



2026 RULES OF COMPETITION

COMMUNITY 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, GYVPL 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

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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 PlayFootball/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 PlayFootball 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.

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- 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 1.3.5, 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 1.3.6 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

1.1.1 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 8 – 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:

1. GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS

- 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.

1. GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS

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. Played Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team where they have played each opponent and equal number of times will remain, including all championship points along with goals scored, and;
 - b. Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team will be erased including all championship points along with goals scored (for & against).
 - c. 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. COMPETITION RULES

- 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:
- schedule additional Competition Fixtures during their Regular Season; or
 - remove Competition Fixtures from their Regular Season.
- 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:
- the player has been registered in line with FA and FV Registration Regulations and remains eligible under the same;
 - all registration fees for the player have been received by FV, subject to Rule 1.3
 - the player is not under suspension by FV, FA or FIFA;
 - 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);
 - the player complies with the Match Sheet requirements set out in Rule 3.3;
 - 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;
 - 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. COMPETITION RULES

- 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.

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;

3. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

- (iii) statutory Declaration(s); and
 - (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.

3. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

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*
- 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.
 - All playing strips must meet the requirements as outlined in the [On-Field Kit Guidelines 2026](#) document and be approved by FV.
 - Any change to playing strips during the season must be communicated to FV 5 working days prior to the Club's next Competition Fixture
 - Predominantly black playing shirts will not be permitted unless approved by FV.
 - The Home Club in each Competition Fixture is required to wear their nominated 'Home' playing strip.
 - 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.
 - 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.



5. MATCH OFFICIALS

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.

5. MATCH OFFICIALS

- 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) 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:

5. MATCH OFFICIALS

- 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.

5. MATCH OFFICIALS

- 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.

5. MATCH OFFICIALS

- 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

5. MATCH OFFICIALS

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

5. MATCH OFFICIALS

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
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:
- State League Men's
 - State League Women's
 - Men's and Women's Metropolitan & Masters
 - 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:
- in applicable State League Men's & State League Women's 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.
 - where a Club has multiple Teams within the same competition structure (i.e., State League Women's 2 & State League Women's 3), the Club must where possible forfeit the Team in the lowest division, ensuring the Team in the highest division can fulfill their fixture.
- 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.

5. MATCH OFFICIALS

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.

4.7.5. 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. 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 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 Childrens Check.

5. MATCH OFFICIALS

- 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.
- 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. MATCH OFFICIALS

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 8 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 9 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

STATE LEAGUE MEN'S



**FOOTBALL
VICTORIA**

SCHEDULE 1 – 2026 MEN’S COMPETITION REGULATIONS – STATE LEAGUE MEN’S

10. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

SCHEDULE 1 – 2026 MEN’S COMPETITION REGULATIONS – VETO SPORTS STATE LEAGUE MEN’S

10. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

10.1. General Information

10.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all State League Men’s senior and reserve grade fixtures within the following metropolitan FV competitions.

League Name	Abbreviation	Number of Teams	Supporting League
State League Men’s 1 North-West	SLM1 NW	12	Reserves
State League Men’s 1 South-East	SLM1 SE	12	Reserves
State League Men’s 2 North-West	SLM2 NW	12	Reserves
State League Men’s 2 South-East	SLM2 SE	12	Reserves
State League Men’s 3 North-West	SLM3 NW	12	Reserves
State League Men’s 3 South-East	SLM3 SE	12	Reserves
State League Men’s 4 North-West	SLM4 NW	12	Reserves
State League Men’s 4 South-East	SLM4 SE	12	Reserves
State League Men’s 5 North-West	SLM5 NW	12	Reserves
State League Men’s 5 South-East	SLM5 SE	12	Reserves
State League Men’s 6 North-West	SLM6 NW	12	Reserves
State League Men’s 6 South-East	SLM6 SE	12	Reserves
State League Men’s 7 North-West	SLM7 NW	12	Reserves
State League Men’s 7 South-East	SLM7 SE	12	Reserves

10.1.2. Number of teams is determined by FV in its absolute discretion.

a. FV will determine the State League Men’s structures at their absolute discretion.

10.1.3. FV reserves the right in its absolute discretion to amend the structure of Community 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.

10.1.4. Any promotion and relegation provisions referred to in Regulation 10 are subject to Community Competitions continuing in 2027 in the same, or substantively the same, structure. For the avoidance of doubt any promotion and relegation of teams is at the absolute discretion of FV. There is no right to promotion.

10.1.5. FV reserves the right to determine dates and times of Competition Fixtures with specific regards to the number of matches played within the immediate proximity of the relevant Competition Fixture; including but not limited to Australia Cup and Dockerty Cup commitments.

SCHEDULE 1 – 2026 MEN’S COMPETITION REGULATIONS – STATE LEAGUE MEN’S 10. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- a. no Team shall be scheduled to participate in more than one Competition Fixture within a seventy-two (72) hour period, unless otherwise determined by FV.
- 10.1.6. Subject to these Rules and Regulations at the end of the Regular Season, including any Finals or Play Off Matches, the final standings of each League may determine which Teams are eligible to be promoted or relegated between Divisions. A Team that earns the right to be promoted shall only be promoted for the following season provided it:
- a. has no outstanding debts to FV;
 - b. has complied with any Rules or Regulations for Teams participating in the relevant League or Division including but not limited to those relating to facility and pitch requirements by the date prescribed by FV from time to time; and
 - c. is not otherwise in breach of these Rules and Regulations or any other requirements of FV.
- 10.1.7. All senior and reserves Teams will play on the same day with all reserve Competition Fixtures played as a curtain raiser to the senior Competition Fixture on that day, unless otherwise determined by FV.
- 10.1.8. Subject to Regulation 10.1.9, no Club may enter more than one (1) Team (including reserves) in State League Men’s competitions.
- 10.1.9. Melbourne University Soccer Club is permitted to field two different Teams in the State League Men’s competitions (under the names Melbourne University Soccer Club and University of Melbourne Soccer Club) provided that:
- a. Those Teams are not permitted to compete in the same League;
 - b. Should one of those Teams cease to participate in State League Men’s competitions (for any reason), that Team will not be permitted to re-enter State League Men’s competitions without first establishing a Club independent of Melbourne University.
 - c. Once a player plays one (1) Competition Fixture for one (1) of the Teams fielded by either Melbourne University Soccer Club or University of Melbourne Soccer Club during a Regular Season, that player will immediately become ineligible to play for the other Team during that Regular Season (including Play Off and Finals matches).
- 10.1.10. To be eligible to participate in the State League Men’s competition, players must be 15 years of age (or older) as at 1 January 2026, unless an application to FV for exemption from Regulation 10.1.10 is made via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#) by the player’s Club on behalf of a player and is approved by FV.
- 10.1.11. An application made under Regulation 10.1.10 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.
- 10.1.12. An application made under Regulation 10.1.10 will be considered by FV. FV has absolute discretion in relation to any application made under that Regulation.
- 10.1.13. SLM1 Clubs will only be permitted to list four (4) Visa players however, at least one (1) of these must have a nationality of an AFC/OFC Member Association (3+1 AFC/OFC Visa Ruling) on their Senior match day team sheet.
- 10.1.14. Any SLM1 Club that lists more than four (4) Visa players (3+1 AFC/OFC Visa Ruling) on their Senior team match day team sheet will be in breach of Regulation 10.1.13 and may be in breach of Rules regarding fielding an ineligible player(s).
- 10.1.15. It is entirely the Clubs responsibility to ensure players are eligible in relation to the 3+1 AFC/OFC Visa ruling.
- 10.1.16. Clubs participating in State League Men’s 1 are required to submit details of all Visa Players to FV prior to Round 1 of the 2026 season, in accordance with the [2026 FV Registration Regulations](#).

10.2. State League Men’s

- 10.2.1. All Clubs participating in Divisions 1 to 7 of the State League Men’s must field a senior Team and a reserves Team.
- 10.2.2. By the commencement of the 2026 Regular Seasons for the competitions listed in subparagraphs a – g below, all Clubs participating in Divisions 1-3 of the State League Men’s must field and maintain not less than three (3) additional teams in FV competitions (other than their senior men and reserves Teams). Those Teams can be fielded in any of the following Leagues (or a combination thereof):
- a. MiniRoos (Under 6s – U11s);
 - b. Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls (Under 12s – U18s);
 - c. State League Women’s
 - d. Metropolitan Men’s/Women’s Leagues;
 - e. Metropolitan Men’s/Women’s Masters;
 - f. FV affiliated regional competitions; or
 - g. FV affiliated All Abilities Leagues.
- 10.2.3. A Club which fails to comply with Regulation 10.2.2 may:
- a. not be eligible for promotion at the end of the 2026 Regular Season; and
 - b. be subject to relegation from its current Division at the discretion of FV.
- 10.2.4. All State League Men’s Teams in all divisions will play each other on a home and away basis over 22 Rounds unless otherwise determined by FV in its absolute discretion.

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- 10.2.5. SLM1 Competition Fixtures will be played on Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday. FV may schedule SLM1 Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary in the circumstances.
- 10.2.6. SLM2-7 Competition Fixtures will be played on Friday, Saturday or Monday. FV may schedule SLM2-7 Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary in the circumstances.
- 10.2.7. Friday or Monday night Competition Fixtures:
- may not kick off earlier than 6:15pm (reserves) or 8:30pm (seniors), unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3 or as determined by FV at its absolute discretion; and
 - cannot be scheduled if the distance between the home venues of the two (2) Teams exceeds 50km, unless upon written agreement of the two (2) Teams in question or as determined by FV at its absolute discretion.
- 10.2.8. Saturday or Sunday Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 12.15pm (reserves) or 2:15pm(seniors), unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.
- 10.2.9. Saturday or Sunday Competition Fixtures may not kick off later than 6:30pm (reserves) or 8:30pm (seniors), unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.
- 10.2.10. The applicable kick off times for Saturday and Sunday Competition Fixtures apply to any Competition Fixtures held on public holidays.
- 10.2.11. Fixtures may only be played on public holidays with the permission of FV.
- 10.2.12. Subject to this Regulation or unless otherwise determined by FV acting in its discretion, the Team finishing top of each League at the conclusion of the Regular Season may be crowned Premiers and the second placed Team may be Runner-up.
- 10.2.13. All promotion and relegation Regulations outlined below are based on the continuation of the current FV competition structure for NPLM, VPLM 1 & 2 & State League Men’s. FV reserves the right to alter any competition structure for the following Regular Season. Any vacancy created as a result of such a restructure may be filled in accordance with these Rules and Regulations.
- 10.2.14. All State League Men’s Clubs are required to enter and participate in the Hahn Australia Cup and upon qualification the New Balance Dockerty Cup Semi Finals and Final. Failure to comply may result in a Club facing a penalty or other sanction for Misconduct under the GDR.

SCHEDULE 1 – 2026 MEN’S COMPETITION REGULATIONS – STATE LEAGUE MEN’S 10. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

10.3. Promotion and Relegation

- 10.3.1. Teams may be relegated from VPLM2 to SLM1 in the following season as promulgated by FV from time to time.
- 10.3.2. The Premier of each League of SLM1 (NW and SE) may be eligible for promotion from SLM1 to VPLM2 in the following season, provided those Clubs meet the requirements outlined in the VPLM2 license agreement as promulgated by FV from time to time.
- 10.3.3. The Club finishing Runner-up of SLM1 North-West may playoff against the Club finishing Runner-up of SLM1 South-East following the conclusion of the regular season at a mutual venue determined by FV where the winner may be eligible for promotion to VPLM2.
- 10.3.4. The losing Team of the Play Off referred to in Regulation 10.3.3 may retain their position in SLM1 the following season.
- 10.3.5. To be eligible for promotion into VPLM2, Clubs will be required to adhere to the licensing requirements for that level of competition. FV reserves the right to review clubs who cannot meet the criteria. Clubs who breach or cannot meet the criteria may be fined, removed, or not offered a position into that tier of competition.
- 10.3.6. Any promotion and relegation provisions referred to in this Regulation 10.3 are subject to potential change, to be determined by FV in its absolute discretion, as a result of the establishment of a National Second Tier.
- 10.3.7. Those Clubs finishing in second last and last position of each League (NW and SE) of SLM1 may be relegated to SLM2 for the following season.
- 10.3.8. The Premier and Runner-up of each League (NW and SE) of SLM2 may be eligible for promotion to SLM1 for the following season.
- 10.3.9. The Club finishing in third position of SLM2 North-West may playoff against the Club finishing in third position of SLM2 South-East following the conclusion of the regular season at a mutual venue determined by FV, where the winner may be eligible for promotion to SLM1.
- 10.3.10. Those Clubs finishing in second last and last position of each League (NW and SE) of SLM2 may be relegated to SLM3 for the following season.
- 10.3.11. The Premier and Runner-up of each League (NW and SE) of SLM3 may be eligible for promotion to SLM 2 in the following season.
- 10.3.12. The Club finishing in third position of SLM3 North-West may playoff against the Club finishing in third position of SLM3 South-East following the conclusion of the regular season at a mutual venue determined by FV, where the winner may be eligible for promotion to SLM2.
- 10.3.13. Those Clubs finishing in second last and last position of each League (NW and SE) of SLM3 may be relegated to SLM4 for the following season.
- 10.3.14. The Premier and Runner-up of each League (NW and SE) of SLM4 may be eligible for promotion to SLM3 in the following season.
- 10.3.15. The Club finishing third position of SLM4 North-West may playoff against the Club finishing in third position of SLM4 South-East following the conclusion of the regular season at a mutual venue determined by FV, where the winner may be eligible for promotion to SLM3.

