

TO: ALL CLUBS
FROM: FV COMPETITIONS
DATE: FRIDAY, 20 March 2020
SUBJECT: LATE TEAM PERIOD – 2020 SPORTSMART JUNIOR LEAGUE,
METROPOLITAN MEN'S/MASTERS, WOMEN'S STATE LEAGUE & MINIROOS

Dear Clubs,

Further to Football Victoria's announcement regarding all Football activity being suspending until 14 April 2020, the Competitions team is continuing to prepare for competition recommencement whilst working through the Community League Structures and fixturing period. Please [click HERE](#) for further information regarding the latest update on COVID-19.

As you are aware, the Team Entry Period for all Community Competitions is now closed:

For all Late League Requests (Late Team Entry, Withdrawals or League Request Change) Clubs will be required to complete one of the Late Team Request Forms found on Page 2 of the memo.

Our Community Competitions Team have begun the fixturing process for approximately 35,000 fixtures across Victoria in season 2020.

Our principles for fixturing are:

- Flow of Competition Fixtures which will assist with venue allocations and referee appointments.
- Ground availability (due to Council allocation/works/ground sharing)

The Football Victoria Competitions Team do receive a significant amount of teams that withdraw of the competition after the fixture has been completed. As all club administrators know, this is often an unavoidable inevitability of player numbers that present at clubs as registered players. Whilst we understand that this occurs, all clubs need to be aware that whenever a team is removed from the competition, it unbalances the previously fixture.

As a result of the late withdrawal of teams, the competitions staff are often unable to re balance the fixture before Round 1 of the football season.

This can lead to unusual fixture patterns in the first three rounds of the community fixture (i.e. Two teams have byes in the same round).

The Community Competitions team will endeavour to rebalance leagues as soon as possible when a team is removed from a league structure.

We understand that between Rounds 1 – 3 for the community season, some parents, players and club officials may be confused about why a league is not balanced.

SUBMITTING LATE LEAGUE REQUESTS

Community Competitions – Late Team Withdrawal – [CLICK HERE](#)

Club's must submit a team withdrawal via the following form immediately to ensure amendments can be made to league structures.

WITHDRAWN TEAMS: Relevant team fees will still apply for teams which have been withdrawn from respective Competitions.

Community Competitions – League Request Change – [CLICK HERE](#)

Club's may submit a league request by no later than Monday 4th May 2020 via the following online form.

Please note any League Requests received may only be considered subject to league vacancies and minimising disruptions to leagues structures at FV's Discretion. Any league request submitted is not a guarantee the request will be actioned by FV.

Community Competitions – Late Team Entry – [CLICK HERE](#)

To minimise the disruption to fixtures and leagues structures, Late new teams which have been submitted to FV will be considered as per the following;

- MiniRoos Boys' & Girls - Late Team Entries will be considered by Round 5 of the Regular Season
- Community Competitions (Juniors & Seniors) - Late Team Entries will be considered by Round 4 of the Regular Season

LATE TEAM ENTRIES: Relevant Late Team fees will still apply for all teams.

DETERMINING LEAGUE STRUCTURES - Sportsmart Junior Girls (U12 to U18)

FV is currently assessing all request's and will take into consideration the following to establish its league structures.

- i. A Clubs history with FV
- ii. The previous level of registered players have competed in Football Victoria Competitions
- iii. The on-field performance of the team prior to round 4.
- iv. If the Club already has an 'A' League team in the league structure
- v. Any other factors as determined by FV

As communicated to clubs on 23 October 2019, Sportsmart Girls 13 & 14 Competitions will now be single age groups (U13's & U14's).

To view the memo, please [click HERE](#).

WHAT PROCESS WILL FOOTBALL VICTORIA FOLLOW IF THE LEAGUE STRUCTURE EXCEEDS 10 TEAMS?

Sportsmart Junior "A" League only (Junior Boys & Junior Girls)

At its discretion Football Victoria, may increase the league structure to more than 10 teams and introduce one of the following options to ensure a balanced competition.

- Regular season fixtures will be played in Catch Up Rounds therefore increasing the number of games played. For example, 12 team structure will be played across 22 Rounds.
- Introduce a league split during the season, which will see teams split once each team plays each other once. After the league split, clubs will be placed into top half and bottom half and play each team in their half, based on their standings.
- 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 clubs an even number of times.

If at Football Victoria's absolute discretion, a 12 team league is not appropriate for a league structure, Football Victoria will choose teams to place in the 'A' competitions. A range of competition factors may be utilised for this to occur which may include but are not limited to;

- i. A Club's previous results and participation in FV Competitions
- ii. The previous level of registered players had competed in Football Victoria Competitions
- iii. The on-field performance of the team prior to round 4.
- iv. If the Club already has an 'A' League team in the league structure
- v. Any other factors as determined by FV

Sportsmart Boys & Girls all other leagues (Excluding 'A' Leagues)

Each competition season is still required to fit into an 18 round season and as such some teams may not play each other in an even home and away fixture. The fixture is an entirely random draw, so no team is prioritised over another when determining who plays each other twice or once.

****Please note that given the recent events and suspension of leagues until the 14th of April 2020 and the unknown nature of the situation at hand, League Structures and season length may be varied and determined by FV at its sole discretion. Once structures are confirmed they will be communicated with all clubs. Currently, the season is due to recommence as per the season calendar.**

CONTACT US: QUESTIONS

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact the Competitions department on 9474 1800 and press '2' for Community Competition when prompted, or via email Competitions@footballvictoria.com.au.



We appreciate club's patience during this period as we are inundated with club requests. We will endeavour to provide responses to all queries as soon as possible. To ensure we know you have contacted us, if you are unable to leave a message on our phone line please ensure you write into the competitions email address with your query so we can provide you with a response.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Zucchet".

David Zucchet
Fixturing Manager