.5. For all Junior Competitions, a player who has played at a higher division in a particular age group (e.g. 15As) for five (5) Competition Fixtures or more (including Grading Fixtures), cannot drop to a lower category (e.g. 15Bs) within the same age group for his or her Club for the remainder of the Regular Season (including Cup Competition Fixtures). This Regulation does not, however, prevent a player who is playing 'up' an age group returning to his or her rightful age group in accordance with Regulation 31.2.4.
- 31.2.6. A player may be granted a dispensation to play down a maximum of one (1) age group at FV's sole discretion as per the regulations within the FV Dispensation Policy.
- 31.2.7. FV may request information or clarification from a player or Club applying for dispensation under Regulation 31.2.2 as it sees necessary and will make a decision in relation to the dispensation request at its sole discretion.
- 31.2.8. FV may refuse to grant a dispensation requested under Regulation 31.2.2 in circumstances where the player in question has played in football in school or other competitions not administered by FV or FA. FV may seek further information from the Club in question before making a determination under this Regulation and the Club must submit that information as part of the dispensation request.
- 31.2.9. If a Club has two (2) Teams in the 'A' Division of a particular age group then players are team-tied from the fifth (5th) round Competition Fixture of the Regular Season. Clubs with tied Teams will be required to submit a Team list for each Team, listing the players within their designated Team. Any new player joining a Team must be allocated to only one (1) of the tied-Teams.

SCHEDULE 2 – 2026 LATROBE VALLEY JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

31.3. Latrobe Valley Junior Mixed Competition

31.3.1. Subject to Regulations 31.2.1 & 31.2.2, players in the following age groups may take part in the Junior Mixed & Boys' Competition 2026:

Age Group	Year of Birth
Thirteens (13s)	Born on or after 1 January 2013
Fifteens (15s)	Born on or after 1 January 2011
Seventeens (17s)	Born on or after 1 January 2009

31.3.2. The preferred kick-off times for Junior Mixed Competitions shall be as follows:

Age Group	Kick-off Time
Thirteens (13s)	1:00 PM
Fifteens (15s)	3:00 PM
Seventeens (17s)	9:30 AM

31.3.3. FV alter kick-off times of any Competition Fixture within the Junior Mixed & Boys' Competition upon the basis of a fixture clash or otherwise at its discretion.

31.4. Latrobe Valley Junior Girls' Competition

31.4.1. Subject to Regulations 31.2.1 & 31.2.2, players in the following age groups may take part in the Junior Girls' Competition 2026:

Age Group	Year of Birth
Thirteens (13s)	Born on or after 1 January 2013
Fifteens (15s)	Born on or after 1 January 2011

31.4.2. The preferred kick-off times for Junior Girls' Competitions shall be as follows:

Age Group	Kick-off Time
Thirteens (13s)	9:30 AM
Fifteens (15) / Sixteens (16)	12:00 PM

SCHEDULE 2 – 2026 LATROBE VALLEY JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

31.5. Under 12 & Under 13 (9v9 Competition).

- 31.5.1. As an exception to the Venue Requirements as set out in **Schedule 7**, the Junior Mixed and Girls' Under 12 & Under 13 Competitions in 2026 will be played as per regulation 31.5.1.

FV Community Under 12 & Under 13 Competition (9v9)	
Number of Players	9v9 Including Goalkeeper. Minimum of 7 players Max of 5 Substitutions
Field of Play	Length: 60 – 70m Width 40-50m
Goal Size and Type	Height: 2m Width: 5m Permanent or portable goal must be compliant with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's Notice. 28 of 2010
Field Marking	Cones, Markers or Painted Lines are allowed
Penalty Area	Depth: 10m Width: 20m Penalty Spot 7m from goal line
Duration of Game	2 x 30-minute halves
Half time	5 minutes
Referee	FV Appointed Green Armband Referees
Assistant Referees	Club appointed Assisted Referees
Interchange	Maximum 5 Players
Ball Size	4

- 31.5.2. The offside rule will apply for under 12 and under 13 9v9 competition as per IFAB Laws of the Game.
- 31.5.3. In accordance with IFAB Laws of the Game, a penalty kick will be awarded if a player commits a direct free kick offence inside their penalty area.
- 31.5.4. The goalkeeper is allowed to handle the ball anywhere in the penalty area. To restart play after a save or gathering the ball with their hands, the ball must be thrown or rolled from the hands or played from the ground with their feet within 6 seconds, the goalkeeper is not allowed to kick or dropkick the ball from their hands.
- 31.5.5. Goal kicks can be taken from anywhere within the penalty area. Opponents must be outside the penalty area until the ball is in play. The ball is in play once it is kicked and leaves the penalty area.
- 31.5.6. Opponents must be at least 6 metres away from the ball until it is in play. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.
- 31.5.7. Red and Yellow Cards will be issued as per IFAB Laws of the Game except in the following.
- 31.5.8. Where a player receives a red card, the match official will instruct the player to leave the field of play for the remainder of the match, any player sent from the field of play cannot be replaced by another player and that players Team who is dismissed is reduced by one (1).

SCHEDULE 2 – 2026 LATROBE VALLEY JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

31.6. Composition of Leagues

- 31.6.1. Composition of Leagues is at the absolute discretion of FV.
- 31.6.2. Any provisions referred to in Regulation 31.6 are subject to FV Latrobe Valley Competitions continuing in 2027 in the same, or substantively the same structure.
- 31.6.3. FV reserves the right to determine dates and times of Competition Fixtures with specific regards to the number of matches played.
- 31.6.4. Divisions of no less than six (6) Teams or greater than fifteen (15) Teams will be created.
- 31.6.5. Where there are sixteen (16) or more Team entries in any given Division, Teams may be split geographically to alleviate travel time.
- 31.6.6. FV's preferred Division size will remain ten (10) teams, with the remaining Teams maintaining a viable League of between six (6) and fifteen (15) Teams.
- 31.6.7. League tables will be recorded in FV Latrobe Valley Junior Under 12 – 18 Competitions.

32. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

32.1. Interchange/Substitution

- 32.1.1. Interchange Rules – Mixed/Girls' Under 12 – Under 18 Competitions:
 - a. For Under 12 – Under 13 a maximum of fourteen (14) players can be named on the Match Sheet. Clubs may take any number of interchanges during the course of the Competition Fixture, provided the Match Official has been consulted first and permits the substitution.
 - b. For Under 14 – Under 18 a maximum of seventeen (17) players can be named on the Match Sheet. Clubs may take any number of interchanges during the course of the Competition Fixture, provided the Match Official has been consulted first and permits the substitution.
 - c. A Match Official may decline the interchange if players in the last five (5) minutes of the second half of a Competition Fixture if in their opinion the change is being made to deliberately delay play.

32.2. Additional Time

- 32.2.1. Additional Time shall not be played for FV Latrobe Valley Junior Competition Fixtures.

SCHEDULE 2 – 2026 LATROBE VALLEY JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

32.3. Match Balls

32.3.1. The following ball sizes apply:

Age Group	Ball Size
Under Thirteen (13) Mixed	Size 4
Under Fifteen (15) Mixed	Size 5
Under Seventeen (17) Boys	Size 5
Under Thirteen (13) Girls	Size 4
Under Fifteen / Sixteen (15/16) Girls	Size 5

32.3.2. The Home Club shall provide the appointed Match Official with three (3) match balls of the appropriate size for that age group no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled Competition Fixture.

32.3.3. All Clubs must use a licensed match ball from FV's official and exclusive match ball partner Mitre for all Competition Fixtures.

- a. Latrobe Valley Junior Competition Fixtures are recommended to use a Mitre Impel One or higher match ball.

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

32.3.5. A failure to comply with Regulation 32.3 may result in a fine as set out in the GDR.

32.4. Results of FV Competition Fixtures

32.4.1. All results including goal scorers and cautions (red and yellow cards) must be submitted by the Match Official immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture via DRIBL as part of the post-game submission process.

32.4.2. Should there be no Match Official appointed to the fixture, the Home Team must appoint and list a Non-Accredited Referee pre-game and confirm the following details of the match via DRIBL immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture:

- a. Minimum Requirements
 - (i) Half Time Score
 - (ii) Full Time Score
 - (iii) Home & Away Team Goal Scorers
 - (iv) Home & Away Team Cautions

32.4.3. All red card cautions for U14 – U18 Junior Mixed/Girls Competitions must be submitted by the appointed Match Official or on an occasion where a non-accredited referee is appointed, by the Home Club via DRIBL.

32.4.4. For the purpose of 4.4.a of the GDR, accumulation of yellow cards does not apply to all Junior Mixed/Girls (U12 – U18) Community Competitions.

32.4.5. All Competition Fixture results must be submitted via DRIBL.

32.4.6. Clubs which fail to submit Competition Fixture results in accordance with 32.4.2 may be penalised under the GDR.

SCHEDULE 2 – 2026 LATROBE VALLEY MINIROOS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

33. LATROBE VALLEY MINIROOS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

33.1. General Information

- 33.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all MiniRoos Competition Fixtures in line with the [Football Victoria MiniRoos Guidelines](#).
- 33.1.2. All MiniRoos participants must be registered via Play Football and made active via Play Football and DRIBL in order to be eligible to participate in a MiniRoos fixture.
- 33.1.3. FV will determine the MiniRoos League structures at their absolute discretion.
- 33.1.4. MiniRoos Competition Fixtures will only be played on a Saturday or Sunday, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary, or otherwise approves.
- 33.1.5. Clubs will self-nominate their MiniRoos Teams during the Team Entry Period. All Teams will be placed in a league that corresponds to the requests of the Club where possible. FV advises Clubs to categorise their MiniRoos Teams according to the below guidelines:
 - a. Kangaroos
 - (i) strong grasp of football skills
 - b. Wallabies
 - (ii) beginning to develop football skills
 - c. Joeys
 - (iii) no or little previous experience

33.2. MiniRoos Mixed & Girls Competitions Age Groups

- 33.2.1. The following age groups may take part in the MiniRoos Competition in 2026:
 - a. Mixed Under 6s
 - b. Mixed Under 7s
 - c. Mixed Under 9s
 - d. Mixed Under 11s

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33.2.2. MiniRoos Players can move freely between age groups (Under 7 – Under 11), playing above or below their age group as determined by their current stage of development, if the Player is unable to participate in their rightful age group, it is preferable that participants play down one (1), or no more than two (2), age groups

Age Group	Year of Birth
Sixes (6s)	Born on or after 1 January 2020
Sevens (7s)	Born on or after 1 January 2019
Eights (8s)	Born on or after 1 January 2018
Nines (9s)	Born on or after 1 January 2017
Tens (10s)	Born on or after 1 January 2016
Elevens (11s)	Born on or after 1 January 2015

33.3. MiniRoos Mixed & Girls Competition Format

33.3.1. All MiniRoos Competition Formats will be played as per Regulation 23.3.1.

FV MINIROOS COMPETITIONS			
	UNDER 6 & 7	UNDER 8 & 9	UNDER 10 & 11
Number of Players	4 v 4 (+3 SUBS)	7 v 7 (+ 4 subs)	9 v 9 (+ 5 subs)
Field of Play	30m x 20m	¼ Full Size Pitch Min: 40m x 30m Max 50m x 40m	½ Full Size Pitch Min: 60m x 40m Max: 70m x 50m
Goal Size	Width: 2m Height: 1m	Width: 3m Height: 2m	Width: 5m Height: 2m
Field Marking	Markers or line markings	Markers or line markings	Markers or line markings
Penalty Area	Nil	Depth: 5m Width: 12m	Depth: 10m Width: 20m
Duration of Game	2 x 20 minutes	2 x 20 minutes	2 x 25 minutes
Half time	5 minutes	5 minutes	5 minutes
Referee	Game Leader	Game Leader	Game Leader
Offside	No	No	No
Interchange	Maximum 3 Players	Maximum 4 Players	Maximum 5 Players
Ball Size	3	3	4
Slide Tackles	Coaches and Game Leaders should encourage all players to remain on their feet when defending.		
Points Table	No	No	No
Match Sheets	No	No	No



2026 RULES OF COMPETITION

SOUTH-WEST



**FOOTBALL
VICTORIA**

SCHEDULE 3 – 2026 SOUTH-WEST REGION COMPETITION REGULATIONS

SCHEDULE 3 – 2026 SOUTH-WEST REGION COMPETITION REGULATIONS

34. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

34.1. General Information

- 34.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all FV South-West Competition Fixtures.
- 34.1.2. Number of teams is determined by FV in its absolute discretion.

34.2. Team Entry / Age Groups

- 34.2.1. 2026 FV South-West Competitions shall run in the following age groups;
 - a. Senior Men
 - b. Senior Women
 - c. Mixed Under 17
 - d. Mixed Under 14
 - e. Mixed Under 12
 - f. Girls' Under 13
 - g. Mixed MiniRoos (U8, U10)
- 34.2.2. Clubs competing in FV Latrobe Valley Competitions may apply to enter any number of Teams, new or existing, in any one age group, however FV have absolute discretion when accepting Team Entries and allocating the composition of leagues.
- 34.2.3. Any Late Team Entries submitted after the closure of the Team Entry Period will only be accepted at FV's sole discretion.
- 34.2.4. Further to Regulation 34.2.3, if a vacancy does not exist, FV will consider entering a 'late' Team.
- 34.2.5. Where a Late Team Entry is accepted by FV and that Team commences in a League after the commencement of the Regular Season, FV will determine the allocation of forfeits for the number of Competition Fixtures missed by that Team (as a result of late inclusion in the League in question) at its absolute discretion.
- 34.2.6. No FV Regional Club competing in FV Regional Competitions or included as a member of a Regional Advisory Panel, will be permitted to enter Teams(s) into FV Metropolitan Competitions (excluding CPL, Junior Advanced Competitions, State League Men's/Women's, VPL and NPL Competitions) unless it satisfies criteria including all of the following:
 - a. That, in the opinion of FV, it is deemed that such a request does not directly or indirectly impact the viability of any FV South-West Competition;
 - b. That the Club fields (and/or has already fielded) an additional Team(s) into the same or similar age group in FV South-West competitions or in any other League as required by FV;
 - c. That in the opinion of FV, it is deemed that such a request has been reasonably made because the desired age group(s) Division and/or gender of the Team is not already

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available within FV South-West competitions or that of any other regional association within reasonable proximity to the Club;

- d. That the Club acknowledges that if is permitted to enter Team(s) into Metropolitan competitions, but thereafter fails to field the Team(s) in the FV South-West competitions for the duration of the Regular Season, its Team(s) may be ineligible to earn match points or be subject to other penalties as determined at the sole discretion of FV; and
 - e. That the Clubs license agreement with FV allows them to enter teams within metropolitan structures; and
 - f. Any other criteria as promulgated by FV from time to time,
- 34.2.7. FV reserves the right in its absolute discretion to amend the structure of South-West Competitions, including varying the number of Clubs in each Division and/or the number of Divisions, before, during or after the Regular Season. Amendments may be as a result of FA actions, including the establishment of any new or varied FA auspiced Leagues or Divisions (including a National Second Tier), or compulsory Player pathways.

34.3. Regrading / Grading Period

- 34.3.1. FV in its absolute discretion will determine whether a regrading / grading period will occur within a competition season.
- 34.3.2. Should a grading period be applicable to FV South-West Competitions reference will be made within the specific Competitions regulations within the Rules of Competition.

34.4. Admittance to Competition Fixtures

- 34.4.1. Admittance to all FV South-West Competition Fixture is free of charge, including car parking.

SCHEDULE 3 – 2026 SOUTH-WEST CUP COMPETITION REGULATIONS

35. SOUTH-WEST CUP COMPETITIONS

35.1. Competition Format

- 35.1.1. At the beginning of the 2026 Regular Season, all teams competing in the FV South-West Senior Men's Division will participate in a knock-out Cup Competition.

<u>Competition</u>	<u>Cup</u>
FV South-West Senior Men's Division	2026 FV South-West Cup

- 35.1.2. The draw for the Cup Competition will occur one month prior to Round 1 of the Cup Competition in FV's absolute discretion.

- All draws of Teams for the Cup Competitions will be at random.
- Where required, a bye round will fill any vacant slots in the draw process.

- 35.1.3. The format of the Cup Competition will be determined by FV.

- 35.1.4. All stages of the Cup Competition shall be played in a knockout format.

- 35.1.5. All winners will proceed to the next round.

- 35.1.6. Host venues will be determined by FV.

- 35.1.7. FV will cover Match Official fees for the Cup Grand Final.

- 35.1.8. Any Cup Competition fixtures that are postponed, abandoned, or cancelled, must be replayed within 3 days of the original scheduled fixture date.

- Should the fixture not be rescheduled within 3 days, FV confirm a rescheduled date at its absolute discretion.

35.2. Procedure to Determine the Winner of Cup Fixture

- 35.2.1. All Qualifying Matches will be played over one (1) leg.

- 35.2.2. If, at the conclusion of any Cup Competition Fixture, the scores between the Teams are tied, extra time of two equal periods of 15 minutes will be used will be used to decide the winner.

- 35.2.3. If the scores are level at the end of extra time, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game to determine the winner of the match.

- 35.2.4. The Team who wins the Cup Competition Final will become the South-West Cup Champions, unless otherwise determined by FV.

- 35.2.5. The Team who loses the Cup Competition Final will become the South-West Cup Competition Final Runner Up, unless otherwise determined by FV.

35.3. Procedure to Determine Venue for Cup Fixtures

- 38.3.1 Round 1 and Round 2 of the South-West Cup competition will be hosted by the team drawn as the Home team.

SCHEDULE 3 – 2026 SOUTH-WEST CUP COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- 38.3.2 The Club that finishes in the highest league position during the 2026 Season will be offered the hosting rights for the South-West Cup Competition. This is applicable to only Semi Finals and Grand Final.

35.4. Discipline

- 35.4.1. All Suspensions from the previous and or current Regular Season will carry over to the Cup Competitions.
- 35.4.2. A player that receives a Red Card during a Cup Competition Fixture will automatically miss the next Competition Fixture (whether or not that fixture is a Cup Competition or Regular Season fixture) and may be subject to further sanction in accordance with the GDR.
- 35.4.3. Yellow Cards accumulated by a player during the Cup Competitions will not be counted for the purposes of clause 4.4(a) of the GDR. For avoidance of doubt, if a player receives their 5th Regular Season Competition Fixture Yellow Card, they shall be suspended and must be served in their next Regular Season Competition Fixture.

35.5. Player Restrictions

- 35.5.1. Where a Club has two South-West Senior Men's Teams competing in the Cup Competition, Clubs will be required to submit a Team List for both Teams prior to Round 1 of the Cup Competition, listing each player, which will be tied to that particular Team for the remainder of the Cup Competition. Once a player is tied to a particular Team, the player must not be named on the Match Sheet for the Clubs other Senior Men's Team competing in the Cup Competition, otherwise they will be deemed ineligible.
- 35.5.2. FV will only consider an exception to Regulation 35.5.1 in exceptional circumstances and where a Club/Team can establish that it is unable to field a Team for a Cup Competition Fixture due to insufficient player numbers as a result of availability (including injury). Any Club wishing to rely on such an exception must apply to FV:
- Via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#).
 - in writing;
 - at least five (5) days before the Cup Competition is due to take place;
 - setting out the reasons it requests an exception be granted, providing evidence in support of player unavailability; and
 - provide FV with any further information required.
 - FV will consider any request made in accordance with Regulation 35.5.2 together with all information provided in support of that request and make a decision regarding any exception requested. Any decision made in this regard is at the sole discretion of FV and is not subject to review or appeal.

SCHEDULE 3 – 2026 SOUTH-WEST SENIOR MEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

36. SOUTH-WEST SENIOR MEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

36.1. General Information

- 36.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all FV South-West Senior Men's Division Competition Fixtures.
- 36.1.2. FV South-West Senior Men's Competitions shall comprise of one (1) Senior Division, or such other number determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 36.1.3. Number of Teams is determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 36.1.4. FV South-West Senior Men's Division shall comprise of a maximum of twelve (12) Teams.
- 36.1.5. Clubs can enter any number of Teams to compete in the FV South-West Men's Division Competition.
- 36.1.6. Competition Fixtures will be played on Sunday's, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary.
- 36.1.7. Sunday Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 11:00am or later than 8:30pm, unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.
- 36.1.8. Matches may only be played on public holidays with the permission of FV.
- 36.1.9. The applicable kick off times for Sunday Competition Fixtures apply to any matches held on public holidays.

36.2. Player Eligibility

- 36.2.1. To be eligible to participate in Senior Men's Competitions run by FV, Players must turn 15 years (or older) as at 1 January 2026, unless an application to FV for an exemption from this Regulation is made via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#) by the Player's Club on behalf of a Player and is accepted by FV.
- 36.2.2. An application made under Regulation 36.2.1. must meet the following minimum criteria:
 - g. The application is submitted via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#).
 - h. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club president supporting the application;
 - i. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club Technical Director;
 - j. The application must be supported by a signed letter of consent from the player's parent or guardian supporting the application;
 - k. The application must be supported by a signed letter of support from the player's medical professional listing general medical details of the player including height and weight and;
 - l. The Club/player must provide FV with any further information requested.
- 36.2.3. An application made under Regulation 36.2.1. will be considered by FV. FV has sole discretion in relation to any application made under that Regulation.

SCHEDULE 3 – 2026 SOUTH-WEST SENIOR MEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- 36.2.4. If a Club has two (2) Teams in the same League (of a particular Senior Division) then players are 'team-tied' following completion of the sixth (6th) round of the Regular Season to one of those teams. Clubs will be required to submit a Team list for each Team for Round 7 onwards, listing each player, which will be tied to that particular team for the remainder of the regular season. Any new player joining one of those Teams after the sixth (6th) round must be allocated to (and can only play for) one (1) of the tied-Teams for the remainder of the Regular Season. Players under the age of 18 as of 1 January 2026 are exempt from regulation 36.2.4.

37. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

37.1. Interchange / Substitution

- 37.1.1. A maximum of seventeen (17) Players may be named on the Match Sheet.
- 37.1.2. Clubs may make any number of interchanges during the course of the Competition Fixture, provided the Match Official has been consulted first.
- 37.1.3. A Match Official may decline the interchange of players in the last five (5) minutes of the second half of a Competition Fixture if in their opinion the change is being made to deliberately delay play.
- 37.1.4. All substitutes must be seated within the Technical Area.

37.2. Match Balls

- 37.2.1. The Home Club 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.
- 37.2.2. All Clubs must use a licensed match ball from FV's official and exclusive match ball partner Mitre for all Competition Fixtures.
- a. FV South-West Senior Competition Fixtures are recommended to use a Mitre Delta One or higher match ball.
- 37.2.3. Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to FV by the Match Official.
- 37.2.4. A failure to comply with Regulation 37.2 may result in a fine as set out in the GDR.