SCHEDULE 1 – 2026 MEN’S COMPETITION REGULATIONS – STATE LEAGUE MEN’S 10. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- 10.3.16. Those Clubs finishing in second last and last position of each League (NW and SE) of SLM4 may be relegated to SLM5 for the following season.
- 10.3.17. The Premier, Runner-up and Clubs finishing in third position of each League (NW and SE) of SLM5 may be eligible for promotion to SLM4 in the following season.
- 10.3.18. Those Clubs finishing in second last and last position of each League (NW and SE) of SLM4 may be relegated to SLM5 for the following season.
- 10.3.19. The Premier, Runner-up and Clubs finishing in third position of each League (NW and SE) of SLM6 may be eligible for promotion to SLM5 in the following season.
- 10.3.20. Those Clubs finishing in second last and last position of each league (NW and SE) of SLM5 may be relegated to SLM6 for the following season.
- 10.3.21. The Premier, Runner-up and Clubs finishing third position of each League (NW and SE) of SLM7 may be eligible for promotion to SLM6 in the following season.
- 10.3.22. Those Clubs finishing in second last and last position of each League (NW and SE) of SLM 6 may be relegated to SLM7 for the following season.
- 10.3.23. In leagues with a ‘bye’ the bye may not be included as a place in relation to the ladder standings.
- 10.3.24. A Club promoted or relegated in accordance with Regulation 10.3 will not automatically be promoted or relegated into the corresponding League in the Division above or below. For example, a Club promoted from SLM5 SE will not automatically be promoted to SLM4 SE. Decisions regarding League positioning will be made by FV at its absolute discretion and in the best interests of League and Division structures for the following season.
- 10.3.25. The selection of venues for any required 2026 SLM Play Off matches will be determined at the absolute discretion of FV.
- 10.3.26. 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 competition season.
- 10.3.27. To view the 2026 to 2027 VETO SPORTS State League Men’s Promotion/Relegation infographic, [click here](#). Any inconsistencies between these graphics and the relevant Rules of Competition, the Rules of Competition & Participation License will prevail.

10.4. Vacancies State League Men’s

- 10.4.1. From time to time vacancies are created in a State League Men’s Division due to:
 - a. Clubs not accepting the opportunity to be promoted;
 - b. a Team withdrawing from a SLM Division or League;
 - c. a Team being expelled from a SLM Division or League;
 - d. a Team being deemed ineligible for promotion as a result of a breach of these Rules and/or Regulations;
 - e. a Team being relegated as a result of a breach of these Rules and Regulations; or

SCHEDULE 1 – 2026 MEN’S COMPETITION REGULATIONS – STATE LEAGUE MEN’S 10. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- f. other reasons from time to time.
- 10.4.2. If a vacancy is created in a State League Men’s Division prior to the commencement of the Regular Season (whether that vacancy is created during the previous Regular Season or in the ‘off-season’ prior to the commencement of the Regular Season in question), FV shall have absolute discretion when filling a vacancy. FV may choose to leave the vacancy and replace it with a bye, fill the vacancy as per Regulation 10.4.3 or decide upon an alternate outcome in FV’s absolute discretion.
- 10.4.3. Vacancies created in accordance with Regulations 10.4.1 and 10.4.2 may be filled in the following order of priority:
- a. if applicable, the highest finishing loser of the Play Off Final matches referred to in Regulation 10.3 (if relevant).
 - b. the highest finishing Team which misses out on promotion in accordance with these Regulations, from the Division below the Division in which the vacancy arises.
 - c. the highest finishing Team which is to be, or has been, relegated in accordance with these Regulations from the Division (refer to Rule 1.1.5.k) in which the vacancy arises.
 - d. remaining Teams which are to be, or have been, relegated in accordance with these Regulations from the Division in which the vacancy arises in order of merit;
 - e. remaining Teams which miss out on promotion in accordance with these Regulations, from the Division below the Division in which the vacancy arises in order of merit.
- 10.4.4. In deciding on order of merit for the purposes of Regulation 10.4.3 or where two Teams are otherwise equal for the purposes of Regulation 10.4.3, those Teams will be ranked according to the following (and in this order):
- a. The Team with the greatest Goal Difference will finish higher.
 - b. If Goal Difference is the same, then the Team that has scored the most goals FOR will be deemed to have finished higher.
 - c. If Goal Difference is the same and goals FOR is the same, then the final order will be determined by the aggregate results of Competition Fixtures played between those Teams for the current season (excluding Cup Fixtures).
 - d. if the aggregate scores between the Teams are the same, then AWAY goals will count as double.
- 10.4.5. If Teams cannot be separated under Regulation 10.4.4 then those Teams will be required to play a Play Off Match in circumstances where they both seek promotion to the higher Division in question.
- 10.4.6. FV, at its discretion, may decide not to fill a vacancy in State League Men’s competition especially when by doing so would disrupt lower Leagues and Divisions, for example where a League vacancy is created in close proximity to the start of the relevant Regular Season.

10.5. New Entries and ‘Byes’

- 10.5.1. All FV Member Clubs may apply for entry into State League Men’s. FV will determine all applications in its absolute discretion and its decision is not appealable.

SCHEDULE 1 – 2026 MEN’S COMPETITION REGULATIONS – STATE LEAGUE MEN’S 10. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- a. National Premier League Men’s (NPLM) & Victorian Premier League Men’s 1 – 2 (VPLM) Clubs will not be permitted to enter new teams into State League Men’s Competitions
- 10.5.2. Any Club entering a new Team into State League Men’s will be automatically placed into the lowest Division available (currently SLM7) unless otherwise determined by FV.
- 10.5.3. In the event a Team withdraws from any League of State League Men’s creating an uneven number of matches per Team throughout that Regular Season, FV may organise and schedule additional Competition Fixtures, alter the current season fixture or remove Competition Fixtures to produce an even number of matches for each Team.

SCHEDULE 1 – 2026 MEN’S COMPETITION REGULATIONS – STATE LEAGUE MEN’S 11. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

11. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

11.1. Substitution

- 11.1.1. A maximum of seventeen (17) players may be listed on the Match Sheet.
- 11.1.2. Each senior and reserves Team may use a maximum of five (5) substitutes with a maximum of three (3) substitution opportunities and may additionally make substitutions at half time during any senior SLM Competition Fixture. No more than six (6) substitutes are permitted to be named on the Match Sheet.
- 11.1.3. All substitutes must be seated within the Technical Area.

11.2. Additional Time

- 11.2.1. Additional Time for State League Men’s must be played in accordance with the IFAB Laws of The Game.

11.3. Match Balls

- 11.3.1. 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.
- 11.3.2. All Clubs must use a licensed match ball from FV’s official and exclusive match ball partner Mitre for all Competition Fixtures.
 - a. State League Men’s Competition Fixtures are recommended to use a Mitre Delta One or higher match ball.
- 11.3.3. Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to FV by the Match Official.
- 11.3.4. A failure to comply with Regulation 11.3 may result in a fine as set out in the GDR.

11.4. Results of FV Competition Fixtures

- 11.4.1. 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.
- 11.4.2. 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.
- 11.4.3. State League Men’s Seniors and Reserves – 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 MEN’S COMPETITION REGULATIONS – STATE LEAGUE MEN’S 11. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

(v) Home & Away Team Substitutions

- 11.4.4. 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 11.4 may be fined or otherwise penalised for Misconduct under the GDR.



SCHEDULE 1 – 2026 MEN’S COMPETITION REGULATIONS – STATE LEAGUE MEN’S 12. FIXTURE DETAILS

12. FIXTURE DETAILS

12.1. Admittance to Competition Fixtures

12.1.1. Team Admittance Passes

- a. SLM 1 – 3 Clubs will be provided with 50 admittance passes for season 2026.
- b. Admittance passes must be displayed upon entry by the visiting Team’s players on the day of the Competition Fixture.
- c. Admittance passes only entitle the bearer admittance to the Division in which the player or Club is participating in that Regular Season.
- d. In the event of any Competition Fixture for which admission cannot be charged (such as Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls fixtures) and a SLM1-3 Competition Fixture being played at the same venue on the same day, no persons attending for the purpose of the non SLM1-3 Competition Fixture can be charged for entry into the venue.

12.1.2. Admittance Prices

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.

- a. SLM1, 2 & 3

Category	Admittance Price
Adults	\$10.00 (inclusive of GST)
Students/ Pensioners/ Concession Holders	\$5.00 (inclusive of GST)
Holders of current FV Media Passes and current FA Media Passes	FREE
Current FV Special Pass Holders	FREE
Under 14	FREE

- b. SLM4 – 7

No admission fees may be charged.

12.1.3. Car Parking

No Club may charge for car parking at any State League Men’s Competition Fixture.

12.2. Media and Other Passes

12.2.1. FV may withdraw an FV Media Pass at any time.

12.2.2. No Club may refuse entry to a holder of a current FV Season or FA Media Pass without FV’s prior written consent, or unless this person demonstrates an immediate security threat.

SCHEDULE 1 – 2026 MEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS – STATE LEAGUE MEN'S 13. STATE LEAGUE MEN'S AWARDS

13. STATE LEAGUE MEN'S AWARDS

13.1. SLM Coaches Award

- 13.1.1. At the conclusion of Round 11 and Round 22 of the 2026 season, the Senior Coach of each SLM Team will cast votes in a 3-2-1 format ranking their three best opponents from opposition Clubs between Rounds 1 – 11 & 12 – 22 respectively.
- 13.1.2. All votes must be recorded via the 2026 SLM Coaches Award JotForm, following the conclusion of Round 11 and Round 22.
- 13.1.3. All votes must be treated with the highest confidentiality.
- 13.1.4. Votes shall be cast from each coach for three (3) players from opposing Teams in a 3-2-1 format with three (3) votes given to the player adjudged by the Coach to be the Best & Fairest across those relevant rounds.
- 13.1.5. A failure to comply with Regulation **Error! Reference source not found.**1 may result in a penalty under the GDR.
- 13.1.6. A player who receives a Suspension (as defined in the GDR) in a Competition Fixture during the Regular Season (excluding Play Off and Finals matches) shall be ineligible to win a Coaches Award in any given Regular Season. To avoid doubt this includes but is not limited to a player who receives five (5) Yellow Cards or more in a Regular Season.
- 18.1.1. A player who has a Direct Red Card revoked for mistaken identity shall be otherwise eligible to win a SLM Coaches Award.
- 13.1.7. SLM Coaches Awards will not apply in reserves Leagues.
- 13.1.8. No SLM Coaches Award votes will be awarded for Competition Fixtures where:
 - (i) The match was abandoned/forfeited;
 - (ii) The match was deemed a 0-0 no result
- 13.1.9. If two (2) or more Players have the same number of SLM Coaches Award votes at the conclusion of the Regular Season, multiple SLM Coaches Award winners will be awarded for those League(s).
- 13.1.10. Players that have Played at more than one Club or have Played in more than one League in the 2026 season will have goals and/or votes recognised as follows:
 - a. Votes and/or goals in multiple Leagues: The player's goals and/or votes 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 SLM1NW cannot be counted in the final tally for the SLM Coaches Award for SLM2SE in that Regular Season.
 - b. Votes and/or goals at multiple Clubs in the same League: Subject to Rules 2.1.3, 2.1.4. and 5, if a player plays for more than one Club in the same League in the same Regular Season, the player's goals/votes are tallied together, however the player will only be recognised in terms of his award as a player for the Club at which the player finishes the Regular Season.

SCHEDULE 1 – 2026 MEN’S COMPETITION REGULATIONS – STATE LEAGUE MEN’S 13. STATE LEAGUE MEN’S AWARDS

Example 2: Votes awarded to the same player whilst playing for multiple Clubs in SLM3NW will be tallied together for the purposes of the SLM Coaches Award for SLM3NW in that Regular Season.

13.2. SLM Top Goal Scorer Award

- 13.2.1. 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 SLM Top Goal Scorer of their respective competition.
- 13.2.2. FV will determine the SLM Top Goal Scorer based on the data submitted into Dribl via the Online Match Sheet Process.
- 13.2.3. The SLM Top Goal Scorer Award will be awarded across both SLM senior and reserves competitions.

