

The Football Victoria (FV) Community Awards recognise the outstanding contributions of individuals, clubs, and initiatives that play a vital role in strengthening and enriching football communities across the state. These awards celebrate those who go above and beyond to create positive, inclusive, and impactful experiences at all levels of the game.

In 2026, the FV Community Awards will once again be proudly presented as part of the Victorian Football Gala, showcasing the critical role grassroots football plays in the continued growth and success of the sport.

Please note the following key dates:

	Key Dates
Nominations Open	Monday 29 June
Nominations Close	Sunday 2 August
Winners Notified	Wednesday 19 August
Awards Presentation	Thursday 24 September

Visit the FV website and navigate to the "Community Awards" section or click the link below the find out more and submit your nomination/s:

[2026 FV Community Awards Nomination Form](#)

Choose the relevant award category and provide the required details and supporting evidence in line with the award criteria. Submit your nomination by **11:45pm Sunday 2 August 2026**.

For any enquiries regarding the FV Community Awards please email Club Development at clubdevelopment@footballvictoria.com.au

NOMINATION ELIGIBILITY

Entries are invited from individuals, clubs, stakeholders, and partner organisations who contribute to the delivery of football in Victoria.

Eligibility:

- FV at its absolute discretion may determine whether a nominee, or a nominated organisation, meet the eligibility criteria for entry into the Awards.
- Self-nominations are accepted.
- Nominations on behalf of other people/organisations are accepted with their consent.
- Individual award nominations; To be considered an Individual Nominee must be registered on Play Football with a valid WWCC.
- Community Impact Award; event or initiative eligibility period September 2025 to 2 August 2026.

AWARD CATEGORIES

COMMUNITY INCLUSION AWARD

Recognising an individual or Club that has demonstrated outstanding commitment to inclusivity by creating safe, accessible, and supportive environments within Football. This award celebrates those that go above and beyond in promoting equal opportunities for marginalised groups (E.g., Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples, All Abilities participants, Gender Diverse, Culturally & Racially Marginalised participants, etc).

COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

Recognising an outstanding event or initiative that has delivered a meaningful and lasting positive impact on the football community. This award celebrates innovative programs or events that strengthen connections, enhance participation, and create tangible benefits for participants both on and off the field.

Please note: Event or initiative eligibility period September 2025 to 2 August 2026.

COMMUNITY COACH OF THE YEAR (FEMALE & MALE)

Recognises a coach who has made a significant impact on player development, team culture, and community engagement. This award honours coaches who go above and beyond to create positive, enjoyable, and supportive environments that inspire a lifelong love of football.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

This award recognises a volunteer within the football community who has made a meaningful and positive contribution to the experiences and opportunities available to others throughout 2026. The recipient may be a volunteer administrator, coach, team manager, etc who has demonstrated outstanding commitment, passion, and leadership, often going above and beyond in service of their club or community without expectation of personal reward.

REGIONAL CLUB OF THE YEAR

Acknowledging a club from Regional Victoria that has showcased exceptional commitment to its members and local community. The Club actively creates a welcoming and inclusive environment through good governance and dedicated volunteers who are committed to engaging people all across Regional Victoria.

METROPOLITAN CLUB OF THE YEAR

Celebrating a club within metropolitan areas that has excelled in promoting football excellence and community involvement. The Club actively creates a welcoming and inclusive environment through good governance and dedicated volunteers who are committed to engaging people from all walks of life.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Nominations for the 2026 FV Community Awards are assessed according to the respective assessment criteria by an independent voting panel.

COMMUNITY INCLUSION AWARD

How have they demonstrated a clear commitment to inclusive football environments?

- Inclusion policies or plans, alignment with values, community consultation, leadership accountability and long-term vision.

What initiatives promote participation for marginalised groups?

- Accessibility initiatives, community partnerships, education/training, participation growth and barrier removal.

What impact have these efforts had?

- Participant experience, feedback/testimonials, retention/pathways, broader influence and long-term change.

COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

What was the purpose and need for the event or initiative?

- Community need, clear goals, target audience, stakeholder input and accessibility.

How effectively was it delivered and who did it engage?

- Delivery quality, participation levels, community reach, partnerships and innovation.

What outcomes or lasting benefits were achieved?

- Measurable outcomes, community benefit, feedback, ongoing impact and scalability.

COMMUNITY COACH OF THE YEAR (FEMALE & MALE)

How are players supported to grow?

- Coaching structure, skill development, personal growth, inclusivity and coach development.

How is a positive environment created?

- Safe, respectful culture, enjoyment & fairness, inclusion, retention and relationships.

What is their broader influence?

- Community engagement, mentoring others, club contribution, feedback and leadership impact.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

What is their level of service?

- Length of service, roles undertaken, reliability, effort beyond role and consistency.

How do they support others?

- Initiative shown, mentoring/support, encouraging participation, extra responsibilities and role modelling.

What difference have they made?

- Participation growth, club culture, new initiatives, feedback and lasting impact.

REGIONAL CLUB OF THE YEAR

How is the club managed?

- Governance structure, financial management, volunteer support, compliance and strategic planning.

How inclusive and connected is the club?

- Inclusive programs, community partnerships, accessibility, outreach and sense of belonging.

What impact has the club had?

- Participation growth, development pathways, club culture, regional contribution and sustained impact.

METROPOLITAN CLUB OF THE YEAR

How effectively is the club run?

- Governance structure, financial management, volunteer support, compliance and strategic planning.

How does the club engage diverse communities?

- Inclusive programs, community partnerships, accessibility, outreach and sense of belonging.

What impact has the club had?

- Participation growth, development pathways, club culture, regional contribution, sustained impact and community profile.