2022 RULES OF COMPETITION

GEELONG REGULATIONS

FOOTBALL VICTORIA

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1. GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS

1.1. Application and Definitions

1.1.1. These Rules shall apply to all Competition Fixture(s) and Sanctioned Match(es) as defined in Rule 1.1.5.

1.1.2. If any provision of these Rules is held invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction then the remainder of these Rules and the application thereof shall not be affected thereby and shall continue to be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

1.1.3. These Rules shall be subject to amendment in FV's sole discretion, including where required as a result of Government regulation(s). If these Rules are amended for any reason, FV will take reasonable steps to notify Clubs of the amendment(s).

1.1.4. Terms defined in the FV Constitution, 2022 FV Registration Regulations and/or the GDT shall have the same meaning in these Rules unless otherwise stated.

1.1.5. In addition to Rule 1.1.4 unless the context otherwise requires, the following definitions apply:

a. **Abandoned** means a Competition Fixture which has failed to commence for any reason or has commenced but has been stopped by the Match Official prior to its conclusion in accordance with Rule 4.2.

b. **Competition Regulations** or **Regulations** means the regulations which supplement these Rules and which apply to the competitions administered by FV for Men's Football, Women's Football, Junior Football and Metro & Masters Football, as amended and updated by FV from time to time.

c. **Club** has the same meaning as in the FV Constitution and includes but is not limited to a Futsal Club.

d. **Club Associate(s) or Club Official(s)** has the meaning given to it in the GDT.

e. **Competition Fixture** means any match that is administered by FV and includes matches to which FV appoints Match Official(s).

f. **Cup Fixture** means any knock-out cup match, fixture or other event organized and/or administered by FV or FA before, after or in conjunction with a Regular Season and includes, but is not limited to, the Dockerty Cup, FFA Cup and Women's State Knockout Cup (currently the Nike F.C Cup).

g. **Default Notice** means a notice of default issued by FV in relation to an amount owed to FV by a Club or a player which that Club or player has failed to pay in accordance with Rule 1.3.

h. **Division** means a particular grade or level of Men's or Women's Competition within Victorian Football (e.g. Men's State League 1 or Women's State League 3 or Men's Metropolitan League 3).

i. **FA** means Football Australia

j. **FV** means Football Victoria.

1. GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS

k. **Field of Play** means:

(i) At an enclosed pitch the entire area within the temporary or permanent perimeter fencing; or

(ii) At an open pitch the entire area within 3 metres of the boundary line of the football pitch.

l. **Final** means a Competition Fixture played to determine the champion of Finals Series administered by FV.

m. **Forfeit** means failure to participate in a Competition Fixture if the Club or Team in question has failed to notify FV at least three (3) days prior to the Competition Fixture.

n. **Futsal Club** means a Club which plays in a futsal competition administered by FV.

o. **GDT** means the FV Grievance Discipline and Tribunal By Law (as amended from time to time)

p. **Goal Difference** means the difference between goals scored by a Club/Team (Goals For) and goals scored against a Club/Team (Goals Against) in a match or season.

q. **Home Club** means the Club named first in a Competition Fixture.

r. **Host Club** means a Club which hosts one or more Competition Fixtures or Finals at its home venue, whether or not that Club participates in one of those Competition Fixtures or Finals or not.

s. **IFAB** means International Football Association Board.

t. **League** (when referred to in reference to Men's or Women's football) means a particular competition within a Division (such as Men's State League 1 South East or Women's State League 3 North or Men's Metropolitan League 3 North West).

u. **Match Official** means a match official as defined in the GDT.

v. **Match Record** means the official log (hard copy or online) of the Competition Fixture recording all match details including participants and results.

w. **Misconduct** has the meaning given to it in the GDT.

x. **No Result** means recording a '0-0' score line in a Competition Fixture with no points or goals awarded to either Team. A 'No Result' is recorded as a Competition Fixture played.

y. **Non-Participation in a Fixture** means failure to participate in a Competition Fixture having notified FV more than three (3) days prior to the Competition fixture.

z. **Normal Time** means the maximum length of two (2) equal periods not including added time as specified in Rule 4.1 and Table 4.1, unless any time reduction is otherwise determined in accordance with Rule 4.1.

aa. **Play Off Match** means a Competition Fixture played to determine the final standings of a League or the eligibility for promotion/relegation of a Team between Leagues or Divisions.

bb. **Played** means:

(i) A Team has participated in a Competition Fixture.

In specific reference to a player, **Played** means:

(ii) Being listed on the Match Record in a League where the interchange rule applies; or

(iii) Starting the Competition Fixture on or consequently being substituted onto the Field of Play in a League where the substitution rule applies.

(iv) If a player is originally listed on the Match Record and it is subsequently indicated on the Match Record that the player is no longer to participle in the Competition Fixture, that change must be acknowledged by signature of the senior Match Official prior to the commencement of the Competition Fixture. Failure to comply will deem the player to have 'Played' that fixture under rule 1.1.4.aa.

cc. **Player ID Card** means the Play Football generated ID card containing recent passport style photo, date of birth, FFA number, full name and Club name for that player.

dd. **Postponed** means a Competition Fixture which has not commenced as scheduled.

ee. **Registered** means registered and eligible in Play Football in accordance with the 2022 FV Registration Regulations.

ff. **Regrading Result** means a result which has been attributed due to a team that has been regraded into a Competition.

gg. **Regular Season** means the time and Competition Fixtures between the first and last round of the relevant competition or as otherwise determined by FV acting in its absolute discretion, in addition to any Play Off Match(es) required for the League in question.

hh. **Rule** or **Rule of Competition** means a rule set out in a clause or clauses of these 2022 Rules of Competition.

ii. **Match Day Risk Assessment and Security Policy** is the FV policy which outlines minimum security requirements and responsibilities at Competition Fixtures

jj. **Sanctioned Match** means any match to which FV appoints one (1) or more Match Official(s) but does not administer directly. This includes matches to which FV is unable to appoint one (1) or more Match Official(s) due to availability, but a request for appointment has been made and acknowledged.

kk. **Team** means a football team entered by a Club in a League or, in junior football (U7s to U21s) a team entered by a Club in a competition, administered by FV.

II. **Technical Area** is as defined in the Minimum Facility Requirements set out in Schedule 6.

1.1.6 Decisions made be FV under these Rules are final, binding and unless stated to the contrary, not capable of being appealed.

1.2. Consequences of Breach

1.2.1. In addition to any consequences stated in the Rules or Regulations, any proven breach of or failure to comply with an obligation or requirement set out in these Rules or Regulations may amount to Misconduct and if so shall be subject to the provisions of the GDT.

1.2.2. To avoid doubt, where these Rules or Regulations do not specify the consequences of a breach or failure to comply with these Rules or Regulations, such breach or failure to comply may still amount to Misconduct and if so shall be subject to the provisions of the GDT.

1.3. Monies Owing to FV

Monies Owing By a Club

1.3.1. All amounts owed by a Club to FV must be paid within 30 days of the date of the invoice issued by FV in relation to that amount.

1.3.2. If a Club fails to pay any amount owing to FV in accordance with Rule 1.3.1, FV may issue a Default Notice giving the Club a further 14 days to pay that amount.

1.3.3. If a Club fails to comply with a Default Notice issued in accordance with Rule 1.3.2, or agree to a repayment plan with FV for the amount owed, FV may, at its sole discretion:

a. Rule that Club (or the applicable Team(s) within that Club) ineligible to earn competition points in any Competition Fixture or Sanctioned Match in which the Club (or Team) plays, until the debt is paid.

b. Suspend or expel that Club (or Team(s)) from any Competition Fixture (including Cup Fixtures) and/or FV competitions.

c. Prohibit that Club (or Team(s)) from promotion whilst the debt remains unpaid.

d. Relegate that Club (or Team(s)) while the debt remains unpaid.

e. Deduct championship points from a Club (or Team) for the current season where the debt remains unpaid.

f. Deduct championship points from a Club (or Team) for the following season where the debt remains unpaid or accrues after 31 October of the relevant year.

1.3.4. If FV and a Club agree to a repayment plan in relation to a debt owed by the Club to FV and the Club fails to meet any of the terms of that payment plan by the stipulated date and time, FV may immediately and without the need to issue a further Default Notice, impose one or more of the sanctions referred to in Rule 1.3.3.

Monies Owing By a Player

1.3.5. All amounts owed by a player to FV must be paid within 30 days of the date of the invoice issued by FV in relation to the amount payable or such sooner time as required under the GDT.

1.3.6. If a player fails to pay any amount owing to FV in accordance with Rule 1.3.5, FV may issue a Default Notice giving the player a further 14 days to pay that amount.

1.3.7. If a player fails to comply with a Default Notice issued in accordance with Rule 1.3.6, or agrees to a repayment plan with FV for the amount owed, FV may, at its sole discretion, suspend that player from any or all FV competitions or representative Teams on such terms as it sees fit until such debt is paid or secured to the satisfaction of FV.

1.3.8. FV may offset any monies owed by FV to a Club or a player against any amount owed by a Club or a player to FV prior to the issue of an invoice to a Club or player for amounts owing to FV.

1.4. Registrations, Forfeits and Abandonments

Definitions

1.4.1. For the purposes of this Rule:

a. **Change of Status** has the same meaning as in the FV Registration Regulations.

b. **Dual Registration** has the same meaning as in the FV Registration Regulations.

c. **Field** means to record a player's name on the Match Record and "Fields" and "Fielded" have corresponding meanings.

d. **Ineligible** means a player who is one of the following:

(i) Playing for the wrong Club or Team;

(ii) Playing within a stand-down period due to Change of Status;

(iii) Playing while registered for two clubs at the same time without a Dual Registration exemption to do so;

(iv) Playing while not Registered;

(v) Playing while under Suspension under the GDT;

(vi) A player who has been shown a red card earlier in a fixture that is still being played;

(vii) Playing while ineligible to do so for any other reason determined by FV;

(viii) A Player or Players in breach of Rule 2.2; or

(ix) A Player or Players in respect of which Rule 2.3.

e. **Offence** means when FV has found upon investigation, audit, processing or notification there has been a breach of this Clause including any of the previous fixtures in which an Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) has participated.

f. **Register** and **Registered** means a player who is registered in accordance with the applicable FV Registration Regulations, and/or FA National Registration Regulations, including without limitation seeking an International Transfer Clearance (ITC) where applicable.

g. **Request for information** refers to where from time to time FV may request that a Club provide to it information in relation to player registration matters or otherwise as reasonably requested in order to ensure the integrity of football.

h. **Unregistered** means a player who is not Registered.

