

# **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & GUIDELINES**

## **2021 START UP**

### **OVERVIEW**

Football Victoria is implementing some changes to the start of the 2021 season due to the global pandemic, that has significantly interrupted this year's fixtures and the ability of clubs to train and play as normal.

There has been significant investment by Football Victoria into the Men's & Boys & Women & Girls competition reviews. Both competition reviews have recommended changes to the competition structure with several recommendations already introduced.

Football Victoria acknowledges that Covid has impacted all of us in different ways. The changes aim to address some key areas around overall player development and player retention.

We understand that in football there is no ideal models which can satisfy the objectives of every football stakeholder; however, we feel these changes are best suited to commence the 2021 season.

Taking this into account and feedback we have received from our football stakeholders; Football Victoria is proposing the following Start Up conditions for season 2021. Details can be found by clicking on the links below:

[Women & Girls Competition 2021 Start Up](#)  
[Men's & Boys Competition 2021 Start Up](#)

Football Victoria will constantly review all aspects of its competition structure and design with a view of improving the game for all participants. Please find below some FAQ's.

### **WHY IS FOOTBALL VICTORIA INTRODUCING THESE CHANGES?**

Football Victoria believes that the impacts of the global pandemic on our game in 2020, has required some modifications to be introduced for season 2021. There are several considerations examined, prior to making such decisions. Player development and player retention are 2 (two) of the key considerations amongst many others.

Football Victoria introduces these changes understanding that there is no perfect model. We acknowledge and appreciate that our stakeholder's needs are wide and varied. As the administration body for Football in this state we have considered the current circumstances and introduce these changes with the game's best interest at mind.

### **WHAT ARE SOME OF THE KEY CHANGES?**

Football Victoria is introducing some of the following key changes. More detailed information can be found in the start-up links above:

- U13's game format 9 vs 9 (please refer specific Q&A's for these changes [here](#))
- NPL senior age groups to be:
  - Seniors
  - U21's plus up to 3, U23 players
  - U19's
- JBNPL mandatory age groups
  - U17's
  - U16's
  - U15's
  - U14's

## **WHY IS THE JBNPL CHANGING IN 2020?**

The only change to the JBNPL competition for 2021 is the mandatory age groups. The competition format where each team play up to 11 prequalifying games and then move to 3 divisions post qualifying remains unchanged.

Football Victoria feels that rolling over the JBNPL mandatory age groups is the best way to minimise any player development and player retention opportunities that may have been missed if the age groups remained unchanged.

## **WHEN WILL FOOTBALL VICTORIA ALLOW ADDITIONAL TEAMS INTO THE JBNPL COMPETITION?**

There will be no additional community JBNPL teams entered into the 2021 season. We will be communicating a process for aspirational clubs who have an ambition to be part of the JBNPL program for season 2022.

Our team is working through the details and once approved by the Football Victoria board we will communicate this more broadly.

Football Victoria will continue to work closely with all clubs who have contacted us expressing their interest to join the JBNPL program. We understand and appreciate that the demand for spots remains high and we need to ensure the process is clear for all interested parties.

## **WHY IS THE JGNPL CHANGING IN 2020?**

As per the JBNPL, the JGNPL mandatory age groups are the only thing changing in season 2021. The competition format will remain unchanged.

## **WHEN WILL FOOTBALL VICTORIA ALLOW ADDITIONAL TEAMS INTO THE JGNPL COMPETITION?**

The Girls Optimal Junior Competition Model has been finalised and is with the Football Victoria board for approval. The Girl's Optimal Model recommendations were finalised prior to all competitions being called off due to Covid-19.

The report recommended structural changes to the JGNPL competition for season 2022. FV Football Committee Chair has requested the inclusion of the 2021 start-up rules and any addendums to be submitted to the board prior to final approval of the Optimal Junior Model recommendations.

Once this model is approved by the FV board it will be communicated more broadly.

## **WHY IS THERE NO RELEGATION FOR THE WOMEN'S STATE LEAGUE COMPETITION IN SEASON 2021?**

From season 2021 for the first time, clubs competing in the VPLW will be eligible for promotion into the NPLW. Football Victoria is aiming for 12 team leagues in both the VPLW from season 2022 and NPLW from season 2023.

As a result of this, there will be no relegation from the Women's State Leagues in 2021 as we aim to achieve 12 team leagues in the top 2 tiers of Women's football in Victoria.

## **WILL THESE CHANGES APPLY FROM THE COMMENCEMENT OF SEASON 2022?**

Football Victoria is committed to continuously reviewing the competition structures. In 2020 except for a handful of JBNPL games being played, most of our competitions were cancelled. As such we have had to make changes to season 2021 without having the opportunity to capture and analyse a full football season of data.

The changes made for 2021 have been based on the impact of Covid, primarily on player development and player retention.

We are optimistic that we will have the opportunity to complete a full season in 2021 and be able to gather data and stakeholder feedback through our review process.

Once we have this information, we will be able to confirm details for the 2022 season.