37.3. Additional Time

- 37.3.1. Additional time for FV South-West Senior Men's Division Competition Fixtures must be played in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game.

37.4. Results of FV Competition Fixtures

- 37.4.1. All player lists must be submitted by the home/away Team prior to the commencement of the match as part of the DRIBL Online Match Sheet Process.
- 37.4.2. All results including goal scorers and cautions must be submitted by the Match Official immediately after the conclusion of the Competition via DRIBL as part of the post-game submission process.
- 37.4.3. Should there be no Match Official appointed to the fixture, the Home Team must appoint and list a Non-Accredited Referee pre-game and confirm the following details from the match via DRIBL immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture:
- a. Minimum Requirements

SCHEDULE 3 – 2026 SOUTH-WEST SENIOR MEN’S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- (i) Half Time Score
- (ii) Full Time Score
- (iii) Home & Away Team Goal Scorers
- (iv) Home & Away Team Cautions

37.4.4. Clubs which fail to submit results, cautions goal scorers and substitutions (when requested or when a match official is not present) in accordance with Regulation 37.4.3 may be fined or otherwise penalised for Misconduct under the GDR.

SCHEDULE 3 - 2026 SOUTH-WEST SENIOR MEN'S AWARDS

38. SOUTH-WEST SENIOR MEN'S LEAGUE AWARDS

38.1 Best & Fairest Votes

- 38.1.1. Regulations and confirmation pertaining to a South-West Senior Men's League Award will be communicated to Clubs prior to the commencement of the 2026 season.

38.2. South-West Senior Men's Division Top Goal Scorer Award

- 38.2.1. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV, the player who scores the most goals during the regular season will be awarded and deemed the South-West Senior Men's Division Top Goal Scorer for the 2026 season.
- 38.2.2. FV will determine the South-West Senior Men's League Top Goal Scorer based on the data submitted into DRIBL via the Online Match Sheet Process.

SCHEDULE 3 - 2026 SOUTH-WEST SENIOR WOMEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

39. SOUTH-WEST SENIOR WOMEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

39.1. General Information

- 39.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all FV South-West Senior Women's League Competition Fixtures.
- 39.1.2. FV South-West Senior Women's Competition shall comprise of one (1) Senior League, or such other number determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 39.1.3. Number of Teams is determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 39.1.4. FV South-West Senior Women's League shall comprise of a maximum of twelve (12) Teams.
- 39.1.5. Clubs can enter any number of Teams to compete in the FV South-West Women's League Competition.
- 39.1.6. Competition Fixtures will be played on Sunday's, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary.
- 39.1.7. Sunday Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 11:00am or later than 8:30pm, unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.
- 39.1.8. Matches may only be played on public holidays with the permission of FV.
- 39.1.9. The applicable kick off times for Sunday Competition Fixtures apply to any matches held on public holidays.

39.2. Player Eligibility

- 39.2.1. To be eligible to participate in Senior Women's Competitions run by FV, Players must turn 14 years (or older) as at 1 January 2026, unless an application to FV for an exemption from this Regulation is made via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#) by the Player's Club on behalf of a Player and is accepted by FV.
- 39.2.2. An application made under Regulation 39.2.1. must meet the following minimum criteria:
 - a. The application is submitted via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#).
 - b. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club president supporting the application;
 - c. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club Technical Director;
 - d. The application must be supported by a signed letter of consent from the player's parent or guardian supporting the application;
 - e. The application must be supported by a signed letter of support from the player's medical professional listing general medical details of the player including height and weight and;
 - f. The Club/player must provide FV with any further information requested.
- 39.2.3. An application made under Regulation 39.2.1. will be considered by FV. FV has sole discretion in relation to any application made under that Regulation.

SCHEDULE 3 - 2026 SOUTH-WEST SENIOR WOMEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

39.2.4. If a Club has two (2) Teams in the same League (of a particular Senior Division) then players are 'team-tied' following completion of the sixth (6th) round of the Regular Season to one of those teams. Clubs will be required to submit a Team list for each Team for Round 7 onwards, listing each player, which will be tied to that particular team for the remainder of the regular season. Any new player joining one of those Teams after the sixth (6th) round must be allocated to (and can only play for) one (1) of the tied-Teams for the remainder of the Regular Season. Players under the age of 18 as of 1 January 2026 are exempt from regulation 39.2.4.

39.3. South-West Senior Women's (7v7) Competition

39.3.1. As an exception to the Venue Requirements as set out in Schedule 7, the South-West Senior Women's Division in 2026 will be played as per Regulation 39.3.1.

FV South-West Senior Women's Competition (7v7)	
Number of Players	7v7 Including Goalkeeper. Max of 5 Substitutes
Field of Play	Length: 60 – 70m Width 40-50m Preferably Box to Box dimensions on a full size senior field.
Goal Size and Type	Height 2m Width: 5m Permanent or portable goal must be compliant with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's Notice. 28 of 2010
Field Marking	Cones, Markers or Painted Lines are allowed
Penalty Area	Depth 10m Width: 20m Penalty Spot 7m from goal line
Duration of Game	2 x 30-minute halves
Half time	10 minutes
Referee	FV Appointed Referees
Assistant Referees	Club appointed Assisted Referees
Interchange	Maximum 5 Players
Ball Size	5
Offsides	No offsides
Goalkeepers	Goalkeepers are only permitted to throw or roll the ball
Centre Kick-Offs, Corner Kicks and Goal Kicks	All will take place as normal with opposition players at least 5 metres away
Throw Ins	Ball to be kicked in from the sideline

SCHEDULE 3 - 2026 SOUTH-WEST SENIOR WOMEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

40. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

40.1. Interchange / Substitution

- 40.1.1. A maximum of seventeen (14) Players may be named on the Match Sheet.
- 40.1.2. Clubs may make any number of interchanges during the course of the Competition Fixture, provided the Match Official has been consulted first.
- 40.1.3. A Match Official may decline the interchange of players in the last five (5) minutes of the second half of a Competition Fixture if in their opinion the change is being made to deliberately delay play.
- 40.1.4. All substitutes must be seated within the Technical Area.

40.2. Match Balls

- 40.2.1. The Home Club 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.
- 40.2.2. All Clubs must use a licensed match ball from FV's official and exclusive match ball partner Mitre for all Competition Fixtures.
 - a. FV South-West Senior Competition Fixtures are recommended to use a Mitre Delta One or higher match ball.
- 40.2.3. Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to FV by the Match Official.
- 40.2.4. A failure to comply with Regulation 40.2 may result in a fine as set out in the GDR.

40.3. Additional Time

- 40.3.1. Additional time for FV South-West Senior Women's Division Competition Fixtures shall not be played.

40.4. Results of FV Competition Fixtures

- 40.4.1. All player lists must be submitted by the home/away Team prior to the commencement of the match as part of the DRIBL Online Match Sheet Process.
- 40.4.2. All results including goal scorers and cautions votes must be submitted by the Match Official immediately after the conclusion of the Competition via DRIBL as part of the post-game submission process.
- 40.4.3. Should there be no Match Official appointed to the fixture, the Home Team must appoint and list a Non-Accredited Referee pre-game and confirm the following details from the match via DRIBL immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture:
 - a. Minimum Requirements
 - (i) Half Time Score
 - (ii) Full Time Score
 - (iii) Home & Away Team Goal Scorers
 - (iv) Home & Away Team Cautions

SCHEDULE 3 - 2026 SOUTH-WEST SENIOR WOMEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- 40.4.4. Clubs which fail to submit results, cautions goal scorers and substitutions (when requested or when a match official is not present) in accordance with Regulation 40.4.3 may be fined or otherwise penalised for Misconduct under the GDR.

SCHEDULE 3 - 2026 SOUTH-WEST SENIOR WOMEN'S AWARDS

41. SOUTH-WEST SENIOR WOMEN'S LEAGUE AWARDS

41.1. Best & Fairest Votes

- 41.1.1. Regulations and confirmation pertaining to a South-West Senior Women's League Award will be communicated to Clubs prior to the commencement of the 2026 season.

41.2. South-West Senior Women's Division Top Goal Scorer Award

- 41.2.1. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV, the player who scores the most goals during the regular season will be awarded and deemed the South-West Senior Women's League Top Goal Scorer for the 2026 season.
- 41.2.2. FV will determine the South-West Senior Women's League Top Goal Scorer based on the data submitted into DRIBL via the Online Match Sheet Process.

SCHEDULE 3 - 2026 SOUTH-WEST JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

SOUTH-WEST JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

41.3. General Information

- 41.3.1. These Regulations shall apply to all FV South-West Competition Fixtures. If a particular matter is not covered by these Regulations, reference will be made to the Metropolitan Junior Regulations if they address that matter and the relevant regulation will apply.
- 41.3.2. Player ID cards (ID Cards) generated through DRIBL are required in all Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls Competition Fixtures. For clarity:
 - a. ID Cards must include an eligible photo uploaded to the participants PlayFootball account.
 - b. ID Cards are presented through DRIBL and can be presented via smart phones, tablets, laptops and computers.
 - c. Printed and photocopied ID cards from PlayFootball will no longer be required.
- 41.3.3. FV will determine the Junior League Structures at their absolute discretion. Where team numbers permit, Junior Leagues will be divided into 'A' or 'B' Grade.
- 41.3.4. The allocated day of play for all FV South-West Junior Competitions Sunday.
- 41.3.5. FV South-West Junior Competition Fixtures will only be played on Sunday's, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary.

41.4. Player Eligibility

- 41.4.1. A player may only play up to four (4) years above his or her age group, , unless an application to FV for exemption from Regulation 42.2.1 is made via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#) by the player's Club on behalf of the player and is accepted by FV.
- 41.4.2. An application made under Regulation 42.2.1 must meet the following minimum criteria:
 - a. the application is submitted via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#).
 - b. the application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club president supporting the application;
 - c. the application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's State Team/Representative Team coach or Club Technical Director;
 - d. the application must be supported by a signed letter of consent from the player's parent or guardian supporting the application;
 - e. the application must be supported by a signed letter of support from the player's medical professional listing general medical details of the player including height and weight; and
 - f. the Club/player must provide FV with any further information requested.
- 41.4.3. Any application made under Regulation 42.2.1 will be considered by FV. FV has the absolute discretion in relation to any application made under that Regulation.
- 41.4.4. A Player who is participating above their age group will not be prevented from returning to play in his or her rightful age group unless that Player is suspended.

SCHEDULE 3 - 2026 SOUTH-WEST JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- 41.4.5. For all Junior Competitions, a player who has played at a higher division in a particular age group (e.g. 12As) for five (5) Competition Fixtures or more, cannot drop to a lower category (e.g. 12Bs) within the same age group for his or her Club for the remainder of the Regulation Season (including Cup Competition Fixtures). This Regulation does not, however, prevent a player who is playing 'up' an age group returning to his or her rightful age group in accordance with Regulation 42.2.5.
- 41.4.6. A player may be granted a dispensation to play down a maximum of one (1) age group at FV's sole discretion as per the regulations within the FV Dispensation Policy.
- 41.4.7. FV may request information or clarification from a player or Club applying for dispensation under Regulation 42.2.2 as it sees necessary and will make a decision in relation to the dispensation request at its sole discretion.
- 41.4.8. FV may refuse to grant a dispensation requested under Regulation 42.2.2 in circumstances where the player in question has played in football in school or other competitions not administered by FV or FA. FV may seek further information from the Club in question before making a determination under this Regulation and the Club must submit that information as part of the dispensation request.
- 41.4.9. If a Club has two (2) Teams in the 'A' Division of a particular age group then players are team-tied from the fifth (5th) round Competition Fixture of the Regular Season. Clubs with tied Teams will be required to submit a Team list for each Team, listing the players within their designated Team. Any new player joining a Team must be allocated to only one (1) of the tied-Teams.

SCHEDULE 3 - 2026 SOUTH-WEST JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

41.5. South-West Junior Mixed Competition

- 41.5.1. Subject to Regulations 42.2.1 & 42.2.2, players in the following age groups may take part in the Junior Mixed & Boys' Competition 2026:

Age Group	Year of Birth
Twelves (12s)	Born on or after 1 January 2014
Fourteens (14s)	Born on or after 1 January 2012
Seventeens (17s)	Born on or after 1 January 2009

- 41.5.2. The preferred kick-off times for Junior Mixed & Boys' Competitions shall be as follows:

Age Group	Kick-off Time
Twelves (12s)	11:00 AM
Fourteens (14s)	12:15 PM
Seventeens (17s)	1:45 PM

- 41.5.3. FV alter kick-off times of any Competition Fixture within the Junior Mixed Competition upon the basis of a fixture clash or otherwise at its discretion.

41.6. South-West Junior Girls' Competition

- 41.6.1. Subject to Regulations 42.2.1 & 42.2.2, players in the following age groups may take part in the Junior Girls' Competition 2026:

Age Group	Year of Birth
Thirteens (13s)	Born on or after 1 January 2013
Fifteens (15s)	Born on or after 1 January 2011

- 41.6.2. The preferred kick-off times for Junior Girls' Competitions shall be as follows:

Age Group	Kick-off Time
Thirteens (13s)	9:30 AM
Fifteens (15s)	12:00 PM

SCHEDULE 3 - 2026 SOUTH-WEST JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

41.6.3. As an exception to the Venue Requirements as set out in Schedule 7, the South-West Junior Girls League in 2026 will be played as per Regulation 41.6.3.

FV South-West Junior Girls' Competition (7v7)	
Number of Players	7v7 Including Goalkeeper. Max of 5 Substitutes
Field of Play	Length: 60 – 70m Width 40-50m Preferably Box to Box dimensions on a full size senior field.
Goal Size and Type	Height 2m Width: 5m Permanent or portable goal must be compliant with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's Notice. 28 of 2010
Field Marking	Cones, Markers or Painted Lines are allowed
Penalty Area	Depth 10m Width: 20m Penalty Spot 7m from goal line
Duration of Game	2 x 30-minute halves
Half time	10 minutes
Referee	FV Appointed Referees
Assistant Referees	Club appointed Assisted Referees
Interchange	Maximum 5 Players
Ball Size	5
Offsides	No offsides
Goalkeepers	Goalkeepers are only permitted to throw or roll the ball
Centre Kick-Offs, Corner Kicks and Goal Kicks	All will take place as normal with opposition players at least 5 metres away
Throw Ins	Ball to be kicked in from the sideline

SCHEDULE 3 - 2026 SOUTH-WEST JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

41.7. Under 12 & Under 13 (9v9) Competition

- 41.7.1. As an exception to the Venue Requirements as set out in **Schedule 7**, the Junior Mixed Competitions in 2026 will be played as per regulation 42.5.1.

FV Community Under 12 & Under 13 Competition (9v9)	
Number of Players	9v9 Including Goalkeeper. Minimum of 7 players Max of 5 Substitutions
Field of Play	Length: 60 – 70m Width 40-50m
Goal Size and Type	Height: 2m Width: 5m Permanent or portable goal must be compliant with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's Notice. 28 of 2010
Field Marking	Cones, Markers or Painted Lines are allowed
Penalty Area	Depth: 10m Width: 20m Penalty Spot 7m from goal line
Duration of Game	2 x 30-minute halves
Half time	5 minutes
Referee	FV Appointed Green Armband Referees
Assistant Referees	Club appointed Assisted Referees
Interchange	Maximum 5 Players
Ball Size	4

- 41.7.2. The offside rule will apply for Under 12 and Under 13 9v9 competition as per IFAB Laws of the Game.
- 41.7.3. In accordance with IFAB Laws of the Game, a penalty kick will be awarded if a player commits a direct free kick offence inside their penalty area.
- 41.7.4. The goalkeeper is allowed to handle the ball anywhere in the penalty area. To restart play after a save or gathering the ball with their hands, the ball must be thrown or rolled from the hands or played from the ground with their feet within 6 seconds, the goalkeeper is not allowed to kick or dropkick the ball from their hands.
- 41.7.5. Goal kicks can be taken from anywhere within the penalty area. Opponents must be outside the penalty area until the ball is in play. The ball is in play once it is kicked and leaves the penalty area.
- 41.7.6. Opponents must be at least 6 metres away from the ball until it is in play. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.
- 41.7.7. Red and Yellow Cards will be issued as per IFAB Laws of the Game except in the following.
- 41.7.8. Where a player receives a red card, the match official will instruct the player to leave the field of play for the remainder of the match, any player sent from the field of play cannot be replaced by another player and that players Team who is dismissed is reduced by one (1).

SCHEDULE 3 - 2026 SOUTH-WEST JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

41.8. Composition of Leagues

- 41.8.1. Composition of Leagues is at the absolute discretion of FV.
- 41.8.2. Any provisions referred to in Regulation 42.6 are subject to FV South-West Competitions continuing in 2027 in the same, or substantively the same structure.
- 41.8.3. FV reserves the right to determine dates and times of Competition Fixtures with specific regards to the number of matches played.
- 41.8.4. Divisions of no less than six (6) Teams or greater than fifteen (15) Teams will be created.
- 41.8.5. Where there are sixteen (16) or more Team entries in any given Division, Teams may be split geographically to alleviate travel time.
- 41.8.6. FV's preferred Division size will remain ten (10) teams, with the remaining Teams maintaining a viable League of between six (6) and fifteen (15) Teams.
- 41.8.7. League tables will be recorded in FV South-West Junior Under 12 – 18 Competitions.

42. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

42.1. Interchange/Substitution

- 42.1.1. Interchange Rules – Mixed Under 12 – Under 18 Competitions:
 - a. For Under 12 – Under 13 a maximum of fourteen (14) players can be named on the Match Sheet. Clubs may take any number of interchanges during the course of the Competition Fixture, provided the Match Official has been consulted first and permits the substitution.
 - b. For Under 14 – Under 18 a maximum of seventeen (17) players can be named on the Match Sheet. Clubs may take any number of interchanges during the course of the Competition Fixture, provided the Match Official has been consulted first and permits the substitution.
 - c. A Match Official may decline the interchange if players in the last five (5) minutes of the second half of a Competition Fixture if in their opinion the change is being made to deliberately delay play.

42.2. Additional Time

- 42.2.1. Additional Time shall not be played for FV South-West Junior Competition Fixtures.

SCHEDULE 3 - 2026 SOUTH-WEST JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

42.3. Match Balls

42.3.1. The following ball sizes apply:

Age Group	Ball Size
Under Twelve (12) Mixed	Size 4
Under Fourteen (14) Mixed	Size 5
Under Seventeen (17) Mixed	Size 5
Under Thirteen (13) Girls	Size 4
Under Fifteen (15) Girls	Size 5

42.3.2. The Home Club shall provide the appointed Match Official with three (3) match balls of the appropriate size for that age group no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled Competition Fixture.

42.3.3. All Clubs must use a licensed match ball from FV's official and exclusive match ball partner Mitre for all Competition Fixtures.

- a. South-West Junior Competition Fixtures are recommended to use a Mitre Impel One or higher match ball.

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

42.3.5. A failure to comply with Regulation 43.3 may result in a fine as set out in the GDR.

42.4. Results of FV Competition Fixtures

42.4.1. All results including goal scorers and cautions (red and yellow cards) must be submitted by the Match Official immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture via DRIBL as part of the post-game submission process.

42.4.2. Should there be no Match Official appointed to the fixture, the Home Team must appoint and list a Non-Accredited Referee pre-game and confirm the following details of the match via DRIBL immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture:

- a. Minimum Requirements
 - (i) Half Time Score
 - (ii) Full Time Score
 - (iii) Home & Away Team Goal Scorers
 - (iv) Home & Away Team Cautions

42.4.3. All red card cautions for U14 – U18 Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls Competitions must be submitted by the appointed Match Official or on an occasion where a non-accredited referee is appointed, by the Home Club via DRIBL.

42.4.4. For the purpose of 4.4.a of the GDR, accumulation of yellow cards does not apply to all Junior Mixed/ Girls (U12 – U18) Community Competitions.

42.4.5. All Competition Fixture results must be submitted via DRIBL.

42.4.6. Clubs which fail to submit Competition Fixture results in accordance with 43.4.2 may be penalised under the GDR.

SCHEDULE 3 - 2026 SOUTH-WEST MINIROOS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

43. SOUTH-WEST MINIROOS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

43.1. General Information

- 43.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all MiniRoos Competition Fixtures in line with the [Football Victoria MiniRoos Guidelines](#).
- 43.1.2. All MiniRoos participants must be registered via Play Football and made active via Play Football and DRIBL in order to be eligible to participate in a MiniRoos fixture.
- 43.1.3. FV will determine the MiniRoos League structures at their absolute discretion.
- 43.1.4. MiniRoos Competition Fixtures will only be played on a Saturday or Sunday, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary, or otherwise approves.
- 43.1.5. Clubs will self-nominate their MiniRoos Teams during the Team Entry Period. All Teams will be placed in a league that corresponds to the requests of the Club where possible. FV advises Clubs to categorise their MiniRoos Teams according to the below guidelines:
 - a. Kangaroos
 - (i) strong grasp of football skills
 - b. Wallabies
 - (ii) beginning to develop football skills
 - c. Joeys
 - (iii) no or little previous experience

43.2. MiniRoos Mixed & Girls Competitions Age Groups

- 43.2.1. The following age groups may take part in the MiniRoos Mixed Competition in 2026:
 - a. Mixed Under 8s
 - b. Mixed Under 10s

SCHEDULE 3 - 2026 SOUTH-WEST MINIROOS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

43.2.2. MiniRoos Players can move freely between age groups (Under 7 – Under 11), playing above or below their age group as determined by their current stage of development, if the Player is unable to participate in their rightful age group, it is preferable that participants play down one (1), or no more than two (2), age groups

Age Group	Year of Birth
Sixes (6s)	Born on or after 1 January 2020
Sevens (7s)	Born on or after 1 January 2019
Eights (8s)	Born on or after 1 January 2018
Nines (9s)	Born on or after 1 January 2017
Tens (10s)	Born on or after 1 January 2016
Elevens (11s)	Born on or after 1 January 2015

43.3. MiniRoos Mixed & Girls Competition Format

43.3.1. All MiniRoos Competition Formats will be played as per Regulation 23.3.1.

FV MINIROOS COMPETITIONS			
	UNDER 6 & 7	UNDER 8 & 9	UNDER 10 & 11
Number of Players	4 v 4 (+3 SUBS)	7 v 7 (+ 4 subs)	9 v 9 (+ 5 subs)
Field of Play	30m x 20m	¼ Full Size Pitch Min: 40m x 30m Max 50m x 40m	½ Full Size Pitch Min: 60m x 40m Max: 70m x 50m
Goal Size	Width: 2m Height: 1m	Width: 3m Height: 2m	Width: 5m Height: 2m
Field Marking	Markers or line markings	Markers or line markings	Markers or line markings
Penalty Area	Nil	Depth: 5m Width: 12m	Depth: 10m Width: 20m
Duration of Game	2 x 20 minutes	2 x 20 minutes	2 x 25 minutes
Half time	5 minutes	5 minutes	5 minutes
Referee	Game Leader	Game Leader	Game Leader
Offside	No	No	No
Interchange	Maximum 3 Players	Maximum 4 Players	Maximum 5 Players
Ball Size	3	3	4
Slide Tackles	Coaches and Game Leaders should encourage all players to remain on their feet when defending.		
Points Table	No	No	No
Match Sheets	No	No	No

2026 RULES OF COMPETITION

GREATER BENDIGO



**FOOTBALL
VICTORIA**

SCHEDULE 4 - 2026 GREATER BENDIGO COMPETITION REGULATIONS

SCHEDULE 4 – 2026 GREATER BENDIGO REGION COMPETITION REGULATIONS

44. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

44.1. General Information

- 44.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all FV Greater Bendigo Competition Fixtures.
- 44.1.2. Number of teams is determined by FV in its absolute discretion.

