



**FOOTBALL
VICTORIA**

2020 FOOTBALL VICTORIA FEE REFUND POLICY

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1.0 - INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic has confronted Victorian football with the most significant challenge in its history, with all our competitions either disrupted, suspended or cancelled.

Our Clubs, players, officials, administrators, Associations and Football Victoria (FV) itself have all been severely impacted. **Survey data** gathered by the Australian Sports Foundation indicated a total financial loss across Australia's 70,000 Community Clubs this year of \$1.6 billion. Many Clubs will struggle to survive.

FV has taken significant measures to mitigate expenses and cut operational costs, including standing down the majority of staff from March and all staff from August. The impact, however, of twice preparing a season of 40,000 fixtures and meeting the needs of our Clubs during this period has come with expenses.

Fortunately, FV has received substantial support from the Commonwealth and Victorian governments throughout this period, including JobKeeper and the Survival Package Fund respectively. These packages have subsidised our ongoing operations, return to play activities and allowed FV to make strategic decisions in relation to this policy - for example, the increased level of refunds to support football for women and girls.

While FV remains committed to providing football when it is safe to do so, these exceptional circumstances require FV to determine a policy to manage FV Player Registration Fees and FV Team Entry Fees for the disrupted 2020 season.

FV has undertaken exhaustive analysis and consultation in formulating this policy. The expectations of our football stakeholders have been front of mind in the analysis of the costs of organising football competitions and the refund we've been able to deliver to our stakeholders. Importantly, this policy is consistent with the published expectations of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission in terms of refunds by State Sporting Associations.

Please note that all previously communicated fee-relief packages are now incorporated into this policy.

1.1 - WHO DOES THIS POLICY APPLY TO?

This policy only applies to FV sanctioned competitions ([see appendix A](#)) for:

- FV Player Registration Fees (Section 1.4); and
- FV Team Entry Fees.

For the avoidance of doubt, this policy does not apply to Club and Association fees (as applicable).

A further Club/Association-specific policy may apply in relation to the balance of fees paid directly to your Club/Association.

Whilst FV is the state authority responsible for governing the game in Victoria, there are some competitions directly administered by other authorities, particularly in **regional areas**. It will be up to those Associations to form their own refund policy regarding their portion of fees. This policy will apply to the FV portion of the fees charged by those Associations (see 2.1 below).

1.2 - PRINCIPLES FOR REFUND CALCULATIONS

- FV has incurred costs in preparation for competition commencement and, in some cases, commenced competitions twice.
- Cost apportionment (actual expenses incurred) principles are a reasonable and transparent method of refund calculation and involve assessing what costs have been incurred by FV in planning and delivering the competitions to date. This means different levels of refund have been calculated for each competition.
- It is reasonable for registered players to receive a refund if the competition they paid for does not take place, less appropriately apportioned costs.
- FV is committed to allocating a financial sum towards refunds based on clear criteria and guidelines.
- FV has determined to refund more than the level of costs actually incurred (i.e. actual costs incurred are greater than the level of fees retained).

Note: Football Federation Australia (FFA) ordinarily collects the National Registration Fee (NRF) from FV's portion (\$14 per junior and \$33 per senior player). The FFA has elected to retain 95% of the NRF. The 5% balance (\$0.70 for Juniors and \$1.65 for Seniors) forms part of the refunds described below.

1.3 - FOOTBALL VICTORIA'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

As soon as it was clear that competitions would be impacted, FV moved to minimise its own operational costs as quickly as possible and allocate limited resources as follows:

- All non-essential spend was ceased immediately
- Stand downs across FV staff from March 2020 with only a skeleton staff retained
- Reallocating existing resourcing to provide support for clubs in rapidly changing circumstances
- A detailed review of all material contracts
- Closure of FV facilities
- Focus on cashflow management and asset protection
- Review and submitting applications for government stimulus packages
- Reinstating resources to resume football planning