SCHEDULE 1 – 2026 MEN’S COMPETITION REGULATIONS – STATE LEAGUE MEN’S 14. STATE LEAGUE MEN’S FINALS/PLAYOFF SERIES

14. STATE LEAGUE MEN’S FINALS/PLAYOFF SERIES

14.1. Competition Format

- 14.1.1. SLM1-7 Divisions and Leagues may conclude the Regular Season with a Finals/Playoff series.
- 14.1.2. The Premier of SLM1 North-West may play the Premier of SLM1 South-East to determine the State League 1 Champion.
- 14.1.3. The Premier of SLM2 North-West may play the Premier of SLM2 South-East to determine the State League 2 Champion.
- 14.1.4. The Premier of SLM3 North-West may play the Premier of SLM3 South-East to determine the State League 3 Champion.
- 14.1.5. The Premier of SLM4 North-West may play the Premier of SLM4 South-East to determine the State League 4 Champion.
- 14.1.6. The Premier of SLM5 North-West may play the Premier of SLM5 South-East to determine the State League 5 Champion.
- 14.1.7. The Premier of SLM6 North-West may play the Premier of SLM6 South-East to determine the State League 6 Champion.
- 14.1.8. The Premier of SLM7 North-West may play the Premier of SLM7 South-East to determine the State League 7 Champion.
- 14.1.9. The selection of venues for the 2026 SLM Finals Series will be determined at the absolute discretion of FV.
- 14.1.10. If any 2026 SLM Finals/Playoff Series match is postponed, abandoned or cancelled, that Final will be played within three (3) days of the original Final date at the absolute discretion of FV. This may include the Final being played the following day, and/or the Final being played at an alternative venue.
- 14.1.11. Subject to this Regulation or unless otherwise determined by FV acting in its absolute discretion, the Team winning the Finals at the conclusion of the Regular Season may entitle the Team to be named Champions.
- 14.1.12. FV will cover all Match Official Match Fees for all 2026 SLM1-7 Finals and Playoff matches.

SCHEDULE 1 – 2026 MEN’S COMPETITION REGULATIONS – STATE LEAGUE MEN’S 14. STATE LEAGUE MEN’S FINALS/PLAYOFF SERIES

14.2. Procedures to Determine the Winner of Finals / Playoff Matches

- 14.2.1. All Finals in the 2026 SLM Finals/Playoff Series will be played over one (1) leg.
- 14.2.2. If, at the conclusion of Normal Time in any Finals Fixture, the scores between the Teams are tied, the game will proceed straight to penalty kicks, with penalties being taken in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game to determine the winner of the Final, then extra time of two (2) equal periods of 15 minutes will be played in accordance with the IFAB Laws of The Game.
- 14.2.3. If, at the conclusion of Normal Time in any Playoff Fixture, the scores between the Teams are tied, then extra time of two (2) equal periods of 15 minutes will be played in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game.
- 14.2.4. If scores in any Playoff Fixture remain equal at the conclusion of both periods of extra time, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game to determine the winner of the Final.

14.3. Discipline

- 14.3.1. Yellow cards accumulated by a player during the SLM Finals/Playoff 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 Team’s final Regular Season Competition Fixture, clause 4.4.a. of the GDR will apply and that player will be suspended for their first Final of the 2026 SLM Finals/Playoff Series for the relevant Division.

14.4 Player Restrictions

- 14.4.1 Each player must have Played at least five (5) Regular Season Competition Fixtures for that Team to qualify to play Finals & Playoffs in 2026 for that Team.
- 14.4.2 Competition Fixtures Played by a player in either the reserve or senior Teams for a Club count towards the player eligibility requirements listed in Regulation 14.4.1.
- 14.4.3 FV will only consider an exception to Regulation 14.4.1. 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 14.4.1.) due to insufficient player numbers as a result of availability (including injury). Any Club wishing to rely on Regulation 14.4.3. 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 14.4.1. , providing evidence in support of player unavailability; and
 - d. provide FV with any further information required.
- 14.4.4 FV will consider any request made in accordance with Regulation 14.4.3. 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 absolute discretion of FV and is not subject to review or appeal.



2026 RULES OF COMPETITION

STATE LEAGUE WOMEN'S



FOOTBALL
VICTORIA

SCHEDULE 2 – 2026 WOMEN’S COMPETITION REGULATIONS – STATE LEAGUE WOMEN’S

15. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

SCHEDULE 2 – 2026 WOMEN’S COMPETITION REGULATIONS– VETO SPORTS STATE LEAGUE WOMEN’S COMPETITION STRUCTURE

15.1. General Information

15.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all women’s senior and reserve grade fixtures within the following metropolitan FV Competitions.

League Name	Abbreviation	Number of Teams	Supporting League
State League Women’s 1 North-West	SLW1 NW	10	Reserves
State League Women’s 1 South-East	SLW1 SE	10	Reserves
State League Women’s 2 North-West	SLW2 NW	10	N/A
State League Women’s 2 South East	SLW2 SE	10	N/A
State League Women’s 3 North-West	SLW3 NW	10	N/A
State League Women’s 3 South-East	SLW3 SE	10	N/A
State League Women’s 4 North-West	SLW4 NW	10	N/A
State League Women’s 4 South-East	SLW4 SE	10	N/A
State League Women’s 5 North-West	SLW5 NW	10	N/A
State League Women’s 5 South-East	SLW5 SE	10	N/A
State League Women’s 6 North-West	SLW6 NW	10	N/A
State League Women’s 6 South-East	SLW6 SE	10	N/A
State League Women’s 7 North-West	SLW7 NW	10	N/A
State League Women’s 7 South-East	SLW7 SE	10	N/A
State League Women’s 8 North-West	SLW8 NW	10	N/A
State League Women’s 8 South-East	SLW8 SE	10	N/A

15.1.2. Number of teams is determined by FV in its absolute discretion.

a. FV will determine the State League Women’s structures at their absolute discretion.

15.1.3. FV reserves the right in its absolute discretion to amend the structure of Community 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, or compulsory Player pathways.

15.1.4. All promotion and relegation Regulations outlined below are based on the continuation of the current FV competition structure for NPLW, VPLW & State League Women’s. For the avoidance of doubt any promotion and relegation of teams is at the absolute discretion of FV. There is no right to promotion. Promotion and relegation positions may be amended at any time prior to the commencement of the competition season, during the competition season or post competition season.

15.1.5. FV reserves the right to determine dates and times of Competition Fixtures with specific regards to the number of matches played within the immediate proximity of the relevant Competition Fixture; including but not limited to Nike Cup FC commitments.

a. no Team shall be scheduled to participate in more than one Competition Fixture within a seventy-two (72) hour period, unless otherwise determined by FV.

15.1.6. Subject to these Rules and Regulations, at the end of the Regular Season including any Finals or Play Off Matches, the final standings of each League will determine which Teams may have the right to be promoted or relegated between Divisions. A Team that earns the right to be promoted shall only be promoted for the following season provided it:

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- a. has no outstanding debts to FV;
 - b. has complied with any Rules or Regulations for Teams participating in the relevant League or Division including but not limited to those relating to facility and pitch requirements by the date prescribed by FV from time to time; and
 - c. is not otherwise in breach of these Rules and/or Regulations or any other requirements of FV.
- 15.1.7. Competition Fixtures may only be played on public holidays with the permission of FV.
- 15.1.8. All senior and reserves Teams will play on the same day with all reserve Competition Fixtures played as a curtain raiser to the senior Competition Fixture on that day, unless otherwise determined by FV.
- 15.1.9. To be eligible to participate in the State League Women’s competition, players must be 14 years of age (or older) as at 1 January 2026, unless an application to FV for exemption from Regulation 15.1.9 is made via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#) by the player’s Club on behalf of a player and is approved by FV.
- 15.1.10. An application made under Regulation 15.1.9 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.
- 15.1.11. An application made under Regulation 15.1.9 will be considered by FV. FV has absolute discretion in relation to any application made under that Regulation.
- 15.1.12. Where a Club which does not hold a Senior NPLW or VPLW Participation Licence, that Club may field Players up in age groups from its Advanced Junior Girls (GVYPL) teams (Under 13 – Under 17) into its State League Women’s competition teams as follows:
- a. Unlimited Players from an Advanced Junior Girls (GVYPL) Roster can Play up per fixture at one time in the Club’s SLW 1 senior or reserves and SLW 2-5 competitions teams. Players must be 14 years of age as at 1 January 2026 to be eligible to participate in the reserves or senior women’s competitions.

15.2. Multiple Teams in State League Women’s Structure

- 15.2.1. Club’s may enter more than one Team in the FV State League Women’s Divisions provided that:
- a. No more than one Team from a particular Club may participate in the National Premier League Womens, Victorian Premier League Womens and State League Women’s 1 Division in any given Regular Season;

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- b. No more than one Team from a particular Club may participate in a particular League in any given Regular Season;
 - c. Clubs with multiple Teams in the FV State League Women’s must comply with the player eligibility Rules as set out in Regulations 15.2.2 to 15.2.6 below.
- 15.2.2. Where a Club has multiple teams in different Divisions of State League Women’s (i.e. a team in State League Women’s 2 and State League Women’s 4), once a player has Played six (6) or more Competition Fixtures for the Team entered by their Club in the higher Division of State League Womens, that Player is ineligible to play in any Competition Fixture for any Team entered by that Club in a lower or equal Division for the remainder of the Regular Season (including any Playoff Matches or Finals).
- a. Competition Fixtures Played by a player in either the reserves or seniors for the Team entered by her Club in the higher Division of State League Women’s count towards the player eligibility listed in Regulation 15.2.2.
- 15.2.3. Dispensation from Regulation 15.2.2 may be provided on the basis of long-term injury or illness (minimum five (5) weeks). Medical evidence to support a dispensation application will be required and any decision in this regard will be made at the absolute discretion of FV and will be final.
- 15.2.4. There is no restriction on movement of players between reserve and senior Teams for the same Club in the one (1) League.

15.3. State League Women’s 1

- 15.3.1. SLW1 NW and SLW1 SE shall comprise 10 Teams each, or such other number as determined by FV from time to time.
- 15.3.2. SLW1 Teams will play each other on a home and away basis over 18 Rounds unless otherwise determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 15.3.3. By commencement of the 2026 Regular Seasons for the competitions listed in subparagraphs a – f below, all Clubs participating in State League Women’s 1 must field and maintain not less than three (3) additional teams in FV competitions (other than their senior women and reserves Teams). Those Teams can be fielded in any of the following MiniRoos (Under 6s – U11s);
- a. Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls (Under 12s – U18s);
 - b. State League Women’s
 - c. Metropolitan Men/Women’s Leagues;
 - d. Metropolitan Men’s/Women’s Masters;
 - e. FV affiliated regional competitions; or
 - f. FV affiliated All Abilities Leagues.
- 15.3.4. A Club which fails to comply with Regulation 15.3.3 may:
- a. not be eligible for promotion at the end of the 2026 Regular Season; and
 - b. be subject to relegation from its current Division at the discretion of FV.
- 15.3.5. Each SLW1 Club shall:

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- a. field a senior Team and a reserves Team;
 - b. provide for all home FV Competition Fixtures a pitch which complies with the requirements of Rule 3.1
- 15.3.6. Failure to comply with Regulation 15.3.5. may result in the imposition of a penalty under the GDR or further sanctions as determined by FV.
- 15.3.7. Failure by a Club to comply with FV Registration Regulations regarding minimum player requirements for SLW1 i.e., to be able to field senior and reserves Teams, may result in the Club forfeiting its position in the SLW1 competition, in which case the Club may be relegated to a lower Division at FV’s discretion.
- 15.3.8. Subject to this Regulation or unless otherwise determined by FV acting in its discretion the Teams finishing 1st in the SLW1 NW and SLW1 SE seniors and reserves competitions at the conclusion of the Regular Season, may be crowned Premiers of those Leagues and the 2nd placed Team may be crowned Runner-up respectively. There will be no Finals series for reserves competitions in SLW1.

15.4. State League Women’s 2 - 8

- 15.4.1. All SLW2-8 Teams in all Leagues will play each other on a home and away basis over 18 rounds unless otherwise determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 15.4.2. Clubs competing in all SLW2-8 Leagues are only required to field a senior Team.
- 15.4.3. Subject to this Regulation or unless otherwise determined by FV acting in its discretion the Team finishing 1st in each League of SLW2-8 at the conclusion of the Regular Season may be crowned League Premiers and the 2nd placed Team may be crowned Runner-up.

15.5. Promotion and Relegation

- 15.5.1. Teams may be relegated from VPLW to SLW1 in the following season as promulgated by FV from time to time.
- 15.5.2. The Premier of each League (NW and SE) of SLW1 may be eligible for promotion to VPLW for the following season.
- 15.5.3. Those Clubs finishing in second last and last position of each League (NW and SE) of SLW1 may be relegated to SLW2 for the following season.
- 15.5.4. The Premier and Runner-up of each League (NW and SE) of SLW2 may be eligible for promotion to SLW1 in the following season.
- 15.5.5. Those Clubs finishing in second last and last position of each League (NW and SE) of SLW2 may be relegated to SLW3 for the following season.
- 15.5.6. The Premier and Runner-up of each League (NW & SE) of SLW3 may be eligible for promotion to SLW2 in the following season.
- 15.5.7. Those Clubs finishing in second last and last position of each League (NW & SE) of SLW3 may be relegated to SLW4 for the following season.
- 15.5.8. The Premier and Runner-Up of each League (NW & SE) of SLW4 may be eligible for promotion to SLW3 the following season.
- 15.5.9. Those Clubs finishing in second last and last position of each League (NW & SE) of SLW4 may be relegated to SLW5 for the following season.

