

FOOTBALL FEDERATION VICTORIA

ALL ABILITIES FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT GUIDE FOR CLUBS



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INTRODUCTION

Football Federation Victoria (FFV) is committed to servicing clubs and regional football associations, so everyone in local communities can participate, compete safely and enjoy all aspects of football - regardless of their age, gender, background, ability or role.

PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDE

With the support of the Department of Health & Human Services (Sport & Recreation Victoria), FFV works with football clubs, associations and communities to provide participation opportunities for people of all ages and abilities.

The All Abilities Football Development Guide (The Guide) has been created to enable growth in All Abilities Football programs and competitions in Victoria. The Guide aims to provide staff from affiliated clubs, associations and districts with practical advice about establishing or growing their All Abilities Football club and program strategy. Club benefits of being inclusive and wide and varied, including: membership growth, potential for greater investment in football facilities, improved connections to local communities and improved communication skills for developing coaches.

FFV strongly encourages clubs to use This Guide in conjunction with the **Seven Pillars of Inclusion, by Play By the Rules**. The pillars are: Access, Attitude, Choice, Partnerships, Communication, Policy and Opportunities. Visit www.playbytherules.net.au for more information.

It's never too late for your club or association to be more inclusive and develop stronger relationships with key stakeholders. FFV is partnering with football clubs, associations, local government and organisations to grow participation in All Abilities Football. We look forward to partnering with your club to establish or grow your own inclusion journey today.

MORE INFORMATION?

Clubs are encouraged to use the information provided in this document as a guide only. FFV can work with your club, district or association to grow All Abilities Football. More information on All Abilities Football can be found on the www.ffv.org.au, or by contacting:

Megan Smith, All Abilities Project Coordinator: 03 9474 1805 or msmith@ffv.org.au

Registrations Coordinator: 03 9474 1800 or myfootballclub@footballfedvic.com.au

Craig Moore, Education and Regional Manager: 03 9474 1812 or coaching@ffv.org.au

CLUB DEVELOPMENT & GOVERNANCE

Below is a list of areas for clubs to consider when adopting an inclusive approach to growing their membership, in particular among people with a Disability. FFV encourages clubs to add their own considerations to this list.

Topic	Description	More Help?
Club Strategy	<p>FFV encourages clubs to adopt an inclusive approach as part of your club and coach development strategy.</p> <p>See right for websites and resources that provide templates for clubs to use and tailor for their members and coaches.</p>	<p>Sports Community</p> <p>Play By The Rules</p>
Policy	<p>Where appropriate, FFV encourages clubs and associations to have an Inclusion Policy.</p> <p>See right for websites and resources that provide an Inclusion Policy Template for clubs to use and tailor for their own needs.</p>	<p>Sports Community</p> <p>Play By The Rules</p>
Access	<p>A significant part of how clubs' can create welcoming and inclusive environments is by ensuring people of all abilities can access and use a venue. Areas of consideration for short-term access or including in facility upgrades could be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disability Parking Street Signage Entrance Signage Clear directional and location signage Use of symbols on all signage Step-Free Access (Ramps) Clear Footpaths and Seating Accessible Toilets Toilets for people with Disability Coach and Supervisor Name Tags 	<p>FFV All Abilities Project Coordinator</p>
Registration	<p>FFV recommends that all club participants are registered with FFV to ensure they are covered for public liability insurance and can access competition pathways.</p>	<p>FFV Registrations Coordinator, FFV All Abilities Project Coordinator</p>

	<p>Participants in All Abilities Programs can register through FFV under the Play Football Fee: \$20 Concession or \$30 Adult</p> <p>To register your club's interest in running a pilot disability-specific program in 2017, please contact FFV, All Abilities Project Coordinator, Megan Smith.</p> <p>As of December 2016, disability-specific programs supported or run by FFV include: Wheelchair Football, Blind Football, 7-a-side Football and Deaf Football.</p>	
Mentoring	<p>Attend and contribute to discussion on inclusion and All Abilities Football through the 2017 Club Administrators Conference.</p> <p>Contact other clubs or ask a question in the Club HQ Facebook Group.</p>	FFV All Abilities Project Coordinator

PLAYERS, PROGRAMS & COMPETITIONS

This section of the guide assists your club with attracting, retaining and supporting players of all ages and abilities at your club. Some common questions you might ask are:

What does an 'all ages and abilities' approach mean, and who might we attract to our club?

