

2027 Football Victoria

Late Developers Application Process

In 2027 Football Victoria (FV) will continue to support the biological maturation process with Late Developer (LD) Dispensation in the Advanced Junior Competitions. The Late Developer Dispensation will form part of the 2027 Dispensation Policy for all Competitions when released in the near future.

This will apply for the following age groups:

- **Advanced Junior Boys** - U13, U14, U15, U16 age groups
 - *For clarity purposes there is no LD dispensation in the Under 18, Under 20 & Under 23 age group
- **Advanced Junior Girls** - U13, U15 & U17 age groups
 - *For clarity purposes there is no LD dispensation in the Under 20 age group

Bio Maturation / Late Developers Policy

As part of FV's Dispensation Policy, players that develop at a different rate from a physical perspective due to later biological maturity may be eligible to play in a lower age group.

Although players may be similar in terms of chronological age, their biological age can vary substantially due to the timing of their adolescent growth spurt.

Biological maturation testing allows players to develop their skills on a level playing field against an opposition more suited to their height, weight, speed and strength.

Late Developer Dispensation is a deliberate strategy aimed at ensuring fairness and equal opportunities. The primary goals are to level the playing field, support the growth of every player and foster equity in youth development and competition.

Are you eligible?

The assessment conducted by FV will provide two results:

- the estimated age at peak height velocity (APHV)
- the maturation category which will be classed as either early, on-time or late developer

The age at APHV is an estimate of when the player did or is predicted to go through the most intensive phase of the adolescent growth spurt. Some players will have already been through the growth spurt, whereas some others are yet to do so.

The age criteria used to categorise biological maturation are as follows:

Boys:

APHV <13.5 = early

APHV 13.5-14.5 = on-time

APHV >14.5 = late

Girls:

APHV <11.5 = early

APHV 11.5-12.5 = on-time

APHV >12.5 = late

If the player is officially confirmed as a late-developer during the assessment with FV, the player has the option to register in a lower-age group. However, we recommend that technical directors, coaches, players and parents consider carefully the implications of competing in a lower age category before a decision is made.

Bio Maturation Assessments

Assessing a player's biological maturation is a two-step process. Firstly, players are to have the following measurements taken by the FV High Performance Department:

- Standing Height
- Seated Height
- Body Mass

Measurement taking and player profiling will only be conducted by the FV High Performance Department at Home of the Matilda's (Bundoora) or Sports Clinic of Football (Moorabbin).

A payment of \$70 per player will be made at the time of the booking and players will be allocated 15 minutes for the measurements to be conducted and a discussion with the player and/or parents.

Under exceptional circumstances, FV may accept the required measurements to be provided by Medical Professional.

The following Advanced Junior Clubs will fall under exceptional circumstances:

- Ballarat City FC
- Bendigo City FC
- Geelong SC
- Geelong Galaxy United FC
- Gippsland United FC
- Goulburn Valley Suns FC
- Murray United FC
- North Geelong Warriors FC
- Surf Coast FC

Once the players measurements are recorded, they will be calculated and if a player is found to be potentially a late developer (or borderline) in this assessment, the player may be eligible for a Late Developer Dispensation.

Application Conditions

Advanced Junior Boys Clubs can have a maximum of **four (4) LD players per club** with a **maximum of one (1) in any one team from U13 - U16.**

- Regional Clubs will be permitted to have a maximum of eight (8) players per club with a maximum of two (2) in any one team from U13 - U16.

Advanced Junior Girls Clubs can have a maximum of **three (3) LD players per club** with a **maximum of one (1) in any one team from U13 - U17.**

- Regional Clubs will be permitted to have a maximum of six (6) players per club with a maximum of two (2) in any one team from U13 - U17.

Late Developers' status is applicable for one season only and needs to be reapplied for each competition season. All assessments are undertaken on a yearly basis.

**For the avoidance of doubt 2026 approved LD applications do not constitute an automatic approval for 2027.*

No applications will be considered during the Advanced Junior Boys & Girls Competition Season.

The decision of the FV High Performance Department & Competitions Department will be final and no further correspondence entered.

Application Process

Any club that wishes to submit a player for Late Developers status assessment needs to apply via the JotForm link in accordance with the application process.