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- 15.5.10. The Premier and Runner-up of each League (NW & SE) of SLW5 may be eligible for promotion to SLW4 the following season.
- 15.5.11. Those Clubs finishing in second last and last position of each League (NW & SE) of SLW5 may be relegated to SLW6 for the following season.
- 15.5.12. The Premier and Runner-Up of each league (NW & SE) of SLW6 may be eligible for promotion to SLW5 the following season.
- 15.5.13. Those Clubs finishing in second last and last position of each League (NW & SE) of SLW6 may be relegated to SLW7 for the following season.
- 15.5.14. The Premier and Runner-Up of each League (NW & SE) of SLW7 may be eligible for promotion to SLW6 the following season.
- 15.5.15. Those Clubs finishing in second last and last position of each League (NW & SE) of SLW7 may be relegated to SLW8 for the following season.
- 15.5.16. The Premier and Runner-up of each League (NW & SE) of SLW8 may be eligible for promotion to SLW7 the following season.
- 15.5.17. In leagues with a ‘bye’ the bye may not be included as a place in relation to the ladder standings.
- 15.5.18. The State League Women’s promotion and relegation positions are determined based on the team entries into the current league structures, should the league structures change based on team entries the promotion and relegation positions will also be amended at FV’s discretion.
- 15.5.19. A Club promoted or relegated in accordance with Regulation 15.5 will not automatically be promoted or relegated into the corresponding League in the Division above or below. For example, a Club promoted from SLW4 North-West will not automatically be promoted to SLW3 North-West. Decisions regarding League positioning will be made by FV at its discretion and in the best interests of League and Division structures for the following season.
- 15.5.20. To be eligible for promotion into NPLW, VPLW or State League Womens clubs will be required to adhere to the licensing or competition requirements for that level of competition. FV reserves the right to review clubs who cannot meet the criteria. Clubs who breach or cannot meet the criteria may be fined, removed, or not offered a position into that tier of competition.
- 15.5.21. All Promotion and Relegation Regulations outlined in Regulation 15.5 are based on the continuation of the current FV Competition structure for the State League. FV reserves the right to alter any competition structure for the following Regular Season. Any vacancy created as a result of such a restructure may be filled in accordance with these Rules and Regulations. New Teams/New Division/New Leagues
- 15.5.22. To view the 2026 to 2027 VETO Sports State League Women’s Promotion/Relegation infographic, [click here](#). Any inconsistencies between these graphics and the relevant Rules of Competition, the Rules of Competition & Participation License will prevail.

15.6. New Teams/New Divisions/New Leagues

- 15.6.1. All Clubs may apply to enter a new Team or Teams into SLW. FV will determine all applications in its absolute discretion and its decision is not appealable. Any Team entered in SLW will automatically be placed into the lowest Division of SLW (currently SLW8) unless otherwise determined by FV.

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- 15.6.2. FV reserves its right at the conclusion of the 2026 Regular Season to establish one or more of the following:
- Additional State League Women’s Divisions;
 - Removal of selected State League Women’s Divisions.
- 15.6.3. A decision made under Regulation 15.6.2 may depend on but is not limited to the number of Club and Team entries for senior women’s football in 2026. Further, the placement of Teams in either additional Divisions or new senior women’s offerings referred to in Regulation 15.6.2 will be determined, at least in part, by the finishing position(s) of those Teams at the conclusion of the 2026 Regular Season, where applicable.

15.7. Vacancies in State League Women’s

- 15.7.1. From time to time vacancies are created in SLW Divisions due to:
- a Team withdrawing from a SLW Division or League;
 - a Team being expelled from a SLW Division or League;
 - a Team being deemed ineligible for promotion as a result of a breach of, or non-compliance with, these Rules and Regulations;
 - a Team being relegated as a result of a breach of these Rules and Regulations;
 - FV acting in its discretion may permit a club to self-relegate from their current Competition for the following season provided it received notification from the club no later than 28 days from the conclusion of the regular season; or
 - other reasons from time to time.
- 15.7.2. If a vacancy is created in a SLW Division prior to the commencement of the Regular Season (whether that vacancy is created during the previous season or in the ‘off-season’ prior to the commencement of the Regular Season in question), FV have absolute discretion when filling a vacancy. FV may choose to leave the vacancy and replace it with a bye, fill the vacancy by offering it to Clubs in accordance with the priority set out in Regulations s 15.7.3 and 15.7.4 or decide upon an alternate outcome in FV’s absolute discretion.
- 15.7.3. Vacancies created in accordance with Regulations s 15.7.1 and 15.7.2 will be filled in the following order of priority:
- if applicable, the highest finishing loser of the Playoff Finals matches referred to in Regulation 15.5 (if relevant);
 - the highest finishing Team which misses out on promotion in accordance with these Rules, from the Division below the Division in which the vacancy arises; and
 - the highest finishing Team which is to be, or has been, relegated in accordance with these Regulations from the Division in which the vacancy arises;
 - remaining Teams which are to be, or have been, relegated in accordance with these Regulations s from the Division in which the vacancy arises;
 - remaining Teams which miss out on promotion in accordance with these Rules, from the Division below the Division in which the vacancy arises in order of merit.

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- 15.7.4. In deciding on order of merit for the purposes of Regulation 15.7.3 or where two teams are otherwise equal for the purposes of Regulation 15.7.3, those Teams will be ranked according to the following (and in this order):
- league finishing position for the respective teams (applicable only where all Teams have played the same number of Competition Fixtures);
 - average points per game for the current Regular Season (i.e. the season before the Regular Season in which the vacancy needs to be filled);
 - average Goal Difference per game for the current Regular Season (i.e. the season before the Regular Season in which the vacancy needs to be filled);
 - average goals FOR per game for the current Regular Season (i.e. the season before the Regular Season in which the vacancy needs to be filled); or
 - the Team and the Club’s disciplinary record for the current Regular Season (i.e. the season before the Regular Season in which the vacancy needs to be filled).
- 15.7.5. If Teams cannot be separated under Regulation 15.7.4 then those Teams may be required to play a Playoff Match in circumstances where they both seek promotion to the higher Division in question.
- 15.7.6. FV, acting in its discretion, may decide not to fill a vacancy in SLW where doing so would disrupt lower Leagues and/or Divisions, for example where a League vacancy is created in close proximity to the start of the Regular Season.

15.8. Scheduling of Matches – Days of Play

- 15.8.1. SLW1 senior and reserves Competition Fixtures will be played on either Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary, or otherwise approved.
- 15.8.2. SLW1-8 Competition Fixtures will be played on either Friday, Sunday or Monday, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary, or otherwise approves.
- 15.8.3. Friday or Monday night FV Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 6:15pm (Reserves) or 8:30pm (Seniors), unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Regulation 4.3.
- 15.8.4. SLW 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 determined by FV at its absolute discretion.
- 15.8.5. Saturday FV Competition Fixtures may not:

State League Women’s 1

- Kick off earlier than 12.15pm (reserves) or 2.15pm (seniors), unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.
- Kick-off later than 6:30pm (reserves) or 8:30pm (seniors), unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.

- 15.8.6. Sunday FV Competition Fixtures may not:

State League Women’s 1

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- a. Kick off earlier than 11:00am (reserves) or 1.00pm (seniors) unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.
- b. Kick off later than 6:30pm (reserves) or 8:30pm (seniors), unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.

State League Women’s 2-8

- a. Kick off earlier than 11:00am unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.
- 15.8.7. The applicable kick off times for Saturday and Sunday Competition Fixtures apply to any Competition Fixtures held on public holidays.
- 15.8.8. Fixtures may only be played on public holidays with permission of FV.

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16. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

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16.1. Interchange/Substitution

- 16.1.1. *State League Women’s*
- a. A maximum of seventeen (17) players may be named on the Match Sheet in Dribl. Clubs may make any number of interchanges during the course of the Competition Fixture, provided the Match Official has been consulted first.
 - b. 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.
 - c. All substitutes must be seated within the Technical Area.

16.2. Additional Time

- 16.2.1. Additional Time for SLW must be played in accordance with the IFAB Laws of The Game.

16.3. Match Balls

- 16.3.1. The Home Club shall provide the appointed Match Official with three (3) match balls (size 5) no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled Competition Fixture.
- 16.3.2. All Clubs must use a licensed match ball from FV’s official and exclusive match ball partner Mitre for all Competition Fixtures.
- a. State League Women’s Competition Fixtures are recommended to use a Mitre Delta One or higher match ball.
- 16.3.3. Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to FV by the Match Official.
- 16.3.4. A failure to comply with Regulation 16.3. may result in a penalty under the GDR.

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, substitutions and cautions and Best & Fairest votes 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.
- 16.4.3. State League Women’s Seniors and Reserves – 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

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(v) Home & Away Team Substitutions

- 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 may be fined or penalised for Misconduct under the GDR.



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17. FIXTURE DETAILS

17.1. Admittance to Competition Fixtures

17.1.1. Admittance to all State League Women’s Competition Fixtures is free of charge, including car parking.



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18. SLW AWARDS

18. STATE LEAGUE WOMEN'S AWARDS

18.1. SLW Coaches Award

- 18.1.1. At the conclusion of Round 9 and Round 18 of the 2026 season, the Senior Coach of each SLW Team will cast votes in a 3-2-1 format ranking their three best opponents from opposition Club between Round 1 – 9 & 10 – 18 respectively.
- 18.1.2. All votes must be recorded via the 2026 SLW Coaches Award JotForm, following the conclusion of Round 9 and Round 18.
- 18.1.3. All votes must be treated with the highest confidentiality.
- 18.1.4. Votes shall be cast from each coach for three (3) players from opposing Team in a 3-2-1 format with three (3) votes given to the player adjudged by the Coach to be the Best & Fairest across those relevant rounds.
- 18.1.5. A failure to comply with Regulation 18.1.1. may result in a penalty under the GDR.
- 18.1.6. A player who receives a Suspension (as defined in the GDR) in a Competition Fixture during the Regular Season (excluding Play Off and Finals matches) shall be ineligible to win a Coaches Award in any given Regular Season. To avoid doubt this includes but is not limited to a player who receives five (5) Yellow Cards or more in a Regular Season.
- 18.1.7. A player who has a Direct Red Card revoked for mistaken identity shall be otherwise eligible to win a SLW Coaches Award.
- 18.1.8. No SLW Coaches Awards will apply in the reserves leagues.
- 18.1.9. No SLE Coaches Award votes will be awarded for Competition Fixtures where:
 - (i) The match was abandoned/forfeited;
 - (ii) The match was deemed a 0-0 no result
- 18.1.10. If two (2) or more Players have the same number of SLW Award votes at the conclusion of the Regular Season, multiple SLW Coaches Award winners will be awarded for those League(s).
- 18.1.11. Players that have Played at more than one Club or have Played in more than one League in the 2026 season will have goals and/or votes recognised as follows:
 - a. Votes and/or goals in multiple Leagues: the player's goals and/or votes 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 SLW1NW cannot be counted in the final tally for the Best & Fairest Award for SLW2SE 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 goals/votes are tallied together, however the player will only be recognised in terms of her award as a player for the Club at which she finishes the Regular Season.

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18. SLW AWARDS

Example 2: Votes awarded to the same player whilst playing for multiple Clubs in SLW3N will be tallied together for the purposes of the Coaches Award for SLW3N in that Regular Season.

18.2. SLW Top Goal Scorer Award

- 18.2.1. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV, the player who scores the most goals during a regular season will be awarded and deemed the SLW Top Goal Scorer of their respective competition.
- 18.2.2. FV will determine the SLW Top Goal Scorer based on the data entered into Dribl via the Online Match Sheet Process.
- 18.2.3. The SLW Top Goal Scorer Award will be awarded across both SLW senior and reserves competitions.