44.2. Team Entry / Age Groups

- 44.2.1. 2026 FV Greater Bendigo Competitions shall run in the following age groups;
 - a. Senior Men
 - b. Senior Women
 - c. Youth Under 18
 - d. Mixed Under 16
 - e. Mixed Under 14
 - f. Mixed Under 12
 - g. Girls' Under 16
 - h. Girls' Under 14
 - i. Girls' Under 12
 - j. Mixed MiniRoos (U6, U7, U8, U9, U10)
 - k. Girls' MiniRoos (U7, U8, U10)
- 44.2.2. Clubs competing in FV Greater Bendigo Competitions may apply to enter any number of Teams, new or existing, in any one age group, however FV have absolute discretion when accepting Team Entries and allocating the composition of leagues.
- 44.2.3. Any Late Team Entries submitted after the closure of the Team Entry Period will only be accepted at FV's sole discretion.
- 44.2.4. Further to Regulation 45.2.3, if a vacancy does not exist, FV will consider entering a 'late' Team.
- 44.2.5. Where a Late Team Entry is accepted by FV and that Team commences in a League after the commencement of the Regular Season, FV will determine the allocation of forfeits for the number of Competition Fixtures missed by that Team (as a result of late inclusion in the League in question) at its absolute discretion.
- 44.2.6. No FV Regional Club competing in FV Regional Competitions or included as a member of a Regional Advisory Panel, will be permitted to enter Teams(s) into FV Metropolitan Competitions (excluding CPL, Junior Advanced Competitions, State League Men's/Women's, VPL and NPL Competitions) unless it satisfies criteria including all of the following:

SCHEDULE 4 - 2026 GREATER BENDIGO COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- a. That, in the opinion of FV, it is deemed that such a request does not directly or indirectly impact the viability of any FV Greater Bendigo Competition;
 - b. That the Club fields (and/or has already fielded) an additional Team(s) into the same or similar age group in FV Greater Bendigo competitions or in any other League as required by FV;
 - c. That in the opinion of FV, it is deemed that such a request has been reasonably made because the desired age group(s) Division and/or gender of the Team is not already available within FV Greater Bendigo competitions or that of any other regional association within reasonable proximity to the Club;
 - d. That the Club acknowledges that if is permitted to enter Team(s) into Metropolitan competitions, but thereafter fails to field the Team(s) in the FV Greater Bendigo competitions for the duration of the Regular Season, its Team(s) may be ineligible to earn match points or be subject to other penalties as determined at the sole discretion of FV; and
 - e. That the Clubs license agreement with FV allows them to enter teams within metropolitan structures; and
 - f. Any other criteria as promulgated by FV from time to time,
- 44.2.7. FV reserves the right in its absolute discretion to amend the structure of Greater Bendigo Competitions, including varying the number of Clubs in each Division and/or the number of Divisions, before, during or after the Regular Season. Amendments may be as a result of FA actions, including the establishment of any new or varied FA Leagues or Divisions (including a National Second Tier), or compulsory Player pathways.

44.3. Regrading / Grading Period

- 44.3.1. FV in its absolute discretion will determine whether a regrading / grading period will occur within a competition season.
- 44.3.2. Should a regrading period be applicable to FV Greater Bendigo Competitions, reference will be made within the specific Competitions regulations within the Rules of Competition.

44.4. Admittance to Competition Fixtures

- 44.4.1. Admittance to all FV Greater Bendigo Competition Fixture is free of charge, including car parking.

SCHEDULE 4 - 2026 GREATER BENDIGO FINALS SERIES

45. GREATER BENDIGO FINALS SERIES

45.1. General Information

- 45.1.1. Subject to this Regulation and unless otherwise determined by the FV Competitions Team, the Teams that are eligible for the Finals Series of their respective League at the conclusion of the Regular Season may progress to the Finals Series.
- 45.1.2. The Super Cup/Final Series for Greater Bendigo senior and junior competitions will be structured depending on the number of Teams in a particular age and League. The following Elimination Formats may be applied:
- a. **Elimination Finals Format**, for example:
- (i) If there are six (6) Teams in a particular League, the top four (4) Teams may qualify and playoff in the below format:
- 1st placed Team may playoff against 4th placed Team in Semi-Final 1.
 - 2nd placed Team may playoff against 3rd placed Team in Semi-Final 2.
 - The winners of Semi-Final 1 & 2 may playoff in the Grand Final to determine the Champion of their respective League.
- (ii) If there are eight (8) – twelve (12) Teams in a particular League, the top six (6) Teams may qualify and playoff in the below format:
- 3rd placed Team may playoff against 6th placed Team in Quarter-Final 1.
 - 4th placed Team may playoff against 5th placed Team in Quarter-Final 2.
 - 1st placed Team may playoff against Quarter-Final 1 winner in Semi-Final 2.
 - 2nd placed Team may playoff against Quarter-Final 2 winner in Semi-Final 1.
 - The winners of Semi-Final 1 & 2 may playoff in a Grand Final to determine the Champion of their respective League.

45.2. Procedure to Determine the Winner of Finals

- 45.2.1. All Cup Competition Fixtures will be played over one (1) leg.
- 45.2.2. If, at the conclusion of any Finals Fixture, the scores between the Teams are tied, extra time of two equal periods of 15 minutes (seniors) & 10 minutes (juniors) will be used will be used to decide the winner.
- 45.2.3. If the scores are level at the end of extra time, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game to determine the winner of the match.
- 45.2.4. The Team who wins the Final will become Champions for their league, unless otherwise determined by FV.
- 45.2.5. The Team who loses the Final will become the Runner Up for their league, unless otherwise determined by FV.

SCHEDULE 4 - 2026 GREATER BENDIGO FINALS SERIES

45.3. Discipline

- 45.3.1. All Suspensions from the Regular Season will carry over to the Cup Competitions.
- 45.3.2. A player that receives a Red Card during the Final Series will automatically miss the next Competition Fixture (whether or not that fixture is Final) and may be subject to further sanction in accordance with the GDR.
- 45.3.3. Yellow cards accumulated by a player during the Finals Series will not be counted for the purposes of clause 4.4(a) of the GDR. However, if a player receives their 5th yellow card in their Club's final Regular Season Competition Fixture they shall be suspended for their first Cup Competition Fixture.

45.4. Player Restrictions

- 45.4.1. Each player must have Played at least four (4) Regular Season Competition Fixtures for that Team to qualify for that Cup Competition for that Team.
- 45.4.2. Players who play for multiple Senior Teams for the same Club across multiple Senior Leagues, the following will apply:
 - a. If a Player is eligible to Play in their Clubs higher division Cup Fixture (i.e., Men's Reserves League to Men's Senior League) and Plays in a fixture in which that Team loses, the Player will be deemed Cup Tied and ineligible to return to the Clubs next lower division Cup Competition Fixture.
- 45.4.3. FV will only consider an exception to Regulation 45.4.1 in exceptional circumstances and where a Club/Team can establish that it is unable to field a Team for a Final (in compliance with Regulation 45.4.1) due to insufficient player numbers as a result of availability (including injury). Any Club wishing to rely on such an exception must apply to FV:
 - a. via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#);
 - b. at least five (5) days before the Cup Competition Fixture is due to take place;
 - c. setting out the reasons it requests an exception be granted to Regulation 45.4.1, providing evidence in support of player unavailability; and
 - d. provide FV with any further information required.
- 45.4.4. FV will consider any request made in accordance with Regulation 45.4.3 together with all information provided in support of that request and make a decision regarding any exception requested. Any decision made in this regard is at the sole discretion of FV and is not subject to review or appeal.
- 45.4.5. A player may be granted a dispensation to play down a maximum of one (1) age group at FV's sole discretion as per the regulations within the FV Dispensation Policy.
- 45.4.6. FV may request information or clarification from a player or Club applying for dispensation as it sees fit and will make a decision in relation to the dispensation request at its sole discretion.
- 45.4.7. FV may refuse to grant a dispensation requested at its sole discretion and this decision is considered as final.

SCHEDULE 4 - 2026 GREATER BENDIGO SENIOR MEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

46. GREATER BENDIGO SENIOR MEN'S LEAGUE COMPETITION REGULATIONS

46.1. General Information

- 46.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all FV Greater Bendigo Senior Men's League Competition Fixtures.
- 46.1.2. FV Greater Bendigo Senior Men's Competitions shall comprise of two (2) Senior Leagues and one (1) Reserves League, or such other number determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 46.1.3. Number of Teams is determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 46.1.4. FV Greater Bendigo Senior & Reserves Men's Leagues shall compromise of a maximum of twelve (12) Teams.
- 46.1.5. Clubs can only enter one (1) Team to compete in each Senior Men's League 1 and Men's Reserves League and must field a Team in both leagues as a requirement
- 46.1.6. Clubs can enter any number of Teams to compete in the FV Greater Bendigo Senior Men's League 2 Competition.
- 46.1.7. Competition Fixtures will be played on Saturday's and Sunday's, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary.
- 46.1.8. Saturday and Sunday Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 11:00am or later than 8:30pm, unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.
- 46.1.9. Matches may only be played on public holidays with the permission of FV.
- 46.1.10. The applicable kick off times for Sunday Competition Fixtures apply to any matches held on public holidays.

46.2. Player Eligibility

- 46.2.1. To be eligible to participate in Senior Men's Competitions run by FV, Players must turn 15 years (or older) as at 1 January 2026, unless an application to FV for an exemption from this Regulation is made via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#) by the Player's Club on behalf of a Player and is accepted by FV.
- 46.2.2. An application made under Regulation 46.2.1. must meet the following minimum criteria:
 - a. The application is submitted via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#).
 - b. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club president supporting the application;
 - c. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club Technical Director;
 - d. The application must be supported by a signed letter of consent from the player's parent or guardian supporting the application;
 - e. The application must be supported by a signed letter of support from the player's medical professional listing general medical details of the player including height and weight and;
 - f. The Club/player must provide FV with any further information requested.

SCHEDULE 4 - 2026 GREATER BENDIGO SENIOR MEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- 46.2.3. An application made under Regulation 46.2.1. will be considered by FV. FV has sole discretion in relation to any application made under that Regulation.
- 46.2.4. Where a Competition has both a Senior & Reserves League, there are no restrictions on player movement between those two Teams on any given weekend.
- 46.2.5. Once a Player has played in five (5) State League Men's Senior or Metropolitan League Men's fixtures, that Player will be deemed ineligible to compete in any of his Club's Greater Bendigo Senior Men's League Competition Teams for the remainder of the Regular Season (including Finals). Players under the age of 18 as of 1 January 2026 are exempt from regulation 46.2.5.
- 46.2.6. Players who are participating in both the FV Metropolitan Senior Competitions and the Greater Bendigo Senior Men's League Competition can only be registered to one (1) Registration Type on PlayFootball. Being registered and made active to either Registration Type '2.4 2026 State League Men's' or '2.5 2026 Community Seniors' will allow players to play in both Metropolitan and Greater Bendigo Competitions.
- 46.2.7. For each Greater Bendigo Senior Men's League 2 Team, no more than three (3) players who were listed on a Match Sheet in any of their Clubs Senior Men's League 1, or Reserves League Teams on any given weekend will be eligible to play in a Greater Bendigo Senior Men's League 2 Competition Fixture that same weekend. Players under the age of 18 as of 1 January 2026 are exempt from regulation 46.2.6.
 - a. For clarity if the player is listed on the Match Sheet and does not take the field, they are deemed to have Played in the fixture, as such they will be included in the three (3) players eligible to play in the fixture.
- 46.2.8. If a Club has multiple Teams in the same League then players are 'team-tied' following completion of the sixth (6th) round of the Regular Season to one of those teams. Clubs will be required to submit a Team list for each Team for Round 7 onwards, listing each player, which will be tied to that particular team for the remainder of the regular season. Any new player joining one of those Teams after the sixth (6th) round must be allocated to (and can only play for) one (1) of the tied-Teams for the remainder of the Regular Season. Players under the age of 18 as of 1 January 2026 are exempt from regulation 46.2.7.

46.3. Promotion and Relegation

- 46.3.1. The Premier of Greater Bendigo Senior Men's League 2 may be eligible for promotion to Greater Bendigo Senior Men's League 1 the following season, provided that Club meets the requirement of fielding a Reserves Team in League 1.
- 46.3.2. The Club finishing in last position of Greater Bendigo Senior Men's League 1 may be relegated to Greater Bendigo Senior Men's League 2 the following season.
- 46.3.3. Should the Premier of Greater Bendigo Senior Men's League 2 already field a Team in Greater Bendigo Senior Men's League 1, the Clubs finishing Runners-Up of Greater Bendigo Senior Men's League 2 may be eligible for promotion.
- 46.3.4. Should the Premier and Runners-Up of Greater Bendigo Senior Men's League 2 both field Teams in Greater Bendigo Senior Men's League 1, the Team which was to be relegated from Greater Bendigo Senior Men's League 1 will retain their position for the following season.
- 46.3.5. Promotion and relegation positions are at the absolute discretion of FV and may be amended at any time prior to the commencement of the competition season, during the competition season or post the competition season.

SCHEDULE 4 - 2026 GREATER BENDIGO SENIOR MEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

47. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

47.1. Interchange / Substitution

- 47.1.1. A maximum of seventeen (17) Players may be named on the Match Sheet.
- 47.1.2. Each Greater Bendigo Senior Men's League 1 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.
- 47.1.3. Each Greater Benigo Reserves Men's League and Senior Men's League 2 may make any number of interchanges during the course of the Competition Fixture, provided the Match Official has been consulted first.
- 47.1.4. A Match Official may decline the interchange of players in the last five (5) minutes of the second half of a Competition Fixture if in their opinion the change is being made to deliberately delay play.
- 47.1.5. All substitutes must be seated within the Technical Area.

47.2. Match Balls

- 47.2.1. The Home Club 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.
- 47.2.2. All Clubs must use a licensed match ball from FV's official and exclusive match ball partner Mitre for all Competition Fixtures.
 - a. FV Greater Bendigo Senior Competition Fixtures are recommended to use a Mitre Delta One or higher match ball.
- 47.2.3. Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to FV by the Match Official.
- 47.2.4. A failure to comply with Regulation 47.2 may result in a fine as set out in the GDR.

47.3. Additional Time

- 47.3.1. Additional time for FV Greater Bendigo Senior Men's Competition Fixtures must be played in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game.

47.4. Results of FV Competition Fixtures

- 47.4.1. All player lists must be submitted by the home/away Team prior to the commencement of the match as part of the DRIBL Online Match Sheet Process.
- 47.4.2. All results including goal scorers, substitutions, cautions and Best & Fairest Votes must be submitted by the Match Official immediately after the conclusion of the Competition via DRIBL as part of the post-game submission process.
- 47.4.3. Should there be no Match Official appointed to the fixture, the Home Team must appoint and list a Non-Accredited Referee pre-game and confirm the following details from the match via DRIBL immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture:
 - a. Minimum Requirements
 - (i) Half Time Score
 - (ii) Full Time Score

SCHEDULE 4 - 2026 GREATER BENDIGO SENIOR MEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

(iii) Home & Away Team Goal Scorers

(iv) Home & Away Team Cautions

47.4.4. Clubs which fail to submit results, cautions goal scorers and substitutions (when requested or when a match official is not present) in accordance with Regulation 47.4.3 may be fined or otherwise penalised for Misconduct under the GDR.

SCHEDULE 4 - 2026 GREATER BENDIGO SENIOR MEN'S AWARDS

48. GREATER BENDIGO SENIOR MEN'S LEAGUE AWARDS

48.1. Best & Fairest Votes

- 48.1.1. At the conclusion of each Greater Bendigo Senior Men's League 1, Men's Reserves League and Senior Men's League 2 Competition Fixture, the Match Official must complete the Best & Fairest Votes and submit those votes to FV through the DRIBL Online Match Sheet Process immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture.
- 48.1.2. All votes must be recorded on DRIBL as part of the Online Match Sheet Process.
- 48.1.3. All votes must be treated with the highest confidentiality.
- 48.1.4. 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 each Competition Fixture.
- 48.1.5. A failure to comply with Regulation 48.1.1. may result in a Match Official being suspended from officiating or demoted to a lower Division.
- 48.1.6. A player who receives a Suspension (as defined in the GDR) during a Competition Fixture in a specific league during the Regular Season (excluding Playoff and Finals matches) shall be ineligible to win the Best and Fairest Award in that given League. To avoid doubt this includes but is not limited to a player who receives five (5) Yellow Cards or more in a Regular Season.
- 48.1.7. A player who has a Direct Red Card revoked for mistaken identity shall be eligible to win the award.
- 48.1.8. In the event of no appointed FV Match Official, the Non-Appointed Referee is to submit their Best & Fairest votes post-game to the Home Club Team Official. These votes are then to be submitted to the Greater Bendigo Referee Appointments Officer by the nominated Home Club Team Official by no later than 9am Wednesday following the Competition Fixture.
- 48.1.9. If two (2) or more players have the same number of Best & Fairest votes at the conclusion of the Regular Season, multiple Best & Fairest winners will be awarded for the League.
- 48.1.10. Players that have played at more than one Club/Team or have played in more than one League in the 2026 season will have votes and/or goals recognized as follows:
 - a. Votes and/or goals in multiple Leagues: The Player's votes and/or goals earned in each League will be considered separate and do not carry over, irrespective of whether they were earned with the same Club or after transferring from one Club to another.
 - b. Votes and/or goals at multiple Clubs in the same League: if a Player plays for more than one Club in the same League in the same Regular Season, the player's votes and/or goals are tallied together, however the Player will only be recognized in terms of his or her award as a Player for the Club at which the player finishes the Regular Season.

48.2. Greater Bendigo Senior Men's Top Goal Scorer Award

- 48.2.1. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV, the player who scores the most goals during the regular season will be awarded and deemed the Greater Bendigo Senior Men's League 1, Men's Reserves League and Senior Men's League 2 Top Goal Scorer of their respective competition.

SCHEDULE 4 - 2026 GREATER BENDIGO SENIOR MEN'S AWARDS

- 48.2.2. FV will determine the Greater Bendigo Senior Men's League 1, Men's Reserves League and Senior Men's League 2 Top Goal Scorer based on the data submitted into DRIBL via the Online Match Sheet Process.

SCHEDULE 4 - 2026 GREATER BENDIGO SENIOR WOMEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

49. GREATER BENDIGO SENIOR WOMEN'S LEAGUE COMPETITION REGULATIONS

49.1. General Information

- 49.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all FV Greater Bendigo Senior Women's League Competition Fixtures.
- 49.1.2. FV Greater Bendigo Senior Women's Competitions shall comprise of two (2) Senior Leagues, or such other number determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 49.1.3. Number of Teams is determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 49.1.4. FV Greater Bendigo Senior Women's Leagues shall compromise of a maximum of twelve (12) Teams.
- 49.1.5. Should only one (1) competition be available, Clubs can enter any number of Teams to compete in the FV Greater Bendigo Senior Women's League 1 Competition.
- 49.1.6. Competition Fixtures will be played on Saturday's and Sunday's, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary.
- 49.1.7. Saturday and Sunday Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 11:00am or later than 8:30pm, unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.
- 49.1.8. Matches may only be played on public holidays with the permission of FV.
- 49.1.9. The applicable kick off times for Sunday Competition Fixtures apply to any matches held on public holidays.

49.2. Player Eligibility

- 49.2.1. To be eligible to participate in Senior Women's Competitions run by FV, Players must turn 14 years (or older) as at 1 January 2026, unless an application to FV for an exemption from this Regulation is made via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#) by the Player's Club on behalf of a Player and is accepted by FV.
- 49.2.2. An application made under Regulation 49.2.1. must meet the following minimum criteria:
 - a. The application is submitted via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#).
 - b. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club president supporting the application;
 - c. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club Technical Director;
 - d. The application must be supported by a signed letter of consent from the player's parent or guardian supporting the application;
 - e. The application must be supported by a signed letter of support from the player's medical professional listing general medical details of the player including height and weight and;
 - f. The Club/player must provide FV with any further information requested.
- 49.2.3. An application made under Regulation 49.2.1. will be considered by FV. FV has sole discretion in relation to any application made under that Regulation.

SCHEDULE 4 - 2026 GREATER BENDIGO SENIOR WOMEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- 49.2.4. Once a Player has played in five (5) State League Women's Senior or Metropolitan League Women's fixtures, that Player will be deemed ineligible to compete in any of her Club's Greater Bendigo Senior Women's League Competition Teams for the remainder of the Regular Season (including Finals). Players under the age of 18 as of 1 January 2026 are exempt from regulation 49.2.4.
- 49.2.5. Players who are participating in both the FV Metropolitan Senior Competitions and the Greater Bendigo Senior Women's League Competition can only be registered to one (1) Registration Type on PlayFootball. Being registered and made active to either Registration Type '2.3 2026 State League Women' or '2.5 2026 Community Seniors' will allow players to play in both Metropolitan and Greater Bendigo Competitions.
- 49.2.6. Once a Player has played at a higher Division for ten (10) Competition Fixtures or more, they will be considered ineligible for any Greater Bendigo Senior Women's League matches in a lower Division (i.e., Greater Bendigo Senior Women's League 2) for their Club for the remainder of the Regular Season (including Cup/Finals). Players under the age of 18 as of 1 January 2026 are exempt from regulation 49.2.6.
- 49.2.7. For each Greater Bendigo Senior Women's League 2 Team, no more than three (3) players who were listed on a Match Sheet in any of their Clubs Senior Women's League 1, Teams on any given weekend will be eligible to play in a Greater Bendigo Senior Women's League 2 Competition Fixture that same weekend. Players under the age of 18 as of 1 January 2026 are exempt from regulation 49.2.7.
- a. For clarity if the player is listed on the Match Sheet and does not take the field, they are deemed to have Played in the fixture, as such they will be included in the three (3) players eligible to play in the fixture.
- 49.2.8. If a Club has multiple Teams in the same League then players are 'team-tied' following completion of the sixth (6th) round of the Regular Season to one of those teams. Clubs will be required to submit a Team list for each Team for Round 7 onwards, listing each player, which will be tied to that particular team for the remainder of the regular season. Any new player joining one of those Teams after the sixth (6th) round must be allocated to (and can only play for) one (1) of the tied-Teams for the remainder of the Regular Season. Players under the age of 18 as of 1 January 2026 are exempt from regulation 49.2.8.

