

FV WOMEN & GIRLS 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 Women & Girls 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 WOMENS (NPLW/VPLW/ STATE LEAGUE) STRUCTURES IN SEASON 2021

From 2021 the NPLW will commence with the current 8 teams and will maintain the mandatory age groups of U19's and Seniors.

The VPLW will commence with the current 10 teams and will maintain the mandatory age groups reserves and seniors.

The aim is to achieve 12 team leagues for the NPLW & VPLW by the commencement of:

- NPLW season 2023
- VPLW season 2022

The current Womens State League 1 NW & SE structure will remain the same being 2 divisions of 10 teams (20 teams in total) and will maintain the mandatory age groups reserves and seniors.

It is proposed the rules governing the startup of the new competition structure will be.

- 1.1. For the NPLW there will be no relegation for season 2021 and season 2022.
- 1.2. When a 12-team league is achieved by season 2023, relegation will apply for all competing NPLW clubs. For the avoidance of doubt the 2 teams that finish bottom and second bottom on the table at the conclusion of season 2023 will be relegated into the VPLW.
- 1.3. Emerging Matildas will be eligible to play in NPLW finals series and Nike F.C Cup.
- 1.4. Football Victoria will continue to take the appropriate steps to explore the possibility of transitioning the NPLW Senior Womens competition into a semiprofessional league.
- 1.5. For the VPLW there will be no relegation for season 2021. When a 12-team league is achieved by season 2022, relegation will apply for all competing VPLW clubs. For the avoidance of doubt the two teams that finish bottom and second bottom on the table at the conclusion of season 2022 will be relegated into the Womens State League One competition.
- 1.6. To fulfill the requirements of a 12-team league for NPLW from the commencement of season 2023, the two top finishing teams on the table at the conclusion of season 2021 and season 2022 in the VPLW competition, will be eligible for promotion into the NPLW.
- 1.7. In addition to the changes for the FV VPLW competition, VPLW will have a Visa restriction placed on the competition in season 2021. This restriction will be that VPLW clubs will only be eligible to list four Visa players on their senior match day team sheet from season 2021 and

beyond. A club will be entitled to sign more than four Visa players should they choose to however the Senior team match day team sheet can only list four Visa players.

- 1.8. All clubs promoted into either the NPLW, VPLW or Womens State Leagues will be required to adhere to the Licensing or Competition requirements (including player roster composition compliance and status of the relevant league) 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 competition.
- 1.9. To fulfill the requirements of a 12-team league from the commencement of season 2022 in the VPLW, four teams will be eligible for promotion from the Women's State League 1 competition. The top two finishing teams from the Womens State League 1 N/W competition and the top two finishing teams from the Womens State League 1 S/E competition for season 2021 will be eligible for promotion into the VPLW for the commencement of season 2022.
- 1.10. FV Women State League 2 NW & SE competitions will remain with the current promotion rules which are the top two teams are eligible for promotion to the league above for season 2021.
- 1.11. FV Women State League 1 and 2 NW & SE competitions will also have no relegation for season 2021 to ensure these leagues remain 10 team competitions.
- 1.12. FV Women State League 3 and 4 N, S, E, W competitions will remain with the current promotion rules which are the top team is eligible for promotion to the league above for season 2021.
- 1.13. FV Women State League 3 and 4 N, S, E, W competitions will also have no relegation for season 2021 to ensure these leagues remain 10 team competitions.
- 1.14. FV Women's State League 5 will have promotion available however promotion regulations will be dependent on team entries and forthcoming league structures.
- 1.15. For season 2021 the Women's State League promotion positions are determined based on the team entries into the current league structures, should the league structures change in season 2021 based on team entries the promotion positions will also be amended at FV's discretion.
- 1.16. Once a 12-team league in VPLW is achieved (aimed to be achieved by the commencement of the 2022 season), promotion and relegation regulations and positions amongst the FV Women's State League competition will be amended accordingly.

2. THE PROPOSED JUNIOR GIRLS MODEL FOR FOOTBALL IN 2021

From 2021 the JGNPL will commence with all 9 current competing clubs and the NTC across the following age groups:

NPLW JUNIOR AGE GROUPS (2021)
Miniroos
*U12's – 9v9
U13's – 9v9
U15's – 11v11
U17's – 11v11

2.1 Junior Girls NPL clubs to have the opportunity to field an U12's team in 2021 in the community competition made up of existing registered miniroos players.

2.2 Junior Girls NPL clubs to submit miniroos teams in line with their licence requirements (5 girls and 4 boys miniroos teams in FV competitions in any given year).

2.3 The NTC will be eligible to field teams in the U15's & U17's age groups in the Junior Girls NPL.

2.4 NTC to be eligible to play in Junior Girls NPL finals series.

2.5 The Junior Girls community age groups for the commencement of season 2021 are as follows:

COMMUNITY GIRLS JUNIOR AGE GROUPS (2021)
Miniroos
U12's – 9v9
U13's single age – 9v9
U14's single age – 11v11
U15's single age – 11v11
U16/17's dual age – 11v11
U19's single age – 11v11

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

2.7 The Football Victoria board is currently reviewing recommendations for the Junior Girls Optimal model which would commence from season 2022. The following points are an update on the progress of the Junior Girls Optimal model:

- For the purposes of promotion and relegation the senior NPLW program and Junior NPLW Girls programs will be decoupled.
- The Girls Optimal Junior Competition Model has been finalised and is with the FV 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 for season 2022.
- FV Football Committee Chair has requested the inclusion of the 2021 start-up rules and any addendums to be submitted 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.