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19. SLW FINALS SERIES

19.1. Competition Format

- 19.1.1. All SLW senior competitions may conclude the Regular Season with a Finals series.
- 19.1.2. The Premier of SLW1 North-West may play the Premier of SLW1 South-East to determine the State League Women’s 1 Champion.
- 19.1.3. The Premier of SLW2 North-West may play the Premier of SLW2 South-East to determine the State League Women’s 2 Champion.
- 19.1.4. The Premier of SLW3 North-West may play the Premier of SLW3 South-East to determine the State League Women’s 3 Champion.
- 19.1.5. The Premier of SLW4 North-West may play the Premier of SLW4- South-East to determine the State League Women’s 4 Champion.
- 19.1.6. The Premier of SLW5 North-West may play the Premier of SLW5 South-East to determine the State League Women’s 5 Champion.
- 19.1.7. The Premier of SLW6 North-West may play the Premier of SLW6 South-East to determine the State League Women’s 6 Champion.
- 19.1.8. The Premier of SLW7 North-West may play the Premier of SLW7 South-East to determine the State League Women’s 7 Champion.
- 19.1.9. The Premier of SLW8 North-West may play the Premier of SLW8 South-East to determine the State League Women’s 8 Champion.
- 19.1.10. Subject to this Regulation and unless otherwise determined by FV acting in its absolute discretion, the Team winning the Finals at the conclusion of the Regular Season may entitle the Team to be named Champions.
- 19.1.11. The selection of venues for all 2026 SLW1-8 Finals will be determined at the absolute discretion of FV.
- 19.1.12. The State League Women’s finals structure is determined based on the team entries into the current league structures, should the league structures change based on team entries the finals series format may also be amended at FV’s discretion.
- 19.1.13. If any 2026 SLW 1-8 Finals match is postponed, abandoned, or cancelled, that Final may be re-played at a time and venue to be determined by FV.
- 19.1.14. FV will cover all Match Official Match Fees for all 2026 SLW1-8 Finals matches.

19.2. Procedures to Determine the Winner of Finals

- 19.2.1. All Finals played in the 2026 SLW Finals Series will be played over one (1) leg.
- 19.2.2. If, at the conclusion of Normal Time in any Finals Fixture, the scores between the Teams are tied, then the game will proceed straight to penalty kicks, with penalties being taken in accordance IFAB Laws of The Game to determine the winner.

19.3. Discipline

- 19.3.1. Yellow cards accumulated by a player during the SLW 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

SCHEDULE 2 – 2026 WOMEN’S COMPETITION REGULATIONS – STATE LEAGUE WOMEN’S

19. SLW FINALS SERIES

card in their Club’s final Regular Season Competition Fixture she shall be suspended for their first Competition Fixture of the 2026 State League Women’s Finals Series.

19.4. Player Restrictions

- 19.4.1. Each player must have Played at least five (5) Regular Season Competition Fixtures for that Team to qualify to play Finals & Playoffs in 2026 for that Team.
- 19.4.2. Competition Fixtures Played by a player in either the reserve or senior Teams for a Club count towards the player eligibility requirements listed in Regulation 19.4.1.
- 19.4.3. FV will only consider an exception to Regulation 19.4.1. 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 19.4.1) due to insufficient player numbers as a result of availability (including injury). Any Club wishing to rely on Regulation 19.4.3. 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 19.4.1., providing evidence in support of player unavailability; and
 - d. provide FV with any further information required.
- 19.4.4. FV will consider any request made in accordance with Regulation 19.4.3. 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 absolute discretion of FV

2026 RULES OF COMPETITION

JUNIOR MIXED/BOYS/GIRLS



**FOOTBALL
VICTORIA**

SCHEDULE 3 – 2026 METROPOLITAN JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

20. COMEPTITION STRUCTURE

SCHEDULE 3 – 2026 METROPOLITAN JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

20. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

20.1. General Information

- 20.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls metropolitan Competition Fixtures.
- 20.1.2. 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.
- 20.1.3. FV will determine the Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls League structures at their absolute discretion. Where team numbers permit, Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls Leagues will be divided into the following zones:
 - a. West
 - b. North
 - c. East
 - d. South
- 20.1.4. In circumstances where team numbers entered into a particular Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls age group do not allow viable zonal Leagues, FV may amalgamate available Teams into one or more of the following competitions:
 - a. Metropolitan (stand-alone)
 - b. North-West
 - c. North-East
 - d. South-East
 - e. Any other zone that FV determines in its absolute discretion based on team numbers entered.
- 20.1.5. Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls Competition Fixtures will only be played on Sunday, unless it is a listed Saturday competition, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary, or otherwise approves.
- 20.1.6. A player may only play up to four (4) years above their age group, unless an application to FV for exemption from Regulation 20.1.6 is made by the player's Club on behalf of the player and is accepted by FV.
- 20.1.7. Any request for a Dispensation under Regulation 20.1.6 must meet the following minimum criteria:
 - a. The application is submitted via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#).

SCHEDULE 3 – 2026 METROPOLITAN JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

20. COMEPTITION STRUCTURE

- 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.
- 20.1.8. Any application made under Regulation 20.1.7 will be considered by FV. FV has absolute discretion in relation to any application made under that Regulation.
- 20.1.9. A player who is participating above their age group will not be prevented from returning to play in their rightful age group unless that player is suspended.
- 20.1.10. For all Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls competitions, a player who has Played at a higher division in a particular age group (e.g. 14Bs) for five (5) Competition Fixtures or more, cannot drop to a lower category (e.g. 14Cs) within the same age group for their Club for the remainder of the Regular Season (including Finals).
- a. This Regulation does not, prevent a player who is playing 'up' an age group returning to their rightful age group in accordance with Regulation 20.1.9.
 - b. Where a Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls competition has been subject to regrading, the restriction under this clause 20.1.10 shall reset (for example, a player who has Played in 14B's for three (3) Competition Fixtures shall have their number of Played Competition Fixtures reset to zero post regrading).
- 20.1.11. A player may be granted a Dispensation to play down a maximum of one (1) age group at FV's absolute discretion as per the regulations within the FV Dispensation Policy.
- 20.1.12. FV may request information or clarification from a player or Club applying for dispensation under Regulation 20.1.7 as it sees fit and will make a decision in relation to the dispensation request at its absolute discretion.
- 20.1.13. FV may refuse to grant a Dispensation requested at its absolute discretion and this decision is considered as final.
- 20.1.14. For under 12 – 18 Mixed, Boys' & Girls' Competitions, if a Club has two (2) Teams in the 'A' division of a particular age group then players are 'team-tied' following completion of the sixth (6th) round of the Regular Season. Clubs will be required to submit a Team list for both Teams 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(s) that are named on a Match Sheet for either of these Teams from Round 7 onwards, will be tied to that Team for the remainder of the Regular Season. Once a player is tied to a particular Team, the player must not be named on the Match Sheet for the Club's other 'A' division Team, otherwise they will be deemed ineligible.
- a. Players playing up in age group will be exempt from Regulation 20.1.14 in accordance with Regulation 20.1.9.
 - b. For clarity, regulation 20.1.14. does not apply to Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls under 12 – 18 B – E divisions.

SCHEDULE 3 – 2026 METROPOLITAN JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

20. COMEPTITION STRUCTURE

- 20.1.15. Any Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls competition with a flexible kick-off time may not kick-off earlier than 8:30am or later than 6:30pm unless the Competition Fixture has been rescheduled as per Rule 4.3, or as otherwise approved by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 20.1.16. Subject to these Regulations or unless otherwise determined by FV acting in its discretion the Teams finishing 1st in their relevant competition (e.g., Mixed North-West 13B) at the conclusion of the Regular Season, may be crowned Premiers of those Leagues and the 2nd placed Team may be crowned Runners-up respectively.
- 20.1.17. Where a Club holds an Advanced Junior Boys Participation Licence and does not hold a Senior NPL or VPL Participation Licence, that Club may field Players up in age groups from its Advanced Junior Boys Roster (Under 14 – Under 18) into its Community Teams as follows:
- A maximum of four (4) players from an Advanced Junior Boys Roster can play up per fixture at one time in the Club's Men's Metropolitan Under 21 Community Team.
 - Unlimited players from a Advanced Junior Boys Roster can play up per fixture at one time for the Club's State League Men's senior or reserves Community Teams. Players must be of 15 years of age at 1 January 2026 to be eligible to participate in Reserves or Senior Men's Community Teams.
- 20.1.18. Where a Club submits Teams into Junior Mixed U13 – U16 & Junior Boys U18 A Competitions, their total Club accumulative results will be held in the overall Club Championship ladder with two (2) Clubs having the opportunity to be eligible for promotion to the Advanced Junior Boys - Youth State League Competition in 2027.

20.2. Junior Mixed & Boys' Competition

- 20.2.1. Subject to Regulations 20.1.6 and 20.1.9, 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
Thirteens (13s)	Born on or after 1 January 2013
Fourteens (14s)	Born on or after 1 January 2012
Fifteens (15s)	Born on or after 1 January 2011
Sixteens (16s)	Born on or after 1 January 2010
Seventeens (17s)	Born on or after 1 January 2009
Eighteens (18s)	Born on or after 1 January 2008

SCHEDULE 3 – 2026 METROPOLITAN JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

20. COMEPTITION STRUCTURE

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

Age Group	Kick-off Time
Twelves (12s)	10:10 AM
Thirteens (13s)	11:20 AM
Fourteens (14s)	12:30 PM
Fifteens (15s)	1:45 PM
Sixteens (16s)	3:15 PM
Seventeens (17s)	Flexible (9 AM – 6:30 PM)
Eighteens (18s)	Flexible (9 AM – 6:30 PM)

20.2.3. FV may 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.

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

20.3.1. As an exception to the Venue Requirements as set out in Schedule 8, the Mixed and Girls' Under 12 & Under 13 competitions in 2026 will be played as per Regulation 20.3.1.

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

20.3.2. The offside rule will apply for under 12 and under 13 9v9 competition as per IFAB Laws of the Game.

20.3.3. 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.

SCHEDULE 3 – 2026 METROPOLITAN JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

20. COMEPTITION STRUCTURE

- 20.3.4. 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.
- 20.3.5. 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.
- 20.3.6. 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.
- 20.3.7. Red and Yellow Cards will be issued as per IFAB Laws of the Game except in the following.
- a. 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 are reduced by one (1).

20.4. Junior Girls' Competition

- 20.4.1. Subject to Regulations 20.1.69 and 20.1.91 the Junior Girls' Competition will be played in the following age groups:

Age Group	Year of Birth
Twelves (12s)	Born on or after 1 January 2014
Thirteens (13s)	Born on or after 1 January 2013
Fourteens (14s)	Born on or after 1 January 2012
Fifteens (15s)	Born on or after 1 January 2011
Sixteens (16s)	Born on or after 1 January 2010
Seventeens (17) / Eighteens (18)	Born on or after 1 January 2008

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

Age Group	Kick-off Time
Twelves (12s)	10:10 AM
Thirteens (13s)	11:20 AM
Fourteens (14s)	12:00 PM
Fifteens (15s) - Sixteens (16s)	Flexible (9 AM – 6:30 PM)
Seventeens (17) - Eighteens (18s)	Flexible (9 AM – 6:30 PM)

- 20.4.3. FV may alter kick off times of any Team within the Junior Girls' Competition upon the basis of a fixture clash or otherwise at its discretion.
- 20.4.4. As an exception to the Venue Requirements as set out in Schedule 8, the Girls' Under 12 and Under 13 competitions in 2026 will be played as per this Regulation 20.4.4. below:

SCHEDULE 3 – 2026 METROPOLITAN JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

20. COMEPTITION STRUCTURE

FV Community Under 12 & 13 Girls' Competitions (9v9)

Number of Players	9v9 Including Goalkeeper Minimum of 6 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

20.5. Community Premier League (CPL) – Girls

- 20.5.1. The 2026 CPL will consist of two (2) -11 Team leagues (NW & SE) across a 22-round season.
- 20.5.2. FV will endeavour to fixture in a Gala Day format where Clubs CPL Teams are scheduled at Home of the same day following the Kick-Off time below:

CPL Age Group	Kick-off Time
Under 13 (9v9)	12:15 PM
Under 15	1:30 PM
Under 17	3:00 PM

- a. CPL fixtures have flexible kick-off times provided they do not kick-off earlier than 10am (where a regional Club is fixtured) or later than 6.30pm, unless otherwise determined by FV.

Player Restrictions

- 20.5.3. Clubs will be required to submit a Roster for each Team for Round 1 onwards, listing each Player, which will be tied to that particular Team for the season, with the following exemption for team-tied players:
- a. Where a CPL Club has Teams participating in FV Community Competitions, that Club may field Players up in age groups from its CPL into its Community Teams as follows:
- (i) Unlimited players from a Clubs CPL Team can Play up in age group per fixture at one time in the Clubs Community Teams.
 - (ii) Unlimited Players from a Clubs CPL Team can Play up in age group per fixture at one time for the Clubs State League Women's seniors or reserves Teams.

SCHEDULE 3 – 2026 METROPOLITAN JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

20. COMEPTITION STRUCTURE

For example

- a CPL Girls U17 player may Play up into their Clubs State League Women's Team.
- a CPL Girls U15 player may Play up into their Clubs Girls Under 17/18 Community Competitions Team.

20.5.4. A CPL Player is permitted to participate in their Clubs higher CPL age group without restrictions preventing them from returning to their rightful CPL listed age group, unless the Player is suspended.

For example

- a CPL Girls U15 Player may play up into the Clubs CPL Girls U17 Team and then return to the U15's.

20.5.5. A Club may field a maximum of three (3) players from their Community Teams who are not listed on their CPL Roster for each age group on any given weekend. Once a non-listed Community Player has Played five (5) CPL Competition Fixtures across any age group, they will be deemed team-tied and ineligible to return to the Clubs Community Competitions Teams.

- (i) Community Players playing up an age group into CPL, are exempt from rule 20.5.5.

