

# **FV MEN'S & BOYS 2021 START UP RULES**

Football Victoria is recommending the following competition structures for season 2021 taking into consideration the impacts of the global pandemic, the Men's & Boy's Competition review and stakeholder feedback. All proposed changes, startup rules and subsequent 2021 season impacts and beyond are detailed in this document.

## **1. THE PROPOSED SENIOR MENS (NPL, NPL 2 & 3, STATE LEAGUE) STRUCTURES IN SEASON 2021**

From 2021 the NPL men's structures will commence as follows:

- NPL 14 teams
- NPL 2 12 teams
- NPL 3 12 teams

The proposed NPL Men's age groups for the commencement of the 2021 season are:

- Seniors
- U21's plus up to 3 x U23 players
- U19's

The rules governing the startup of the competition structure will be.

- 1.1. Relegation will apply from the commencement of season 2021 for all top tier NPL clubs. For the avoidance of doubt the 2 teams that finish bottom and second bottom on the table at the conclusion of season 2021 will be relegated into NPL 2.
- 1.2. The NPL top division at the conclusion of the home & away fixture will compete in a top 6 finals series.
- 1.3. All clubs must adhere and comply with the licensing requirements including the current PPS system.
- 1.4. FV proposes to introduce a finals series for the U19's & U21's age groups across all NPL competitions. Details to be confirmed.
- 1.5. Promotion and relegation will apply from the commencement of season 2021 for all NPL 2 & NPL 3 clubs. For the avoidance of doubt the top 2 finishing teams on the table at the conclusion of season 2021 will be promoted into the next tier of competition and the bottom 2 finishing teams will be relegated into the next tier of competition.
- 1.6. Although PPS does not apply for NPL 2 & NPL 3 for the home & away season, PPS regulations apply for NPL 2 & NPL 3 clubs who make the last 32 of the FFA cup.
- 1.7. All clubs promoted into either the NPL or NPL 2 & 3 tiers will be required to adhere to the Licensing requirements for those leagues. FV reserves the right to review clubs who cannot

meet the criteria. Clubs who breach or cannot meet the criteria may be fined, removed, or not offered a position into that tier of competition.

- 1.8. State League structures and competition rules will remain as per the start of the 2020 season. Promotion/Relegation will be enforced and confirmation of the regulations regarding this system will be confirmed prior to season commencement.

## **2. THE JUNIOR BOYS NPL (JBNPL) MODEL FOR FOOTBALL FROM THE COMMENCEMENT OF SEASON 2021 IS AS FOLLOWS:**

From 2021 the JBNPL will commence with all eligible competing clubs. FV will commence the 2021 season with the following mandatory JBNPL age groups.

- U17's                      Min 16 – Max 20 player roster
- U16's                      Min 16 – Max 20 player roster
- U15's                      Min 16 – Max 20 player roster
- U14's                      Min 16 – Max 20 player roster

Note: HAL programs have a Max 18 players per JBNPL mandatory age groups

### **Confirmed small-sided game age groups:**

#### **Under 13's non-JBNPL mandatory competition format:**

- U13's will compete in a 9 vs 9 game format. (half pitch / box to box - flexibility based on specific club facility availability requirements)
- Clubs can nominate their preferred grading. Football Victoria at its sole discretion will determine 'A' leagues for season 2021.
- JBNPL Clubs to field a minimum of 1 team in this age group.
- Pre – season Under 13 9v9 GoFootball Cup to support FV and clubs in grading process.
- For 'A' leagues - competition season is up to 22 games in a home & away fixture format + finals.
- For 'A' leagues - double header rounds (Saturday and Sunday fixtured games) may be required to fit 22 games.
- For 'A' leagues – fixtures may be placed during school holidays instead of catch up rounds to fit 22 games.
- Like U12s clubs may request as many teams as they like within this competition and/or field teams in Under 13 B,C,D etc competitions which will follow the 18 rounds + finals format.
- HAL Clubs are not eligible to compete in this competition.
- Fixtured into geographical zones including both NPL and community teams – regional NPL clubs may also opt into this competition.
- Non-NPL fees: Community based registration and team entry fees for the U13 age group applies.
- JBNPL coaching criteria does not apply for the U13 age group.
- Football Victoria will introduce an opt in post season 11 vs 11 tournament for players in this age group at the conclusion of the 2021 fixtured season.
- Potential for over 30 games if clubs choose to participate in the pre-season GoFootball Cup and post season 11v11 transitional tournament.

## **Under 12's and Miniros**

- U12's and miniros will compete as per the proposed scheduling and game format for season 2020.

## **Other Competition Information**

- Trial dates in 2021 will be set in line with government guidelines. The trial dates will be identical for all clubs. HAL clubs will be required to submit squads at a date to be predetermined.
- For the JBNPL competition (U14,15,16,17), four (4) geographical determined pools will remain. Each pool will play up to 11 qualification games to determine a finishing position on each pool's ladder. Teams that finish in the same band of positions on the ladder across all 4 pools will subsequently be re graded into newly formed 'best vs best' & 'like vs like' leagues where they will then play up to a further 22 home & away games.
- At the end of the season, all teams return to their original geographically determined qualification pools and the following season begins the same way as 2021 starts (i.e. the season always begins with the same teams in qualification pool subject to teams both remaining compliant with their license and any new team application).
- Football Victoria reserves the right to consider new entrants into the JBNPL competition from season 2022. Football Victoria will communicate this process in due course to all aspirational clubs wishing to participate in this tier of competition.

## **3. THE COMMUNITY MINIROOS, JUNIOR BOYS, METROPOLITAN & MASTERS MENS MODEL FOR FOOTBALL FROM THE COMMENCEMENT OF SEASON 2021 IS AS FOLLOWS:**

3.1 Community competitions miniros age groups will remain as per the start of the 2020 season.

3.2 Community competitions junior boys age groups will remain as per the start of the 2020 season however FV will offer an Under 21 boys' community competitions option for Clubs to participate in for season 2021. FV at their sole discretion may merge leagues or age groups based on team entries.

3.3 Like the Under 12 community competition format, NPL clubs will join the Under 13 community competition in season 2021.

3.4 Under 13's Format is as follows:

- U13's will compete in a 9 vs 9 game format. (half pitch / box to box - flexibility based on specific club facility availability requirements)
- Clubs can nominate their preferred grading. Football Victoria at its sole discretion will determine 'A' leagues for season 2021.
- Introduced a pre – season Under 13 9v9 GOFootball Cup to support FV and clubs in grading process.
- For U13 'A' leagues - competition season is up to 22 games in a home & away fixture format + finals.

- For U13 'A' leagues - double header rounds (Saturday and Sunday fixtured games) may be required to fit 22 games.
- For U13 'A' leagues – fixtures may be placed during school holidays instead of catch up rounds to fit 22 games.
- Similar to U12s, clubs may request as many teams as they like within this competition and/or field teams in Under 13 B,C,D etc competitions which will follow the 18 rounds + finals format.
- Fixtured into geographical zones including both NPL and community teams. May include regional teams.
- Rules regarding regional community clubs participating in metropolitan competitions still apply.
- Community based registration and team entry fees for the U13 age group applies.
- Football Victoria will introduce an opt in post season 11 vs 11 tournament for players in this age group at the conclusion of the 2021 fixtured season.
- Potential for over 30 games if clubs choose to participate in the pre-season GoFootball Cup and post season 11v11 transitional tournament.

3.5 Metropolitan and Master's men's competitions format will remain as per the start of the 2020 season.

3.6 All community competitions to enter season 2021 under the same conditions as the commencement of season 2020.