49.3. Promotion and Relegation

- 49.3.1. The Premier of Greater Bendigo Senior Women's League 2 may be eligible for promotion to Greater Bendigo Senior Women's League 1 the following season.
- 49.3.2. The Club finishing in last position of Greater Bendigo Senior Women's League 1 may be relegated to Greater Bendigo Senior Women's League 2 the following season.
- 49.3.3. Should the Premier of Greater Bendigo Senior Women's League 2 already field a Team in Greater Bendigo Senior Women's League 1, the Clubs finishing Runners-Up of Greater Bendigo Senior Women's League 2 may be eligible for promotion.
- 49.3.4. Should the Premier and Runners-Up of Greater Bendigo Senior Women's League 2 both field Teams in Greater Bendigo Senior Women's League 1, the Team which was to be relegated from Greater Bendigo Senior Women's League 1 will retain their position for the following season.
- 49.3.5. Promotion and relegation positions are at the absolute discretion of FV and may be amended at any time prior to the commencement of the competition season, during the competition season or post the competition season.

SCHEDULE 4 - 2026 GREATER BENDIGO SENIOR WOMEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

50. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

50.1. Interchange / Substitution

- 50.1.1. A maximum of seventeen (17) Players may be named on the Match Sheet.
- 50.1.2. Each Greater Bendigo Senior Women's League 1 and 2 Team may make any number of interchanges during the course of the Competition Fixture, provided the Match Official has been consulted first.
- 50.1.3. A Match Official may decline the interchange of players in the last five (5) minutes of the second half of a Competition Fixture if in their opinion the change is being made to deliberately delay play.
- 50.1.4. All substitutes must be seated within the Technical Area.

50.2. Match Balls

- 50.2.1. The Home Club 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.
- 50.2.2. All Clubs must use a licensed match ball from FV's official and exclusive match ball partner Mitre for all Competition Fixtures.
 - a. FV Greater Bendigo Senior Competition Fixtures are recommended to use a Mitre Delta One or higher match ball.
- 50.2.3. Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to FV by the Match Official.
- 50.2.4. A failure to comply with Regulation 50.2 may result in a fine as set out in the GDR.

50.3. Additional Time

- 50.3.1. Additional time for FV Greater Bendigo Senior Women's Competition Fixtures must be played in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game.

50.4. Results of FV Competition Fixtures

- 50.4.1. All player lists must be submitted by the home/away Team prior to the commencement of the match as part of the DRIBL Online Match Sheet Process.
- 50.4.2. All results including goal scorers, cautions and Best & Fairest Votes must be submitted by the Match Official immediately after the conclusion of the Competition via DRIBL as part of the post-game submission process.
- 50.4.3. Should there be no Match Official appointed to the fixture, the Home Team must appoint and list a Non-Accredited Referee pre-game and confirm the following details from the match via DRIBL immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture:
 - a. Minimum Requirements
 - (i) Half Time Score
 - (ii) Full Time Score
 - (iii) Home & Away Team Goal Scorers
 - (iv) Home & Away Team Cautions

SCHEDULE 4 - 2026 GREATER BENDIGO SENIOR WOMEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- 50.4.4. Clubs which fail to submit results, cautions goal scorers and substitutions (when requested or when a match official is not present) in accordance with Regulation 50.4.3 may be fined or otherwise penalised for Misconduct under the GDR.

SCHEDULE 4 - 2026 GREATER BENDIGO SENIOR WOMEN'S LEAGUE AWARDS

51. GREATER BENDIGO SENIOR WOMEN'S LEAGUE AWARDS

51.1. Best & Fairest Votes

- 51.1.1. At the conclusion of each Greater Bendigo Senior Women's League Competition Fixture, the Match Official must complete the Best & Fairest Votes and submit those votes to FV through the DRIBL Online Match Sheet Process immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture.
- 51.1.2. All votes must be recorded on DRIBL as part of the Online Match Sheet Process.
- 51.1.3. All votes must be treated with the highest confidentiality.
- 51.1.4. 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 each Competition Fixture.
- 51.1.5. A failure to comply with Regulation 51.1.1. may result in a Match Official being suspended from officiating or demoted to a lower Division.
- 51.1.6. A player who receives a Suspension (as defined in the GDR) during a Competition Fixture in a specific league during the Regular Season (excluding Playoff and Finals matches) shall be ineligible to win the Best and Fairest Award in that given League. To avoid doubt this includes but is not limited to a player who receives five (5) Yellow Cards or more in a Regular Season.
- 51.1.7. A player who has a Direct Red Card revoked for mistaken identity shall be eligible to win the award.
- 51.1.8. In the event of no appointed FV Match Official, the Non-Appointed Referee is to submit their Best & Fairest votes post-game to the Home Club Team Official. These votes are then to be submitted to the Greater Bendigo Referee Appointments Officer by the nominated Home Club Team Official by no later than 9am Wednesday following the Competition Fixture.
- 51.1.9. If two (2) or more players have the same number of Best & Fairest votes at the conclusion of the Regular Season, multiple Best & Fairest winners will be awarded for the League.
- 51.1.10. Players that have played at more than one Club/Team or have played in more than one League in the 2026 season will have votes and/or goals recognized as follows:
 - a. Votes and/or goals in multiple Leagues: The Player's votes and/or goals earned in each League will be considered separate and do not carry over, irrespective of whether they were earned with the same Club or after transferring from one Club to another.
 - b. Votes and/or goals at multiple Clubs in the same League: if a Player plays for more than one Club in the same League in the same Regular Season, the player's votes and/or goals are tallied together, however the Player will only be recognized in terms of his or her award as a Player for the Club at which the player finishes the Regular Season.

51.2. Greater Bendigo Senior Women's Top Goal Scorer Award

- 51.2.1. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV, the player who scores the most goals during the regular season will be awarded and deemed the Greater Bendigo Senior Women's League Top Goal Scorer for the 2026 season for their respective league.
- 51.2.2. FV will determine the Greater Bendigo Senior Women's League Top Goal Scorer based on the data submitted into DRIBL via the Online Match Sheet Process.

SCHEDULE 4 - 2026 GREATER BENDIGO YOUTH & JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

52. GREATER BENDIGO YOUTH & JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

52.1. General Information

- 52.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all FV Greater Bendigo Youth and Junior Mixed /Girls Competition Fixtures.
- 52.1.2. Player ID cards (ID Cards) generated through DRIBL are required in all Youth and Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls Competitions Fixtures. For clarity:
 - a. ID Cards must include an eligible photo uploaded to the participants PlayFootball account.
 - b. ID Cards are presented through DRIBL and can be presented via smart phones, tablets, laptops and computers.
 - c. Printed and photocopied ID cards from PlayFootball will no longer be required.
- 52.1.3. FV will determine the Junior League Structures at their absolute discretion. Where team numbers permit, Junior Leagues will be divided into 'A', 'B', 'C' or 'D' Grade.
- 52.1.4. Number of Teams is determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 52.1.5. FV Greater Bendigo Youth League shall comprise of a maximum of twelve (12) Teams.
- 52.1.6. Clubs can enter any number of Teams to compete in the FV Greater Bendigo Junior Competitions.
- 52.1.7. Clubs with more than one Team in a particular age group must enter one (1) of those Teams in an 'A' Competition where more than one League is operating for that particular age group.
- 52.1.8. Competition Fixtures will be played on Saturday's for MiniRoos and Junior Competitions. Youth League Competition Fixtures will be played on Saturday's and Sunday's although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary.
- 52.1.9. Matches may only be played on public holidays with the permission of FV.
- 52.1.10. The applicable kick off times for Sunday Competition Fixtures apply to any matches held on public holidays.

52.2. Player Eligibility

- 52.2.1. A player may only play up to four (4) years above his or her age group, , unless an application to FV for exemption from Regulation 52.2.1 is made via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#) by the player's Club on behalf of the player and is accepted by FV.
- 52.2.2. An application made under Regulation 52.2.1 must meet the following minimum criteria:
 - a. the application is submitted via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#).
 - b. the application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club president supporting the application;
 - c. the application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's State Team/Representative Team coach or Club Technical Director;

SCHEDULE 4 - 2026 GREATER BENDIGO YOUTH & JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- d. the application must be supported by a signed letter of consent from the player's parent or guardian supporting the application;
 - e. the application must be supported by a signed letter of support from the player's medical professional listing general medical details of the player including height and weight; and
 - f. the Club/player must provide FV with any further information requested.
- 52.2.3. Any application made under Regulation 52.2.1 will be considered by FV. FV has the absolute discretion in relation to any application made under that Regulation.
- 52.2.4. A Player who is participating above their age group will not be prevented from returning to play in his or her rightful age group unless that Player is suspended.
- 52.2.5. For all Junior Competitions, a player who has played at a higher division in a particular age group (e.g. 12As) for five (5) Competition Fixtures or more, cannot drop to a lower category (e.g. 12Bs) within the same age group for his or her Club for the remainder of the Regulation Season (including Cup Competition Fixtures). This Regulation does not, however, prevent a player who is playing 'up' an age group returning to his or her rightful age group in accordance with Regulation 52.2.5.
- 52.2.6. A player may be granted a dispensation to play down a maximum of one (1) age group at FV's sole discretion as per the regulations within the FV Dispensation Policy.
- 52.2.7. FV may request information or clarification from a player or Club applying for dispensation under Regulation 52.2.2 as it sees necessary and will make a decision in relation to the dispensation request at its sole discretion.
- 52.2.8. FV may refuse to grant a dispensation requested under Regulation 52.2.2 in circumstances where the player in question has played in football in school or other competitions not administered by FV or FA. FV may seek further information from the Club in question before making a determination under this Regulation and the Club must submit that information as part of the dispensation request.
- 52.2.9. If a Club has two (2) Teams in the 'A' Division of a particular age group then players are team-tied from the fifth (5th) round Competition Fixture of the Regular Season. Clubs with tied Teams will be required to submit a Team list for each Team, listing the players within their designated Team. Any new player joining a Team must be allocated to only one (1) of the tied-Teams.

52.3. Greater Bendigo Junior Mixed & Boys' Competition

- 52.3.1. Subject to Regulations 52.2.1 & 52.2.2, players in the following age groups may take part in the Junior Mixed & Boys' Competition 2026:

Age Group	Year of Birth
Twelves (12s)	Born on or after 1 January 2014
Fourteens (14s)	Born on or after 1 January 2012
Sixteens (16s)	Born on or after 1 January 2010
Eighteens (18s) / Youth League	Born on or after 1 January 2008

- 52.3.2. The preferred kick-off times for Junior Mixed & Boys' Competitions shall be as follows:

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Age Group	Kick-off Time
Twelves (12s)	11:00 AM
Fourteens (14s)	12:15 PM
Sixteens (16s)	1:45 PM
Eighteens (18s) / Youth League	3:00 PM

52.3.3. FV alter kick-off times of any Competition Fixture within the Junior Mixed & Boys' Competition upon the basis of a fixture clash or otherwise at its discretion.

52.4. Greater Bendigo Junior Girls' Competition

52.4.1. Subject to Regulations 52.2.1 & 52.2.2, players in the following age groups may take part in the Junior Girls' Competition 2026:

Age Group	Year of Birth
Twelves (12s)	Born on or after 1 January 2014
Fourteens (14s)	Born on or after 1 January 2012
Sixteens (16s)	Born on or after 1 January 2010

52.4.2. The preferred kick-off times for Junior Girls' Competitions shall be as follows:

Age Group	Kick-off Time
Twelves (12s)	11:30 AM
Fourteens (14s)	12:15 PM
Sixteens (16s)	1:45 PM

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52.5. Under 12 & Under 13 (9v9 Competition).

- 52.5.1. As an exception to the Venue Requirements as set out in **Schedule 8**, the Junior Mixed and Girls' Under 12 & Under 13 Competitions in 2026 will be played as per regulation 52.5.1.

FV Community Under 12 & Under 13 Competition (9v9)	
Number of Players	9v9 Including Goalkeeper. Minimum of 7 players Max of 5 Substitutions
Field of Play	Length: 60 – 70m Width 40-50m
Goal Size and Type	Height: 2m Width: 5m Permanent or portable goal must be compliant with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's Notice. 28 of 2010
Field Marking	Cones, Markers or Painted Lines are allowed
Penalty Area	Depth: 10m Width: 20m Penalty Spot 7m from goal line
Duration of Game	2 x 30-minute halves
Half time	5 minutes
Referee	FV Appointed Green Armband Referees
Assistant Referees	Club appointed Assisted Referees
Interchange	Maximum 5 Players
Ball Size	4

- 52.5.2. The offside rule will apply for Under 12 and Under 13 9v9 competition as per IFAB Laws of the Game.
- 52.5.3. In accordance with IFAB Laws of the Game, a penalty kick will be awarded if a player commits a direct free kick offence inside their penalty area.
- 52.5.4. The goalkeeper is allowed to handle the ball anywhere in the penalty area. To restart play after a save or gathering the ball with their hands, the ball must be thrown or rolled from the hands or played from the ground with their feet within 6 seconds, the goalkeeper is not allowed to kick or dropkick the ball from their hands.
- 52.5.5. Goal kicks can be taken from anywhere within the penalty area. Opponents must be outside the penalty area until the ball is in play. The ball is in play once it is kicked and leaves the penalty area.
- 52.5.6. Opponents must be at least 6 metres away from the ball until it is in play. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.
- 52.5.7. Red and Yellow Cards will be issued as per IFAB Laws of the Game except in the following.
- 52.5.8. Where a player receives a red card, the match official will instruct the player to leave the field of play for the remainder of the match, any player sent from the field of play cannot be replaced by another player and that players Team who is dismissed is reduced by one (1).

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52.6. Composition of Leagues

- 52.6.1. Composition of Leagues is at the absolute discretion of FV.
- 52.6.2. Any provisions referred to in Regulation 52.6 are subject to FV Greater Bendigo Competitions continuing in 2027 in the same, or substantively the same structure.
- 52.6.3. FV reserves the right to determine dates and times of Competition Fixtures with specific regards to the number of matches played.
- 52.6.4. Divisions of no less than six (6) Teams or greater than fifteen (15) Teams will be created.
- 52.6.5. Where there are sixteen (16) or more Team entries in any given Division, Teams may be split geographically to alleviate travel time.
- 52.6.6. FV's preferred Division size will remain ten (10) teams, with the remaining Teams maintaining a viable League of between six (6) and fifteen (15) Teams.
- 52.6.7. League tables will be recorded in FV Greater Bendigo Junior Under 12 – 18 Competitions.

52.7. Regrading Period

- 52.7.1. Following the conclusion of Grading Round 3, a request to re-grade to a new League may only be considered by FV if:
 - f. the League to which the Team wants to move contains a bye (i.e., an uneven number of teams); and
 - g. the League from which the Team wants to move does not contain a bye (i.e., an even number of teams); OR
 - h. there is a concurrent request from a Team to move between the two Leagues referred to in Regulations 52.7.1.a. and 52.7.1.b. above which would effectively result in a direct swap between the two Teams in question and, therefore, no disruption to either of the respective Leagues.
 - i. the Team has won all three (3) Grading Round fixtures.
 - j. the Team has lost all three (3) Grading Rounds fixtures, with scorelines of 4 – 0 or more.
- 52.7.2. If FV receives multiple requests to regrade into the same league, the regrade priority will be given based on results and standings.
- 52.7.3. No Club shall have more than two (2) Teams re-graded in the same competition age group except in extraordinary circumstances as deemed necessary by FV.
- 52.7.4. The following match determinations will apply to competitions affected by an approved request to re-grade in:
 - c. Any re-graded Team will commence in its new League in Round 4.
 - d. Results and ladders for the regraded impacted league will be reset from Round 4 onwards and previous results accounted for as 'grading games'.
- 52.7.5. The following match determinations will apply to competitions affected by an approved request to re-grade out:
 - c. All championship points along with goals scored (for & against) for that Team will be erased.

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- d. If the affected competition comprises of an uneven number of Teams a 'BYE' will be inserted into the fixture to replace the regraded-out Team.
- 52.7.6. For avoidance of doubt where a competition is affected by both a Team re-grade out and a separate Team re-grade in, Regulation 52.7.5 will apply.
- 52.7.7. The Re-grading Period will commence following Round 3 of the Regular Season. All re-grading requests must be received by FV no later than 24 hours after the conclusion of a Team's Round 3 Competition Fixture. Any request received after this time will not be considered unless, in the opinion of FV, the request benefits all affected Leagues.
- 52.7.8. All regrading requests must be submitted through the online form which can be found on the FV Website. One form will be required for each re-grading request that is submitted. Requests for re-grading or confirmation sought over the phone or via email will not be considered by FV.
- 52.7.9. FV will act in its absolute discretion regarding regrading requests. All decisions are considered final.

53. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

53.1. Interchange/Substitution

- 53.1.1. Interchange Rules – Mixed/Boys'/Girls' Under 12 – Under 18 Competitions:
 - a. For Under 12 – Under 13 a maximum of fourteen (14) players can be named on the Match Sheet. Clubs may take any number of interchanges during the course of the Competition Fixture, provided the Match Official has been consulted first and permits the substitution.
 - b. For Under 14 – Under 18 a maximum of seventeen (17) players can be named on the Match Sheet. Clubs may take any number of interchanges during the course of the Competition Fixture, provided the Match Official has been consulted first and permits the substitution.
 - c. A Match Official may decline the interchange if players in the last five (5) minutes of the second half of a Competition Fixture if in their opinion the change is being made to deliberately delay play.

53.2. Additional Time

- 53.2.1. Additional Time shall not be played for FV Greater Bendigo Junior Competition Fixtures.

53.3. Match Balls

- 53.3.1. The following ball sizes apply:

Age Group	Ball Size
Under Twelve (12) Mixed	Size 4
Under Fourteen (14) Mixed	Size 5
Under Sixteen (16) Mixed	Size 5
Under Eighteen (18) / Youth League Mixed	Size 5
Under Twelve (12) Girls	Size 4
Under Fourteen (14) Girls	Size 5
Under Sixteen (16) Girls	Size 5

SCHEDULE 4 - 2026 GREATER BENDIGO YOUTH & JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- 53.3.2. The Home Club shall provide the appointed Match Official with three (3) match balls of the appropriate size for that age group no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled Competition Fixture.
- 53.3.3. All Clubs must use a licensed match ball from FV's official and exclusive match ball partner Mitre for all Competition Fixtures.
 - a. Greater Bendigo Junior Competition Fixtures are recommended to use a Mitre Impel One or higher match ball.
- 53.3.4. Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to FV by the Match Official.
- 53.3.5. A failure to comply with Regulation 53.3 may result in a fine as set out in the GDR.

53.4. Results of FV Competition Fixtures

- 53.4.1. All results including goal scorers and cautions (red and yellow cards) must be submitted by the Match Official immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture via DRIBL as part of the post-game submission process.
- 53.4.2. Should there be no Match Official appointed to the fixture, the Home Team must appoint and list a Non-Accredited Referee pre-game and confirm the following details of the match via DRIBL immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture:
 - a. Minimum Requirements
 - (i) Half Time Score
 - (ii) Full Time Score
 - (iii) Home & Away Team Goal Scorers
 - (iv) Home & Away Team Cautions
- 53.4.3. All red card cautions for U14 – U18 Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls Competitions must be submitted by the appointed Match Official or on an occasion where a non-accredited referee is appointed, by the Home Club via DRIBL.
- 53.4.4. For the purpose of 4.4.a of the GDR, accumulation of yellow cards does not apply to all Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls (U12 – U18) Community Competitions.
- 53.4.5. All Competition Fixture results must be submitted via DRIBL.
- 53.4.6. Clubs which fail to submit Competition Fixture results in accordance with 53.4.2 may be penalised under the GDR.

SCHEDULE 4 - 2026 GREATER BENDIGO YOUTH LEAGUE AWARDS

54. GREATER BENDIGO YOUTH LEAGUE AWARDS

54.1. Best & Fairest Votes

- 54.1.1. At the conclusion of each Greater Bendigo Youth League Competition Fixture, the Match Official must complete the Best & Fairest Votes and submit those votes to FV through the DRIBL Online Match Sheet Process immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture.
- 54.1.2. All votes must be recorded on DRIBL as part of the Online Match Sheet Process.
- 54.1.3. All votes must be treated with the highest confidentiality.
- 54.1.4. 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 each Competition Fixture.
- 54.1.5. A failure to comply with Regulation 54.1.1. may result in a Match Official being suspended from officiating or demoted to a lower Division.
- 54.1.6. A player who receives a Suspension (as defined in the GDR) during a Competition Fixture in a specific league during the Regular Season (excluding Playoff and Finals matches) shall be ineligible to win the Best and Fairest Award in that given League. To avoid doubt this includes but is not limited to a player who receives five (5) Yellow Cards or more in a Regular Season.
- 54.1.7. A player who has a Direct Red Card revoked for mistaken identity shall be eligible to win the award.
- 54.1.8. In the event of no appointed FV Match Official, the Non-Appointed Referee is to submit their Best & Fairest votes post-game to the Home Club Team Official. These votes are then to be submitted to the Greater Bendigo Referee Appointments Officer by the nominated Home Club Team Official by no later than 9am Wednesday following the Competition Fixture.
- 54.1.9. If two (2) or more players have the same number of Best & Fairest votes at the conclusion of the Regular Season, multiple Best & Fairest winners will be awarded for the League.
- 54.1.10. Players that have played at more than one Club/Team or have played in more than one League in the 2026 season will have votes and/or goals recognized as follows:
 - c. Votes and/or goals in multiple Leagues: The Player's votes and/or goals earned in each League will be considered separate and do not carry over, irrespective of whether they were earned with the same Club or after transferring from one Club to another.
 - d. Votes and/or goals at multiple Clubs in the same League: if a Player plays for more than one Club in the same League in the same Regular Season, the player's votes and/or goals are tallied together, however the Player will only be recognized in terms of his or her award as a Player for the Club at which the player finishes the Regular Season.

54.2. Greater Bendigo Youth League Top Goal Scorer Award

- 54.2.1. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV, the player who scores the most goals during the regular season will be awarded and deemed the Greater Bendigo Youth League Top Goal Scorer for the 2026 season for their respective league.