For example

- a Community U12 Player who plays five (5) or more CPL Girls U13 Competition Fixtures, will be eligible to return to their rightful age group in the Clubs Community U12 team.

- (ii) Community Players who become team tied are also subject to rules 20.5.3.a. and 20.5.4.

Online Match Sheets & Results of Competition Fixtures

20.5.6. All Clubs competing in the CPL are required to adhere and use Online Match Sheets via DRIBL for season 2026.

20.5.7. Club Officials must submit their Match Sheets via DRIBL, by no later than 30 minutes prior to the Competition Fixture.

20.5.8. The Appointed Match Official must submit the Full Time Score and any cautions via Dribl by no later than 24 hours post the completion of the Competition Fixtures as per Rule 21.4

20.5.9. 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.:

b. Minimum Requirements

(vi) Half Time Score

(vii) Full Time Score

SCHEDULE 3 – 2026 METROPOLITAN JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

20. COMEPTITION STRUCTURE

(viii) Home & Away Team Goal Scorers

(ix) Home & Away Team Cautions

(x) Home & Away Team Substitutions

20.5.10. 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 may be fined or penalised for Misconduct under the GDR.

CPL Finals Series

20.5.11. The Premier of each league (NW & SE) of each CPL age group may play-off in a Grand Final. The winner will be crowned Champions of CPL.

20.6. Composition of Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls Leagues

- a. Composition of Leagues is at the absolute discretion of FV.
- b. Any provisions referred to in Regulation 20.6 are subject to Community Competitions continuing in 2026 in the same, or substantively the same structure.
- c. FV reserves the right to determine dates and times of Competition Fixtures with specific regards to the number of matches played.
- d. Where practical, FV will limit the over representation of Teams from a particular Club within the same League.

20.6.1. *Division Categories*

- a. The categories in Under 12 to Under 18 Divisions are A, B, C, D etc.

20.6.2. *League Size*

- a. FV's preferred League size for all junior Mixed/Boys/Girls leagues is ten (10) Teams to facilitate an eighteen (18) round Regular Season.
- b. In all Leagues for all age groups (Under 12 to Under 18) there may be a maximum of fifteen (15) and minimum of six (6) Teams playing an eighteen (18) round Regular Season, unless otherwise determined by FV.
- c. Teams in Leagues of an even (6, 8, 10, 12 or 14) number of Teams may all play 18 Competition Fixtures during the Regular Season unless otherwise determined by FV.
- d. Teams in Leagues of an uneven (7, 11, 13 or 15) number of Teams will either:
 - (i) have additional Competition Fixtures scheduled during their Regular Season; or
 - (ii) have Competition Fixtures removed from their Regular Season,

to ensure that all Teams play the same number of Competition Fixtures across the Regular Season.
- e. Teams in Leagues of nine (9) Teams may play sixteen (16) Competition Fixtures during the Regular Season unless otherwise determined by FV.

20.6.3. *Mixed, Boys & Girls Under 12 - Under 18*

SCHEDULE 3 – 2026 METROPOLITAN JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

20. COMEPTITION STRUCTURE

- a. At FV's discretion, more than 10 teams may be allocated into a Junior Under 14 – Under 18 "A" League and may take into consideration one of the following structures:
 - (i) Regular season fixtures of 18 rounds.
 - (ii) Regular season fixtures may be fixtured in Catch Up Rounds to increase the number of games played. For example, 12 team structure may play across 22 Rounds.
 - (iii) Regular season fixtures may be played on a double weekend (Saturday fixture) and/or midweek to ensure a balanced league amongst 'A' competitions.
 - (iv) Introduce a league split during the season, which will see teams split once each team plays each other once in the first half of the season. In the second half of the season, teams will then be split into top half and bottom half and play each team in their half, based on their standings.
 - (v) Leagues may remain unbalanced to ensure each team is playing the same amount of games. This may lead to clubs not having the opportunity to play against all opposition team an even number of times.
 - b. In all grades other than "A", Leagues of no less than six (6) Teams may be created. If there are less than six (6) Teams in a League, that League may be amalgamated with another league as per Regulation 20.1.4 or at FV's absolute discretion.
- 20.6.4. In Under 14 - Under 18 Mixed, Boys and Girls Leagues, Clubs may have no more than two (2) Teams in an "A" competition, unless "A" is the only League available in that age group. Clubs may have single or multiple Teams in any League lower than "A".
- 20.6.5. All Clubs must submit their teams for the 2026 season, during the relevant Team Entry Period.
- 20.6.6. Age groups with one standalone division are considered an "A" League for the purpose of Regulation 20.6.1.

20.7. Regrading & Late Team Entries

- 20.7.1. Following the conclusion of Grading Round 6, 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 s 20.6.1.a. and 20.6.1.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 six (6) Grading Round fixtures.
 - e. the Team has lost all six (6) Grading Rounds fixtures, with scorelines of 4–0 or more.
 - f. the Team is not in a Mixed or Boys Under 13 – 18 'A' competition.

SCHEDULE 3 – 2026 METROPOLITAN JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

20. COMEPTITION STRUCTURE

- 20.7.2. If FV receives multiple requests to regrade into the same league, the regrade priority will be given based on results and standings.
- 20.7.3. 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.
- 20.7.4. The following match determinations will apply to competitions affected by an approved request to re-grade in:
- Any re-graded Team will commence in its new League in Round 7.
 - Results and ladders for the regraded impacted league will be reset from Round 7 onwards and previous results accounted for as 'grading games'.
- 20.7.5. The following match determinations will apply to competitions affected by an approved request to re-grade out:
- All championship points along with goals scored (for & against) for that Team will be erased.
 - 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.
- 20.7.6. For avoidance of doubt where a competition is affected by both a Team re-grade out and a separate Team re-grade in, Regulation 20.7.6 will apply.
- 20.7.7. The Re-grading Period will commence following Round 6 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 6 Competition Fixture. Any request received after this time will not be considered unless, in the opinion of FV, the request benefits all affected Leagues.
- 20.7.8. 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.
- 20.7.9. FV will act in its absolute discretion regarding regrading requests. All decisions are considered final.

20.8. Team Entry

- 20.8.1. Clubs may apply to enter any number of Teams, new or existing, in any one (1) age group.
- 20.8.2. Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls teams (Under 12 – Under 18) are to be entered as new team entries.
- 20.8.3. Any Club entering a Team in Junior competitions (Under 12 to Under 18), will be considered by FV, taking into consideration the following:
- the composition of team entries received for a particular league and or age group.
- 20.8.4. Any Team Entry submitted after the closure of the Team Entry Period will only be accepted if a vacancy exists within that age group, preferably in the club's rightful FV geographical zone, however inclusion in another zone may be considered. Placement preferences will not be considered when allocating Late Team Entries.

SCHEDULE 3 – 2026 METROPOLITAN JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

20. COMEPTITION STRUCTURE

- 20.8.5. Further to Regulation 20.8.4, if a vacancy does not exist, FV will consider entering a 'late' Team following the Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls Regarding Period which commences at the conclusion of Grading Round 6.
- 20.8.6. Where a late Team entry is accepted by FV and that Team commences in a League after the commencement of the Regular Season and prior to Grading Round 6, 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.

SCHEDULE 3 – 2026 METROPOLITAN JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

21. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

21. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

21.1. Interchange

- 21.1.1. Interchange Rule – Mixed/Boys’ Under 12 to Under 18 competitions and Girls’ Under 12 to Under 18 competitions:
- For Under 12 – Under 13 a maximum of fourteen (14) players can be named on the Match Sheet. Clubs may make any number of interchanges during the course of the Competition Fixture, provided the Match Official has been consulted first and permits the substitution.
 - For Under 14 – Under 18 a maximum of seventeen (17) players can be named on the Match Sheet. Clubs may make any number of interchanges during the course of the Competition Fixture, provided the Match Official has been consulted first and permits the substitution.
 - 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.

21.2. Additional Time

- 21.2.1. Additional time shall not be played in Metropolitan Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls Competition Fixtures.

21.3. Match Balls

- 21.3.1. The following ball sizes apply:

Age Group	Ball Size
Under Twelve (12) Mixed	Size 4
Under Thirteen (13) Mixed	Size 4
Under Fourteen (14) Mixed	Size 5
Under Fifteen (15) Mixed	Size 5
Under Sixteen (16) Mixed	Size 5
Under Seventeen (17) Boys	Size 5
Under Eighteen (18) Boys	Size 5
Under Twelve (12) Girls	Size 4
Under Thirteen (13) Girls	Size 4
Under Fourteen (14) Girls	Size 5
Under Fifteen (15) Girls	Size 5
Under Sixteen (16) Girls	Size 5
Under Seventeen (17) - Under Eighteen (18) Girls	Size 5

- 21.3.2. The Home Club shall provide the appointed Match Official with 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.

- 21.3.3. All Clubs must use a licensed match ball from FV’s official and exclusive match ball partner Mitre for all competition fixtures.

- Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls Competition Fixtures are recommended to use a Mitre Impel EVO or higher match ball.

SCHEDULE 3 – 2026 METROPOLITAN JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

21. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

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

21.4. Results of Competition Fixtures

Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls Competitions – Minimum Requirements

- 21.4.1. 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.
- 21.4.2. Junior Mixed/Boys/Girls Competitions – 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) Full Time Score
 - (ii) Home & Away Team Cautions
- 21.4.3. 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 Home Club via the DRIBL.
- 21.4.4. 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.
- 21.4.5. All Competition Fixture results must be submitted via Dribl.

SCHEDULE 3 – 2026 METROPOLITAN JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

21. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

21.4.6. Clubs which fail to submit Competition Fixture results in accordance with Regulation 21.4.2. may be penalised under the GDR.



SCHEDULE 4 – 2026 MINIROOS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

23. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

22. JUNIOR FINALS SERIES

22.1. Junior Finals Series

22.1.1. Subject to this Regulation and unless otherwise determined by the FV Competitions Team the Teams that are eligible for finals of their respective League at the conclusion of the Regular Season may progress to a Final Series.

22.1.2. Final Series for junior mixed/boys/girls competitions will be structured depending on the number of Leagues in a particular age group and grade. One of the following formats may be applied:

a. **Elimination Finals Format**; for example:

- (i) If there are two (2) Leagues in a particular age and grade level across all zones, the Premiers of the two (2) respective Leagues will play each other in a one off Grand Final; or
- (ii) If there are four (4) Leagues in a particular age and grade level across all zones, the Premier of each League will be fixtured in a Semi Final/Grand Final Format; or
- (iii) If there is a Standalone League (i.e., there is only one League in a particular age and grade level across all zones), the top two (2) Teams from that League at the end of the Regular Season will be fixtured in a Grand Final Format.
- (iv) If there are three (3) Leagues in a particular age and grade level across all zones, the Premiers of each League plus the highest placed 2nd Team will be fixtured in a Semi Final/Grand Final format.
- (v) If there are five (5), six (6), seven (7), eight (8) or nine (9) Leagues in a particular age and grade level across all zones, the top four (4) Premiers will be fixtured in a Semi Final/Grand Final Format.

In deciding on order of merit for the purposes of Regulation 22.1.2.a.iv & v., those Teams will be ranked according to the following (and in this order):

- average points per game for the current Regular Season;
- average Goal Difference per game for the current Regular Season;
- average goals FOR per game for the current Regular Season; and
- the Team and the Club's disciplinary record for the current Regular Season.

22.1.3. Details of each Finals Series format for all junior competitions and Leagues will be released by FV prior to the conclusion of the Regular Season.

22.1.4. FV may alter finals series formats as it deems necessary and acting in its absolute discretion.

22.1.5. If any 2026 Junior Finals Series Competition Fixture is postponed, abandoned or cancelled, that Final will be replayed at a time and venue to be determined by FV.

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

SCHEDULE 4 – 2026 MINIROOS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

23. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- 22.1.7. FV representative Teams participating in any FV Junior Competitions shall not be eligible to participate in any Junior Finals series. If a FV representative Team finishes the Regular Season in a position which qualifies it for a Finals series, it will be replaced in that Finals series by the next highest Team in its League (based on end of Regular Season ladder position).

22.2. Procedures to Determine the Winner of Finals

- 22.2.1. All Competition Fixtures played in the 2026 Junior Finals Series will be played over one (1) leg.
- 22.2.2. If, at the conclusion of an Elimination Finals fixture, the scores between the Teams are tied, extra time of two equal periods will be used to decide the winner. Should the scores be level at the end of extra time penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game to determine the winner of the Final.
- 22.2.3. Subject to this Regulation and unless otherwise determined by the FV Competitions Team, the Team which wins a Grand Final may become the 2026 Champion of that age group and division for that season.

22.3. Discipline

- 22.3.1. All Suspensions from the Regular Season will carry over to the Junior Finals Series.
- 22.3.2. A player that receives a Red Card during the Junior Final Series will automatically miss the next Competition Fixture (whether or not that fixture is a Final) and may be subject to further sanction in accordance with the GDR.