1.4 - PLAYER REGISTRATION FEES

The following table provides a breakdown of the fee components collected by FV and FFA from player registration fees:

| MiniRoos | Age | Details | FFA Fee | FV Fee | Total |
|-----------------|------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| MiniRoos | 11 & Under | Fixtured | \$14 | \$54.50 | \$68.50 |

| Metro Competitions | Age | FFA Fee | FV Fee | Total |
|-------------------------------|------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Juniors | 12 to 18 | \$14 | \$93.50 | \$107.50 |
| Senior Men | 19 to 35 | \$33 | \$194 | \$227 |
| Senior Women | 19 to 35 | \$33 | \$163 | \$196 |
| Over 35s Men and Women | 36+ | \$33 | \$128 | \$161 |

| Regional Competitions | Age | FFA Fee | FV Fee | Total |
|------------------------------|------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| MiniRoos (Regional) | 11 & Under | \$14 | \$26 | \$40 |
| Juniors | 12 to 18 | \$14 | \$28 | \$42 |
| Senior Men and Women | 19+ | \$33 | \$77 | \$110 |

| Social | Age | FFA Fee | FV Fee | Total |
|-------------------------------|------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Play Football (Junior) | 5 to 18 | \$0 | \$26 | \$26 |
| Play Football (Senior) | 19+ | \$0 | \$36 | \$36 |

| Geelong Competitions | Age | Details | FFA Fee | FV Fee | Total |
|-------------------------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Geelong MiniRoos | 11 & Under | Fixtured | \$14 | \$47 | \$61 |
| Geelong Juniors | 12 to 18 | Fixtured | \$14 | \$66 | \$80 |
| Geelong Senior Men and Women | 18+ | Fixtured | \$33 | \$140 | \$173 |

1.5 - FOOTBALL VICTORIA'S HARD COSTS

The fees paid to FV directly cover a range of costs associated with delivery of football for 355 clubs, almost 4,000 teams and over 40,000 fixtures annually.

In general, FV staff are required to support and deliver the following:

- Insurance
- Team entry management
- Fixturing
- Competition rules, policies and support
- Registrations and Play Football administration
- Referee scheduling, education and accreditation
- Determination of player dispensation requests
- Development of our Rules of Competition and Player Regulations
- Establishment of our discipline procedures (including the GDT)
- Council liaison - facilities and grounds
- Club support (including Club Ambassadors)

Over the COVID-19 affected period, FV staff were intensely focussed on:

- Rescheduling and amending fixtures across competitions and hotspots
- Developing and supporting Club COVID-19 safe operations and logistics
- Extensive liaison and communications across councils and local policies
- Return to Training and Return to Play Conditions.

Substantial costs are incurred prior to the commencement of any season. In preparation for season 2020, and as a result of having delivered many competitions in part, FV incurred a range of these costs, most of which are unrecoverable. FV has calculated and considered the extent of these costs in formulating this policy.

2.0 - REFUND AMOUNTS

On the basis of the above, the refunds that will apply to 2020 FV Player Registration Fees and FV Team Entry Fees are set out below.

2.1 - COMMUNITY JUNIOR FOOTBALL

Player Refunds

| Competition | FV Player Registration Fees | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| | % refund per player | \$ refund per player |
| Metro Juniors | 50% | \$46.80 |
| Metro MiniRoos | 50% | \$27.30 |
| Geelong Juniors | 50% | \$33.00 |
| Geelong MiniRoos | 50% | \$23.50 |
| Regional MiniRoos* | 50% | \$13.00 |
| Regional Juniors* | 50% | \$14.00 |
| Social Football Juniors* | 50% | \$13.00 |

Club Refunds

| Competition | FV Team Entry Fees |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Metro Juniors | No team entry fees to be charged. |
| Metro MiniRoos | |
| Geelong Juniors | |
| Geelong MiniRoos | |
| Regional MiniRoos* | |
| Regional Juniors* | |
| Social Football Juniors* | |

* Regional players that take part in competitions administered by an Association should consult that organisation's policy regarding the Association's additional component of player registration/team entry fees.