Registration – Scope and Penalties

1.4.2. All Clubs and Teams must Register all Players in accordance with the FV Registration Regulations.

1.4.3. FV may find Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) through random audits, daily processing or upon investigation following notification of a breach of this Rule.

1.4.4. Where a Club or Team Fields an Unregistered or Ineligible Player in a Competition Fixture, including Finals or Play-Off Matches, the following applies:

a. A Team that is found to have fielded an Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) during a Competition Fixture(s), the score for the respective Competition Fixture(s) must be amended as follows:

(i) where that Team loses the Competition Fixture, the result is the greater of the actual score or a 3-0 result;

(ii) where the score is a draw that Team is deemed to have lost the Competition Fixture 3-0; or

(iii) where that Team wins the Competition Fixture, the result is a 3-0 win to the non-infringing Team.

b. Notwithstanding Clause 1.4.4a above, where FV finds that a Club or Team has Fielded Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) in multiple Competition Fixtures over a period of time, FV may in its absolute discretion:

(i) deduct competition points from the Team, capped at 12 points, without altering any of the corresponding individual Competition Fixture results; or

(ii) reverse such Competition Fixture results 3-0 as necessary

c. Matters that FV may take into account in making a decision under Clause 1.4.4b above include, but are not limited to:

(i) whether or not in FV's opinion the Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) was intentionally or inadvertently Fielded; and

(ii) whether a genuine administrative error occurred; and

(iii) whether the Club made any enquiries to FV about the Player(s) prior to the Competition Fixture; and

(iv) the experience of the Team or Club administrator; and

(v) the age-group affected; and / or

(vi) any other factors FV may consider relevant in the circumstances.

By way of example: where FV learns in round 9 of a season that an U14 Team has inadvertently failed to correctly register a Player, rather than automatically deduct 27 points from that Team and reverse 9 Competition Fixtures, FV may either deduct up to 12 points from the Team and not reverse any individual Competition Fixtures, reverse such Competition Fixtures as necessary.

1.4.5. Where FV learns of Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) via internal audits, and no Club or Team has raised a formal protest about those Players within the time set out in the next sub-clause, FV *may* deal with the matter via a warning and reprimand for the first occasion in its absolute discretion. The matter is then considered finalised (see *Additional Notes* section below).

1.4.6. The time limit for a Club or Team to Protest from the date of the relevant Competition Fixture, after which the result of the Competition Fixture is considered finalised, is:

a. the time limit specified in the rules of competition for the relevant competition; or

b. if there is no such time limit specified, ten calendar days.

Note on Clause 1.4.6: it is important for the integrity of the competition and league that the results of Competition Fixtures are considered final. The intention of this Clause is to prevent teams from "saving up" suspicions of Unregistered or Ineligible Players in other teams until shortly before finals, in order to make a last effort to accrue points for finals. Legitimate concerns by a team should be notified to FV promptly.

Additional notes: in state league junior football for U12s to U15s inclusive and junior metro football, the focus is on participation. Where Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) in these leagues are identified, FV will favour an interpretation of a genuine administrative error unless it can be shown that the Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) were played intentionally. However, in NPL leagues, or other state league or metro competitions, FV's expectation is for greater administrative compliance by Clubs, and participation by Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) in these competitions may be interpreted against the Club or Team more stringently.

System or Technical Error

1.4.7. To avoid doubt, if there is a system or technical error in processing a registration, the above sanctions will be imposed until such system or technical error is proven by the Club or Team or Player, save that:

a. Only those system or technical errors that occur on weekdays up until 5.00pm on a Friday, (excluding Public Holidays) will be taken into account; and

b. Should a Club or Team decide to process registrations on non-business days (Weekends and/or Public Holidays) or after 5.00pm on a Friday, the Club or Team

c. responsible for ensuring all registrations are successfully processed and valid for all Club and team fixtures.

Request for Information

1.4.8. Where FV requests a Club to provide information in relation to a Club's registration matters, or otherwise as reasonably requested in order to ensure the integrity of football, the Club must comply within 7 days (or as otherwise reasonably requested by the FV).

1.4.9. A failure to comply with Clause 1.4.8 above results in all of that Club's teams playing for no points until the requested information is provided. Should a Club subsequently comply with Clause 1.4.8 above, any games which were played for no points during the non-compliance period will not be replayed, and any points lost are deemed as forfeited.

Registration of Coaches and Team Officials

1.4.10 Clubs are required to submit Registration for all Coaches and Team Officials whom they appoint to Teams including but not limited to:

(i) Coaches (Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Goalkeeper Coach etc.)

(ii) Technical Directors;

(iii) Physiotherapists; and

(iv) Team Managers

1.4.11 The Registration can be completed by each Coach or Team Official Self- Registering via Play Football, and the Club accepting the Coach or Team Officials Registration.

1.5 Protection of Important Fixtures

1.5.1 Where an A-League, W-League, International or an Inter-State match is scheduled in the State of Victoria, FV may determine that no other Competition Fixture or Sanctioned Match take place at the same time.

1.6 Sanctioned Matches

1.6.1 Any Club taking part in a Sanctioned Match must abide by any and all codes of conduct or codes of behavior prescribed by FV and/or FA from time to time, including the Codes of Behaviour attached to these Rules at Schedule 5.

1.6.2 By participating in a Sanctioned Match, the Club and any league or association to which that Club belongs, submits to the jurisdiction of FV, its Rules and Regulations and the GDT.

1.6.3 Any Club or Team, association or organisation which administers or participates in any Sanctioned Match, must ensure that appropriate insurance and Work Cover arrangements are made to provide adequate and necessary coverage for their players, Match Officials, and all club associates involved in Sanctioned Matches.

1.6.4 Any Club or Team, association or organisation wishing to participate in any interstate or international match, tournament or event must apply in accordance with the 2022 FV Registration Regulations, writing to the FV Registrations Team for prior approval.

1.6.5 All Competition Fixtures take precedence over non-FV matches or fixtures or tournaments. Failure to fulfill Competition Fixtures for a non-FV match of fixture may result in disciplinary action in accordance with Rule 4.6.

1.7 Insurance

1.7.1 FV will negotiate and appoint an insurance company or companies to provide cover for all Club Associate and/or Club Officials and players registered with FV as it sees fit, provided Clubs are incorporated at all times.

Insurance of Players

1.7.2 All players taking the field of play (or training) must be insured through FV's Insurer (or as otherwise allowed by FV). Each player's insurance premium will be collected by FV at the time of player payment for registration via the Club Finance System (refer to the Summary of Cover as posted on the FV Website for policy details).

Insurance of Club Associates and officials

1.7.3 In addition to compulsory player insurance, FV shall provide through its insurance scheme insurance known as 'Not for Profit Organisation Liability' for Club Associates and Club Officials.

1.8 Strict Liability of Clubs

1.8.1 Each Club shall be responsible for the conduct of its Club Associates and Club Officials at or in the vicinity of any Competition Fixture, Sanctioned Match or non-FV event in which a Club is engaged or is in attendance regardless of the responsibilities attaching to any other person or entity in respect of such a match or event.

1.9 Club Name or New Club Name Application

1.9.1 An application for either a new Club name or the change of an existing Club name must be made by the Club in question in accordance with FA Inclusivity Principles for Club Identity Policy as published on the FA website.

1.9.2 FV will only assess an application under Rule 1.9 when all relevant information has been lodged with FV. FV may reject an application for a new name or a change of name as it sees fit.

1.9.3 The reference to 'Club name' in this Rule 1.9 includes the incorporated name, registered business name and/or approved playing name of a Club.

1.9.4 Process for new name application by a Club:

a. All submissions will be considered in accordance with FA Inclusivity Principles for Club Identity

b. The Club name must be approved in writing by the local government authority and be representative of the geographic area within which the Club is located.

c. Club name approval by FV and/or FA will at all times be subject to the Club holding any applicable legal right(s) to use that name and any associated logo. It is a Club's sole responsibility to ensure that it holds any applicable legal rights.

d. The Club must:

(i) Submit on Club letterhead its request for a change of Club name or new Club name with the NRRO2B form

(ii) Provide full disclosure of the reasons for the requested change.

(iii) include a minimum of three (3) proposed names with their application for change of Club name or new Club name that can be assessed, and comply with Rule 1.9.4.d.(iv).

(iv) Receive written approval by local government authority and ensure that their proposed names are representative of the geographic area within which the Club is located.

(v) Subject to Rule 1.9.4.e., the new Club name must not contain any part of the name of any Club in the same or immediately adjoining municipalities, excepting the following traditional generic football names:

- United
- Rovers
- City
- Old
- Sporting

(vi) FV may, at its discretion, permit a new Club name to share a similar geographic reference to an existing Club name within the same or adjoining municipality if, in FV's opinion, the new Club (and its name) will not negatively impact any existing Club.

(vii) Where a change of name also involves a Club proposing to relocate to a different local government municipality, the application for change of name will not be considered unless evidence is provided to FV that there are no outstanding debts or other obligations to the former council/municipality.

1.9.5 FV will not approve the relocation of a Club to a different municipality unless it is in the best interests of Victorian football in general (to be determined at the sole discretion of FV) and no existing Club in the municipality to which the relocating Club wishes to move is materially disadvantaged (to be determined at the sole discretion of FV).

1.9.6 No Club will be allowed more than one (1) incorporated name or registered business/playing name.

1.9.7 Where a Club requests to move to a geographic location different to that which its current name suggests, FV may require the Club to submit a new request for a change of Club name in line with these Rules.

1.9.8 *Incorporation*

A Club must provide FV with documentary evidence of registration of any new name with the appropriate government authority. Failure to provide evidence in accordance with this Rule may result in previous approval by FV and/or FA of a new club name or a club name change being revoked.

1.10 Ticketing and Refunds of Money

1.10.1 Rule 1.10 is applicable to all Competition Fixtures where admission fees are charged.

1.10.2 Clubs that charge admission fees must hand over an admission ticket to the paying customer when the exchange of money is made.

1.10.3 It is the customer's responsibility to ensure that he or she retains proof of purchase.

1.10.4 Customers that present an authentic FA or FV Pass, Match Official Pass or are aged 14 years or younger, will be granted free entry to Competition Fixtures and do not require an admission ticket unless otherwise communicated by FV (for example in relation to Finals or Playoffs).

1.10.5 A copy of Rule 1.10 is to be displayed at the ticket box at all venues where admission fees are charged.

1.10.6 Paying customers will be entitled to a full refund (including car park fees) on the day of the Competition Fixture if the main Competition Fixture on the day has been postponed or abandoned prior to the conclusion of the first half of that fixture.

1.10.7 To be eligible to receive a full refund in accordance with Rule 1.10.6 the customer must present to the Home Club or the Host Club charging admission fees or FV in the instance of Finals, the admission ticket (or part thereof) issued in accordance with Rule 1.10.2.