Put simply, clubs who adopt this approach aim to give all members of the community - regardless of their age, gender, background, ability or ethnicity - the choice and opportunity to play football. From a community perspective, you might find a particular focus on smaller but growing communities in your local government authority, such as: people with physical or intellectual disability, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities or older adults. For some football clubs, this might also include women and girls.

Why should we give people of all ages and abilities the choice to play football?

Creating an inclusive and welcoming club environment and strategy is considered by government, FFV and funders as best practice and good business for local sporting clubs.

What should your club look like for people of all ages and abilities?

At FFV, we aim to break the stereotype of what a typical football player looks like. Similar to FFA's Development Guide for women's Football, FFV encourage clubs to:

- Provide as many participation opportunities as possible, through modifying existing programs or creating new ones;
- Create a club culture that is welcoming and inclusive of people of all ages and abilities
- Listen and use the feedback obtained from new members and their families.

Club Programs

With assistance from FFV, associations and clubs are encouraged to give people of all abilities the choice of how they would like to participate in a football program. Clubs are strongly encouraged to engage with new participants and base the decision on their feedback, as well as consideration to what the club can deliver (eg, coaches and space).

Modify existing programs: most footballers from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities or who have a Disability, are participating in mainstream programs (eg, FFV Community Competitions).

Establish an All Abilities or Disability-specific Program: these programs are created to give players the choice to play football with players who are similar to them in standard, ability and background. This might be a dedicated program for children or adults with a Disability.

All Abilities or Disability-specific program

The table below provides clubs with advice about establishing a dedicated Disability-Specific program (eg, 7-a-side Football, Special Olympics or Deaf Football).

Topic	Description	More Help?
Come & Try	<p>FFV encourages clubs to run a clinic or session through a partnership with another organisation. FFV recommends these to be established for outreach and promotional purposes.</p> <p>FFV encourages clubs to consider running the program trial day or term program at the school or organisation venue. Particularly for people with disabilities, transport can be a barrier.</p> <p>Your club may also not have pitch space during peak periods.</p> <p>FFV can support your come & Try clinic with merchandise, banners, proof reading of materials and use of the FFV logo.</p>	FFV All Abilities Project Coordinator
Weekly Program	<p>In the early stages, consider running the new program for half a term and modify as necessary.</p> <p>The key is to base the day and time on availability of participants and coaches.</p>	Coach to gather feedback from participants and parents during and at the end of Term.
Promotion	<p>FFV encourages clubs and associations to make program and enrolment information available online.</p> <p>Always provide program information on the club website, inclusive of a description and a reliable and accessible contact person. Provide links on the homepage where possible.</p> <p>Clubs are encouraged to create a flyer and distribute through club in hard copy and on social media.</p>	FFV All Abilities Project Coordinator

FFV competition and program opportunities

FFV actively work with inclusive football clubs in Victoria to create competition opportunities for AAA programs and disability-specific programs. Football clubs that have or are seeking to establish an AAA or Disability-specific program are strongly encouraged to talk to FFV, so their members can have more opportunities to play matches against other clubs.

A list of FFV Disability-specific football competitions and AAA stream competition opportunities are outlined below for your reference.

Disability-Specific Competitions through FFV

- Wheelchair Football
- Blind Football
- 7-a-side Football (Summer Sevens)
- All Abilities Football (pilot to commence in 2017)

AAA Streams

- Boys and Girls FC
- Summer Sevens
- Mini Roos



Caption: these photos from 2016 capture participants in South-East Wheelchair Football competition and a All Abilities Activation Day with Avondale FC and Extended Families.

EDUCATION

It's important for football coaches to be equipped with knowledge about Inclusion and coaching people with Disabilities. This information can be gathered through FFV resources and organisations, however the best source of advice is the participant and their parents.

FFV encourages all clubs and their coaches to request participant information from new players prior to commencing a program or participating in a Come and Try Day. This will enable coaches to prepare and create a welcoming environment for the new player.