22.4. Player Restrictions

- 22.4.1. Each player must have Played at least four (4) Competition Fixtures for that Team during the current Regular Season to qualify for a Junior Finals series in the same year for that Team.
- 22.4.2. 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 Regulation 22.4.2 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 22.4.1, providing evidence in support of player unavailability; and
 - provide FV with any further information required.
- 22.4.3. FV will consider any request made in accordance with Regulation 22.4.2 together with all information provided in support of that request and make a decision regarding any exception to Regulation 22.4.1. Any decision made in this regard is at the sole and exclusive discretion of FV and is not subject to review or appeal.

SCHEDULE 4 – 2026 MINIROOS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

23. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

SCHEDULE 4 – 2026 COLES MINIROOS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

23. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

23.1. General Information

- 23.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all MiniRoos Competition Fixtures in line with the [Football Victoria MiniRoos Guidelines](#).
- 23.1.2. 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.
- 23.1.3. FV will determine the MiniRoos League structures at their absolute discretion. Where team numbers permit, MiniRoos Leagues will be divided into the following zones:
 - a. West
 - b. North
 - c. East
 - d. South
- 23.1.4. In circumstances where team numbers entered into a particular junior age group do not allow viable zonal Leagues, FV may amalgamate available Teams into one or more of the following competitions:
 - a. North-West
 - b. North-East
 - c. South-East
 - d. Any other zone that FV determines in its absolute discretion based on team numbers entered.
- 23.1.5. MiniRoos Competition Fixtures will only be played on Sunday, unless it is a listed Saturday competition, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary, or otherwise approves.
- 23.1.6. 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
 - (i) beginning to develop football skills
 - c. Joeys
 - (i) no or little previous experience

SCHEDULE 4 – 2026 MINIROOS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

23. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

23.2. MiniRoos Mixed & Girls Competitions Age Groups

23.2.1. The following age groups may take part in the MiniRoos Mixed & Girls Competition in 2026:

- (i) Mixed/Girls Under 6s
- (ii) Mixed/Girls Under 7s
- (iii) Mixed/Girls Under 8s
- (iv) Mixed/Girls Under 9s
- (v) Mixed/Girls Under 10s
- (vi) Mixed/Girls Under 11s

23.2.2. 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

23.3. MiniRoos Mixed & Girls Competition Format

23.3.1. 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	Null	Depth: 5m Width: 12m	Depth: 10m Width: 20m

SCHEDULE 4 – 2026 MINIROOS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

23. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

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

**MEN'S & WOMEN'S
METROPOLITAN & MASTERS**



**FOOTBALL
VICTORIA**

SCHEDULE 5 – 2026 MEN’S & WOMEN’S METROPOLITAN & MASTERS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

24. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

SCHEDULE 5 – 2026 MEN’S & WOMEN’S METROPOLITAN & MASTERS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

24. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

24.1. General Information

- 24.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all Men’s & Women’s Metropolitan and Masters Competition Fixtures.
- 24.1.2. All Men’s Metropolitan and Metropolitan Masters Teams will play each other on a home and away basis over 18 rounds unless otherwise determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 24.1.3. All Women’s Metropolitan Teams will play each other on a home and away basis over 16 rounds unless otherwise determined by FV in its absolute discretion.

24.2. Men’s/Women’s Metropolitan League & Men’s Under 21 Metropolitan League Competition

- 24.2.1. The Men’s Metropolitan League competition shall comprise 15 Leagues across 8 Divisions as follows, or such other number as determined by FV at any time.

League Name	Number of Teams
Men’s Metropolitan League 1	6-10
Men’s Metropolitan League 2 North-West	6-10
Men’s Metropolitan League 2 South-East	6-10
Men’s Metropolitan League 3 North-West	6-10
Men’s Metropolitan League 3 South-East	6-10
Men’s Metropolitan League 4 North-West	6-10
Men’s Metropolitan League 4 South-East	6-10
Men’s Metropolitan League 5 North-West	6-10
Men’s Metropolitan League 5 South-East	6-10
Men’s Metropolitan League 6 North-West	6-10
Men’s Metropolitan League 6 South-East	6-10
Men’s Metropolitan League 7 North-West	6-10
Men’s Metropolitan League 7 South-East	6-10
Men’s Metropolitan League 8 North-West	6-10
Men’s Metropolitan League 8 South-East	6-10
Men’s Metropolitan League 9 North-West	6-10
Men’s Metropolitan League 9 South-East	6-10

- 24.2.2. The Women’s Metropolitan League shall comprise of two Leagues across 1 Division as follows, or such other number as determined by FV at any time.

League Name	Number of Teams
Women’s Metropolitan League North-West	6-10

SCHEDULE 5 – 2026 MEN’S & WOMEN’S METROPOLITAN & MASTERS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

24. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

Women’s Metropolitan League South-East	6-10
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24.2.3. The Men’s Metropolitan Under 21 League shall comprise of two Leagues across 2 Divisions as follows, or such other number as determined by FV at any time.

League Name	Number of Teams
Men’s Metropolitan Under 21 North-West	6-10
Men’s Metropolitan Under 21 South-East	6-10

- (i) To be eligible to participate in the Men’s Metropolitan Under 21 competitions, Players must have been born on or after 1st January 2005.
- (ii) Clubs may list and field a maximum of three (3) overage Players on any given weekend in any one (1) Competition Fixtures.

24.2.4. Number of teams and structure of the Leagues is determined by FV in its absolute discretion.

24.2.5. The Team finishing 1st in each of the Leagues referred to in Regulation 24.2.1, 24.2.2 & 24.3.3 at the conclusion of the Regular Season may be crowned Premiers of that League and the 2nd placed Team may be the Runners-Up.

24.2.6. Metropolitan Men’s & Women’s League Competition Fixtures will be played on either Friday, Sunday or Monday. FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary and acting in its absolute discretion.

24.2.7. 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.

24.2.8. Metropolitan 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 agreed in writing by the two (2) Clubs or as determined by FV acting in its absolute discretion.

24.2.9. Sunday Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 11:00am or later than 8:30pm, unless the Competition Fixture has been rescheduled in accordance with Rule 4.3.

24.2.10. The applicable kick off times for Sunday Competition Fixtures apply to any Competition Fixtures held on a public holiday.

24.2.11. Any Late Team Entry submitted after the closure of the Team Entry Period (as advertised by FV) will only be accepted if a vacancy exists within a particular League, or at the discretion of FV.

24.2.12. 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) in its absolute discretion.

SCHEDULE 5 – 2026 MEN'S & WOMEN'S METROPOLITAN & MASTERS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

24. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

24.3. Men's Metropolitan Masters League

- 24.3.1. The Men's Metropolitan Masters competition shall consist of Leagues of between 6 and 10 Teams each, based on geographic location, or as otherwise determined by FV.
- 24.3.2. FV will determine the Men's Metropolitan Masters League structures at their absolute discretion.
- 24.3.3. The Team finishing 1st in each of the Leagues at the conclusion of the Regular Season may be crowned the Premiers of that League and the 2nd placed Team may be the Runners-Up.
- 24.3.4. Men's Metropolitan Masters Competition Fixtures will be played on either Friday, Sunday, or Monday. FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary and acting in its absolute discretion.
- 24.3.5. 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.
- 24.3.6. Men's Metropolitan Masters 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 agreed in writing by the two (2) Clubs or as determined by FV acting in its absolute discretion.
- 24.3.7. 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.
- 24.3.8. The applicable kick off times for Sunday Competition Fixtures apply to any Competition Fixtures held on public holidays.
- 24.3.9. Any Late Team Entry submitted after the closure of the Team Entry Period (as advertised by FV) will only be accepted if a vacancy exists within a particular League, or at the discretion of FV.
- 24.3.10. 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) in its absolute discretion.

24.4. Vacancies in Men's & Women's Metropolitan League Competitions

- 24.4.1. From time to time vacancies are created in Men's & Women's Metropolitan League Division due to:
 - a. a Team withdrawing from a Division or League;
 - b. a Team being expelled from a Division or League;
 - c. other reasons from time to time.
- 24.4.2. If a vacancy is created in a Men's & Women's Metropolitan League Division prior to the commencement of the Regular Season (whether that vacancy is created during the previous Regular Season or in the 'off-season' prior to the commencement of the Regular Season in question), FV shall have absolute discretion when filling a vacancy. FV may choose to leave the vacancy and replace it with a bye, fill the vacancy as per Regulation 24.4.4 or decide upon an alternate outcome at FV's absolute discretion.
- 24.4.3. If a vacancy is created in a Men's & Women's Metropolitan League Division prior to the commencement of the Regular Season (whether that vacancy is created during the

SCHEDULE 5 – 2026 MEN’S & WOMEN’S METROPOLITAN & MASTERS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

24. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

previous Regular Season or in the ‘off-season’ prior to the commencement of the Regular Season in question), that vacancy may be offered to Clubs in accordance with the priority set out in Regulations s 24.4.4. and 24.4.5.

- 24.4.4. Vacancies created in accordance with Regulations s 24.4.2 and 24.4.3 may be filled in the following order of priority:
- a. the highest finishing Team from the Division below across both Leagues (NW & SE) in the previous season.
 - b. remaining Teams from the previous season which submit a League Change Request during the Team Entry Period. Teams from the previous season that are competing in the closest Division, either from one Division above or below, that have requested a League Change Request will be prioritised.
 - c. the Clubs that submit a New Team Entry request, with that request being for the Division where the vacancy arises, or the closest available Division.
- 24.4.5. In deciding on order of merit for the purposes of Regulation 24.4.4.a & 24.4.4.b, or where two Teams are otherwise equal for the purposes of Regulation 24.4.4.a & 24.4.4b, those Teams will be ranked according to the following (and in this order):
- a. league finishing position for respective teams (applicable only where all Teams have played the same number of Competition Fixtures);
 - b. average points per game for the current Regular Season (i.e., the season before the Regular Season in which the vacancy needs to be filled);
 - c. average Goal Difference per game for the current Regular Season (i.e., the season before the regular season in which the vacancy needs to be filled);
 - d. average goals FOR per game for the current Regular Season (i.e., the season before the Regular Season in which the vacancy needs to be filled);
 - e. the Team and the Club’s disciplinary record for the current Regular Season (i.e., the season before the Regular Season in which the vacancy needs to be filled).
- 24.4.6. FV, acting in its absolute discretion, may decide not to fill a vacancy in the Men’s & Women’s Metropolitan League competition where to do so would disrupt lower Leagues and Divisions, for example where a League vacancy is created in close proximity to the start of the relevant Regular Season.

24.5. Player Restrictions

Men’s & Women’s Metropolitan Leagues

- 24.5.1. No more than two (2) players who have Played in their Club’s State League Men’s or Women’s Team (seniors or reserves) on any given weekend may play in a Metropolitan League Competition Fixture that same weekend.
- 24.5.2. On a weekend where a Club’s State League Men’s or Women’s Team (seniors or reserves) is not scheduled to play in a Competition Fixture, no more than two (2) players who have Played in the Club’s most recent State League Men’s or Women’s fixture will be eligible to play in a Metropolitan League Competition Fixture that weekend.
- 24.5.3. .Once a Player has Played in five (5) State League Men’s or State League Women’s senior fixtures, that Player will be deemed ineligible to compete in any of that same Clubs Men’s or Women’s Metropolitan League Teams for the remainder of the Regular Season

SCHEDULE 5 – 2026 MEN’S & WOMEN’S METROPOLITAN & MASTERS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

24. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

(including Finals). Players under the age of 21 as of January 1 2026, are exempt from regulation 24.5.3.

- 24.5.4. FV may consider an exemption to Regulation 24.5.3. in exceptional circumstances and where a Club/Team can establish that it is unable to field a Team for a Competition Fixture due to insufficient player numbers as a result of availability (including injury). Any Club wishing to rely on Regulation 24.5.3. must apply to FV:
- via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#).
 - Setting out the reason it requests a dispensation be granted to Regulation 24.5.3., providing evidence in support of the player unavailability; and
 - provide FV with any further information required.
- 24.5.5. FV will consider any request made in accordance with Regulation 24.5.3. together with all information provided in support of that request and make a decision regarding any dispensation to Regulation 23.5.3. Any decision made is at the sole discretion of FV and is not subject to review or appeal.
- 24.5.6. If a Club has two or more Teams in the same 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, with the following exemption for team-tied players:
- Up to a maximum of three (3) players listed to a particular Team may play for the Clubs other Team(s) in that Division on any given weekend.
- 24.5.7. Further to Regulation 24.5.5 any new player(s) that registers to a Men’s or Women’s Metropolitan League Team after the sixth (6th) round of the Regular Season and is to play for a Club that has two Teams in the same league or Division, the club must allocate the player to one of the Team lists and that player will be tied to that Team for the remainder of the Regular Season (subject to the exceptions listed in Regulation 24.5.5.a above).
- 24.5.8. Where a Club has multiple teams in different Men’s or Women’s Metropolitan Leagues/Divisions (i.e. a team in Metropolitan League 5 and Metropolitan League 2), once a player has Played six (6) or more Competition Fixtures for the Team entered by his Club in the higher Division of Metropolitan League, that Player is team-tied to the higher Division Team, with the following exemption:
- Up to a maximum of three (3) players who have Played six or more Competition Fixtures for the higher Division Metropolitan League Team may play for the Club’s other lower Division Team(s) on any given weekend.
- 24.5.9. To be eligible to participate in Men’s Metropolitan League competitions, players must be 15 years (or older) as at 1 January 2026 unless an application to FV for exemption from Regulation 24.5.7 is made by the player’s Club on behalf of a player and is approved by FV.
- To be eligible to participate in the Men’s Metropolitan Under 21 competitions, Players must have been born on or after 1st January 2005.
- 24.5.10. To be eligible to participate in Women’s Metropolitan League competitions, players must be 14 years (or older) as at 1 January 2026 unless an application FV for exemption from Regulation 23.6.8 is made by the player’s Club on behalf of a player and is approved by FV.