SCHEDULE 4 - 2026 GREATER BENDIGO YOUTH LEAGUE AWARDS

54.2.2. FV will determine the Greater Bendigo Youth League Top Goal Scorer based on the data submitted into DRIBL via the Online Match Sheet Process.

SCHEDULE 4 - 2026 GREATER BENDIGO MINIROOS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

55. GREATER BENDIGO MINIROOS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

55.1. General Information

- 55.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all MiniRoos Competition Fixtures in line with the [Football Victoria MiniRoos Guidelines](#).
- 55.1.2. All MiniRoos participants must be registered via Play Football and made active via Play Football and DRIBL in order to be eligible to participate in a MiniRoos fixture.
- 55.1.3. FV will determine the MiniRoos League structures at their absolute discretion.
- 55.1.4. MiniRoos Competition Fixtures will only be played on a Saturday or Sunday, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary, or otherwise approves.
- 55.1.5. Clubs will self-nominate their MiniRoos Teams during the Team Entry Period. All Teams will be placed in a league that corresponds to the requests of the Club where possible. FV advises Clubs to categorise their MiniRoos Teams according to the below guidelines:
 - a. Kangaroos
 - (i) strong grasp of football skills
 - b. Wallabies
 - (ii) beginning to develop football skills
 - c. Joeys
 - (iii) no or little previous experience

55.2. MiniRoos Mixed & Girls Competitions Age Groups

- 55.2.1. The following age groups may take part in the MiniRoos Mixed & Girls Competition in 2026:
 - a. Mixed Under 6s
 - b. Mixed Under 7s
 - c. Mixed/Girls Under 8s
 - d. Mixed/Girls Under 9s
 - e. Mixed/Girls Under 10s

SCHEDULE 4 - 2026 GREATER BENDIGO MINIROOS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

55.2.2. MiniRoos Players can move freely between age groups (Under 7 – Under 11), playing above or below their age group as determined by their current stage of development, if the Player is unable to participate in their rightful age group, it is preferable that participants play down one (1), or no more than two (2), age groups

Age Group	Year of Birth
Sixes (6s)	Born on or after 1 January 2020
Sevens (7s)	Born on or after 1 January 2019
Eights (8s)	Born on or after 1 January 2018
Nines (9s)	Born on or after 1 January 2017
Tens (10s)	Born on or after 1 January 2016
Elevens (11s)	Born on or after 1 January 2015

55.3. MiniRoos Mixed & Girls Competition Format

55.3.1. All MiniRoos Competition Formats will be played as per Regulation 23.3.1.

FV MINIROOS COMPETITIONS			
	UNDER 6 & 7	UNDER 8 & 9	UNDER 10 & 11
Number of Players	4 v 4 (+3 SUBS)	7 v 7 (+ 4 subs)	9 v 9 (+ 5 subs)
Field of Play	30m x 20m	¼ Full Size Pitch Min: 40m x 30m Max 50m x 40m	½ Full Size Pitch Min: 60m x 40m Max: 70m x 50m
Goal Size	Width: 2m Height: 1m	Width: 3m Height: 2m	Width: 5m Height: 2m
Field Marking	Markers or line markings	Markers or line markings	Markers or line markings
Penalty Area	Nil	Depth: 5m Width: 12m	Depth: 10m Width: 20m
Duration of Game	2 x 20 minutes	2 x 20 minutes	2 x 25 minutes
Half time	5 minutes	5 minutes	5 minutes
Referee	Game Leader	Game Leader	Game Leader
Offside	No	No	No
Interchange	Maximum 3 Players	Maximum 4 Players	Maximum 5 Players
Ball Size	3	3	4
Slide Tackles	Coaches and Game Leaders should encourage all players to remain on their feet when defending.		
Points Table	No	No	No
Match Sheets	No	No	No

SCHEDULE 5 – GREATER BALLARAT REGION COMPETITION REGULATIONS

SCHEDULE 5 – 2026 GREATER BALLARAT REGION COMPETITION REGULATIONS

56. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

56.1. General Information

- 56.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all FV Greater Ballarat Competition Fixtures.
- 56.1.2. Number of teams is determined by FV in its absolute discretion.

56.2. Team Entry / Age Groups

- 56.2.1. 2026 FV Greater Ballarat Competitions shall run in the following age groups;
 - a. Senior Men
 - b. Senior Women
 - c. Mixed Under 16
 - d. Mixed Under 14
 - e. Mixed Under 12
 - f. Girls' Under 15
 - g. Girls' Under 13
 - h. Mixed MiniRoos (U7, U8, U9, U11)
 - i. Girls' MiniRoos (U11)
- 56.2.2. Clubs competing in FV Greater Ballarat Competitions may apply to enter any number of Teams, new or existing, in any one age group, however FV have absolute discretion when accepting Team Entries and allocating the composition of leagues.
- 56.2.3. Any Late Team Entries submitted after the closure of the Team Entry Period will only be accepted at FV's sole discretion.
- 56.2.4. Further to Regulation 56.2.3, if a vacancy does not exist, FV will consider entering a 'late' Team.
- 56.2.5. Where a Late Team Entry is accepted by FV and that Team commences in a League after the commencement of the Regular Season, FV will determine the allocation of forfeits for the number of Competition Fixtures missed by that Team (as a result of late inclusion in the League in question) at its absolute discretion.
- 56.2.6. No FV Regional Club competing in FV Regional Competitions or included as a member of a Regional Advisory Panel, will be permitted to enter Teams(s) into FV Metropolitan Competitions (excluding CPL, Junior Advanced Competitions, State League Men's/Women's, VPL and NPL Competitions) unless it satisfies criteria including all of the following:
 - a. That, in the opinion of FV, it is deemed that such a request does not directly or indirectly impact the viability of any FV Greater Ballarat Competition;

SCHEDULE 5 – GREATER BALLARAT REGION COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- b. That the Club fields (and/or has already fielded) an additional Team(s) into the same or similar age group in FV Greater Ballarat competitions or in any other League as required by FV;
 - c. That in the opinion of FV, it is deemed that such a request has been reasonably made because the desired age group(s) Division and/or gender of the Team is not already available within FV Greater Ballarat competitions or that of any other regional association within reasonable proximity to the Club;
 - d. That the Club acknowledges that if is permitted to enter Team(s) into Metropolitan competitions, but thereafter fails to field the Team(s) in the FV Greater Ballarat competitions for the duration of the Regular Season, its Team(s) may be ineligible to earn match points or be subject to other penalties as determined at the sole discretion of FV; and
 - e. That the Clubs license agreement with FV allows them to enter teams within metropolitan structures; and
 - f. Any other criteria as promulgated by FV from time to time,
- 56.2.7. FV reserves the right in its absolute discretion to amend the structure of Greater Ballarat Competitions, including varying the number of Clubs in each Division and/or the number of Divisions, before, during or after the Regular Season. Amendments may be as a result of FA actions, including the establishment of any new or varied FA auspiced Leagues or Divisions (including a National Second Tier), or compulsory Player pathways.

56.3. Regrading / Grading Period

- 56.3.1. FV in its absolute discretion will determine whether a regrading / grading period will occur within a competition season.
- 56.3.2. Should a regrading period be applicable to FV Greater Ballarat Competitions, reference will be made within the specific Competitions regulations within the Rules of Competition. regrading regs that will apply.

56.4. Admittance to Competition Fixtures

- 56.4.1. Admittance to all FV Greater Ballarat Competition Fixture is free of charge, including car parking.

SCHEDULE 5 – GREATER BALLARAT REGION FINALS SERIES

57. GREATER BALLARAT FINALS SERIES

57.1. Competition Format

- 57.1.1. Subject to this Regulation and unless otherwise determined by the FV Competitions Team, the top four (4) Teams at the conclusion of the Regular Season in each League may progress to the Finals Series for that League.
- 57.1.2. The Finals Series format may be based on final ladder positions, as follows:
 - a. Week 1
Elimination-Final – 3rd v 4th
Qualifying-Final – 1st v 2nd
 - b. Week 2
Preliminary-Final – Loser Qualifying-Final v Winner Elimination-Final
 - c. Week 3
Grand Final – Winner Qualifying-Final v Winner Preliminary-Final
- 57.1.3. The teams which finish in 1st and 2nd positions in each League at the conclusion of the Regular Season will be hosted at a venue to be determined by FV.
- 57.1.4. Each Club participating in Week 1 of the Finals Series will cover 50% of the Match Official fees.
- 57.1.5. FV will cover all Match Official fees in Week 2 of the Finals Series.
- 57.1.6. Details of each Finals Series for all Leagues will be released by FV prior to the conclusion of the Regular Season.
- 57.1.7. If any Finals Series Competitions Fixtures are postponed, abandoned or cancelled, that Competition Fixture will be played within 3 days of the original Competition Fixture at the sole discretion of FV. This may include the Competition Fixture being played on an alternative day or at an alternative venue.
- 57.1.8. FV will determine whether a Finals Series will run at their discretion.
- 57.1.9. FV will determine Finals Series venues at their sole discretion.

57.2. Procedure to Determine the Winner of Finals

- 57.2.1. All Competition Fixtures in the Finals Series will be played over one (1) leg.
- 57.2.2. If, at the conclusion of any Final, the scores between the Teams are tied, extra time of two equal periods will be used to decide the winner. If the scores are level at the end of extra time, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game to determine the winner of the Final.
- 57.2.3. The Team who wins the Grand Final will become the Finals Champion for their League, unless otherwise determined by FV.
- 57.2.4. The Team who loses the Grand Final will become the Finals Runner Up for their League, unless otherwise determined by FV.

SCHEDULE 5 – GREATER BALLARAT REGION FINALS SERIES

- 57.2.5. Subject to this Regulation and unless otherwise determined by FV acting in its absolute discretion winning the Finals at the conclusion of the Regular Season may entitle the team to be named Champions.

57.3. Discipline

- 57.3.1. All Suspensions from the Regular Season will carry over to the Finals Series.
- 57.3.2. A player that receives a Red Card during the Final Series will automatically miss the next Competition Fixture (whether or not that fixture is Final) and may be subject to further sanction in accordance with the GDR.
- 57.3.3. Yellow cards accumulated by a player during the Finals Series will not be counted for the purposes of clause 4.4(a) of the GDR. However, if a player receives their 5th yellow card in their Club's final Regular Season Competition Fixture they shall be suspended for their first Competition Fixture of the Finals Series.

57.4. Player Restrictions

- 57.4.1. Each player must have Played at least six (6) Regular Season Competition Fixtures for that Team to qualify to play Finals for that Team.
- 57.4.2. FV will only consider an exception to Regulation 57.4.2 in exceptional circumstances and where a Club/Team can establish that it is unable to field a Team for a Final (in compliance with Regulation 57.4.2) due to insufficient player numbers as a result of availability (including injury). Any Club wishing to rely on such an exception must apply to FV:
- via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#);
 - at least five (5) days before the Final is due to take place;
 - setting out the reasons it requests an exception be granted to Regulation 57.4.2, providing evidence in support of player unavailability; and
 - provide FV with any further information required.
- 57.4.3. FV will consider any request made in accordance with Regulation 57.4.2 together with all information provided in support of that request and make a decision regarding any exception requested. Any decision made in this regard is at the sole discretion of FV and is not subject to review or appeal.
- 57.4.4. A player may be granted a dispensation to play down a maximum of one (1) age group at FV's sole discretion as per the regulations within the FV Dispensation Policy.
- 57.4.5. FV may request information or clarification from a player or Club applying for dispensation as it sees fit and will make a decision in relation to the dispensation request at its sole discretion.
- 57.4.6. FV may refuse to grant a dispensation requested at its sole discretion and this decision is considered as final.

SCHEDULE 5 – GREATER BALLARAT SENIOR MEN’S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

58. GREATER BALLARAT SENIOR MEN’S LEAGUE COMPETITION REGULATIONS

58.1. General Information

- 58.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all FV Greater Ballarat Senior Men’s League Competition Fixtures.
- 58.1.2. FV Greater Ballarat Senior Men’s Competitions shall comprise of three (3) Senior Leagues, or such other number determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 58.1.3. Number of Teams is determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 58.1.4. Clubs can only enter one (1) Team to compete in each Senior Men’s League 1 and Senior Men’s League 2 and must field a Team in both leagues as a requirement.
- 58.1.5. Clubs can enter any number of Teams to compete in the FV Greater Ballarat Senior Men’s League 3 Competition.
- 58.1.6. Competition Fixtures will be played on Friday’s and Sunday’s, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary.
- 58.1.7. Sunday Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 11:00am or later than 3:15pm, unless the Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.
- 58.1.8. Friday Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 6.15pm or later than 8.30pm, unless the Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.
- 58.1.9. Matches may only be played on public holidays with the permission of FV.
- 58.1.10. The applicable kick off times for Sunday Competition Fixtures apply to any matches held on public holidays.

58.2. Player Eligibility

- 58.2.1. To be eligible to participate in Senior Men’s Competitions run by FV, Players must turn 15 years (or older) as at 1 January 2026, unless an application to FV for an exemption from this Regulation is made via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#) by the Player’s Club on behalf of a Player and is accepted by FV.
- 58.2.2. An application made under Regulation 58.2.1. must meet the following minimum criteria:
 - a. The application is submitted via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#).
 - b. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player’s Club president supporting the application;
 - c. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player’s Club Technical Director;
 - d. The application must be supported by a signed letter of consent from the player’s parent or guardian supporting the application;
 - e. The application must be supported by a signed letter of support from the player’s medical professional listing general medical details of the player including height and weight and;
 - f. The Club/player must provide FV with any further information requested.

SCHEDULE 5 – GREATER BALLARAT SENIOR MEN’S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- 58.2.3. An application made under Regulation 58.2.1. will be considered by FV. FV has sole discretion in relation to any application made under that Regulation.
- 58.2.4. Once a Player has played at a higher Greater Ballarat Senior Men’s League Division(s) for ten (10) Competition Fixtures, they will be considered ineligible for any Greater Ballarat Senior Men’s League matches in a lower division (i.e., Senior Men’s League 2) for the remainder of the Regular Season (including Finals). Players under the age of 18 as of 1 January 2026 are exempt from regulation 58.2.4.
- 58.2.5. Where a Club has multiple Teams in the same Greater Ballarat Senior Men’s League 3 Competition, then players are deemed ‘team-tied’ following completion of the sixth (6th) round of the Regular Season to one of those Teams. Clubs will be required to submit a Team List for each Team from Round 7 onwards, listing each player, which will be tied to that particular Team for the remainder of the Regular Season. Any new player joining one of those Teams after the sixth (6th) round must be allocated to (and can only play for) one (1) of the tied-Teams for the remainder of the Regular Season. The exception to this is where a player has not yet attained the age of 18 as of the 1 January 2026 of the current competition season, this player will be considered exempt from regulation 58.2.5.
- 58.2.6. No more than three (3) players who have Played in their Club’s Greater Ballarat Senior Men’s League higher division Team on any given weekend may play in a Greater Ballarat Senior Men’s League lower division Competition Fixture that same weekend. Players under the age of 18 as of 1 January 2026 are exempt from regulation 58.2.6.
- 58.2.7. Irrespective of the kick off time for games on a particular day. If a Greater Ballarat Senior Men’s League 3 match is scheduled before a Clubs Greater Ballarat Senior Men’s League 2 match, the Club must still only list a maximum of three (3) players who are able to play both matches.
- 58.2.8. For the purpose of Regulation 58.2.6, on a weekend where the Clubs Senior Men’s League higher division Team are not scheduled to play in a Competition Fixture, that Team’s most recent Competition Fixture shall apply.
- 58.2.9. Once a Player has played in five (5) State League Men’s Senior or Metropolitan League Men’s fixtures, that Player will be deemed ineligible to compete in any of their Club’s Greater Ballarat Senior Men’s League Competition Teams for the remainder of the Regular Season (including Finals). Players under the age of 18 as of 1 January 2026 are exempt from regulation 58.2.9.
- 58.2.10. Players who are participating in both the FV Metropolitan Senior Competitions and the Greater Ballarat Senior Men’s League Competition can only be registered to one (1) Registration Type on PlayFootball. Being registered and made active to either Registration Type ‘2.4 2026 State League Men’s’ or ‘2.5 2026 Community Seniors’ will allow players to play in both Metropolitan and Greater Ballarat Competitions.

59. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

59.1. Interchange / Substitution

- 59.1.1. A maximum of seventeen (17) Players may be named on the Match Sheet.
- 59.1.2. Each Greater Ballarat Senior Men’s League 1, Senior Men’s League 2 and Senior Men’s League 3 Team may make any number of interchanges during the course of the Competition Fixture, provided the Match Official has been consulted first.
- 59.1.3. A Match Official may decline the interchange of players in the last five (5) minutes of the second half of a Competition Fixture if in their opinion the change is being made to deliberately delay play.

SCHEDULE 5 – GREATER BALLARAT SENIOR MEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

59.1.4. All substitutes must be seated within the Technical Area.

59.2. Match Balls

59.2.1. The Home Club 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.

59.2.2. All Clubs must use a licensed match ball from FV's official and exclusive match ball partner Mitre for all Competition Fixtures.

a. FV Greater Ballarat Senior Competition Fixtures are recommended to use a Mitre Delta One or higher match ball.

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

59.2.4. A failure to comply with Regulation 59.2 may result in a fine as set out in the GDR.

59.3. Additional Time

59.3.1. Additional time for FV Greater Ballarat Senior Men's Competition Fixtures must be played in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game.

59.4. Results of FV Competition Fixtures

59.4.1. All player lists must be submitted by the home/away Team prior to the commencement of the match as part of the DRIBL Online Match Sheet Process.

59.4.2. All results including goal scorers, substitutions, cautions and Best & Fairest Votes must be submitted by the Match Official immediately after the conclusion of the Competition via Dribl as part of the post-game submission process.

59.4.3. Should there be no Match Official appointed to the fixture, the Home Team must appoint and list a Non-Accredited Referee pre-game and confirm the following details from the match via DRIBL immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture:

a. Minimum Requirements

(i) Half Time Score

(ii) Full Time Score

(iii) Home & Away Team Goal Scorers

(iv) Home & Away Team Cautions

59.4.4. Clubs which fail to submit results, cautions goal scorers and substitutions (when requested or when a match official is not present) in accordance with Regulation 59.4.3 may be fined or otherwise penalised for Misconduct under the GDR.

SCHEDULE 5 – GREATER BALLARAT SENIOR MEN’S LEAGUE AWARDS

60. GREATER BALLARAT SENIOR MEN’S LEAGUE AWARDS

60.1. Best & Fairest Votes

- 60.1.1. At the conclusion of each Greater Ballarat Senior Men’s League 1, Senior Men’s League 2 and Senior Men’s League 3 Competition Fixture, the Match Official must complete the Best & Fairest Votes and submit those votes to FV through the DRIBL Online Match Sheet Process immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture.
- 60.1.2. All votes must be recorded on DRIBL as part of the Online Match Sheet Process.
- 60.1.3. All votes must be treated with the highest confidentiality.
- 60.1.4. 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 each Competition Fixture.
- 60.1.5. A failure to comply with Regulation 60.1.1 may result in a Match Official being suspended from officiating or demoted to a lower Division.
- 60.1.6. A player who receives a Suspension (as defined in the GDR) during a Competition Fixture in a specific league during the Regular Season (excluding Playoff and Finals matches) shall be ineligible to win the Best and Fairest Award in that given League. To avoid doubt this includes but is not limited to a player who receives five (5) Yellow Cards or more in a Regular Season.
- 60.1.7. A player who has a Direct Red Card revoked for mistaken identity shall be eligible to win the award.
- 60.1.8. In the event of no appointed FV Match Official, the Non-Appointed Referee is to submit their Best & Fairest votes post-game to the Home Club Team Official. These votes are then to be submitted to the Greater Ballarat Referee Appointments Officer by the nominated Home Club Team Official by no later than 9am Wednesday following the Competition Fixture.
- 60.1.9. If two (2) or more players have the same number of Best & Fairest votes at the conclusion of the Regular Season, multiple Best & Fairest winners will be awarded for the League.
- 60.1.10. Players that have played at more than one Club/Team or have played in more than one League in the 2026 season will have votes and/or goals recognized as follows:
 - a. Votes and/or goals in multiple Leagues: The Player's votes and/or goals earned in each League will be considered separate and do not carry over, irrespective of whether they were earned with the same Club or after transferring from one Club to another.
 - b. Votes and/or goals at multiple Clubs in the same League: if a Player plays for more than one Club in the same League in the same Regular Season, the player's votes and/or goals are tallied together, however the Player will only be recognized in terms of his or her award as a Player for the Club at which the player finishes the Regular Season.

60.2. Greater Ballarat Senior Men’s Top Goal Scorer Award

- 60.2.1. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV, the player who scores the most goals during the regular season will be awarded and deemed the Greater Ballarat Senior Men’s League Top Goal Scorer of their respective competition.
- 60.2.2. FV will determine the Greater Ballarat Senior Men’s Top Goal Scorer based on the data submitted into Dribl via the Online Match Sheet Process.

SCHEDULE 5 – GREATER BALLARAT SENIOR WOMEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

61. GREATER BALLARAT SENIOR WOMEN'S LEAGUE COMPETITION REGULATIONS

61.1. General Information

- 61.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all FV Greater Ballarat Senior Women's League Competition Fixtures.
- 61.1.2. FV Greater Ballarat Senior Women's Competitions shall comprise of one (1) Senior League, or such other number determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 61.1.3. Number of Teams is determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 61.1.4. FV Greater Ballarat Senior Women's Leagues shall compromise of a maximum of twelve (12) Teams.
- 61.1.5. Should only one (1) competition be available, Clubs can enter any number of Teams to compete in the FV Greater Ballarat Senior Women's League 1 Competition.
- 61.1.6. Competition Fixtures will be played on Friday's and Sunday's, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary.
- 61.1.7. Sunday Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 11:00am or later than 3:15pm, unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.
- 61.1.8. Friday Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 6:15pm or later than 8:30pm, unless the Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.
- 61.1.9. Matches may only be played on public holidays with the permission of FV.
- 61.1.10. The applicable kick off times for Sunday Competition Fixtures apply to any matches held on public holidays.

61.2. Player Eligibility

- 61.2.1. To be eligible to participate in Senior Women's Competitions run by FV, Players must turn 14 years (or older) as at 1 January 2026, unless an application to FV for an exemption from this Regulation is made via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#) by the Player's Club on behalf of a Player and is accepted by FV.
- 61.2.2. An application made under Regulation 61.2.1. must meet the following minimum criteria:
 - a. The application is submitted via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#).
 - b. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club president supporting the application;
 - c. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club Technical Director;
 - d. The application must be supported by a signed letter of consent from the player's parent or guardian supporting the application;
 - e. The application must be supported by a signed letter of support from the player's medical professional listing general medical details of the player including height and weight and;
 - f. The Club/player must provide FV with any further information requested.