1.10.8 Ticket prices must be clearly displayed at venue entry point.

1.11 Security at Home Pitches

1.11.1 The Home Club is responsible for providing appropriate arrangements to ensure the orderly behavior of spectators and provide for the protection of Match Officials, players and Club Associates and officials at Competition Fixtures including but not limited to any specific requirements of FV which are notified to the Home Club.

1.11.2 All Clubs, players, Match Officials, Club Associates and Club Officials must comply with the FV's Match Day Risk & Security Policy as promulgated by FV, and any security arrangements put in place as a result of the application of that policy.

1.11.3 Each Home Club is responsible for security and/or police as directed by FV. Ordinarily this will be wholly the responsibility of the Home Club but FV reserves the right to require any Club involved in a Competition Fixture to meet FV determined security requirements in accordance with Rule 1.11.2 or as otherwise determined by FV.

1.11.4 Home Clubs and Host Clubs must provide a lockable facility for all valuables of Match Officials(s). Failure to provide such a facility may result in the Home Club or Host Club not being allocated Competition Fixtures at their home ground.

1.11.5 Rules 1.11.1 – 1.11.4 apply to a Club's home ground or facility and any neutral ground or facility (including the State Football Centre at Darebin and the Knox Regional Football Centre) where that Club is listed as the Home Club for the purposes of a Competition Fixture to be played at the neutral ground or facility.

1.11.6 The Home Club or the Host Club will be held responsible if it is found that Match Official(s) do not receive all personal items back.

1.11.7 Each Club is responsible for the valuables of its players, and valuables that are left in change rooms are done so at the owners' personal risk.

1.11.8 Rule 1.11 is subject to FV's Risk Assessment and Security Policy which may be amended from time to time.

1.12 Representative Teams

1.12.1 Any player registered in Victoria will be eligible to represent Victoria in representative matches, camps or tours and each selected player must make themselves available for training, preparation and participation for representative matches, camps or tours when requested by FV.

1.12.2 All Clubs must release players for training and preparation for, and participation in, representative matches, camps or tours.

1.12.3 Where a Club has four (4) or more outfield players or two (2) goalkeeper from the same Team participating in an FV/FA approved representative match, camp or tour which conflicts with a Competition Fixture in which that Club or Team is required to participate, the Club may seek postponement of that Competition Fixture. Approved representative matches may include but are not limited to:

a. FA National Championships

b. FV State Teams

c. National Teams

1.12.4 All requests pursuant to Rule 1.12.3 must be received no less than 10 days prior to the Competition Fixture in question, unless the player is called up within the 10 day period by FV/FA for representative duty. FV shall determine the outcome of any request under this Rule at its absolute discretion and that decision cannot be appealed or reviewed.

1.13 Member Protection

1.13.1 FV has adopted the FA National Member Protection Policy (**MPP**) for all FV affiliated competition administrators, Clubs, players and Club Associates and officials. The MPP can be found by clicking the following link.

1.13.2 FV has partnered with Proud2Play and Pride In Sport in order to eradicate discrimination, particularly against those who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex. We have also updated FV Dispensation Policy which provides clear and concise process to dispensation requests. Dispensation requests allow Clubs to submit a request for a player/s to be granted exemption from FV to participate in competitions that they would otherwise not be eligible.

1.13.3 FV has a direct relationship with the Australian Human Rights Commission, Victorian Multicultural Commission and the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission in order to call on these expert organisations to receive advice, and deal with issues that will assist FV to eradicate race and ethnic based discrimination.

1.13.4 Football Victoria partners with Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) to run a range of diversity and inclusion programs to make football for all. These include programs such as the All Abilities Program, GO Deadly and GO Proud programs.

1.13.5 FV welcomes and fosters diversity in the world game. All persons, Clubs, players, Match Officials and/or Stakeholders involved with football are mandated to promote and provide safe and inclusive environments for all.

1.14 Club Compliance and National Club Accreditation

1.14.1 In order to be eligible to compete in FV competitions in 2022 a Club must comply with the requirements set out by the following:

a. Any Club compliance program;

b. FV's Club Compliance Policy ;

c. The National Club Accreditation Scheme (NCAS) criteria;

d. Consumer Affairs Victoria

e. Australian Securities and Investment Commission (as applicable).

f. Any other relevant regulator or Government body.

1.15 Correspondence / Communication

1.15.1 All correspondence by FV to Clubs shall be deemed to have been received by Clubs:

a. In the case of online communication, the day on which it was published online;

b. In the case of email communication, the time at which it was sent;

c. In the case of communication sent by mail, two (2) business days after such communication was posted.

1.15.2 Clubs must ensure that their postal mailboxes, specified email accounts (including Spam and Junk folders) and the FV website are checked regularly, and that any information received is forwarded to the addressee or relevant parties within the Club.

1.15.3 All correspondence relating to Club requests, including, but not limited to; Competition Fixtures, forfeits, grading, result disputes and disciplinary matters must be made by a Club representative listed on Play Football. Requests made by anyone not listed as a Club representative in Play Football may not be actioned by FV.

1.15.4 All Clubs must have an active email address and phone number and ensure that this address and phone number and all other relevant details are current, up to date in Play Football and checked regularly by Club Associates and/or Club Officials.

1.15.5 Failure by a Club to keep a current, active email address and phone number and to check that email address and any voicemail service connected to its phone number regularly, cannot be relied on by the Club in relation to the question of whether or not notice of any matter was received by the Club from FV or otherwise.

1.15.6 FV reserves the right to only communicate with nominated club contacts as listed on Play Football.

1.16 COVID-19 Protocols and Regulations

1.16.1 All Clubs competing in FV Competitions and their Club Associates must comply with the COVID-19 Return to Training/ Play Conditions as published on the FV website and updated from time to time https://www.footballvictoria.com.au/return-conditions

1.16.2 All Clubs competing in FV competitions are subject to and must adhere to the Covid 19 Rules – Impacted 2022 Community Competitions as published on the FV website and updated from time to time.

2.1 General Information

2.1.1 All Competition Fixtures are played under the IFAB Laws of the Game, unless otherwise specified in these Rules.

2.1.2 Only Teams from FV Clubs, country affiliates or representative Teams may enter FV competitions.

2.1.3 If a Team is withdrawn on or before the point of the Regular Season at which all Teams have played each other once a 'BYE' will be inserted to replace the withdrawn Team in the fixture. All championship points along with goals scored (for & against) for that Team will be erased. All Best & Fairest votes gained in Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team will also be erased.

2.1.4 If a Team is withdrawn after the point of the Regular Season at which all Teams have played each other an equal number of times, a 'BYE' will be inserted to replace the withdrawn Team in the fixture, and;

a. Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team will be erased including all championship points along with goals scored (for & against).

b. All Best & Fairest or Gold Medal votes gained in:

(i) Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team up to the point of the season at which all Teams have played each other an equal number of times will be erased;

(ii) Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team from the point of the season at which all Teams have played each other an equal number of times, until the time the Team withdrew, will be erased.

For the avoidance of doubt, FV may consider forfeited matches as Played for the purposes of Rule 2.1.4.

2.1.5 If the withdrawing team causes the fixture to be imbalanced where all teams do not have the same amount of games played during the season, FV at its discretion will either:

i. Have additional Competition Fixtures scheduled during their Regular Season; or

ii. Have Competition Fixtures removed from their Regular Season.

iii. Should FV decide upon 2.1.4 (i) Competition Fixtures may be scheduled either mid-week or during a catch up round, at FV discretion.

2.1.6 If a Team withdraws prior to the start of the Regular Season and cannot be replaced, a "BYE" will be inserted into the fixture or the fixture may be amended to accommodate the new number of Teams where practicable.

2.1.7 If a Team withdraws from a league involving fewer than 9 Teams or greater than 10 Teams, additional Competition Fixtures may be added or removed to ensure all Teams play an equal number of Competition Fixtures during the Regular Season.

2.1.8 FV may alter Competition Fixture kickoff dates, venues and/or times as it deems necessary in its sole and absolute discretion.

2.1.9 Subject to this regulation or unless otherwise determined by FV acting in its absolute discretion the Team finishing top of each League at the conclusion of the Regular Season may be crowned Premiers and the second placed Team may be Runner-Up. For the avoidance of doubt, simply finishing in first or second place on the ladder does not entitle the Team to be name Premiers or Runners Up.

2.2 Player Eligibility

2.2.1 A player is eligible to play in his or her Team provided:

a. the player has been registered in line with FA and FV Registration Regulations;

b. all registration fees for the player have been received by FV, subject to Rule 1.3

c. the player is not under suspension by FV, FA or FIFA ;

d. the player meets the competition's age group and gender rules where applicable and subject to any dispensation granted by FV (refer to relevant FV Regulations);

e. the player complies with the Match Record requirements set out in Rule 3.3.

f. the player presents a current Player ID Card upon request to the Match Official for the player in the Competition Fixture, where that competition requires ID cards;

g. the player meets competition requirements for Finals or Play Off Matches.

2.2.2 Any Team which fields an ineligible player may be subject to penalty under the GDT.

2.2.3 Any Player playing under a dispensation granted by FV must produce the letter of dispensation on match day upon request by the Match Official. Failing to produce a letter of dispensation upon request by the Match Official may result in a charge of Misconduct under the GDT.

2.2.4 The dispensation process and regulations are clearly defined in Football Victoria's Dispensation Policy. FV at its sole discretion may amend any part of the dispensation policy as required from time to time.

2.2.5 At FV's discretion, Clubs/players may be given dispensation from Rule 2.2.1.b for Cup Fixtures which take place prior to the commencement of the Regular Season.

2.2.6 If there is a dispute about a player(s) eligibility on the day of a Competition Fixture, the Match Official must note the details of that dispute and send those details to FV together with an incident report. No Club or Match Official may prevent a player from taking the field in a Competition Fixture on suspicion of ineligibility, unless that player is unable to present an ID Card in accordance with Rule 2.2.1.f.

2.2.7 Any decision made by FV regarding rule 2.2 is not subject to appeal.

Gender Rules

2.2.8 The Gender Rules form part of the FV Dispensation Policy. FV at its sole discretion may amend any part of the dispensation policy as required from time to time.

2.2.9 Under the Victorian Equal Opportunity Act, it is unlawful to discriminate on the ground of gender up until the age of 12 years.