SCHEDULE 5 – 2026 MEN'S & WOMEN'S METROPOLITAN & MASTERS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

24. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- 24.5.11. An application made under Regulation 24.5.7 & 24.5.8 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.
- 24.5.12. An application made under Regulation 24.5.9 will be considered by the FV. FV has absolute discretion in relation to any application made under that Regulation.

Men's Metropolitan Masters Leagues

- 24.5.13. All players competing in the Men's Metropolitan Masters League must be 35 years or older as at 1 January 2026, unless an application to FV for exemption from Regulation 23.6.11 is made through the FV Dispensation Policy regulations by the player's Club on behalf of a player and is approved by FV.
- 24.5.14. All players competing in the Women's Metropolitan Masters League must be 30 years or older as at 1 January 2026, unless an application to FV for exemption from Regulation 23.6.12 is made through the FV Dispensation Policy regulations by the player's Club on behalf of a player and is approved by FV.
- 24.5.15. If a Club has two or more Teams in the Men's or Women's Metropolitan Masters competitions 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, with the following exemption for team-tied players.
- a. Up to a maximum of three (3) players listed to a particular Team may play for the Clubs other Teams(s) in that Division on any given weekend.
- 24.5.16. No more than two (2) age eligible players who have Played in their Club's State League Men's or Women's Team (seniors or reserves) on any given weekend may play in a Metropolitan Masters League Competition Fixture that same weekend.
- 24.5.17. On a weekend where a Club's State League Men's or Women's Team (seniors or reserves) is not scheduled to play in a Competition Fixture, no more than two (2) players who have Played in the Club's most recent State League Men's or Women's fixture will be eligible to play in a Metropolitan Masters Competition Fixture that weekend.

SCHEDULE 4 – 2026 MEN'S & WOMEN'S METROPOLITAN & MASTERS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

25. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

25. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

25.1. Interchange

Interchange Rule – Men's & Women's Metropolitan and Masters Leagues

- 25.1.1. A maximum of seventeen (17) players may be named on the Match Sheet. Clubs may make any number of interchanges during the course of the Competition Fixture, provided the Match Official has been consulted first.
- 25.1.2. 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.
- 25.1.3. All substitutes must be seated within the Technical Area.

25.2. Additional Time

- 25.2.1. Additional time for Men's & Women's Metropolitan and Master League Competition Fixtures must be played in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game.

25.3. Match Balls

- 25.3.1. The Home Club shall provide the appointed Match Official with 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.
- 25.3.2. All Clubs must use a licensed match ball from FV's official and exclusive match ball partner Mitre for all competition fixtures.
 - a. Metropolitan League Competition fixtures are recommended to use a Mitre Impel EVO or higher match ball.
- 25.3.3. Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to FV by the Match Official.

25.4. Results of Competition Fixtures

Men's & Women's Metropolitan and Masters Leagues – Minimum Requirements

- 25.4.1. 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.
- 25.4.2. Metropolitan and Masters – 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 Fixtures:
 - b. Minimum Requirements
 - (i) Half Time Score
 - (ii) Full Time Score
 - (iii) Home & Away Team Goal Scorers
- 25.4.3. All Home & Away Team Cautions must be submitted via Dribl.

SCHEDULE 4 – 2026 MEN’S & WOMEN’S METROPOLITAN & MASTERS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

25. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

- 25.4.4. Clubs which fail to submit results, cautions and goal scorers (when requested or when a match official is not present) in accordance with Regulation 254.4.4243 may be fined or penalised for Misconduct under the GDR.



SCHEDULE 4 – 2026 MEN’S METROPOLITAN & MASTERS COMPETITION REGULATIONS

26. FIXTURE DETAILS

26. FIXTURE DETAILS

26.1. Admittance to Fixtures

- 26.1.1. Admittance to all Men’s & Women’s Metropolitan and Masters Leagues Regular Season and Finals Competition Fixtures is free of charge, including car parking.



SCHEDULE 4 – 2026 METROPOLITAN & MASTERS COMPETITION REGULATIONS 27 FINALS SERIES

27. FINALS SERIES

27.1. Men's & Women's Metropolitan League Competition Finals Format

- 27.1.1. All Men's & Women's Metropolitan League Competitions may conclude the Regular Season with a Finals series.

Men's Metropolitan League 1

- 27.1.2. Subject to this Regulation and unless otherwise determined by the FV Competitions Team the Teams that finish top four (4) Teams in Men's Metropolitan League 1 at the conclusion of the 2026 Regular Season may progress to the 2026 Metropolitan League 1 Finals Series

- 27.1.3. The format of the 2026 Metropolitan League 1 Finals Series may be as follows:

Week 1

*Semi Final 1: 1st v 4th
Semi Final 2: 2nd v 3rd*

Week 2

Grand Final: Winner Semi Final 1 v Winner Semi Final 2

- 27.1.4. The Teams which finish in 1st and 2nd positions in Metropolitan League 1 at the conclusion of the 2026 Regular Season shall be entitled to host their Week 1 Semi Final at their home venue. The Grand Final will be played at a neutral venue to be determined by FV.
- 27.1.5. If the nominated venue(s) for Week 1 of the 2026 Metropolitan League 1 Finals Series is/are deemed unfit for play, alternative venues will be determined at the absolute discretion of FV.
- 27.1.6. The Home Club will cover all Match Official match fees in Week 1 of the 2026 Metropolitan League Finals Series.
- 27.1.7. FV will cover all Match Official match fees in Week 2 of the 2026 Metropolitan League 1 Finals Series.

Men's Metropolitan League 2 – 9

- 27.1.8. The Premier of Metropolitan League 2 South-East may play the Premier of Metropolitan League 2 North-West to determine the Metropolitan League 2 Champion.
- 27.1.9. The Premier of Metropolitan League 3 South-East may play the Premier of Metropolitan League 3 North-West to determine the Metropolitan League 3 Champion.
- 27.1.10. The Premier of Metropolitan League 4 South-East may play the Premier of Metropolitan League 4 North-West to determine the Metropolitan League 4 Champion.
- 27.1.11. The Premier of Metropolitan League 5 South-East may play the Premier of Metropolitan League 5 North-West to determine the Metropolitan League 5 Champion.
- 27.1.12. The Premier of Metropolitan League 6 South-East may play the Premier of Metropolitan League 6 North-West to determine the Metropolitan League 6 Champion.
- 27.1.13. The Premier of Metropolitan League 7 South-East may play the Premier of Metropolitan League 7 North-West to determine the Metropolitan League 7 Champion.

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- 27.1.14. The Premier of Metropolitan League 8 South-East may play the Premier of Metropolitan League 8 North-West to determine the Metropolitan League 8 Champion.
- 27.1.15. The Premier of Metropolitan League 9 South-East may play the Premier of Metropolitan League 9 North-West to determine the Metropolitan League 9 Champion, unless there is only one (1) League in that Division, in which case Regulation 27.1.31 will apply.
- 27.1.16. Where a standalone Metropolitan League competition exists (below Metropolitan League 1), the finals series will be the same as that set out for Metropolitan League 1 in Regulation 27.1.3 above.

Women's Metropolitan League

- 27.1.17. The Women's Metropolitan League finals structure will be determined based on the team entries, as follows:
- a. Where a standalone Women's Metropolitan League competition exists, the finals series will be the same as that set out for Men's Metropolitan League 1 in Regulation 26.1.3 above.
 - b. Where two (2) Women's Metropolitan League Competitions exists, the finals series will be same as that set out for Men's Metropolitan League 2 in Regulation 26.1.8 above.
- 27.1.18. All fixture dates and venues for the Metropolitan League Finals Series referred to in Regulations s 27.1.3 to 27.1.17 will be neutral and will be determined by FV acting in its absolute discretion.
- 27.1.19. The Metropolitan League finals structure is determined based on the team entries into the current league structures, should the league structures change based on team entries the finals series format may also be amended at FV's discretion.
- 27.1.20. Subject to this Regulation and unless otherwise determined by FV acting in its absolute discretion, the Team winning the Finals at the conclusion of the Regular Season may entitle the Team to be named Champions. For the avoidance of doubt simply winning the final does not entitle the Team to be named Champions.
- 27.1.21. Match Official match fees for Metropolitan Finals are to be shared by the two competing Clubs/Teams, unless one of the competing Clubs is the Host Club in which case the Host Club will pay the Match Official fees.

27.2. Metropolitan Masters Competition Finals Format

- 27.2.1. All Metropolitan Masters competitions may conclude the Regular Season with a Finals series.
- 27.2.2. Subject to this Regulation and unless otherwise determined by the FV Competitions Team the Teams that finish as Premiers of their regional Metropolitan Masters League at the conclusion of the Regular Season may progress to a Final Series
- a. In the situation where three (3) Competitions exist, the highest placed runner up will be included in the Metropolitan Masters Finals Series as per the following criteria:
 - i. average points per game;

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- ii. average Goal Difference per game during the Regular Season;
 - iii. average Goals FOR per game during the Regular Season;
 - iv. the Team's Disciplinary record during the current Regular Season;
 - v. if Teams cannot be separated, then those Teams will be required to play a Play Off Match.
- 27.2.3. The four (4) Teams referred to in Regulation 27.2.2 will be randomly drawn against an opponent for a semi-final in week 1 of the 2026 Metropolitan Masters Finals Series.
- 27.2.4. The winners of the semi-finals referred to in Regulation 27.2.3 will compete in the 2026 Metropolitan Masters Grand Final.
- 27.2.5. Subject to this Regulation and unless otherwise determined by FV acting in its absolute discretion, the Team winning the Finals at the conclusion of the Regular Season may entitle the Team to be named Champions.
- 27.2.6. All venues for the Metropolitan Masters Finals Series will be neutral and will be determined by FV at its discretion.
- 27.2.7. Match Official match fees for Metropolitan Masters Finals are to be shared by the two competing Clubs/Teams, unless one of the competing Clubs is the Host Club in which case the Host Club will pay the Match Official fees.

27.3. Procedure to Determine the Winner of Finals

- 27.3.1. All Competition Fixtures played in the 2026 Metropolitan League and Metropolitan Masters League Finals Series will be played over one (1) leg.
- 27.3.2. If, at the conclusion of normal time of any Finals Fixture, the scores between the Teams are tied, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game to determine the winner of the Competition Fixture.

27.4. Discipline

- 27.4.1. 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 Team's final Regular Season Competition Fixture they shall be suspended for the first applicable Final of the 2026 Finals Series.

27.5. Player Restrictions

- 27.5.1. Each player must have Played at least five (5) Competition Fixtures for that particular Team during the current Regular Season to qualify for a Metropolitan or Metropolitan Masters Finals series in the same year for that Team.
- 27.5.2. FV will only consider an exception to Regulation 27.5.1 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 27.5.1) due to insufficient player numbers as a result of availability (including injury). Any Club wishing to rely on Regulation 27.5.2 must apply to FV:
- a. via the [FV Competitions Dispensation Request Form](#);
 - b. at least 5 days before the Final is due to take place;
 - c. setting out the reasons it requests an exception be granted to Regulation 27.5.1, providing evidence in support of player unavailability; and

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d. provide FV with any further information required.

27.5.3. FV will consider any request made in accordance with Regulation 27.5.2 together with all information provided in support of that request and make a decision regarding any exception to Regulation 27.5.1. Any decision made in this regard is at the sole and exclusive discretion of FV and is not subject to review or appeal.

SCHEDULE 9 – MINIMUM FACILITY REQUIREMENTS – COMMUNITY COMPETITIONS

SCHEDULE 8 – 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 9 – MINIMUM FACILITY REQUIREMENTS – COMMUNITY COMPETITIONS

- 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.

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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.

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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 9 – MINIMUM FACILITY REQUIREMENTS – COMMUNITY COMPETITIONS

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.

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- 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.

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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 9 – MINIMUM FACILITY REQUIREMENTS – COMMUNITY COMPETITIONS

SCHEDULE 9 – 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.

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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>

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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.

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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 - Operations

Access	4.1	Senior & Junior	The venue must be accessible by emergency services vehicles.
First Aid Person	4.2	Senior & Junior	A First Aid person must be available for fixtures.