Topic	Description	More Help?
Club Education (Development)	<p>Please see right for a list of resources to assist clubs with embedding inclusion as part of their growth strategy.</p> <p>7 Pillars of Inclusion - click here to view.</p>	<p>Play By The Rules Sports Community FFV Website Sport Inclusion Australia</p>
Coach Education	<p>Courses</p> <p>Ensure your appointed coach has completed a Grassroots Coaching course through FFV.</p> <p>FI available, nominate coach to attend a Disability Awareness Workshop through FFV.</p> <p>Resources</p> <p>FFV competition rules are available on the FFV website. All coaches and clubs are encouraged to read and understand this information as a basis for developing training programs.</p> <p>Please note that specific rules apply for Disability-specific competitions and Summer Sevens.</p> <p>Looking for a new inclusive coach?</p> <p>Past players and sports teachers are ways to find and recruit new football coaches for inclusion programs.</p> <p>Inclusive coaches are seen to have particular personality traits, such as: patience, calmness, welcoming nature and the ability to exercise judgement in a busy environment.</p>	<p>Sportspeople Club Classifieds Coach HQ</p> <p>FFV All Abilities Project Coordinator FFV Education and Regional Manager</p>

PARTNERSHIPS

It's important for clubs to go beyond their club's internal network when developing a Disability-Specific or AAA football program. Below is a list of institutions and organisations for clubs to consider approaching when developing a new program. Clubs are encouraged to research other potential partnerships online, that may exist in local community settings.

Note: FFV partners with / has information about organisations marked with a *. FFV has established a Working Group for Blind Football and Wheelchair Football, with other Working Groups to be established in 2017. If your club is interested in partnering with any of these organisations or being part of a Working Group, contact the FFV All Abilities Coordinator.

Tick	Intellectual Disabilities
	*Local Special Development Schools - Secondary and Primary
	Early Intervention Centres - Children
	Day Services - Adults
	Physical Disabilities
	*Cerebral Palsy Support Network / Cerebral Palsy Education Centre
	Open Minds
	*Victorian Electric Wheelchair Sports Association
	*Scope
	Vision Impairment
	Vision Australia
	Royal Society for the Blind
	* Social Goal
	* Blind Sports & Recreation Victoria
	Hearing Impairment
	Deaf Schools - Primary and Secondary
	*Deaf Children Australia
	General Disability Organisations
	Score! by Disability Sport & Recreation
	AAA Play
	Government
	Regional Sports Assemblies
	Metro Access Officers

MARKETING

FFV encourages clubs and associations to raise awareness of inclusive program opportunities at club level through marketing. Once partnerships are established, clubs are encouraged to use and modify the suggested approaches below, according to what has also worked well in the past.

Organisation	Description	More Help?
Club	<p>Website: FFV encourages clubs to add program information, description and contact details to the club website. Make sure it's easy to read and accessible.</p> <p>Club Noticeboards: ensure program information and inclusive focus is visible at the club (eg, posters and flyers).</p> <p>Email Lists: if your club sends out newsletters and correspondence to members, remember this is a vital way to communicate to new members too. Encourage members to refer new participants to programs.</p> <p>Social Media: new participants often find out about opportunities online and through friends on social media.</p> <p>If your club has social media channels, use these to promote new programs. Clubs can also post in FFV's social media groups.</p>	FFV All Abilities Project Coordinator
FFV	Clubs can provide program information and contact details to FFV - this will feature on the FFV website and for enquiries.	
Local Government Authorities	<p>Metro Access Officers: help your club connect with new participant enquiries, promotion opportunities and gala days to showcase your club.</p> <p>Contact FFV for the details of your club's local officer.</p> <p>Regional Sport Assemblies: help your regional club connect with new participant enquiries, promotion opportunities and gala days.</p> <p>Contact FFV for your club's local RSA.</p>	

<p>Inclusive Sport Website - AAA Play</p>	<p>NFP that connects people with Disabilities with local inclusive sporting clubs. Clubs are encouraged to provide program info and details for AAA Play website and enquiries. FFV can assist with this process.</p>	
<p>Inclusive Sport Website - Score! by DSR</p>	<p>NFP that connects people with Disabilities with local inclusive sporting clubs. Clubs are encouraged to provide program info and details for Score! website and enquiries. FFV can assist with this process.</p>	



Caption: this photo was taken in 2016 at the opening game of the B-League competition at Camberwell High School.