2.2.10 Football Victoria allows players to play in gendered competition of their choosing under the following guidelines:

a. Players who identify as non-binary, transgender or intersex are permitted to participate in the competition of their choice, up to the age of U12 for a girl's competition, and up to the age of U13 for a boy's competition.

b. Players who identify as male are permitted to play in female competitions in accordance with the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 up until Under 12 girls. The player must turn 12 or below during the 2022 calendar year and may play in their equivalent age group of female competitions without the prior approval of FV.

c. Players who identify as female are permitted to participate in male competitions up until Under 13 boys. The player must turn 13 or below during the 2022 calendar year and may play in their equivalent age group of male competitions without the prior approval of FV.

d. Players who identify as female are not permitted to participate in male competitions from Under 14 and above with the exception of the player falling into one of the below categories.

(i) the player is currently registered to a regional club without any reasonable female pathway available to the player. To be clear a regional club is classified as a Club that has received prior written approval by FV to participate in FV metropolitan community competitions excluding Geelong based clubs; or

(ii) the player receives prior written approval from the FA Technical Department.

The Club must provide FV with the following documentation in support of their application for gender dispensation in relation to a regional player and/or an FA-approved player;

- a signed letter from the player's Club president supporting the application.
- a signed letter from the player's Club Technical Director supporting the application.
- a signed letter of consent from the players parent (s) or guardian supporting the application.
- a document listing general medical details of the player by a medical professional including height and weight; and
- any further information requested.

e. Players who have affirmed their gender identity by transitioning to a gender that is different to their sex assigned at birth; are in the act of transitioning via gender affirming practices; or are non-binary people, are eligible to nominate to play in a competition of their choosing conducted for their affirmed gender and not sex assigned at birth, unless it is gives cause to a risk to themselves or others.

Note: FV may request supporting documentation as part of any application under these guidelines and applicants may be referred to FA's policy.

3.FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Facilities/Pitch Arrangements

3.1.1 It is the responsibility of all Clubs to:

a. provide a venue that complies with the minimum facility requirements for FV Competitions as prescribed and promulgated by FV from time to time. The minimum class of facility required for relevant FV Competitions is:

i. FV Geelong Senior Men's, Senior Women's and Men's Masters - *Senior class;* and
ii. Junior League (U12-U19) – *Junior class*

Current details of applicable facilities standards for each Division and League are set out in Schedule 7.

b. provide a safe environment for players, Match Officials, Club Officials and spectators;

c. ensure that their facilities and equipment are clean and fit for purpose;

d. ensure that all applicable State and local government statutory and other requirements have been met in respect of their facilities including but not limited to:

i. legitimate approved use of the facility by the owner or land manager;

ii. requirements under the Planning and Environment Act 1987, Food Act 1984 and Building Act 1993 and *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* (including but not limited to any directions issued by the Chief Health Officer);

iii. any local laws including gaming and liquor license legislation.

iv. holding an up to date liquor licence (RSA) and/or food handling certificate if applicable.

3.1.2 A Club which advises FV prior to commencement of a Regular Season that it cannot provide facilities in accordance with Rule 3.1 or which, during the course of the season, has facilities which are found by FV to not comply with these requirements may:

a. have its home fixtures moved to an alternate venue or forfeit those home fixtures if a move to an alternate venue is not possible in FV's opinion.

b. be required by FV to advise what steps the Club will take to ensure that it can meet its facility requirements and may be relegated to such Division as FV deems appropriate.

c. have Team(s) withdrawn from competition during the current Regular Season.

3.1.3 At the discretion of FV, a Club which fails to meet its facility requirements under Rule 3.1 may be relegated to a lower Division in the following Regular Season.

3.1.4 FV may in its sole discretion upon written request grant a temporary dispensation from compliance with Rule 3.1 to a Club which:

a. is in the process of upgrading its facilities to meet FV's requirements; or

b. due to circumstances beyond its reasonable control the Club cannot comply with FV's requirements; or

c. has satisfied FV that the Club is taking all reasonable steps to ensure compliance with FV's facility requirement

3.1.5 FV will not grant dispensation under Rule 3.1 from compliance with any requirement that relates to matters of safety or legislative compliance.

3.2 The Technical Area

3.2.1 A maximum of nine (9) persons are permitted to be within the Technical Area at any given time during a Competition Fixture. Those persons may only include the coach and assistant coach, the team manager, the substitutes and a registered health practitioner, sports trainer or accredited first aider.

3.2.2 Subject to Rule 3.2.4, all persons must remain seated within the confines of the Technical Area, except in special circumstances e.g. a physiotherapist or doctor entering the field of play, with the Match Official's permission, to assess an injured player.

3.2.3 Players may leave the Technical Area to warm up, provided they do not interrupt the view of any Match Official.

3.2.4 Only one (1) person may stand up at one (1) time within the Technical Area. It is the Home Club's responsibility to provide sufficient seating for both Clubs in the respective technical areas.

3.2.5 All persons within the Technical Area must be wearing colours that clearly distinguish them from all players and Match Officials on the field of play e.g. a bib, jackets.

3.2.6 The Match Official may expel any person from the Technical Area at any time as he or she sees fit. The Competition Fixture will not recommence until that person has left the Technical Area and Field of Play to the Match Official's satisfaction.

3.2.7 A player or Club Associate who is under suspension must not be present in the Technical Area. Should a player or Club Associate be in breach of this rule they will be subject to further penalties under the GDT.

3. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

3.3 Match Records

3.3.1 Clubs will be required to adhere to any requirements relating to the use of online match records, results reporting and match data recording, as prescribed by FV from time to time.

3.3.2 Clubs must list on the Match Record all players taking part in a Competition Fixture and must produce to the Match Official a Match Record not less than 30 minutes before the commencement of any FV Competition Fixture.

3.3.3 If a Club disagrees with any of the details on a Match Record prior to the commencement of the fixture, the fixture must still take place as per the fixtured start time and refer to regulation 3.3.5

3.3.4 A Match Official has the discretion to amend a Match Record up until 30 minutes after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture. The Match Official must inform a representative of both teams who must sign the Match Record to confirm the amendment.

3.3.5 A Club will be charged with Misconduct if:

a. any player listed on the Match Record is ineligible in accordance with either these Rules or the GDT; or

b. more than 17 players are listed on the Match Record; or

c. it fails to list on the Match Record the shirt number, full name and FA ID number for each player, or adds players to the Match Record after submission to the Match Official (and without the Match Official's permission), and shall be processed in accordance with the terms of the GDT.

3.3.6 A representative from each Team must sign the Match Record at the conclusion of the Competition Fixture and should do so only after the appointed Match Official has recorded all outstanding details.

3.3.7 If a Club disagrees with any of the details on a Match Record (either its own or the opposition's), the Club must sign and indicate any disputed information by circling the detail in question. Only the following information can be disputed:

a. Goal Scorers;

b. Red and Yellow Cards;

c. Final score; or

d. Player eligibility.

3.3.8 Match Record Disputes will only be investigated by FV in the following circumstances:

3.3.8.1 The Match Record and a request to conduct a match investigation is lodged with FV within 7 days of the Competition Fixture; and

3.3.8.2 The following evidence is submitted by the Club in support of its request for a match investigation:

i. Full Match Record;
ii. Video and/or photographic evidence;
iii. Statutory Declaration(s); and
iv. Any other information accepted from the Club at the discretion of FV.

3.3.9 FV may extend or abridge the deadline referred to in Rule 3.3.5.a. at its discretion.

3.3.10 FV reserves the right to amend the Match Records and will only be amended if FV is satisfied that the information disputed is proven beyond reasonable doubt. FV's decision is final in this regard and is not appealable.

3.3.11 For fixtures that use match record books, once signed by all parties at the conclusion of the Competition Fixture, each Club must make a copy of its Match Record available to the opposing Team.

3.3.12 For fixtures that use online match records, Clubs must take visible photos of both team sheets post-match once all information has been verified.

3.4 Ground Marshals

3.4.1 Each Club must provide the number of marshals (Ground Marshals) directed by FV.

3.4.2 Ground Marshals must:

a. be at least 18 years old and provide the Match Official with their name;

b. be in a clearly identifiable uniform;

c. be visible from the Field of Play at all times;

d. escort the Match Official(s) to and from the change rooms and the Field of Play at the commencement of the Competition Fixture, at half time and at full time; and

e. where required, assist the Match Officials(s) to ensure a safe playing environment for all players, Club Officials and spectators.

3.4.3 Match Officials must not leave their dressing rooms to enter the Field of Play or return to their rooms from the Field of Play until the identifiable Ground Marshals are present.

Table 3.4 – Minimum Number of Ground Marshals for all Competition Fixtures

League	Minimum Number of Ground Marshals
All FV Geelong Competitions	2

3.4.4 FV may vary the minimum Ground Marshal requirements for any Competition Fixture at any time.

3.4.5 Ground Marshal numbers may be varied in line with FV's Risk Assessment and Security Policy

3.4.6 Each home and away Club is required to provide 50% of the required Ground Marshals for each Competition Fixture, failure to do so may result in Misconduct under the GDT.

3.4.7 Clubs must ensure the FV Ground Marshal Handbook is provided to relevant persons prior to completing the duty.

3.5 Player's Strip/Apparel

3.5.1 Clothing

a. All Teams must nominate a 'Home' and 'Alternate' playing strip. The Club's 'Home' and 'Alternate' playing strips must be entered into FV's online competition management system (GameDay) at least 10 days prior to Round 1 of the Regular Season or the Club in question may incur a penalty under the GDT.

b. All playing strips must be approved by FV.

c. Any change to club strips during the season must be updated on GameDay and communicated to FV 5 working days prior to the Club's next Competition Fixture.

d. Predominantly black playing shirts will not be permitted under any circumstances.

e. The Home Club in each Competition Fixture is required to wear their nominated 'Home' playing strip.

f. In the instance of a strip clash between the home and away Team as determined by the Match Official, the away Team is required to provide a sufficiently alternate playing strip.

g. In the instance of a strip not being available to a club, it will be deemed the responsibility of the club to ascertain written consent from the opposing club to avoid any strip clash. This written agreement must be sent to FV prior to the fixture.

h. The purpose of Rule 3.5 is to ensure that the two Clubs wear playing strips that distinguish them from each other and also the Match Officials. Clubs and Match Officials should refer to the following table to determine whether or not a strip clash exists. The table lists which items of the strip are permitted to clash for different Divisions/Leagues:

Table 3.5 – Clashes and Permissions

	All FV Geelong Competitions
Playing Shirt	No Clash Permitted
Shorts	Clash Permitted
Socks	Clash Permitted

i. All playing shirts must have a visible number on the back of the shirt.

j. All playing numbers displayed on shirts must be unique within the Team.

k. A Club may be penalised in accordance with Rule 4.6 if:

(i) a Competition Fixture does not commence due to an inability to resolve a clash of strips, and it can be established that such Club or Team did not comply with Rule 3.5.1.d, or

(ii) a Club changes their home playing strip without notifying FV Competitions via competitions@footballvictoria.com.au by no later than five (5) days prior to Competition Fixture, and this change results in a Competition Fixture being postponed as a result of a strip clash.

l. Goalkeepers may wear any colour provided their strip does not clash with either Team or the Match Official.

m. All Clubs must have two (2) goalkeeper strips available at all home and away fixtures.