Club Technical Directors (TD) are required to:

1. Complete the [Late Developers Application JotForm](#)
 - When completing this JotForm the Club TD will be required to complete the relevant evaluation template, outlining the reason behind applying for LD based on documentation included in application form.
 - In exceptional circumstances as determined by FV supporting documentation from a medical professional will be required for confirming players' **Standing Height, Seated Height and Body Mass**. This is to be included in the application form.
2. The JotForm for Advanced Junior Clubs must be completed by **11:59pm Monday 18th January 2027**

**Please Note: no LD will be reviewed 14 days prior to roster submission deadline.*

Dispensation Submissions	Clubs	Dates	Location	Fee
FV Medical Assessment #1	Advanced Juniors Clubs	Tuesday 13 th October 2026	Sports Clinic of Football (Moorabbin)	\$70
FV Medical Assessment #2	Advanced Juniors Clubs	Friday 16 th October 2026	Home of the Matildas (Bundoora)	\$70
FV Medical Assessment #3	Advanced Juniors Clubs	Tuesday 20 th October 2026	Sports Clinic of Football (Moorabbin)	\$70
FV Medical Assessment #4	Advanced Juniors Clubs	Friday 23 rd October 2026	Home of the Matildas (Bundoora)	\$70
FV Medical Assessment #5	Advanced Juniors Clubs	Tuesday 17 th November 2026	Sports Clinic of Football (Moorabbin)	\$70
FV Medical Assessment #6	Advanced Juniors Clubs	Friday 20 th November 2026	Home of the Matildas (Bundoora)	\$70
FV Medical Assessment #7	Advanced Juniors Clubs	Friday 11 th December 2026	Home of the Matildas (Bundoora)	\$70
FV Medical Assessment #8	Advanced Juniors Clubs	Tuesday 15 th December 2026	Sports Clinic of Football (Moorabbin)	\$70
FV Medical Assessment #9	Advanced Juniors Clubs	Tuesday 12 th January 2027	Sports Clinic of Football (Moorabbin)	\$70
FV Medical Assessment #10	Advanced Juniors Clubs	Friday 15 th January 2027	Home of the Matildas (Bundoora)	\$70
FV Medical Assessment #11	Advanced Juniors Clubs	Friday 22 nd January 2027	Home of the Matildas (Bundoora)	\$70
No Further Submissions	Advanced Juniors Clubs	Monday 18th January 2027		

***Sports Clinic of Football – 1 Lennox Street, Moorabbin 3189 from 5:00pm – 8:00pm**

***Home of Matilda's – 3 Sports Drive, Bundoora 3083 from 6:30pm – 8:00pm**

3. FV High Performance Department conduct measurement taking and player profiling at Home of the Matilda's (Bundoora) or Sports Clinic of Football (Moorabbin).
FV High Performance Department may from time to time require an on-field practical assessment. This assessment could be in the form of an organised trial, based on previous playing history, recommendations from staff, previous playing observations and/or any other criteria in which the FV High Performance Staff deem necessary.
4. FV to communicate the outcome of assessment within fourteen (14) working days.

Registration

Registration as a Late Developers player is only possible if FV has granted Late Developers status to a player.

Advanced Junior Boys Roster Sizes & Age Eligibility

Age Groups	Minimum Roster Size	Maximum Roster Size	Year of Birth Age Eligibility	LD Age Eligibility
U13	14	16	2014	2013
U14	16	20	2013	2012
U15	16	20	2012	2011
U16	16	20	2011	2010
U18	16	20	2009	N/A

**Approved LD player must be listed on the relevant age group roster in which such application has been granted.*

Advanced Junior Girls Roster Sizes & Age Eligibility

Age Groups	Minimum Roster Size	Maximum Roster Size	Year of Birth Age Eligibility	LD Age Eligibility
U13	14	16	2014	2013
U15	16	20	2012	2011
U17	16	20	2010	2009

**Approved LD player must be listed on the relevant age group roster in which such application has been granted*

Summary

FV at its sole discretion may amend any part of the dispensation policy as required from time to time. In implementing the Bio Maturation & Late Developers (LD) process we continue to strive for the best possible standard of play and opportunities for players to play at the highest level.