

TO: ALL VPLW & WSL CLUBS
FROM: FV COMPETITIONS
DATE: TUESDAY 22 DECEMBER 2020
SUBJECT: 2021 VPLW & WOMENS STATE 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 VPLW & Women's State League (WSL) structures and fixturing information for 2021. We hope this information assists Clubs in preparing for a much-anticipated 2021 season.

VPLW & WOMENS STATE LEAGUE STRUCTURES

Football Victoria is pleased to release the VPLW & Women's State League structures for 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 order of merit was applied to any vacancies that arose during the 2020 February team entry period pre COVID19.

Please note that league structures are at the sole discretion of FV and are subject to change in the event team withdrawals occur throughout the 2021 team entry period.

Women State League New Team Entries:

If there are any Clubs that wish to enter a new Womens State League team, they must request this team during the Sports TG Online Team Entry Period which will open in mid-February. FV will confirm the team entry period dates in the new year.

2021 START UP RULES – VPLW & WSL

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

- 2021 Start Up Rules – Women and Girls

Key notes relating to VPLW & WSL include.

- VPLW & Womens State League One - mandatory teams being seniors and reserves remains unchanged.
- Promotion only (no relegation) for all tiers of Senior Womens' football in season 2021 to achieve a 12 team VPLW competition in season 2022.

VPLW FIXTURING

For the VPLW Competitions, Clubs will have the opportunity to request the following days of play as per previous seniors and reserve competitions.

Default Day	Kick off times
*Friday	6:30pm – 8:30pm
Sunday	11:00am – 8:30pm
*Monday	6:30pm – 8:30pm



*Distance between the home venue of the two (2) Clubs must not exceed 50km unless opposition approval has been submitted.

Saturday Fixtures:

If Clubs wish to host a Saturday fixture, opposition approval must be submitted to FV within 14 days of the scheduled date. To assist clubs with offering the opportunity to consider playing on Saturdays, please ensure you complete the relevant field in the Fixture Information form.

Based on the information provided on the fixture form FV will correlate the clubs interested in playing on a Saturday and confirm with them their willingness once the draft fixture has been released. Should clubs not wish to play on the Saturday the default days will remain.

2021 VPLW FIXTURE INFORMATION FORM

For season 2021, FV Competitions will roll-over the 2020 VPLW 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.

Clubs must complete the following online Fixture Form ([click here](#)) by **5pm Friday January 22, 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, Sunday 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.

FIXTURING (WSL 1 – 5):

Fixturing for this level of competition occurs post the team entry period closure. Clubs submit their fixturing information (home fixture kick off times, preferred day of play and ground availability) during the team entry period in mid-February.

Fixtures are expected to be released by the weekend of 4 April 2021.

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 25th 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**.

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

Kind Regards,



Tessa Sernio
Community Competitions Manager



David Zucchet
Fixturing Manager