3.5.2 Protective Gear

3.5.2.1 Any player requiring vision correction should wear contact lenses, or wear spectacles that:

(i) are firmly secured with a sports band or adjustable strap;

(ii) have purpose-designed and closely fitted curled ends on the arms; or

(iii) are specially designed protective sports glasses constructed of plastic with rubberised cushioning and no metallic parts.

3.5.3 Players equipment must be in like with IFAB Laws of the Game

3.6 Stretchers / First Aid

3.6.1 Each Home Club must allocate one (1) stretcher suitable for first aid and emergency use for each pitch hosting a Competition Fixture.

3.6.2 Each Home Club must provide a First Aid Kit including, but not limited to:

a. Band Aids;

b. Bandages; and

c. Ice Pack (or other available ice).

d. Must provide a hospital register clearly visible in the first aid and match officials room.

3.7 Smoking / Drinking at Venues

3.7.1 It is prohibited for anyone to smoke or consume alcohol within the confines of the Field of Play.

3.7.2 Clubs are responsible for ensuring that smoking and drinking alcohol are confined to licensed and permitted areas. Clubs should be familiar with and refer to State legislation regarding current smoking laws.

3.8 National Flags, Slogans & Emblems

3.8.1 Clubs must comply at all times with the FA Diversity & Inclusion Policy

3.8.2 All Clubs must have the prior written approval of FV before introducing or incorporating any design, emblem or slogan onto any Club logo or name, product or medium, including but not limited to playing strips, promotional material, Club letterhead, banners, advertisements, public announcements, website or any other form of communication.

3.8.3 FV may require the immediate removal of any offending material at any time.

3.9 Lighting Standards

3.9.1 Clubs wishing to play Competition Fixtures under lights must ensure that lighting for those Competition Fixtures complies with FV's Football Lighting Policy referred to Rule 9.

4.1 Duration of Competition Fixtures

4.1.1 Periods of Play

a. All Competition Fixtures will be played over Normal Time as specified in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 – Duration of Normal Time across Age Groups

Age Group	Duration of Competition Fixtures – Normal Time
Under Twelve (12) Boys	2 x 30 minute halves (= 60 minutes)
Under Thirteen (13) Boys	2 x 30 minute halves (= 60 minutes)
Under Fourteen (14) Boys	2 x 30 minute halves (= 60 minutes)
Under Sixteen (16) Boys	2 x 40 minute halves (= 80 minutes)
Under Eighteen (18) Boys	2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)
Under Twelve (12) Girls	2 x 30 minute halves (= 60 minutes)
Under Thirteen (13) Girls	2 x 30 minute halves (= 60 minutes)
Under Fourteen/Fifteen (14/15) Girls	2 x 35 minute halves (= 70 minutes)
Under Sixteen/Seventeen (16/17) Girls	2 x 40 minute halves (= 80 minutes)
Senior Women's	2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)
Senior Men's	2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)

b. Periods of play for specific competitions may be altered by FV provided they are implemented throughout the age group or competition.

c. Prior to the commencement of the Competition Fixture, the Match Official may cut short any Competition Fixture (including reducing the length of each half before commencement of the Competition Fixture) if in the Match Official's opinion playing conditions compromise player safety or to prevent the delay to the commencement of any subsequent Competition Fixture from its scheduled kick off time only if:

(i) it is in line with IFAB rules; and

(ii) he or she has notified the coaches of each participating Team.

4.1.2 Commencement Time

a. Teams must be ready to begin playing by the stated kick off time.

b. If either Team is not ready to begin playing within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick off time the Match Official may determine the Competition Fixture as Abandoned in accordance with Rule 4.2.

c. In circumstances where both Teams and the Match Official agree, the Competition Fixture may commence up to 30 minutes after the scheduled kick off time, provided it does not delay the kick off of subsequent Competition Fixtures either at that venue or to which the Match Official is also appointed on that day.

4.1.3 Half Time Interval

a. The half-time interval must be a minimum of 5 minutes and no longer than 15 minutes in duration.

b. The half-time interval must be a minimum of 5 minutes and no longer than 10 minutes in duration for the Under 12 & Under 13 competitions

4.2 Abandoned Competition Fixtures

4.2.1 Competition Fixtures may only be abandoned by a decision of the Match Official.

4.2.2 The Competition Fixture may be abandoned for any, but not limited to, the following reasons:

a. any Team has its playing numbers reduced for any reason below the minimum IFAB requirement of seven (7) players;

b. the lighting at the venue fails such that in the opinion of the Match Official it is impossible or unsafe to continue to play;

c. the Match Official determines that playing conditions have become unsafe or untenable for any reason;

d. the Match Official, in consultation with security staff and ground marshals where applicable, determines that the conditions for players, coaches, Match Officials or supporters have become unsafe or untenable for any reason;

e. One or both of the Teams is not ready to commence the Competition Fixture within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick-off time; or

f. In accordance with Rule 4.4.

4.2.3 If a Competition Fixture is abandoned due to a matter set out in Rule 4.2.2, FV may determine one of the following outcomes of the Competition Fixture at its absolute and sole discretion:

a. If 80 per cent or more of Normal Time of a Competition Fixture has been played, then the score at the time of abandonment may stand. 'Played' in the context of this Rule will be determined by FV with reference to the Match Official.

b. If a competition fixture has been abandoned between 60% & 80% of a competition fixture and the goal difference between the two teams exceeds 4 or more goals, FV may determine that the result be maintained at the time of abandonment. I.e. 4-0, 5-1, 6-2

c. Competition Fixture to be replayed in full.

d. Competition Fixture to be awarded as a 'No Result'.

e. Competition Fixture result is 0-0.

f. Competition Fixture result is 3-0 to the non-offending Team, unless the score at the time of abandonment was greater and in favour of the non-offending Team, in which case the greater result will stand. In determining what is a 'greater' result, FV will give preference to goals FOR in the first instance (i.e. 4-1 will be considered a 'greater' result than 3-0).

g. Competition Fixture to be replayed from the time at which the original Competition Fixture was abandoned. In the event a Competition Fixture is replayed in accordance with this Rule:

(i) The score at the time of the abandonment remains the score at the time the Competition Fixture recommences; and

(ii) Only players listed on the Match Record for the initial Competition Fixture between the two sides will be eligible to compete in the recommenced Competition Fixture, unless FV determines that additional players are eligible (for example, in the case of player injury with supporting medical documentation); and

(iii) FV will determine what, if any, further substitutions are allowed by each Team during the recommenced Competition Fixture, giving consideration to the number of substitutions made in the Competition Fixture before it was originally abandoned (including which players may take the Field of Play or be substituted on).

(iv) FV will determine at its absolute sole discretion the date time and venue for the recommenced fixture, this decision will be deemed final and not subject to appeal.

(v) Player, coach or team unavailability resulting in team non-participation in the recommenced fixture will result in a 3-0 forfeit to the offending team.

h. Competition Fixture result at time of abandonment shall stand.

4.2.4 Any Club or Club Associate found to be responsible either in whole or in part for the abandonment of a Competition Fixture may be subject to penalties under the GDT.

4.2.5 When a Competition Fixture is abandoned:

a. after commencement of the Competition Fixture, all Match Officials are entitled to receive 100% of their normal match fee; or

b. prior to commencement of the Competition Fixture, all Match Officials are entitled to receive 50% of their normal match fee if the Match Official(s) were present at the venue when the Competition Fixture was due to commence.

4.2.6 Match Officials may not claim more than one (1) postponed match fee from one venue on one day.

4.2.7 If a Competition Fixture is abandoned by the Match Official, both the Match Official and the Home Club must notify FV by the following working day that the Competition Fixture has been abandoned.

4.3 Postponed/Rescheduled Competition Fixtures

4.3.1. Competition Fixtures may be cancelled, postponed or rescheduled by FV in its absolute discretion. Otherwise, Competition Fixtures may only be postponed or rescheduled by appointed Match Officials or FV competitions staff.

4.3.2 FV may reschedule Competition Fixtures at its discretion. In exercising that discretion, FV:

a. is not subject to the deadlines or timeframes set out in these Rules or otherwise; and

b. Will take into consideration all relevant circumstances including but not limited to league standings and the scheduling of Cup Fixtures.

c. FV will not compensate any clubs due to the cancellation, postponement or rescheduling of competition fixtures

4.3.3 FV will determine the new time and date for the playing of a postponed/rescheduled Competition Fixture. Such decision is not open to appeal or review. Clubs are obliged to fulfill any postponed or rescheduled Competition Fixture as determined by FV and any Club which fails to do so will automatically forfeit the Competition Fixture and may face penalty under the GDT.

4.3.4 Player, coach or team unavailability resulting in team nonparticipation in the rescheduled fixture will result in a 3-0 forfeit to the offending team.

4.3.5 Any postponed or abandoned Competition Fixture that requires rescheduling will be rescheduled to the next available catch-up round or midweek at FV's discretion.

4.3.6 Any Competition Fixture scheduled by FV to be replayed must be completed by no later than one (1) week after the conclusion of the Regular Season unless otherwise approved or

4.3.7 directed by FV in writing. FV may record the result of any Competition Fixture not completed within this time frame as a 'No Result'.

4.3.8 Any Club Associate or Club found guilty of rearranging a Competition Fixture or requesting the appointment of Match Officials outside a set kick-off time or date will be subject to Misconduct under the GDT. FV may also record the final score of any such Competition Fixture as a 'No Result'.

4.3.9 In the event of a postponed or abandoned Competition Fixture which is required to be replayed, Clubs may, within five (5) business days from the originally scheduled Competition Fixture, arrange an alternate date and venue. The date must fall within the Regular Season. Both date and venue must be approved by FV. If no venue and date is approved by FV, the Competition Fixture will be rescheduled at FV's discretion.

4.3.10 FV will not compensate any clubs due to the rescheduling of competition fixtures.

4.3.11 Player, coach, or team unavailability resulting in team non-participation in the rescheduled fixture will result in a 3-0 forfeit to the offending team.

4.3.12 With the exception of where the COVID 19 Rules – Impacted Community Competitions apply, any other Player, coach, or team unavailability resulting in team non-participation in the rescheduled fixture will result in a 3-0 forfeit to the offending team.

