



TO: ALL MSL CLUBS
FROM: FV COMPETITIONS
DATE: TUESDAY 22 DECEMBER 2020
SUBJECT: 2021 MEN'S STATE LEAGUE – LEAGUE STRUCTURES & FIXTURING

Dear Clubs

As this remarkable year comes to a close, we now turn our attention to the 2021 season and write to provide you with information in relation to the Men's State League (MSL) structures and fixturing information for season 2021.

We hope this information assists Clubs in preparing for a much-anticipated 2021 season.

MEN'S STATE LEAGUE STRUCTURES

Football Victoria is pleased to release the Men's State League structures for season 2021. They can be viewed by (**clicking here**) or via the [Information and Notices](#) page on the Football Victoria website.

These structures have been formed considering the Rules of Competition and the MSL new club application process for the one vacancy that arose due to a late team withdrawal early on in season 2020.

FV are pleased to announce that after a competitive application process – Surfside Waves SC has been the successful applicant in attaining a Men's State League 5 position in season 2021. Along with all our MSL Clubs we look forward to their participation in the 2021 season and beyond.

Please note: League structures are at the sole discretion of FV and may be subject to change.

2021 COMPETITION CALENDAR & START UP RULES

Please [click here](#) for a link to the 2021 FV Competitions Calendar.

It is important to note that the FV calendar must be flexible in this uncertain environment and should COVID19 impact competitions again in season 2021 there may be changes to this current published calendar. FV will continue to liaise directly with all stakeholders should any circumstances change.

We wish to remind Clubs of the 2021 Start Up Rules that were released in October 2020.

- 2021 Start Up Rules – Men's and Boys

Key notes relating to MSL include.

- Mandatory teams being seniors and reserves remain unchanged.
- Men's 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.



2021 MENS STATE LEAGUE FIXTURE INFORMATION FORM

For season 2021, FV Competitions will roll-over the 2020 MSL pattern and fixtures where possible and will only amend the pattern and roll-over fixtures for 2021 ground availability or unavailability supported and confirmed by a Council Operations Manager or the Venue Owner. FV are not able to accept specific round requests outside of ground availability or unavailability as supported and noted by council or the venue owner.

Clubs must complete the following online Fixture Form ([click here](#)) by **5pm Thursday January 21, 2021** which include but are not limited to the below listed items.

- Home fixtures kick off times for seniors and reserves
- Preferred Day of Play (e.g. Friday, Saturday, Monday etc.)
- Ground availability (due to Council allocation/works/ground sharing)

It is important to note that if information is **not** provided by the Club, FV cannot guarantee fixture changes will be amended after the final fixture release. If this is the case, your Club may be required to source an alternate venue or seek opposition approval to reverse the fixture with opposing clubs once the final fixtures are released.

LIGHTING CERTIFICATION – NIGHT FIXTURES

Clubs may be permitted to host night fixtures provided pitch lighting meets the requirements outlined in the *Football Lighting Policy & Requirements* ([click HERE](#)). Clubs are reminded of the following Lighting Certification deadlines in order to gain approval to host night fixtures in 2021 in the instance your Lighting Certification has expired, or is set to expire prior to the start or during the 2021 season:

- Thursday 11th February 2021 - if the completed Lighting Audit is received by FV Competitions on this date and approved, all requested fixtures may be moved to nominated evening kick off time without opposition consent.
- Thursday 25th March 2021 - if the completed Lighting Audit is received by FV Competitions during this period and approved, all requested fixtures except those falling in Rounds 1 and 2 may be moved to nominated evening kick off time without opposition consent.
- Post Thursday 25th March 2021 - if the completed Lighting Audit is received by FV Competitions and approved after this date, clubs will be required to seek opposition consent as per the Rules of

Competition to change any Regular Season FV Competition Fixture, unless otherwise approved by FV at its sole and absolute discretion.



Clubs with previous lighting certification that has expired, or is set to expire, prior to the start or during the 2021 season, has received notification from the Competitions team via the PlayFootball nominated email address.

All lighting audit documents and/or information must be sent to **competitions@footballvictoria.com.au**.

2021 PRELIMINARY FIXTURE RELEASE

FV aim to release the MSL Preliminary Fixtures for 2021 MSL Clubs by Friday the 5th of February 2021.

If you have any questions, please contact Competitions on 9474 1800 (Press '2' for Competitions) or email **competitions@footballvictoria.com.au**.

Kind Regards,

A stylized black ink signature of Tessa Sernio.

Tessa Sernio
Community Competitions Manager

A stylized black ink signature of David Zucchet.

David Zucchet
Fixturing Manager