SCHEDULE 5 – GREATER BALLARAT SENIOR WOMEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- 61.2.3. An application made under Regulation 61.2.1. will be considered by FV. FV has sole discretion in relation to any application made under that Regulation.
- 61.2.4. If a Club has multiple Teams in the same League then players are 'team-tied' following completion of the sixth (6th) round of the Regular Season to one of those teams. Clubs will be required to submit a Team list for each Team for Round 7 onwards, listing each player, which will be tied to that particular team for the remainder of the regular season. Any new player joining one of those Teams after the sixth (6th) round must be allocated to (and can only play for) one (1) of the tied-Teams for the remainder of the Regular Season. Players under the age of 18 as of 1 January 2026 are exempt from regulation 61.2.4.
- 61.2.5. Once a Player has played in five (5) State League Women's Senior or Metropolitan League Women's fixtures, that Player will be deemed ineligible to compete in any of her Club's Greater Ballarat Senior Women's League Competition Teams for the remainder of the Regular Season (including Finals). Players under the age of 18 as of 1 January 2026 are exempt from regulation 61.2.5.
- 61.2.6. Players who are participating in both the FV Metropolitan Senior Competitions and the Greater Ballarat Senior Women's League Competition can only be registered to one (1) Registration Type on PlayFootball. Being registered and made active to either Registration Type '2.3 2026 State League Women' or '2.5 2026 Community Seniors' will allow players to play in both Metropolitan and Greater Ballarat Competitions.

62. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

62.1. Interchange / Substitution

- 62.1.1. A maximum of seventeen (17) Players may be named on the Match Sheet.
- 62.1.2. Each Greater Ballarat Senior Women's League Team may make any number of interchanges during the course of the Competition Fixture, provided the Match Official has been consulted first.
- 62.1.3. A Match Official may decline the interchange of players in the last five (5) minutes of the second half of a Competition Fixture if in their opinion the change is being made to deliberately delay play.
- 62.1.4. All substitutes must be seated within the Technical Area.

62.2. Match Balls

- 62.2.1. The Home Club 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.
- 62.2.2. All Clubs must use a licensed match ball from FV's official and exclusive match ball partner Mitre for all Competition Fixtures.
 - a. FV Greater Ballarat Senior Competition Fixtures are recommended to use a Mitre Delta One or higher match ball.
- 62.2.3. Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to FV by the Match Official.
- 62.2.4. A failure to comply with Regulation 61.2 may result in a fine as set out in the GDR.

62.3. Additional Time

- 62.3.1. Additional time for FV Greater Ballarat Senior Women's Competition Fixtures must be played in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game.

SCHEDULE 5 – GREATER BALLARAT SENIOR WOMEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

62.4. Results of FV Competition Fixtures

- 62.4.1. All player lists must be submitted by the home/away Team prior to the commencement of the match as part of the DRIBL Online Match Sheet Process.
- 62.4.2. All results including goal scorers, cautions and Best & Fairest Votes must be submitted by the Match Official immediately after the conclusion of the Competition via Dribl as part of the post-game submission process.
- 62.4.3. Should there be no Match Official appointed to the fixture, the Home Team must appoint and list a Non-Accredited Referee pre-game and confirm the following details from the match via DRIBL immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture:
 - a. Minimum Requirements
 - (i) Half Time Score
 - (ii) Full Time Score
 - (iii) Home & Away Team Goal Scorers
 - (iv) Home & Away Team Cautions
- 62.4.4. Clubs which fail to submit results, cautions goal scorers and substitutions (when requested or when a match official is not present) in accordance with Regulation 62.4.3 may be fined or otherwise penalised for Misconduct under the GDR.

SCHEDULE 5 – GREATER BALLARAT SENIOR WOMEN'S LEAGUE AWARDS

63. GREATER BALLARAT SENIOR WOMEN'S LEAGUE AWARDS

63.1. Best & Fairest Votes

- 63.1.1. At the conclusion of each Greater Ballarat Senior Women's League 1 Competition Fixture, the Match Official must complete the Best & Fairest Votes and submit those votes to FV through the DRIBL Online Match Sheet Process immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture.
- 63.1.2. All votes must be recorded on DRIBL as part of the Online Match Sheet Process.
- 63.1.3. All votes must be treated with the highest confidentiality.
- 63.1.4. 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 each Competition Fixture.
- 63.1.5. A failure to comply with Regulation 63.1.1 may result in a Match Official being suspended from officiating or demoted to a lower Division.
- 63.1.6. A player who receives a Suspension (as defined in the GDR) during a Competition Fixture in a specific league during the Regular Season (excluding Playoff and Finals matches) shall be ineligible to win the Best and Fairest Award in that given League. To avoid doubt this includes but is not limited to a player who receives five (5) Yellow Cards or more in a Regular Season.
- 63.1.7. A player who has a Direct Red Card revoked for mistaken identity shall be eligible to win the award.
- 63.1.8. In the event of no appointed FV Match Official, the Non-Appointed Referee is to submit their Best & Fairest votes post-game to the Home Club Team Official. These votes are then to be submitted to the Greater Ballarat Referee Appointments Officer by the nominated Home Club Team Official by no later than 9am Wednesday following the Competition Fixture.
- 63.1.9. If two (2) or more players have the same number of Best & Fairest votes at the conclusion of the Regular Season, multiple Best & Fairest winners will be awarded for the League.
- 63.1.10. Players that have played at more than one Club/Team or have played in more than one League in the 2026 season will have votes and/or goals recognized as follows:
 - a. Votes and/or goals in multiple Leagues: The Player's votes and/or goals earned in each League will be considered separate and do not carry over, irrespective of whether they were earned with the same Club or after transferring from one Club to another.
 - b. Votes and/or goals at multiple Clubs in the same League: if a Player plays for more than one Club in the same League in the same Regular Season, the player's votes and/or goals are tallied together, however the Player will only be recognized in terms of his or her award as a Player for the Club at which the player finishes the Regular Season.

63.2. Greater Ballarat Senior Women's Top Goal Scorer Award

- 63.2.1. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV, the player who scores the most goals during the regular season will be awarded and deemed the Greater Ballarat Senior Women's League Top Goal Scorer of their respective competition.
- 63.2.2. FV will determine the Greater Ballarat Senior Women's Top Goal Scorer based on the data submitted into Dribl via the Online Match Sheet Process.

SCHEDULE 5 – GREATER BALLARAT JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

64. GREATER BALLARAT JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

64.1. General Information

- 64.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all FV Greater Ballarat Junior Mixed /Girls Competition Fixtures.
- 64.1.2. Player ID cards (ID Cards) generated through DRIBL are required in all Youth and Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls Competitions Fixtures. For clarity:
 - a. ID Cards must include an eligible photo uploaded to the participants PlayFootball account.
 - b. ID Cards are presented through DRIBL and can be presented via smart phones, tablets, laptops and computers.
 - c. Printed and photocopied ID cards from PlayFootball will no longer be required.
- 64.1.3. FV will determine the Junior League Structures at their absolute discretion. Where team numbers permit, Junior Leagues will be divided into 'A', 'B', 'C' or 'D' Grade.
- 64.1.4. Number of Teams is determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 64.1.5. Clubs can enter any number of Teams to compete in the FV Greater Ballarat Junior Competitions.
- 64.1.6. Clubs with more than one Team in a particular age group must enter one (1) of those Teams in an 'A' Competition where more than one League is operating for that particular age group.
- 64.1.7. Competition Fixtures will be played on Sunday's for MiniRoos and Junior Competitions, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary.
- 64.1.8. Matches may only be played on public holidays with the permission of FV.
- 64.1.9. The applicable kick off times for Sunday Competition Fixtures apply to any matches held on public holidays.

64.2. Player Eligibility

- 64.2.1. A player may only play up to four (4) years above his or her age group, , unless an application to FV for exemption from Regulation 64.2.1 is made via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#) by the player's Club on behalf of the player and is accepted by FV.
- 64.2.2. An application made under Regulation 64.2.1 must meet the following minimum criteria:
 - a. the application is submitted via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#).
 - b. the application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club president supporting the application;
 - c. the application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's State Team/Representative Team coach or Club Technical Director;
 - d. the application must be supported by a signed letter of consent from the player's parent or guardian supporting the application;

SCHEDULE 5 – GREATER BALLARAT JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- e. the application must be supported by a signed letter of support from the player’s medical professional listing general medical details of the player including height and weight; and
 - f. the Club/player must provide FV with any further information requested.
- 64.2.3. Any application made under Regulation 64.2.1 will be considered by FV. FV has the absolute discretion in relation to any application made under that Regulation.
- 64.2.4. A Player who is participating above their age group will not be prevented from returning to play in his or her rightful age group unless that Player is suspended.
- 64.2.5. For all Junior Competitions, a player who has played at a higher division in a particular age group (e.g. 12As) for five (5) Competition Fixtures or more, cannot drop to a lower category (e.g. 12Bs) within the same age group for his or her Club for the remainder of the Regulation Season (including Cup Competition Fixtures). This Regulation does not, however, prevent a player who is playing ‘up’ an age group returning to his or her rightful age group in accordance with Regulation 64.2.5.
- 64.2.6. A player may be granted a dispensation to play down a maximum of one (1) age group at FV’s sole discretion as per the regulations within the FV Dispensation Policy.
- 64.2.7. FV may refuse to grant a dispensation requested under Regulation 64.2.2 in circumstances where the player in question has played in football in school or other competitions not administered by FV or FA. FV may seek further information from the Club in question before making a determination information or clarification from a player or Club applying for dispensation under Regulation 64.2.2 as it sees necessary and will make a decision in relation to the dispensation request at its sole discretion under this Regulation and the Club must submit that information as part of the dispensation request.
- 64.2.8. If a Club has two (2) Teams in the 'A' Division of a particular age group then players are team-tied from the fifth (5th) round Competition Fixture of the Regular Season. Clubs with tied Teams will be required to submit a Team list for each Team, listing the players within their designated Team. Any new player joining a Team must be allocated to only one (1) of the tied-Teams.

64.3. Greater Ballarat Junior Mixed Competition

- 64.3.1. Subject to Regulations 64.2.1 & 64.2.2, players in the following age groups may take part in the Junior Mixed & Boys’ Competition 2026:

Age Group	Year of Birth
Twelves (12s)	Born on or after 1 January 2014
Fourteens (14s)	Born on or after 1 January 2012
Sixteens (16s)	Born on or after 1 January 2010

- 64.3.2. The preferred kick-off times for Junior Mixed & Boys’ Competitions shall be as follows:

Age Group	Kick-off Time
Twelves (12s)	11:00 AM
Fourteens (14s)	12:15 PM
Sixteens (16s)	1:45 PM

SCHEDULE 5 – GREATER BALLARAT JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

64.3.3. FV alter kick-off times of any Competition Fixture within the Junior Mixed & Boys' Competition upon the basis of a fixture clash or otherwise at its discretion.

64.4. Greater Ballarat Junior Girls' Competition

64.4.1. Subject to Regulations 64.2.1 & 64.2.2, players in the following age groups may take part in the Junior Girls' Competition 2026:

Age Group	Year of Birth
Thirteens (13s)	Born on or after 1 January 2013
Fifteens (15s)	Born on or after 1 January 2011

64.4.2. The preferred kick-off times for Junior Girls' Competitions shall be as follows:

Age Group	Kick-off Time
Thirteens (13s)	11:30 AM
Fifteens (15s)	12:15 PM

SCHEDULE 5 – GREATER BALLARAT JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

64.5. Under 12 & Under 13 (9v9 Competition).

- 64.5.1. As an exception to the Venue Requirements as set out in Schedule 8, the Junior Mixed and Girls' Under 12 & Under 13 Competitions in 2026 will be played as per regulation 64.5.1.

FV Community Under 12 & Under 13 Competition (9v9)	
Number of Players	9v9 Including Goalkeeper. Minimum of 7 players Max of 5 Substitutions
Field of Play	Length: 60 – 70m Width 40-50m
Goal Size and Type	Height: 2m Width: 5m Permanent or portable goal must be compliant with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's Notice. 28 of 2010
Field Marking	Cones, Markers or Painted Lines are allowed
Penalty Area	Depth: 10m Width: 20m Penalty Spot 7m from goal line
Duration of Game	2 x 30-minute halves
Half time	5 minutes
Referee	FV Appointed Green Armband Referees
Assistant Referees	Club appointed Assisted Referees
Interchange	Maximum 5 Players
Ball Size	4

- 64.5.2. The offside rule will apply for Under 12 and Under 13 9v9 competition as per IFAB Laws of the Game.
- 64.5.3. In accordance with IFAB Laws of the Game, a penalty kick will be awarded if a player commits a direct free kick offence inside their penalty area.
- 64.5.4. The goalkeeper is allowed to handle the ball anywhere in the penalty area. To restart play after a save or gathering the ball with their hands, the ball must be thrown or rolled from the hands or played from the ground with their feet within 6 seconds, the goalkeeper is not allowed to kick or dropkick the ball from their hands.
- 64.5.5. Goal kicks can be taken from anywhere within the penalty area. Opponents must be outside the penalty area until the ball is in play. The ball is in play once it is kicked and leaves the penalty area.
- 64.5.6. Opponents must be at least 6 metres away from the ball until it is in play. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.
- 64.5.7. Red and Yellow Cards will be issued as per IFAB Laws of the Game except in the following.
- 64.5.8. Where a player receives a red card, the match official will instruct the player to leave the field of play for the remainder of the match, any player sent from the field of play cannot be replaced by another player and that players Team who is dismissed is reduced by one (1).

SCHEDULE 5 – GREATER BALLARAT JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

64.6. Composition of Leagues

- 64.6.1. Composition of Leagues is at the absolute discretion of FV.
- 64.6.2. Any provisions referred to in Regulation 63.6 are subject to FV Greater Ballarat Competitions continuing in 2027 in the same, or substantively the same structure.
- 64.6.3. FV reserves the right to determine dates and times of Competition Fixtures with specific regards to the number of matches played.
- 64.6.4. Divisions of no less than six (6) Teams or greater than fifteen (15) Teams will be created.
- 64.6.5. Where there are sixteen (16) or more Team entries in any given Division, Teams may be split geographically to alleviate travel time.
- 64.6.6. FV's preferred Division size will remain ten (10) teams, with the remaining Teams maintaining a viable League of between six (6) and fifteen (15) Teams.
- 64.6.7. League tables will be recorded in FV Greater Ballarat Junior Under 12 – 18 Competitions.

65. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

65.1. Interchange/Substitution

- 65.1.1. Interchange Rules – Mixed/Boys'/Girls' Under 12 – Under 18 Competitions:
 - a. For Under 12 – Under 13 a maximum of fourteen (14) players can be named on the Match Sheet. Clubs may take any number of interchanges during the course of the Competition Fixture, provided the Match Official has been consulted first and permits the substitution.
 - b. For Under 14 – Under 18 a maximum of seventeen (17) players can be named on the Match Sheet. Clubs may take any number of interchanges during the course of the Competition Fixture, provided the Match Official has been consulted first and permits the substitution.
 - c. A Match Official may decline the interchange if players in the last five (5) minutes of the second half of a Competition Fixture if in their opinion the change is being made to deliberately delay play.

65.2. Additional Time

- 65.2.1. Additional Time shall not be played for FV Greater Ballarat Junior Competition Fixtures.

65.3. Match Balls

- 65.3.1. The following ball sizes apply:

Age Group	Ball Size
Under Twelve (12) Mixed	Size 4
Under Fourteen (14) Mixed	Size 5
Under Sixteen (16) Mixed	Size 5
Under Thirteen (13) Girls	Size 4
Under Fifteen (15) Girls	Size 5

SCHEDULE 5 – GREATER BALLARAT JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- 65.3.2. The Home Club shall provide the appointed Match Official with three (3) match balls of the appropriate size for that age group no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled Competition Fixture.
- 65.3.3. All Clubs must use a licensed match ball from FV's official and exclusive match ball partner Mitre for all Competition Fixtures.
 - a. Greater Ballarat Junior Competition Fixtures are recommended to use a Mitre Impel One or higher match ball.
- 65.3.4. Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to FV by the Match Official.
- 65.3.5. A failure to comply with Regulation 56.3 may result in a fine as set out in the GDR.

65.4. Results of FV Competition Fixtures

- 65.4.1. All results including goal scorers and cautions (red and yellow cards) must be submitted by the Match Official immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture via DRIBL as part of the post-game submission process.
- 65.4.2. Should there be no Match Official appointed to the fixture, the Home Team must appoint and list a Non-Accredited Referee pre-game and confirm the following details of the match via DRIBL immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture:
 - a. Minimum Requirements
 - (i) Half Time Score
 - (ii) Full Time Score
 - (iii) Home & Away Team Goal Scorers
 - (iv) Home & Away Team Cautions
- 65.4.3. All red card cautions for U14 – U18 Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls Competitions must be submitted by the appointed Match Official or on an occasion where a non-accredited referee is appointed, by the Home Club via DRIBL.
- 65.4.4. For the purpose of 4.4.a of the GDR, accumulation of yellow cards does not apply to all Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls (U12 – U18) Community Competitions.
- 65.4.5. All Competition Fixture results must be submitted via DRIBL.
- 65.4.6. Clubs which fail to submit Competition Fixture results in accordance with 65.4.2 may be penalised under the GDR.

SCHEDULE 5 – GREATER BALLARAT MINIROOS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

66. GREATER BALLARAT MINIROOS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

66.1. General Information

- 66.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all MiniRoos Competition Fixtures in line with the [Football Victoria MiniRoos Guidelines](#).
- 66.1.2. All MiniRoos participants must be registered via Play Football and made active via Play Football and DRIBL in order to be eligible to participate in a MiniRoos fixture.
- 66.1.3. FV will determine the MiniRoos League structures at their absolute discretion.
- 66.1.4. MiniRoos Competition Fixtures will only be played on a Sunday, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary, or otherwise approves.
- 66.1.5. Clubs will self-nominate their MiniRoos Teams during the Team Entry Period. All Teams will be placed in a league that corresponds to the requests of the Club where possible. FV advises Clubs to categorise their MiniRoos Teams according to the below guidelines:
 - a. Kangaroos
 - (i) strong grasp of football skills
 - b. Wallabies
 - (ii) beginning to develop football skills
 - c. Joeys
 - (iii) no or little previous experience

66.2. MiniRoos Mixed & Girls Competitions Age Groups

- 66.2.1. The following age groups may take part in the MiniRoos Mixed & Girls Competition in 2026:
 - a. Mixed Under 7s
 - b. Mixed Under 8s
 - c. Mixed Under 9s
 - d. Mixed/Girls Under 11s

SCHEDULE 5 – GREATER BALLARAT MINIROOS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

66.2.2. MiniRoos Players can move freely between age groups (Under 6 – Under 11), playing above or below their age group as determined by their current stage of development, if the Player is unable to participate in their rightful age group, it is preferable that participants play down one (1), or no more than two (2), age groups

Age Group	Year of Birth
Sixes (6s)	Born on or after 1 January 2020
Sevens (7s)	Born on or after 1 January 2019
Eights (8s)	Born on or after 1 January 2018
Nines (9s)	Born on or after 1 January 2017
Tens (10s)	Born on or after 1 January 2016
Elevens (11s)	Born on or after 1 January 2015

66.3. MiniRoos Mixed & Girls Competition Format

66.3.1. All MiniRoos Competition Formats will be played as per Regulation 23.3.1.

FV MINIROOS COMPETITIONS			
	UNDER 6 & 7	UNDER 8 & 9	UNDER 10 & 11
Number of Players	4 v 4 (+3 SUBS)	7 v 7 (+ 4 subs)	9 v 9 (+ 5 subs)
Field of Play	30m x 20m	¼ Full Size Pitch Min: 40m x 30m Max 50m x 40m	½ Full Size Pitch Min: 60m x 40m Max: 70m x 50m
Goal Size	Width: 2m Height: 1m	Width: 3m Height: 2m	Width: 5m Height: 2m
Field Marking	Markers or line markings	Markers or line markings	Markers or line markings
Penalty Area	Nil	Depth: 5m Width: 12m	Depth: 10m Width: 20m
Duration of Game	2 x 20 minutes	2 x 20 minutes	2 x 25 minutes
Half time	5 minutes	5 minutes	5 minutes
Referee	Game Leader	Game Leader	Game Leader
Offside	No	No	No
Interchange	Maximum 3 Players	Maximum 4 Players	Maximum 5 Players
Ball Size	3	3	4
Slide Tackles	Coaches and Game Leaders should encourage all players to remain on their feet when defending.		
Points Table	No	No	No
Match Sheets	No	No	No

SCHEDULE 6 – GIPPSLAND REGION COMPETITION REGULATIONS

SCHEDULE 5 – 2026 GIPPSLAND REGION COMPETITION REGULATIONS

67. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

67.1. General Information

- 67.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all FV Gippsland Region Competition Fixtures.
- 67.1.2. Number of teams is determined by FV in its absolute discretion.

67.2. Team Entry / Age Groups

- 67.2.1. 2026 FV Gippsland Competitions shall run in the following age groups;
 - a. Senior Men
 - b. Senior Women
 - c. Mixed Under 17
 - d. Mixed Under 14
 - e. Mixed Under 12
 - f. Girls' Under 15
 - g. Girls' Under 12
 - h. Mixed MiniRoos (U6, U8, U10)
- 67.2.2. Clubs competing in FV Gippsland Competitions may apply to enter any number of Teams, new or existing, in any one age group, however FV have absolute discretion when accepting Team Entries and allocating the composition of leagues.
- 67.2.3. Any Late Team Entries submitted after the closure of the Team Entry Period will only be accepted at FV's sole discretion.
- 67.2.4. Further to Regulation 67.2.3, if a vacancy does not exist, FV will consider entering a 'late' Team.
- 67.2.5. Where a Late Team Entry is accepted by FV and that Team commences in a League after the commencement of the Regular Season, FV will determine the allocation of forfeits for the number of Competition Fixtures missed by that Team (as a result of late inclusion in the League in question) at its absolute discretion.
- 67.2.6. No FV Regional Club competing in FV Regional Competitions or included as a member of a Regional Advisory Panel, will be permitted to enter Teams(s) into FV Metropolitan Competitions (excluding CPL, Junior Advanced Competitions, State League Men's/Women's, VPL and NPL Competitions) unless it satisfies criteria including all of the following:
 - a. That, in the opinion of FV, it is deemed that such a request does not directly or indirectly impact the viability of any FV Gippsland Competition;
 - b. That the Club fields (and/or has already fielded) an additional Team(s) into the same or similar age group in FV Gippsland competitions or in any other League as required by FV;

SCHEDULE 6 – GIPPSLAND REGION COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- c. That in the opinion of FV, it is deemed that such a request has been reasonably made because the desired age group(s) Division and/or gender of the Team is not already available within FV Gippsland competitions or that of any other regional association within reasonable proximity to the Club;
 - d. That the Club acknowledges that if is permitted to enter Team(s) into Metropolitan competitions, but thereafter fails to field the Team(s) in the FV Gippsland competitions for the duration of the Regular Season, its Team(s) may be ineligible to earn match points or be subject to other penalties as determined at the sole discretion of FV; and
 - e. That the Clubs license agreement with FV allows them to enter teams within metropolitan structures; and
 - f. Any other criteria as promulgated by FV from time to time,
- 67.2.7. FV reserves the right in its absolute discretion to amend the structure of Gippsland Competitions, including varying the number of Clubs in each Division and/or the number of Divisions, before, during or after the Regular Season. Amendments may be as a result of FA actions, including the establishment of any new or varied FA auspiced Leagues or Divisions (including a National Second Tier), or compulsory Player pathways.