4.4 Weather Conditions

4.4.2 FV and/or the Match Official may delay or abandon any Competition Fixture due to weather and/or pitch conditions such as but not limited to excessive heat/humidity, lightning or rain that may endanger participants health and/or safety.

4.4.3 Refer to FV Extreme Weather Policy for all rules and guidelines referring to extreme weather conditions.

4.5 Match Points

4.5.2 In all Competition Fixtures, match points will be awarded as follows:

Result	Match Points Awarded
WIN	Three (3) points
DRAW	One (1) point
LOSS	Zero (0) points
FORFEIT	Three nil loss
NO RESULT	Zero (0) points and zero (0) goals awarded to either Team

4.5.3 FV reserves the right to record any Competition Fixture as a 'No Result' if the circumstances require or as a result of a breach of these Rules.

4.5.4 At the end of the Regular Season, all Teams will be ranked from highest to lowest by virtue of the total number of match points received.

4.5.5 If more than one (1) Team finishes the Regular Season on the same number of points, their final position will be determined as follows:

a. The Team with the greatest Goal Difference will finish higher.

b. If Goal Difference is the same, then the Team that has scored the most goals FOR will be deemed to have finished higher.

c. If Goal Difference is the same and goals FOR is the same, then the final order will be determined by the aggregate results of Competition Fixtures played between those Teams for the current season (excluding Cup Fixtures).

d. if the aggregate scores between the Teams are the same, then AWAY goals will count as double.

4.5.6 If more than one (1) Team has the identical number of match points, Goal Difference, goals FOR & AGAINST, and the results between the Teams is the same, then those Teams will be deemed to have tied.

4.5.7 If the final standing in any League is affected by a tie in accordance with Rule 4.5.5 so that it has a bearing on promotion or relegation to another League, Finals or Playoffs, then FV may fixture a Play Off Match between the tied Teams in accordance with these Rules to separate them

4.6 Non-Participation in a Competition Fixture (unless not permitted to do so as a direct result of Protocols issued by the Australian or Victorian Government)

4.6.2 If both Clubs/Teams refuse to play or are not ready to commence the Competition Fixture as scheduled (refer to Rule 4.2.2.e), FV may award a 'No Result'.

4.6.3 Non-participation and forfeit fines for specific competitions may be altered by FV provided that they are implemented throughout the competition.

4.6.4 When insufficient players are available for a Competition Fixture a senior Team within a Club must take priority over a reserve Team. Failure to field either Team will be subject to penalty under the GDT.

4.6.5 Any Team which fails to participate in three (4) Competition Fixtures within a Regular Season may be removed from its League at FV's discretion.

4.6.6 If a Club's reserves Team fails to participate in three (4) Competition Fixtures, FV may, at its discretion, remove the Club's senior Team from its League during the Regular Season.

4.7 Change of Venue/Fixture Requests by Club

4.7.2 Change of Venue Requests

a. Change of venue requests may only be made on the basis of perceived unplayable pitch or venue conditions, or to relocate a Competition Fixture to an improved facility.

b. A written request, including booking confirmation, to relocate a Competition Fixture to an improved facility must be received by FV no less than 14 days prior to the scheduled Competition Fixture. FV shall consider factors such as maintaining kick off times, relative distance to travel and the quality of the facility and playing surface when considering such requests. Any request that involves a change to kickoff times or dates will be subject to Rule 4.7.2.

c. Any change request based on deteriorating pitch or venue conditions may be considered with supporting evidence provided within the 14-day period prior to the Competition Fixture at the discretion of FV.

4.7.3 Fixture Date/Time Change Requests

a. FV will consider a fixture change request by a Club if the request is received no less than 14 days prior to the fixture with written consent provided to FV by Club Officials of both Clubs. Exemptions may be granted for Rounds 1-4 (and 4-5 for Leagues which have been subject to regrading)

b. No date or time change request will be accepted for the final round of any Men's or Women's State League fixture.

c. Scheduled FV competition catch-up and Cup Fixture rounds will only be used in the case of postponed or abandoned Competition Fixtures.

d. Exemption from Rule 4.7.2.c may only be made if;

(i) a request is made in accordance with Rule 4.7.2.a; and

(ii) five (5) days prior to the catch-up or Cup Fixture round neither Club is involved in any other Competition Fixture being played in that catch-up or Cup Fixture round.

4.7.4 Rules 4.7.1 and 4.7.2 do not apply to Finals or Play Off Matches.

4.7.5 Any decision to reschedule a Competition Fixture (or otherwise) under Rule 4.7 is subject to FV's right to reschedule a Competition Fixture in accordance with Rule 4.3.2.

4.7.6 FV reserves the right to determine dates and times of Competition Fixtures with specific regards to the number of matches played within the immediate proximity of the relevant Competition Fixture; including but not limited to Australia Cup and Dockerty Cup commitments.

4.7.7 FV decisions in relation to rescheduling of Competition Fixtures are final and binding on all parties and are not subject to appeal.

4.7.8 FV hold ultimate power and sole discretion over the fixturing of Competition Fixtures.

5. MATCH OFFICIALS

5.1 Match Official Fees

5.1.1 FV will endeavor to appoint a Match Official to each Competition Fixture, subject to availability and applicable fixture schedule.

5.1.2 2022 Match Official Fees are set out on the FV website and will apply for the duration of the Regular Season, although is subject to change at any time.

5.1.3 Unless otherwise stated in the Competition Regulations, payment in cash or cheque of all Match Official fees must be made by the Home Club on the day of the Competition Fixture.

5.1.4 If payment is made by cheque, and that cheque is subsequently dishonoured, the Club will be invoiced for the outstanding amount plus any costs reasonably incurred by FV as a result of the cheque being dishonoured.

5.1.5 If a Competition Fixture is abandoned or postponed, all Match Officials are entitled to receive match fees in accordance with Rules 4.2.5.

5.2 Assistant Match Officials

5.2.2 Where available, two (2) assistant Match Officials shall be appointed to a Competition Fixture to assist the Match Official.

5.2.3 If insufficient assistant Match Officials have been appointed, each Team must provide an assistant Match Official. Failure to comply will result in a forfeit by the Team which fails to provide an assistant

5.2.4 No Player (s) listed on a Match Record or Team Sheet can act as a Match Official for that Competition Fixture

5.3 Non-Attendance or Unavailability of Match Official

5.3.2 If the Match Official fails to honor his or her appointment, the next most senior Match Official (Replacement) will take charge of the Competition Fixture.

5.3.3 If the Match Official is late arriving at a Competition Fixture, the Replacement will take charge until the Match Official is ready to take over.

5.3.4 If no registered Match Official is present to act as the Replacement ten (10) minutes prior to scheduled start of the Competition Fixture, both Clubs shall agree on a person to act as the Match Official for the Competition Fixture, or until the appointed Match Official arrives. If, by the scheduled kick off time, no agreement can be reached, the Home Club must appoint a person to act as the Match Official for the Competition Fixture. If the match is not played due to the away team disputing the match official appointment, the away team may be deemed to have caused the abandonment of the competition fixture.

5.3.5 If a Competition Fixture does not kick off within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick off time due to the absence of a Match Official, the Home Club will be deemed to have forfeited the Competition Fixture.

5.3.6 All Clubs must fulfill all Competition Fixtures, regardless of whether or not the FV appointed Match Official is present to take charge. Failure to do so may result in a penalty under the GDT.

5.3.7 If the match is not played due to the away team disputing the match official appointment, the away team may be deemed to have caused the abandonment of the competition fixture.

5.4 Decisions of the Match Official

5.4.1 The decisions of the Match Official(s) about any fact connected with play are final and cannot be disputed by any party.

5.5 Pitch & Facility Inspection Report

5.5.1 At the conclusion of each Competition Fixture, the Match Official must complete a Pitch & Facility Inspection Report where necessary, and then ensure all relevant Competition Fixture documentation is lodged with FV within two (2) days.

5.6 Match Records and Misconduct Reports

5.6.1 At the conclusion of each Competition Fixture, the Match Official shall consult with his or her assistant Match Officials, where appointed, and confirm the accuracy of all Competition Fixture information before completing each Team's Match Record.

5.6.2 Match Records must be:

5.6.2.1 submitted by the Match Official to FV in relation to all Men's and Women's State League Competition Fixtures (seniors and reserves); and

5.6.2.2 retained by all Match Officials and Clubs in relation to each Competition Fixture for a minimum of 2 years from the end of the Regular Season in which the Competition Fixture took place, and a copy submitted to FV if requested.

5.6.3 Match Records to be submitted to FV in accordance with Rule 5.6.2 must be submitted within 48 hours from completion of the relevant Competition Fixture (in accordance with Rule 5.6.2.1 or a request from FV (in accordance with Rule 5.6.2.2.

5.6.4 Misconduct Reports must be submitted in accordance with the requirements set out in the GDT.

5.7 Player Safety and Blood Rule

5.7.1 The Match Official must ensure that any player who suffers an injury or wound which results in the loss of blood leaves the pitch immediately for the purpose of receiving medical attention and for the safety of other players.

5.7.2 The Match Official may allow the injured player to rejoin the Competition Fixture only after the Match Official is satisfied that the injury or wound has been safely covered and contained.

5.7.3 If a player's uniform or attire has blood on it, the Match Official may require the player to change his or her attire before rejoining the Competition Fixture.

5.7.4 If the injured player is required to change his or her uniform, and a shirt displaying the same number as the original shirt is unavailable, the Match Official may allow the player to wear an alternative numbered, or blank, playing shirt.

5.8 Match Reporting

5.8.1. Match Officials must enter all match results & player data in accordance with Rule **Error! Reference source not found.**.

5.8.2. Match Officials will be required to adhere to any requirements relating to the use of online match records, results reporting and match data recording, as prescribed by FV from time to time.

6. REGISTRATION

The Registration Process is set out in the 2022 FV Registration Regulations.

7. CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

Please refer to **Schedule 6** which sets out all relevant Codes of Behaviour and Codes of Conduct applicable to FV competitions, Competition Fixtures, Clubs, players, Match Officials and Club Associates and Officials.

8. MINIMUM FACILITY REQUIREMENTS – COMMUNITY COMPETITIONS

Please refer to **Schedule 7** for all Minimum Facility Requirements - Community Competitions

9. FOOTBALL LIGHTING POLICY & REQUIREMENTS

Applicable lighting standards and requirements for Competition Fixtures are set out in FV's Football Lighting Policy as published on the FV website and as amended from time to time.

SCHEDULE 1 - 2022 GEELONG COMPETITION REGULATIONS
10. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

10.1 General Information

10.1.1 These Regulations shall apply to all FV Geelong Competition Fixtures. If a particular matter is not covered by these Regulations, reference will be made to the relevant Metropolitan Regulations if they address that matter, and the relevant regulation will apply.