2.2 - COMMUNITY SENIOR FOOTBALL

Player Refunds

| Competition | FV Player Registration Fees | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| | % refund per player | \$ refund per player |
| Men's State League | 70% | \$135.80 |
| Women's VPL | 70% | \$114.10 |
| Metro Senior Men | 70% | \$135.80 |
| Metro Over 35s/Masters | 70% | \$89.60 |
| Women's State League | 70% | \$114.10 |
| Regional Seniors* | 50% | \$38.50 |
| Geelong Seniors* | 50% | \$70.00 |
| Social Football Seniors* | 50% | \$18.00 |

Club Refunds

| Competition | FV Team Entry Fees | |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------|
| | % refund per team | \$ refund per team |
| Men's State League | 60% of team entry fee per competition Click here for 2020 team entry fees. | |
| Women's VPL | 100% | \$1,470 |
| Metro Senior Men | No team entry fees to be charged. | |
| Metro Over 35s/Masters | | |
| Women's State League | | |
| Regional Seniors* | | |
| Geelong Seniors* | | |
| Social Football Seniors* | | |

* Regional players that take part in competitions administered by an Association should consult that organisation's policy regarding the Association's additional component of player registration/team entry fees.

2.3 - NPL VICTORIA

Player Refunds

| Competition | FV Player Registration Fees | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| | % refund per player | \$ refund per player |
| NPL Men | N/A | N/A |
| NPL 2/3 | N/A | N/A |
| NPL Women | N/A | N/A |
| NPL Junior Metro Boys | 40% | \$74.40 |
| NPL Junior Regional Boys* | 40% | \$44.40 |
| NPL Junior Girls | N/A | N/A |

Club Refunds

| Competition | FV Team Entry Fees | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | % refund per club | \$ refund per club |
| NPL Men | 45% | \$11,250 |
| NPL 2/3 | 45% | \$9,000 |
| NPL Women and Girls | 75% | \$8,250 |
| NPL Junior Metro Boys | 45% | \$3,240 |
| NPL Junior Regional Boys* | 45% | Up to \$1,575 (\$393.75 per team) |
| NPL Junior Girls (only) | 75% | \$2,250 |

* Regional players that take part in competitions administered by an Association should consult that organisation's policy regarding the Association's additional component of player registration/team entry fees.

Please note that, in addition to the above, no Marketing Levy has been charged for the 2020 season.

3.0 - REFUND PROCESS

FV will complete a detailed reconciliation of the FV Player Registration and FV Team Entry refund amounts for each Club/Association.

FV will then invoice or credit each Club/Association as appropriate (understanding that not all Clubs/Associations will have provided these amounts to FV). FV anticipates that the reconciliation process (and associated payments by FV) will be completed by the end of **October 2020**.

Each Club/Association must offer the FV Player Registration Fee refund to each Play Football registered player at their Club/Association (including pending registrations). It is open to Clubs/Associations to agree with players on how to deal with the FV Player Registration Fee refund other than by way of cash transfer to the player – e.g. a player may, at their sole discretion, allow a Club to keep the amount or to rollover to the 2021 season. Each Club must complete this process with their players by **30 November 2020**.

Each Club/Association is required to construct their own refund policy as it relates to their portion of the fees paid by players and the FV Team Entry Fee refund.

While we appreciate the community would like to receive their refunds as quickly as possible, this timeframe will allow Clubs/Associations to also finalise their own refund policies with the aim to distribute all returned monies together.

Should you have any questions regarding your Club/Association's refund position, please contact your Club/Association directly.

APPENDIX A

NPL Women's Program

- NPLW Seniors
- NPLW U19

NPL Men's and Senior Programs

- NPL 1 Seniors
- NPL U20s
- NPL U18s
- NPL 2 Seniors
- NPL 2 U20s
- NPL 2 U18s
- NPL 3 Seniors
- NPL 3 U20s
- NPL 3 U18s

NPL Junior Boys

- NPL Junior Boys

NPL Junior Girls

- NPL Junior Girls

VPL and State League Women's Programs

- VPLW
- State League Senior Women

State League Senior Men

- State League Senior Men

Community Juniors and MiniRoos

- Community Juniors
- Community MiniRoos

Metropolitan and Masters

- Metropolitan
- Over 35's/Masters

Geelong and Regional - Seniors and Juniors

- Geelong - Seniors
- Geelong - Juniors
- Regional - Seniors
- Regional - Juniors



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