67.3. Regrading / Grading Period

- 67.3.1. FV in its absolute discretion will determine whether a regrading / grading period will occur within a competition season.
- 67.3.2. Should a regrading period be applicable to FV Gippsland Competitions, reference will be made within the specific Competitions regulations within the Rules of Competition. regrading regs that will apply.

67.4. Admittance to Competition Fixtures

- 67.4.1. Admittance to all FV Gippsland Competition Fixture is free of charge, including car parking.

SCHEDULE 6 – GIPPSLAND FINALS SERIES

68. GIPPSLAND FINALS SERIES

68.1. Competition Format

- 68.1.1. Subject to this Regulation and unless otherwise determined by the FV Competitions Team, the top four (4) Teams at the conclusion of the Regular Season in each League may progress to the Finals Series for that League.
- 68.1.2. The Finals Series format may be based on final ladder positions, as follows:
 - a. Week 1
Semi-Final #1 – 1st v 4th
Semi-Final #2 – 2nd v 3rd
 - b. Week 2
Grand Final – Winner Semi-Final #1 v Winner Semi-Final #2
- 68.1.3. The teams which finish in 1st and 2nd positions in each League at the conclusion of the Regular Season will be hosted at a venue to be determined by FV.
- 68.1.4. Each Club participating in Week 1 of the Finals Series will cover 50% of the Match Official fees.
- 68.1.5. FV will cover all Match Official fees in Week 2 of the Finals Series.
- 68.1.6. Details of each Finals Series for all Leagues will be released by FV prior to the conclusion of the Regular Season.
- 68.1.7. If any Finals Series Competitions Fixtures are postponed, abandoned or cancelled, that Competition Fixture will be played within 3 days of the original Competition Fixture at the sole discretion of FV. This may include the Competition Fixture being played on an alternative day or at an alternative venue.
- 68.1.8. FV will determine whether a Finals Series will run at their discretion.
- 68.1.9. FV will determine Finals Series venues at their sole discretion.

68.2. Procedure to Determine the Winner of Finals

- 68.2.1. All Competition Fixtures in the Finals Series will be played over one (1) leg.
- 68.2.2. If, at the conclusion of any Final, the scores between the Teams are tied, extra time of two equal periods will be used to decide the winner. If the scores are level at the end of extra time, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game to determine the winner of the Final.
- 68.2.3. The Team who wins the Grand Final will become the Finals Champion for their League, unless otherwise determined by FV.
- 68.2.4. The Team who loses the Grand Final will become the Finals Runner Up for their League, unless otherwise determined by FV.
- 68.2.5. Subject to this Regulation and unless otherwise determined by FV acting in its absolute discretion winning the Finals at the conclusion of the Regular Season may entitle the team to be named Champions.

SCHEDULE 6 – GIPPSLAND FINALS SERIES

68.3. Discipline

- 68.3.1. All Suspensions from the Regular Season will carry over to the Finals Series.
- 68.3.2. A player that receives a Red Card during the Final Series will automatically miss the next Competition Fixture (whether or not that fixture is Final) and may be subject to further sanction in accordance with the GDR.
- 68.3.3. Yellow cards accumulated by a player during the Finals Series will not be counted for the purposes of clause 4.4(a) of the GDR. However, if a player receives their 5th yellow card in their Club's final Regular Season Competition Fixture they shall be suspended for their first Competition Fixture of the Finals Series.

68.4. Player Restrictions

- 68.4.1. Each player must have Played at least four (4) Regular Season Competition Fixtures for that Team to qualify to play Finals for that Team.
 - a. Once a Player has Played seven (7) Gippsland Senior Men's League 1 Competition Fixtures, they will be deemed ineligible to compete in Gippsland Senior Men's League 2 Finals Fixtures, irrespective if they have Played in four (4) or more Gippsland Senior Men's League 2 Competition Fixtures. Players under the age of 18 as of 1 January 2026 are exempt from regulation 68.4.1.a.
- 68.4.2. Players who are eligible to participate in multiple Teams for their Club during the Finals Series, the following will apply:
 - a. If a Player is eligible to Play in their Clubs higher division Team within the same age group (i.e., Senior Men's League 2 to Senior Men's League 1 or Mixed Under 12B to Mixed Under 12A), once the Player plays a Finals Fixture for the higher division Team, they will be ineligible to return to the lower division Team. Players under the age of 18 as of 1 January 2026 are exempt from regulation 68.4.2.a.
- 68.4.3. FV will only consider an exception to Regulation 68.4.2 in exceptional circumstances and where a Club/Team can establish that it is unable to field a Team for a Final (in compliance with Regulation 68.4.2) due to insufficient player numbers as a result of availability (including injury). Any Club wishing to rely on such an exception must apply to FV:
 - a. via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#);
 - b. at least five (5) days before the Final is due to take place;
 - c. setting out the reasons it requests an exception be granted to Regulation 68.4.2, providing evidence in support of player unavailability; and
 - d. provide FV with any further information required.
- 68.4.4. FV will consider any request made in accordance with Regulation 68.4.2 together with all information provided in support of that request and make a decision regarding any exception requested. Any decision made in this regard is at the sole discretion of FV and is not subject to review or appeal.
- 68.4.5. A player may be granted a dispensation to play down a maximum of one (1) age group at FV's sole discretion as per the regulations within the FV Dispensation Policy.
- 68.4.6. FV may request information or clarification from a player or Club applying for dispensation as it sees fit and will make a decision in relation to the dispensation request at its sole discretion.

SCHEDULE 6 – GIPPSLAND FINALS SERIES

- 68.4.7. FV may refuse to grant a dispensation requested at its sole discretion and this decision is considered as final.

SCHEDULE 6 – GIPPSLAND SENIOR MEN’S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

69. GIPPSLAND SENIOR MEN’S LEAGUE COMPETITION REGULATIONS

69.1. General Information

- 69.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all FV Gippsland Senior Men’s League Competition Fixtures.
- 69.1.2. FV Gippsland Senior Men’s Competitions shall comprise of two (2) Senior Leagues, or such other number determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 69.1.3. Number of Teams is determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 69.1.4. Clubs can only enter one (1) Team to compete in each Senior Men’s League 1 and Senior Men’s League 2 and must field a Team in both leagues as a requirement.
 - a. An exemption to regulation 69.1.4 may be granted to Clubs to field only one (1) Senior Men’s League Team. Exempt single Team Entries must be submitted into the highest division, being Gippsland Senior Men’s League 1.
- 69.1.5. Competition Fixtures will be played on Sunday’s, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary.
- 69.1.6. Sunday Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 11:00am or later than 3:15pm, unless the Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.
- 69.1.7. Matches may only be played on public holidays with the permission of FV.
- 69.1.8. The applicable kick off times for Sunday Competition Fixtures apply to any matches held on public holidays.

69.2. Player Eligibility

- 69.2.1. To be eligible to participate in Senior Men’s Competitions run by FV, Players must turn 15 years (or older) as at 1 January 2026, unless an application to FV for an exemption from this Regulation is made via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#) by the Player’s Club on behalf of a Player and is accepted by FV.
- 69.2.2. An application made under Regulation 69.2.1. must meet the following minimum criteria:
 - a. The application is submitted via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#).
 - b. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player’s Club president supporting the application;
 - c. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player’s Club Technical Director;
 - d. The application must be supported by a signed letter of consent from the player’s parent or guardian supporting the application;
 - e. The application must be supported by a signed letter of support from the player’s medical professional listing general medical details of the player including height and weight and;
 - f. The Club/player must provide FV with any further information requested.
- 69.2.3. An application made under Regulation 69.2.1. will be considered by FV. FV has sole discretion in relation to any application made under that Regulation.

SCHEDULE 6 – GIPPSLAND SENIOR MEN’S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- 69.2.4. There are no restrictions on player movement between Gippsland Senior Men’s League 1 and Senior Men’s League 2 Teams on any given weekend.
- 69.2.5. Players who are participating in both the FV Metropolitan Senior Competitions and the Gippsland Senior Men’s League Competition can only be registered to one (1) Registration Type on PlayFootball. Being registered and made active to either Registration Type ‘2.4 2026 State League Men’s’ or ‘2.5 2026 Community Seniors’ will allow players to play in both Metropolitan and Gippsland Competitions.

70. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

70.1. Interchange / Substitution

- 70.1.1. A maximum of seventeen (17) Players may be named on the Match Sheet.
- 70.1.2. Each Gippsland Senior Men’s League 1, Senior Men’s League 2 Team may make any number of interchanges during the course of the Competition Fixture, provided the Match Official has been consulted first.
- 70.1.3. A Match Official may decline the interchange of players in the last five (5) minutes of the second half of a Competition Fixture if in their opinion the change is being made to deliberately delay play.
- 70.1.4. All substitutes must be seated within the Technical Area.

70.2. Match Balls

- 70.2.1. The Home Club 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.
- 70.2.2. All Clubs must use a licensed match ball from FV’s official and exclusive match ball partner Mitre for all Competition Fixtures.
 - a. FV Gippsland Senior Competition Fixtures are recommended to use a Mitre Delta One or higher match ball.
- 70.2.3. Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to FV by the Match Official.
- 70.2.4. A failure to comply with Regulation 70.2 may result in a fine as set out in the GDR.

70.3. Additional Time

- 70.3.1. Additional time for FV Gippsland Senior Men’s League 1 Competition Fixtures must be played in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game.
- 70.3.2. Additional time shall not be played for FV Gippsland Senior Men’s League 2 Competition Fixtures.

70.4. Results of FV Competition Fixtures

- 70.4.1. All player lists must be submitted by the home/away Team prior to the commencement of the match as part of the DRIBL Online Match Sheet Process.
- 70.4.2. All results including goal scorers, substitutions, cautions and Best & Fairest Votes must be submitted by the Match Official immediately after the conclusion of the Competition via Dribl as part of the post-game submission process.

SCHEDULE 6 – GIPPSLAND SENIOR MEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- 70.4.3. Should there be no Match Official appointed to the fixture, the Home Team must appoint and list a Non-Accredited Referee pre-game and confirm the following details from the match via DRIBL immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture:
- a. Minimum Requirements
 - (i) Half Time Score
 - (ii) Full Time Score
 - (iii) Home & Away Team Goal Scorers
 - (iv) Home & Away Team Cautions
- 70.4.4. Clubs which fail to submit results, cautions goal scorers and substitutions (when requested or when a match official is not present) in accordance with Regulation 70.4.3 may be fined or otherwise penalised for Misconduct under the GDR.

SCHEDULE 6 – GIPPSLAND SENIOR MEN’S LEAGUE AWARDS

71. GIPPSLAND SENIOR MEN’S LEAGUE AWARDS

71.1. Best & Fairest Votes

- 71.1.1. At the conclusion of each Gippsland Senior Men’s League 1 and Senior Men’s League 2 Competition Fixture, the Match Official must complete the Best & Fairest Votes and submit those votes to FV through the DRIBL Online Match Sheet Process immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture.
- 71.1.2. All votes must be recorded on DRIBL as part of the Online Match Sheet Process.
- 71.1.3. All votes must be treated with the highest confidentiality.
- 71.1.4. 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 each Competition Fixture.
- 71.1.5. A failure to comply with Regulation 71.5.1 may result in a Match Official being suspended from officiating or demoted to a lower Division.
- 71.1.6. A player who receives a Suspension (as defined in the GDR) during a Competition Fixture in a specific league during the Regular Season (excluding Playoff and Finals matches) shall be ineligible to win the Best and Fairest Award in that given League. To avoid doubt this includes but is not limited to a player who receives five (5) Yellow Cards or more in a Regular Season.
- 71.1.7. A player who has a Direct Red Card revoked for mistaken identity shall be eligible to win the award.
- 71.1.8. In the event of no appointed FV Match Official, the Non-Appointed Referee is to submit their Best & Fairest votes post-game to the Home Club Team Official. These votes are then to be submitted to the Gippsland Referee Appointments Officer by the nominated Home Club Team Official by no later than 9am Wednesday following the Competition Fixture.
- 71.1.9. If two (2) or more players have the same number of Best & Fairest votes at the conclusion of the Regular Season, multiple Best & Fairest winners will be awarded for the League.
- 71.1.10. Players that have played at more than one Club/Team or have played in more than one League in the 2026 season will have votes and/or goals recognized as follows:
 - a. Votes and/or goals in multiple Leagues: The Player's votes and/or goals earned in each League will be considered separate and do not carry over, irrespective of whether they were earned with the same Club or after transferring from one Club to another.
 - b. Votes and/or goals at multiple Clubs in the same League: if a Player plays for more than one Club in the same League in the same Regular Season, the player's votes and/or goals are tallied together, however the Player will only be recognized in terms of his or her award as a Player for the Club at which the player finishes the Regular Season.

71.2. Gippsland Senior Men’s Top Goal Scorer Award

- 71.2.1. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV, the player who scores the most goals during the regular season will be awarded and deemed the Gippsland Senior Men’s League Top Goal Scorer of their respective competition.

SCHEDULE 6 – GIPPSLAND SENIOR MEN’S LEAGUE AWARDS

71.2.2. FV will determine the Gippsland Senior Men’s Top Goal Scorer based on the data submitted into Dribl via the Online Match Sheet Process.

SCHEDULE 6 – GIPPSLAND SENIOR WOMEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

72. GIPPSLAND SENIOR WOMEN'S LEAGUE COMPETITION REGULATIONS

72.1. General Information

- 72.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all FV Gippsland Senior Women's League Competition Fixtures.
- 72.1.2. FV Gippsland Senior Women's Competitions shall comprise of one (1) Senior League, or such other number determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 72.1.3. Number of Teams is determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 72.1.4. FV Gippsland Senior Women's Leagues shall comprise of a maximum of twelve (12) Teams.
- 72.1.5. Should only one (1) competition be available, Clubs can enter any number of Teams to compete in the FV Gippsland Senior Women's League 1 Competition.
- 72.1.6. Competition Fixtures will be played on Sunday's, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary.
- 72.1.7. Sunday Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 11:00am or later than 3:15pm, unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.
- 72.1.8. Matches may only be played on public holidays with the permission of FV.
- 72.1.9. The applicable kick off times for Sunday Competition Fixtures apply to any matches held on public holidays.

72.2. Player Eligibility

- 72.2.1. To be eligible to participate in Senior Women's Competitions run by FV, Players must turn 14 years (or older) as at 1 January 2026, unless an application to FV for an exemption from this Regulation is made via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#) by the Player's Club on behalf of a Player and is accepted by FV.
- 72.2.2. An application made under Regulation 72.2.1. must meet the following minimum criteria:
 - a. The application is submitted via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#).
 - b. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club president supporting the application;
 - c. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club Technical Director;
 - d. The application must be supported by a signed letter of consent from the player's parent or guardian supporting the application;
 - e. The application must be supported by a signed letter of support from the player's medical professional listing general medical details of the player including height and weight and;
 - f. The Club/player must provide FV with any further information requested.
- 72.2.3. An application made under Regulation 72.2.1. will be considered by FV. FV has sole discretion in relation to any application made under that Regulation.

SCHEDULE 6 – GIPPSLAND SENIOR WOMEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- 72.2.4. If a Club has multiple Teams in the same League then players are 'team-tied' following completion of the sixth (6th) round of the Regular Season to one of those teams. Clubs will be required to submit a Team list for each Team for Round 7 onwards, listing each player, which will be tied to that particular team for the remainder of the regular season. Any new player joining one of those Teams after the sixth (6th) round must be allocated to (and can only play for) one (1) of the tied-Teams for the remainder of the Regular Season. Players under the age of 18 as of 1 January 2026 are exempt from regulation 72.2.4.
- 72.2.5. Players who are participating in both the FV Metropolitan Senior Competitions and the Gippsland Senior Women's League Competition can only be registered to one (1) Registration Type on PlayFootball. Being registered and made active to either Registration Type '2.3 2026 State League Women' or '2.5 2026 Community Seniors' will allow players to play in both Metropolitan and Greater Ballarat Competitions.

73. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

73.1. Interchange / Substitution

- 73.1.1. A maximum of seventeen (17) Players may be named on the Match Sheet.
- 73.1.2. Each Gippsland Senior Women's League Team may make any number of interchanges during the course of the Competition Fixture, provided the Match Official has been consulted first.
- 73.1.3. A Match Official may decline the interchange of players in the last five (5) minutes of the second half of a Competition Fixture if in their opinion the change is being made to deliberately delay play.
- 73.1.4. All substitutes must be seated within the Technical Area.

73.2. Match Balls

- 73.2.1. The Home Club 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.
- 73.2.2. All Clubs must use a licensed match ball from FV's official and exclusive match ball partner Mitre for all Competition Fixtures.
- a. FV Greater Gippsland Senior Competition Fixtures are recommended to use a Mitre Delta One or higher match ball.
- 73.2.3. Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to FV by the Match Official.
- 73.2.4. A failure to comply with Regulation 73.2 may result in a fine as set out in the GDR.

73.3. Additional Time

- 73.3.1. Additional time shall not be played for FV Gippsland Senior Women's Competition Fixtures.

73.4. Results of FV Competition Fixtures

- 73.4.1. All player lists must be submitted by the home/away Team prior to the commencement of the match as part of the DRIBL Online Match Sheet Process.
- 73.4.2. All results including goal scorers, cautions and Best & Fairest Votes must be submitted by the Match Official immediately after the conclusion of the Competition via Dribl as part of the post-game submission process.

SCHEDULE 6 – GIPPSLAND SENIOR WOMEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- 73.4.3. Should there be no Match Official appointed to the fixture, the Home Team must appoint and list a Non-Accredited Referee pre-game and confirm the following details from the match via DRIBL immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture:
- a. Minimum Requirements
 - (i) Half Time Score
 - (ii) Full Time Score
 - (iii) Home & Away Team Goal Scorers
 - (iv) Home & Away Team Cautions
- 73.4.4. Clubs which fail to submit results, cautions goal scorers and substitutions (when requested or when a match official is not present) in accordance with Regulation 73.4.3 may be fined or otherwise penalised for Misconduct under the GDR.

SCHEDULE 6 – GIPPSLAND SENIOR WOMEN’S LEAGUE AWARDS

74. GIPPSLAND SENIOR WOMEN’S LEAGUE AWARDS

74.1. Best & Fairest Votes

- 74.1.1. At the conclusion of each Gippsland Senior Women’s League 1 Competition Fixture, the Match Official must complete the Best & Fairest Votes and submit those votes to FV through the DRIBL Online Match Sheet Process immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture.
- 74.1.2. All votes must be recorded on DRIBL as part of the Online Match Sheet Process.
- 74.1.3. All votes must be treated with the highest confidentiality.
- 74.1.4. 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 each Competition Fixture.
- 74.1.5. A failure to comply with Regulation 74.1.1 may result in a Match Official being suspended from officiating or demoted to a lower Division.
- 74.1.6. A player who receives a Suspension (as defined in the GDR) during a Competition Fixture in a specific league during the Regular Season (excluding Playoff and Finals matches) shall be ineligible to win the Best and Fairest Award in that given League. To avoid doubt this includes but is not limited to a player who receives five (5) Yellow Cards or more in a Regular Season.
- 74.1.7. A player who has a Direct Red Card revoked for mistaken identity shall be eligible to win the award.
- 74.1.8. In the event of no appointed FV Match Official, the Non-Appointed Referee is to submit their Best & Fairest votes post-game to the Home Club Team Official. These votes are then to be submitted to the Greater Ballarat Referee Appointments Officer by the nominated Home Club Team Official by no later than 9am Wednesday following the Competition Fixture.
- 74.1.9. If two (2) or more players have the same number of Best & Fairest votes at the conclusion of the Regular Season, multiple Best & Fairest winners will be awarded for the League.
- 74.1.10. Players that have played at more than one Club/Team or have played in more than one League in the 2026 season will have votes and/or goals recognized as follows:
 - a. Votes and/or goals in multiple Leagues: The Player's votes and/or goals earned in each League will be considered separate and do not carry over, irrespective of whether they were earned with the same Club or after transferring from one Club to another.
 - b. Votes and/or goals at multiple Clubs in the same League: if a Player plays for more than one Club in the same League in the same Regular Season, the player's votes and/or goals are tallied together, however the Player will only be recognized in terms of his or her award as a Player for the Club at which the player finishes the Regular Season.

74.2. Gippsland Senior Women’s Top Goal Scorer Award

- 74.2.1. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV, the player who scores the most goals during the regular season will be awarded and deemed the Gippsland Senior Women’s League Top Goal Scorer of their respective competition.

SCHEDULE 6 – GIPPSLAND SENIOR WOMEN’S LEAGUE AWARDS

74.2.2. FV will determine the Gippsland Senior Women’s Top Goal Scorer based on the data submitted into Dribl via the Online Match Sheet Process.

SCHEDULE 6 – GIPPSLAND JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

75. GIPPSLAND JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

75.1. General Information

- 75.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all FV Gippsland Junior Mixed /Girls Competition Fixtures.
- 75.1.2. Player ID cards (ID Cards) generated through DRIBL are required in all Youth and Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls Competitions Fixtures. For clarity:
 - a. ID Cards must include an eligible photo uploaded to the participants PlayFootball account.
 - b. ID Cards are presented through DRIBL and can be presented via smart phones, tablets, laptops and computers.
 - c. Printed and photocopied ID cards from PlayFootball will no longer be required.
- 75.1.3. FV will determine the Junior League Structures at their absolute discretion. Where team numbers permit, Junior Leagues will be divided into 'A', 'B', 'C' or 'D' Grade.
- 75.1.4. Number of Teams is determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 75.1.5. Clubs can enter any number of Teams to compete in the FV Gippsland Junior Competitions.
- 75.1.6. Competition Fixtures will be played on Saturday for Gippsland Mixed Under 12 Competitions, and Sunday for all other Junior Competitions, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it seems necessary.
- 75.1.7. Matches may only be played on public holidays with the permission of FV.
- 75.1.8. The applicable kick off times for Saturday and Sunday Competition Fixtures apply to any matches held on public holidays.