10.1.2 The Team finishing top of each League at the conclusion of the Regular Season may be deemed the League Premier.

10.1.3 Competition Fixtures may only be played on public holidays with the written permission of FV.

10.1.4 Any promotion and relegation provisions referred to in these Rules are subject to Community Competitions continuing in 2022 in the same, or substantively the same, structure. For the avoidance of doubt any promotion and relegation of teams is at the absolute discretion of FV. There is no right to promotion.

10.2 Team Entry/Age Groups

10.2.1 2022 FV Geelong competitions shall run in the following age groups:

10.2.1.1	Senior Men's
10.2.1.2	Men's Masters
10.2.1.3	Senior Women's
10.2.1.4	Boys' Under 12
10.2.1.5	Boys' Under 13
10.2.1.6	Boys' Under 14
10.2.1.7	Boys' Under 16
10.2.1.8	Boys' Under 18
10.2.1.9	Girls' Under 12
10.2.1.10	Girls' Under 13
10.2.1.11	Girls' Under 14/15
10.2.1.12	Girls' Under 16/17
10.2.1.13	Womens Football 7s

10.2.2 Clubs competing in FV Geelong competitions may apply to enter any number of Teams, new or existing, in any one age group, however FV have sole discretion when accepting team entries and allocation the composition of leagues.

10.2.3 Any online Team application submitted after the closure of the Team entry period will only be accepted at FV's sole discretion.

10.2.4 No Club competing in FV Geelong competitions will be permitted to enter Team(s) into metropolitan competition unless it satisfies criteria including all of the following:

10.2.4.1 That, in the opinion of FV, it is deemed that such a request does not directly or indirectly impact the viability of any FV Geelong Leagues;

10.2.4.2 That, in the opinion of FV, it is deemed that such a request has been reasonably made because the desired age group(s), Division and/or gender of the Team is not already available within FV Geelong competitions or that of any other regional association within reasonable proximity to the Club;

10.2.4.3 That the Club fields (and/or has already fielded) an additional Team(s) into the same or similar age group in FV Geelong competitions or in any other League as required by FV;

10.2.4.4 That the Club acknowledges that if it satisfies criteria for the purpose of Regulation 10.2.4.c. and is permitted to enter Team(s) into metropolitan competition, but thereafter fails to field the Team(s) in the FV Geelong competitions for the duration of the Regular Season, its Team(s) may be ineligible to earn match points or be subject to other penalties as determined at the sole discretion of FV; and

10.2.4.5 That the clubs the license agreement with FV allows them to enter teams within the metropolitan structures.

10.2.4.6 Any other criteria as promulgated by FV from time to time.

10.2.4.7 The GRFC will have discretion to make recommendations to FV on individual circumstance for clause 10.2.6.

10.3 Composition of Leagues

10.3.1 Number of teams and league composition is determined by FV in its absolute discretion

10.3.2 FV's preferred League size for all Leagues is ten (10) Teams to facilitate an eighteen (18) round Regular Season.

10.3.3 In all Leagues for all age groups there will be a maximum of fifteen (15) and minimum of six (6) Teams playing an eighteen (18) round Regular Season, unless otherwise determined by FV.

10.3.4 If a League is deemed unviable in accordance with Regulation 10.3.2., FV shall determine any alternative League options at its sole discretion.

10.3.5 Teams in Leagues of an even (6, 8, 10, 12 or 14) number of Teams will all play eighteen (18) Competition Fixtures during the Regular Season unless otherwise determined by FV.

10.3.6 Teams in Leagues of an uneven (7,11,13 or 15) number of Teams may either:

10.3.6.1 have additional Competition Fixtures scheduled during the Regular Season; or

10.3.6.2 have Competition Fixtures removed from their Regular Season, to ensure that all Teams play the same number of Competition Fixtures across the Regular Season.

10.3.6.3 Teams in Leagues of 9 Teams will all play 16 Competition Fixtures during the Regular Season unless otherwise determined by FV.

10.3.7 FV have sole discretion when determining the composition of each league.

10.4 Vacancies in Geelong Region Competitions

10.4.1 This regulation shall apply to all FV Geelong Region Divisions.

10.4.2 Where a vacancy is created prior to the commencement of the current regular season (whether that vacancy is created during the previous competition season or in the 'off-season' prior to the commencement of the Regular Season in question), that vacancy may be offered to Clubs in accordance with the priority set out in Regulations 10.4.3 and 10.4.

10.4.3 Vacancies created in accordance with Regulations 10.4.1 and 10.4.2 will be filled in the following order of priority provided the lower Division within the Competition is of no less than seven (7) teams or at the sole discretion of FV:

10.4.2.1 The highest finishing team which is to be or has been, relegated in accordance with these Regulations from the Division in which the vacancy arises;

10.4.2.2 Any remaining Teams which are to be, or have been, relegated in accordance with these Regulations from the Division in which the vacancy arises in order of merit

10.4.2.3 The highest finishing Team (based on order of merit) which misses out on promotion in accordance with these Regulations, from the Division below the Division in which the vacancy arises;

10.4.2.4 Remaining Teams which miss out on promotion in accordance with these Regulations, from the Division below the Division in which the vacancy arises in order of merit: and

10.4.2.5 To the remaining Clubs in order of their final position on the ladder or as otherwise determined by FV

10.4.4 FV may decide not to fill a vacancy (vacancies) within a competition if it is deemed that doing so would negatively impact either: the league; the team; and/or the association

10.4.5 In deciding the order of merit for the purpose Regulation 10.4.3 or where two teams are otherwise equal for the purpose of Regulation 10.4.3, those Teams will be ranked according to the following (and in this order):

a. League finishing position for the respective teams;

b. Average points per game for the current Regular Season (i.e. the season before the Regular Season in which the vacancy needs to be filled);

c. Average Goal Difference per game for the current Regular Season (i.e. the season before the Regular Season in which the vacancy needs to be filled;

d. Average Goals FOR per game for the current Regular Season (i.e. the season before the Regular Season in which the vacancy needs to be filled);

e. The Team and the Club's disciplinary record for the current Regular Season (i.e. the season before the Regular Season in which the vacancy needs to be filled).

11.1 Interchange

11.1.1 A maximum of seventeen (17) Players may be named on the Match Record. In all FV Geelong competitions, Clubs may make any number of interchanges during the course of the Competition Fixture, provided the Match Official has been consulted first.

11.1.2 A Match Official may decline the interchange of players in the last five (5) minutes of the second half of a Competition Fixture if in his or her opinion the change is being made to deliberately delay play.

11.2 Match Balls

11.2.1 The Home Club shall provide the Match Official with three (3) match balls no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled Competition Fixture.

11.2.2 The following ball sizes apply:

Age Groups	Ball Size
Under Twelve (12) Boys	Size 4
Under Thirteen (13) Boys	Size 4
Under Fourteen (14) Boys	Size 5
Under Sixteen (16) Boys	Size 5
Under Eighteen (18) Boys	Size 5
Under Twelve (12) Girls	Size 4
Under Thirteen (13) Girls	Size 4
Under Fourteen/Fifteen (14/15) Girls	Size 5
Under Sixteen/Seventeen (16/17) Girls	Size 5
Senior Men's	Size 5
Senior Women's	Size 5

11.2.3 All clubs must use a licensed match ball from one (1) of FV's licensed ball manufacturers as promulgated by FV from time to time.

11.2.4 Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to FV by the Match Official.

11.3 Results of Competition Fixtures

11.3.1 The Home Club must submit results of all Competition Fixtures online via GameDay, with the following information required to be submitted as a minimum requirement for each League:

11.3.1.1 Senior Leagues – Minimum Requirements

(i) Full time score
(ii) Goal scorers
(iii) Home and Away Team Lists

11.3.1.2 Junior Leagues – Minimum Requirements

(i) Full time score

11.3.2 All results for Sunday Competition Fixtures played before 3.30pm shall be submitted online by the Home Club by 6.00pm that day.

11.3.3 For non-weekend Competition Fixtures and Competition Fixtures that kick off after 3.30pm on a Sunday, the Home Club must enter the results by 9.00am on the day following the Competition Fixture.

11.3.4 Clubs which fail to submit results for Competition Fixtures in accordance with Regulation 11.3 may be penalised under the GDT.

11.4 Best and Fairest & Golden Boot Awards

11.4.1 FV will arrange memorabilia to recognise the winners of the following awards for FV Geelong competitions:

11.4.1.1 Senior Leagues

(i) Best and Fairest: one medal per winner.

(ii) Top Goal Scorer (Golden Boot): one medal per winner.

11.4.1.2 Junior Leagues

(i) Best and Fairest: one medal per winner.

11.4.2 At the conclusion of each Competition Fixture, the Match Official or Club Referee must submit the Best & Fairest votes for the relevant fixture through the 'Geelong Post Match Submission Form' (Click here) within two (2) working days.

11.4.3 All votes must be recorded on the 2022 Geelong Post Match Submission Form (Click here).

11.4.4 All votes must be treated with the highest confidentiality.

11.4.5 All online voting forms must be completed in full, including the players' name, Club and FA ID Number.

11.4.6 Votes shall be cast in a 3-2-1 format with three (3) votes given for the player adjudged by the Match Official to be the best and fairest in each Competition Fixture.

11.4.7 A failure to comply with Regulation 11.4 may result in a Match Official being suspended from officiating or demoted to a lower Division.

11. BEST AND FAIREST

11.4.8 A player who receives a Suspension (as defined in the GDT) during a Competition Fixture in a specific league during the Regular Season (excluding Play Off and Finals matches) shall be ineligible to win the Best and Fairest award in that given League. To avoid doubt this includes but is not limited to a player who receives five (5) Yellow Cards or more in a Regular Season.

11.4.8.1 Australia Cup and Nike FC Cup matches are not included for the purpose of this regulation.

11.4.9 A player who has a Direct Red Card revoked for mistaken identity shall be eligible to win the award.

11.4.10 In the event of no appointed FV Match Official, Best and Fairest votes will be awarded by the Replacement Match Official for that Competition Fixture.

11.4.11 If two (2) or more players have the same number of Best and Fairest votes at the conclusion of the Regular Season, multiple Best and Fairest winners will be awarded for the League.

11.4.12 Players that have played at more than one Club/Team or have played in more than one League in the 2022 season will have votes and/or goals recognized as follows:

11.4.12.1 Votes and/or goals in multiple Leagues: The Player's votes and/or goals earned in each League will be considered separate and do not carry over, irrespective of whether they were earned with the same Club or after transferring from one Club to another.