75.2. Player Eligibility

- 75.2.1. A player may only play up to four (4) years above his or her age group, , unless an application to FV for exemption from Regulation 64.2.1 is made via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#) by the player's Club on behalf of the player and is accepted by FV.
- 75.2.2. An application made under Regulation 75.2.1 must meet the following minimum criteria:
 - a. the application is submitted via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#).
 - b. the application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club president supporting the application;
 - c. the application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's State Team/Representative Team coach or Club Technical Director;
 - d. the application must be supported by a signed letter of consent from the player's parent or guardian supporting the application;
 - e. the application must be supported by a signed letter of support from the player's medical professional listing general medical details of the player including height and weight; and

SCHEDULE 6 – GIPPSLAND JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- f. the Club/player must provide FV with any further information requested.
- 75.2.3. Any application made under Regulation 75.2.1 will be considered by FV. FV has the absolute discretion in relation to any application made under that Regulation.
- 75.2.4. A Player who is participating above their age group will not be prevented from returning to play in his or her rightful age group unless that Player is suspended.
- 75.2.5. For all Junior Competitions, a player who has played at a higher division in a particular age group (e.g. 12As) for five (5) Competition Fixtures or more, cannot drop to a lower category (e.g. 12Bs) within the same age group for his or her Club for the remainder of the Regulation Season. This Regulation does not, however, prevent a player who is playing 'up' an age group returning to his or her rightful age group in accordance with Regulation 75.2.5.
- 75.2.6. A player may be granted a dispensation to play down a maximum of one (1) age group at FV's sole discretion as per the regulations within the FV Dispensation Policy.
- 75.2.7. FV may refuse to grant a dispensation requested under Regulation 75.2.2 in circumstances where the player in question has played in football in school or other competitions not administered by FV or FA. FV may seek further information from the Club in question before making a determination information or clarification from a player or Club applying for dispensation under Regulation 75.2.2 as it sees necessary and will make a decision in relation to the dispensation request at its sole discretion under this Regulation and the Club must submit that information as part of the dispensation request.
- 75.2.8. If a Club has two (2) Teams in the 'A' Division of a particular age group then players are team-tied from the fifth (5th) round Competition Fixture of the Regular Season. Clubs with tied Teams will be required to submit a Team list for each Team, listing the players within their designated Team. Any new player joining a Team must be allocated to only one (1) of the tied-Teams.

75.3. Gippsland Junior Mixed Competition

- 75.3.1. Subject to Regulations 75.2.1 & 75.2.2, players in the following age groups may take part in the Junior Mixed & Boys' Competition 2026:

Age Group	Year of Birth
Twelves (12s)	Born on or after 1 January 2014
Fourteens (15s)	Born on or after 1 January 2012
Seventeens (16s)	Born on or after 1 January 2009

- 75.3.2. The preferred kick-off times for Junior Mixed & Boys' Competitions shall be as follows:

Age Group	Kick-off Time
Twelves (12s)	10:00 AM
Fourteens (14s)	11:30 AM
Seventeens (17s)	1:15 PM

- 75.3.3. FV alter kick-off times of any Competition Fixture within the Junior Mixed Competition upon the basis of a fixture clash or otherwise at its discretion.

SCHEDULE 6 – GIPPSLAND JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

75.4. Gippsland Junior Girls' Competition

75.4.1. Subject to Regulations 75.2.1 & 75.2.2, players in the following age groups may take part in the Junior Girls' Competition 2026:

Age Group	Year of Birth
Thirteens (13s)	Born on or after 1 January 2013
Fifteens (15s)	Born on or after 1 January 2011

75.4.2. The preferred kick-off times for Junior Girls' Competitions shall be as follows:

Age Group	Kick-off Time
Thirteens (13s)	10:30 AM
Fifteens (15s)	12:00 PM

SCHEDULE 6 – GIPPSLAND JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

75.5. Under 12 & Under 13 (9v9 Competition).

- 75.5.1. As an exception to the Venue Requirements as set out in Schedule 8, the Junior Mixed and Girls' Under 12 & Under 13 Competitions in 2026 will be played as per regulation 75.5.1.

FV Community Under 12 & Under 13 Competition (9v9)	
Number of Players	9v9 Including Goalkeeper. Minimum of 7 players Max of 5 Substitutions
Field of Play	Length: 60 – 70m Width 40-50m
Goal Size and Type	Height: 2m Width: 5m Permanent or portable goal must be compliant with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's Notice. 28 of 2010
Field Marking	Cones, Markers or Painted Lines are allowed
Penalty Area	Depth: 10m Width: 20m Penalty Spot 7m from goal line
Duration of Game	2 x 30-minute halves
Half time	5 minutes
Referee	FV Appointed Green Armband Referees
Assistant Referees	Club appointed Assisted Referees
Interchange	Maximum 5 Players
Ball Size	4

- 75.5.2. The offside rule will apply for Under 12 and Under 13 9v9 competition as per IFAB Laws of the Game.
- 75.5.3. In accordance with IFAB Laws of the Game, a penalty kick will be awarded if a player commits a direct free kick offence inside their penalty area.
- 75.5.4. The goalkeeper is allowed to handle the ball anywhere in the penalty area. To restart play after a save or gathering the ball with their hands, the ball must be thrown or rolled from the hands or played from the ground with their feet within 6 seconds, the goalkeeper is not allowed to kick or dropkick the ball from their hands.
- 75.5.5. Goal kicks can be taken from anywhere within the penalty area. Opponents must be outside the penalty area until the ball is in play. The ball is in play once it is kicked and leaves the penalty area.
- 75.5.6. Opponents must be at least 6 metres away from the ball until it is in play. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.
- 75.5.7. Red and Yellow Cards will be issued as per IFAB Laws of the Game except in the following.
- 75.5.8. Where a player receives a red card, the match official will instruct the player to leave the field of play for the remainder of the match, any player sent from the field of play cannot be replaced by another player and that players Team who is dismissed is reduced by one (1).

SCHEDULE 6 – GIPPSLAND JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

75.6. Composition of Leagues

- 75.6.1. Composition of Leagues is at the absolute discretion of FV.
- 75.6.2. Any provisions referred to in Regulation 75.6 are subject to FV Greater Ballarat Competitions continuing in 2027 in the same, or substantively the same structure.
- 75.6.3. FV reserves the right to determine dates and times of Competition Fixtures with specific regards to the number of matches played.
- 75.6.4. Divisions of no less than six (6) Teams or greater than fifteen (15) Teams will be created.
- 75.6.5. Where there are sixteen (16) or more Team entries in any given Division, Teams may be split geographically to alleviate travel time.
- 75.6.6. FV's preferred Division size will remain ten (10) teams, with the remaining Teams maintaining a viable League of between six (6) and fifteen (15) Teams.
- 75.6.7. League tables will be recorded in FV Gippsland Junior Under 12 – 18 Competitions.

76. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

76.1. Interchange/Substitution

- 76.1.1. Interchange Rules – Mixed/Girls' Under 12 – Under 18 Competitions:
 - a. For Under 12 – Under 13 a maximum of fourteen (14) players can be named on the Match Sheet. Clubs may take any number of interchanges during the course of the Competition Fixture, provided the Match Official has been consulted first and permits the substitution.
 - b. For Under 14 – Under 18 a maximum of seventeen (17) players can be named on the Match Sheet. Clubs may take any number of interchanges during the course of the Competition Fixture, provided the Match Official has been consulted first and permits the substitution.
 - c. A Match Official may decline the interchange if players in the last five (5) minutes of the second half of a Competition Fixture if in their opinion the change is being made to deliberately delay play.

76.2. Additional Time

- 76.2.1. Additional Time shall not be played for FV Gippsland Junior Competition Fixtures.

76.3. Match Balls

- 76.3.1. The following ball sizes apply:

Age Group	Ball Size
Under Twelve (12) Mixed	Size 4
Under Fourteen (14) Mixed	Size 5
Under Seventeen (17) Mixed	Size 5
Under Thirteen (13) Girls	Size 4
Under Fifteen (15) Girls	Size 5

SCHEDULE 6 – GIPPSLAND JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- 76.3.2. The Home Club shall provide the appointed Match Official with three (3) match balls of the appropriate size for that age group no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled Competition Fixture.
- 76.3.3. All Clubs must use a licensed match ball from FV's official and exclusive match ball partner Mitre for all Competition Fixtures.
- a. Gippsland Junior Competition Fixtures are recommended to use a Mitre Impel One or higher match ball.
- 76.3.4. Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to FV by the Match Official.
- 76.3.5. A failure to comply with Regulation 76.3 may result in a fine as set out in the GDR.

76.4. Results of FV Competition Fixtures

- 76.4.1. All results including goal scorers and cautions (red and yellow cards) must be submitted by the Match Official immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture via DRIBL as part of the post-game submission process.
- 76.4.2. Should there be no Match Official appointed to the fixture, the Home Team must appoint and list a Non-Accredited Referee pre-game and confirm the following details of the match via DRIBL immediately after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture:
- a. Minimum Requirements
- (i) Half Time Score
- (ii) Full Time Score
- (iii) Home & Away Team Goal Scorers
- (iv) Home & Away Team Cautions
- 76.4.3. All red card cautions for U14 – U18 Junior Mixed/Girls Competitions must be submitted by the appointed Match Official or on an occasion where a non-accredited referee is appointed, by the Home Club via DRIBL.
- 76.4.4. For the purpose of 4.4.a of the GDR, accumulation of yellow cards does not apply to all Junior Mixed/Girls (U12 – U18) Community Competitions.
- 76.4.5. All Competition Fixture results must be submitted via DRIBL.
- 76.4.6. Clubs which fail to submit Competition Fixture results in accordance with 76.4.2 may be penalised under the GDR.

SCHEDULE 6 – GIPPSLAND MINIROOS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

77. GIPPSLAND MINIROOS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

77.1. General Information

- 77.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all MiniRoos Competition Fixtures in line with the [Football Victoria MiniRoos Guidelines](#).
- 77.1.2. All MiniRoos participants must be registered via Play Football and made active via Play Football and DRIBL in order to be eligible to participate in a MiniRoos fixture.
- 77.1.3. FV will determine the MiniRoos League structures at their absolute discretion.
- 77.1.4. MiniRoos Competition Fixtures will only be played on a Sunday, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary, or otherwise approves.
- 77.1.5. Clubs will self-nominate their MiniRoos Teams during the Team Entry Period. All Teams will be placed in a league that corresponds to the requests of the Club where possible. FV advises Clubs to categorise their MiniRoos Teams according to the below guidelines:
 - a. Kangaroos
 - (i) strong grasp of football skills
 - b. Wallabies
 - (ii) beginning to develop football skills
 - c. Joeys
 - (iii) no or little previous experience

77.2. MiniRoos Mixed & Girls Competitions Age Groups

- 77.2.1. The following age groups may take part in the MiniRoos Mixed & Girls Competition in 2026:
 - a. Mixed Under 7s
 - b. Mixed Under 8s
 - c. Mixed Under 9s
 - d. Mixed/Girls Under 11s

SCHEDULE 6 – GIPPSLAND MINIROOS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

77.2.2. MiniRoos Players can move freely between age groups (Under 6 – Under 11), playing above or below their age group as determined by their current stage of development, if the Player is unable to participate in their rightful age group, it is preferable that participants play down one (1), or no more than two (2), age groups

Age Group	Year of Birth
Sixes (6s)	Born on or after 1 January 2020
Sevens (7s)	Born on or after 1 January 2019
Eights (8s)	Born on or after 1 January 2018
Nines (9s)	Born on or after 1 January 2017
Tens (10s)	Born on or after 1 January 2016
Elevens (11s)	Born on or after 1 January 2015

77.3. MiniRoos Mixed & Girls Competition Format

77.3.1. All MiniRoos Competition Formats will be played as per Regulation 23.3.1.

FV MINIROOS COMPETITIONS			
	UNDER 6 & 7	UNDER 8 & 9	UNDER 10 & 11
Number of Players	4 v 4 (+3 SUBS)	7 v 7 (+ 4 subs)	9 v 9 (+ 5 subs)
Field of Play	30m x 20m	¼ Full Size Pitch Min: 40m x 30m Max 50m x 40m	½ Full Size Pitch Min: 60m x 40m Max: 70m x 50m
Goal Size	Width: 2m Height: 1m	Width: 3m Height: 2m	Width: 5m Height: 2m
Field Marking	Markers or line markings	Markers or line markings	Markers or line markings
Penalty Area	Nil	Depth: 5m Width: 12m	Depth: 10m Width: 20m
Duration of Game	2 x 20 minutes	2 x 20 minutes	2 x 25 minutes
Half time	5 minutes	5 minutes	5 minutes
Referee	Game Leader	Game Leader	Game Leader
Offside	No	No	No
Interchange	Maximum 3 Players	Maximum 4 Players	Maximum 5 Players
Ball Size	3	3	4
Slide Tackles	Coaches and Game Leaders should encourage all players to remain on their feet when defending.		
Points Table	No	No	No
Match Sheets	No	No	No

SCHEDULE 6 – CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

SCHEDULE 6 – CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

Overview

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

- [FV Spectator Code of Behaviour](#)
 - [FV Conditions of Entry to Club Venues](#)
 - [FA National Spectator Code of Behaviour](#),
 - [FA National Code of Conduct and Ethics](#)
 - [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

- 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.

SCHEDULE 6 – CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

- 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

- 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.

SCHEDULE 6 – CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

Coaches' Code of Behaviour

- 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.

SCHEDULE 6 – CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

Administrators' Code of Behaviour

- 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.

SCHEDULE 6 – CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

Parents Code of Behaviour

- 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 officials, 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 [FV Spectator Code of Behaviour](#) & [FA National Spectator Code of Behaviour](#).

It is important that all spectators at a 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.

SCHEDULE 6 – CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

- 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.
- 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.

State Sporting Associations, leagues and clubs will have the responsibility of adhering to and enforcing the code through sport specific penalties. Organisations that do not adhere to and enforce the Code will not be eligible for funding from Sport and Recreation Victoria, and any existing funding will cease.

The Code provides the opportunity to make a positive impact on community participation in sport and recreation by encouraging appropriate behaviour at all times. Implementation of the Code will ensure that community sport remains safe and inclusive for all.

Code of Conduct

Every person: spectator, player, club member, official, participant, administrator, coach, parent or member of the community involved with the sport, should work to ensure:

- inclusion of every person regardless of their age, gender or sexual orientation.
- inclusion of every person regardless of their race, culture or religion.
- opportunities for people of all abilities to participate in the sport and develop to their full potential.
- respect is shown towards others, the club and the broader community.
- a safe and inclusive environment for all.
- elimination of violent and abusive behaviour.
- protection from sexual harassment or intimidation.

SCHEDULE 6 – CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

This code applies to community sport, training and club sanctioned activities.

Breaches of the Code

The following behaviours are considered breaches of the Code:

- Violent or abusive behaviour towards another person.
- Vilification of any kind towards another person.
- Discrimination against another person based on their age, gender or sexual orientation.
- Discrimination against another person based on their race, culture, religion or any other irrelevant personal characteristic.
- Sexual harassment or intimidation of another person.
- Victimisation of another person for exercising their rights through the Code of Conduct.
- Failure to maintain a safe environment.

If any of these behaviours take place within a sport or recreational context, the relevant State Sporting Association, league, association or club is able to impose penalties or sanctions. For this to occur, the breach must be confirmed through an appropriate assessment process at the appropriate level.

State Sporting Association Responsibility

The responsibility of a State Sporting Association through the Code of Conduct is to:

- promote the Code of Conduct to all persons involved in the sport or club.
- ensure reporting and assessment processes are in place to identify and penalise breaches of the Code.
- report on the implementation of the Code to the State Government on an annual basis.
- ensure that every person involved in the sport is able to exercise their rights without fear of victimisation.

SCHEDULE 7 – MINIMUM FACILITY REQUIREMENTS – COMMUNITY COMPETITIONS

SCHEDULE 7 – MINIMUM FACILITY REQUIREMENTS – COMMUNITY COMPETITIONS

Heading	Rule	Venue Class	Requirement
Section 1 - Field of Play and Environs			
General	1.1	Senior & Junior	The Field of Play and related equipment including goals and corner flags must be compliant with the Laws of the Game.
Pitch size	1.2.1	Senior	Length - Minimum 90 metres, maximum 110 metres Width - Minimum 60 metres, maximum 68 metres
Pitch size	1.2.2	Junior	Length - Minimum 90 metres, maximum 110 metres Width - Minimum 50 metres, maximum 68 metres
Run offs	1.3	Senior & Junior	A minimum run off area of 3 metres to any tripping hazard or solid obstruction, including fences and Team benches, must be provided.
Goals	1.4.1	Senior & Junior	Goalposts and nets must be in accordance with the Laws of the Game. The goalposts and crossbar must be made of metal or other approved material. They may be square, rectangular, round or elliptical in shape and must not be dangerous to players. The distance between the posts is 7.32 m and the distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is 2.44 m. Both goalposts and the crossbar have the same width and depth, which do not exceed 12 cm. The goalposts and crossbars must be white. Goals must have nets which must be secured effectively to the posts and ground to ensure the ball is trapped. The nets must be pulled back to allow sufficient safe space within the goal space.

SCHEDULE 7 – MINIMUM FACILITY REQUIREMENTS – COMMUNITY COMPETITIONS

Goals	1.4.2	Senior & Junior	<p>Permanent and semi-permanent goals must conform to Australian Standard AS 4866.1-2007 - Playing field equipment- Soccer goals Part 1: Safety aspects and be properly installed and secured. Movable goals must be compliant with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission’s Consumer Protection Notice No.28 of 2010.</p> <p>Goals must not have sharp edges protruding that may cause injury.</p>
Corner posts and flags	1.5	Senior & Junior	<p>Corner posts and flags must be in accordance with the Laws of the Game. Posts must not be metal or spring loaded. They must be plastic or wood and stand a minimum of 1.5 metres above the ground with a non-pointed top. Corner flags must not feature nationalistic emblems or reference.</p>
Pitch surface	1.6.1	Senior & Junior	<p>The field of play must be safe and even without trip hazards.</p>
Pitch surface	1.6.2	Senior & Junior	<p>If a synthetic cricket wicket is present on the field of play it must be covered with soil or be of a material similar to grass. The edges of the wicket must not protrude from the ground or in any way cause a tripping hazard. The field of play must be configured so that the synthetic cricket wicket is not located within the penalty area.</p>
Pitch surface - synthetic	1.6.2	Senior & Junior	<p>Matches may be played on a pitch with a synthetic surface provided it has been constructed and maintained to at least FIFA Quality standard or as otherwise approved by FV. The venue owner may apply to FV for dispensation on this rule subject to proving a current maintenance schedule that continuously ensures the synthetic pitch is up to FIFA Quality and/or to a safe and fit standard for ongoing community football. FV may from time to time request the venue owner to provide an updated condition and safety report for the respective surface.</p>
Line markings	1.7.1	Senior & Junior	<p>The playing pitch must be marked in accordance with Law 1. However, Matches may be played on fields with extraneous markings provided approval has been sought from FV with specific regard to the number of, and colour of, any marking not outlined in Law 1.</p>
Line marking products	1.7.2	Senior & Junior	<p>Only products such as agricultural limestone or water based spray paint or other similar material which will not endanger ground users or damage turf grasses may be used for line marking.</p> <p>Lime, Herbicides and other products such as ‘Round Up’ that are harmful to a person’s health can cause damage to the playing surface are not to be used under any circumstances.</p>

SCHEDULE 7 – MINIMUM FACILITY REQUIREMENTS – COMMUNITY COMPETITIONS

Stretcher	1.8	Senior & Junior	One stretcher suitable for first aid and emergency use must be placed at the half way line prior to the commencement of each Match. The stretcher must remain inside the barrier/fence, in a safe and accessible position to first aid staff, for the duration of the Match. Wooden or canvas stretchers are not suitable. One stretcher may not be allocated to two pitches at any one time.
Pitch fence	1.9	State League Men's & Women's only	Where a pitch fence is not in place at least a rope or bunting around the pitch at a height of around 1 metre and a minimum 3 metres in distance from the side lines and goal lines must be in place to provide a clear indication of segregation of the playing area.
Technical Area	1.10.1	Senior & Junior	A Technical Area must be marked for each Team on the same side of the field and on opposite sides of the half way line. It must be located no closer than 7 metres and no greater than 20 metres from the half way line. The technical area extends 1 m on either side of the designated seated area and extends forward up to a distance no closer than of 1 m from the touch line. A Technical Area must be in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
Technical Area	1.10.2	Senior & Junior	The technical area must be marked in accordance with the line marking requirements in 1.7.2.
Technical Area	1.10.3	Senior & Junior	The technical area may be marked by crushable cones. If marked by lines they must be in accordance with the line marking requirements in 1.7.2.
Team benches	1.12.1	Senior & Junior	Two covered Team benches or equivalent seating with adequate seating for nine (9) people must be provided for full length pitch Competition Fixtures and is recommended for Under 7 – Under 13 Competition Fixtures.

Section 2 - Player and Officials Amenities

Players change rooms	2.1.1	Senior	Two players' lockable dressing rooms must be provided for each pitch in use. Each room must have access to hot and cold showers and to toilet facilities within the building structure. Recommended size for senior dressing rooms, excluding required shower and toilet area, is 25m ² .
Players change rooms	2.1.2	Junior	Two players' lockable dressing rooms must be provided for each pitch in use including access to toilet facilities within or adjacent to the building structure. Recommended size for junior dressing rooms, excluding required shower and toilet area, is 20m ² .
Match Officials room	2.2.1	Senior & Junior	Match Officials must have exclusive access to a lockable dressing room. The Match Officials room must be accessible without passing through any players' change room which is in use.

SCHEDULE 7 – MINIMUM FACILITY REQUIREMENTS – COMMUNITY COMPETITIONS

Match Officials room	2.2.2	Senior & Junior	Recommended size for Match Officials rooms, including required shower and toilet area, is 20m ² . The room must contain a writing desk or bench and chair and have access within the building to a toilet and shower providing hot and cold water.
First aid	2.3	Senior & Junior	A first aid area, which can be made private by the use of curtains, screens or similar and providing basic first aid equipment all of which must be kept clean and sterile.

Section 3 - Spectator Amenities

Public toilets	3.1	Senior & Junior	Access to male and female public toilets (or suitable unisex/family toilets) must be provided. These may be shared with player toilets.
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Section 4 – Risk Management

Access	4.1	Senior & Junior	The venue must be accessible by emergency services vehicles.
First Aid Personnel	4.2	Senior & Junior	A Club Official with a current First Aid certificate must be on-site across all venues.