Example 1: Votes awarded to a Player in Women's Division 1 cannot be counted in the final tally for the Best and Fairest Award for Women's Division 2 in that Regular Season.

11.4.12.2 Votes and/or goals at multiple Clubs in the same League: Subject to Regulations 2.1.3 and 2.1.4, if a Player plays for more than one Club in the same League in the same Regular Season, the player's votes and/or goals are tallied together, however the Player will only be recognized in terms of his or her award as a Player for the Club at which the player finishes the Regular Season.

Example 2: Votes awarded to the same Player whilst playing for multiple Clubs in Men's Division 1 will be tallied together for the purposes of the Best and Fairest Award for Men's Division 1 in that Regular Season.

11.4.12.3 Votes and/or goals at multiple Teams from the same Club in the same League: if a Player has earned votes and/or goals for multiple Teams at the same Club in the same League, they will only have been allocated votes and/or goals for the one Team in which the most votes and/or goals were earned.

Example 3: 6 Votes awarded to a Player for the 'Red' Team cannot be counted if they earned 11 Votes for the 'Blue' Team for the same Club in the same League.

12. FINALS SERIES

12.3 Competition Format

12.3.1 The top four (4) Teams at the conclusion of the Regular Season in each League may progress to the Finals Series for that League, unless otherwise determined by FV.

12.3.2 The Finals Series format may be based on final ladder positions, as follows:

12.3.2.1 Week 1

Semi-Final #1 – 1st v 4th
Semi-Final #2 – 2nd v 3rd

12.3.2.2 Week 2

Grand Final – Winner Semi-Final #1 v Winner Semi-Final #2

12.3.3 The teams which finish in 1st and 2nd positions in each league at the conclusion of the Regular Season may be entitled to host their Week 1 Finals at their home venue.

12.3.4 Each Club participating in Week 1 of the Finals Series will cover 50% of the Match Official fees.

12.3.5 FV will cover all Match Official fees in Week 2 of the Finals Series.

12.3.6 Details of each Finals Series for all competitions and Leagues will be released by FV prior to the conclusion of the regular season.

12.3.7 If a nominated home venue is deemed unfit for play, alternative venues will be determined at the absolute discretion of FV.

12.3.8 If any Finals Series Competitions Fixture is postponed, abandoned or cancelled, that Competition Fixture will be played within 3 days of the original Competition Fixture at the sole discretion of FV. This may include the Competition Fixture being played on an alternative day or at an alternative venue.

12.3.9 FV will determine whether a finals series will run at their discretion.

12.3.10 FV will determine the finals venue at their sole discretion.

12.4 Procedures to Determine the Winner of Finals

12.4.1 All Competition Fixtures in the Finals Series will be played over one (1) leg.

12.4.2 If, at the conclusion of any Final, the scores between the Teams are tied, extra time of two equal periods will be used to decide the winner. If the scores are level at the end of extra time, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game to determine the winner of the Final.

12.4.3 The Team who wins the Grand Final will become the Finals Champion for their League, unless otherwise determined by FV

12.4.4 The Team who loses the Grand Final will become the Finals Runner Up for their League, unless otherwise determined by FV

12.4.5 Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV acting in its absolute discretion winning the Finals at the conclusion of the Regular Season may entitle the team to be named Champions. For the avoidance of doubt simply winning the final does not entitle the Team to be named Champions.

12.5 Discipline

12.5.1 All Suspensions from the Regular Season will carry over to the Finals Series.

12.5.2 A player that receives a Red Card during the Final Series will automatically miss the next Competition Fixture (whether or not that fixture is a Final) and may be subject to further sanction in accordance with the GDT.

12.5.3 Yellow cards accumulated by a player during the Finals Series will not be counted for the purposes of the GDT. However, if a player receives their 5th yellow card in their Club's final Regular Season Competition Fixture she shall be suspended for their first Competition Fixture of the Finals Series.

12.6 Player Restrictions

12.6.1 Each player must have Played at least five (5) Regular Season Competition Fixtures for that Team to qualify to play Finals for that Team.

12.6.2 FV will only consider an exception to Regulation 12.6.1 in exceptional circumstances and where a Club/Team can establish that it is unable to field a Team for a Final (in compliance with Regulation 12.6.1) due to insufficient player numbers as a result of availability (including injury). Any Club wishing to rely on such an exception must apply to FV:

a. in writing;

b. at least five (5) days before the Final is due to take place;

c. setting out the reasons it requests an exception be granted to Regulation 12.6.1, providing evidence in support of player unavailability; and

d. provide FV with any further information required.

12.6.3 FV will consider any request made in accordance with Regulation 12.6.2 together with all information provided in support of that request and make a decision regarding any exception requested. Any decision made in this regard is at the sole discretion of FV and is not subject to review or appeal.

12.6.4 A player may be granted a dispensation to play down a maximum of one (1) age group at FV's sole discretion as per the regulations within the FV Dispensation Policy.

12.6.5 FV may request information or clarification from a player or Club applying for dispensation as it sees fit and will make a decision in relation to the dispensation request at its sole discretion.

12.6.6 FV may refuse to grant a dispensation requested at its sole discretion and this decision is considered as final

2022 RULES OF COMPETITION

GEELONG MENS

FOOTBALL VICTORIA

SCHEDULE 2 - 2022 GEELONG MEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS
13. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

13.1 Senior Men's Divisions

13.1.1 These Regulations shall apply to all FV Geelong Senior Men's Division Competition Fixtures. If a particular matter is not covered by these Regulations, reference will be made to the Metropolitan Men's Regulations if they address that matter and the relevant regulation will apply.

13.1.2 FV Geelong competitions shall comprise three (3) Senior Men's Divisions or such other number as determined by FV at any time. Number of teams is determined by FV in its absolute discretion.

13.1.3 Division 1 and Division 2 shall compromise of a maximum of ten (10) teams, unless insufficient team numbers exist for one of the Divisions to be viable in accordance with Regulations 10.3.2 & 10.3.3.

13.1.4 Subject to these Rules and Regulations, at the end of the Regular Season, the final standings of each League may determine which Teams have earned the right to be promoted or relegated between Divisions, unless otherwise determined by FV at its sole discretion.

13.1.5 Promotion and relegation positions are at the absolute discretion of FV and may be amended at any time prior to the commencement of the competition season, during the competition season or post competition season.

13.1.6 In accordance with Regulation 13.1.3, promotion and relegation between the Senior Men's Divisions may be determined as follows:

13.1.6.1 Teams finishing in 9th and 10th position in Men's Division 1 may be relegated to Men's Division 2 in the following Regular Season.

13.1.6.2 Teams finishing in 1st and 2nd position in Men's Division 2 may be promoted to Men's Division 1 in the following Regular Season.

13.1.6.3 Teams finishing in 9th and 10th position in Men's Division 2 may be relegated to Men's Division 3 in the following Regular Season.

13.1.6.4 Teams finishing in 1st and 2nd position in Men's Division 3 may be promoted to Men's Division 2 in the following Regular Season.

13.1.6.5 Promotion and relegation between the Senior Men's Divisions as outlined in Regulation 13.1.14 may be subject to changes in league structure in accordance with Regulation 10.3.3 at the sole discretion of FV.

13.1.7 Any Club entering a new Team will be automatically placed into the lowest Division unless otherwise determined by FV.

13.1.8 If a Club with multiple teams in the Men's Competition intends to withdraw a team prior to the commencement of the 2022 season, the club's lowest graded team within the Competition will be withdrawn or otherwise determined by the FV.

13.1.9 Decisions regarding the placing of Teams in particular Divisions and Leagues as outlined in Regulation 13.1 are not appealable.

13.1.10 Any promotion and relegation provisions referred to in these Rules are subject to Community Competitions continuing in 2022 in the same, or substantively the same, structure. For the avoidance of doubt any promotion and relegation of teams is at the absolute discretion of FV. There is no right to promotion

13.1.11 Competition Fixtures will be played on either Friday, Sunday or Monday, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary.

13.1.12 Friday or Monday night Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 6.30pm or later than 8.30pm, unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.

13.1.13 Competition Fixtures cannot be scheduled for a Friday or Monday night if the distance between the home venues of the two (2) Clubs exceeds 50km, unless upon written agreement of the two (2) Clubs or as determined by at the sole discretion of FV.

13.1.14 Sunday Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 11.00am or later than 8.30pm, unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.

13.1.15 The applicable kick off times for Sunday Competition Fixtures apply to any matches held on public holidays.

13.1.16 To be eligible to participate in men's competitions run by FV, Players must turn 15 years (or older) as at 1 January 2022, unless an application to FV for exemption from Regulation 13.1.16 is made by the Player's Club on behalf of a Player and is accepted by FV.

13.1.17 An application made under Regulation 13.1.16 must meet the following minimum criteria:

a. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club president supporting the application;

b. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's State Team/Representative Team coach or Club Technical Director;

c. The application must be supported by a signed letter of consent from the player's parent or guardian supporting the application;

d. The application must be supported by a signed letter of support from the player's medical professional listing general medical details of the player including height and weight and;

e. The Club/player must provide FV with any further information requested.

13.1.18 An application made under Regulation 13.1.17 will be considered by the FV. FV has sole discretion in relation to any application made under that Regulation.

13.1.19 Once a player has competed in (5) Men's State League Senior fixture, that player will be deemed ineligible to compete in any of his clubs Geelong Senior Men's Competition Teams for the remainder of the regular season (including finals). The exception to this is where a player has not yet attained the age of 18 as of the 1st of January of the current competition season, this player will be considered exempt from regulation 13.1.19.

13.1.20 Players who are participating in both the Men's State League Competition and the Geelong Men's Competition can only be registered to one (1) Registration Type on Play Football: '2.4

Metro Senior Men'. Being registered and made active to this Registration Type will allow players to play in both Metropolitan and Geelong Competitions.

13.1.21 Once a Player has played at a higher Division(s) excluding Men's State League Seniors (Seniors or Reserves) for ten (10) Competition Fixtures or more, they will be considered ineligible for any Geelong Senior matches in a lower category (e.g. Men's Division 2) for his Club for the remainder of the Regular Season (including Finals).

13.1.22 Subject to regulation 13.1.21. For each Geelong Senior Men's team, no more than three (3) players who have Played in any of their Club's higher Division teams on any given weekend may play in a Geelong Senior Men's Division Competition Fixture that weekend.

13.1.23 For the purpose of Regulation 13.1.21, on a weekend where any of a Club's higher Division Teams outlined are not scheduled to play in a Competition Fixture, that Team's most recent Competition Fixture shall apply.

13.1.24 For the purpose of Regulation 13.1.21 , on a weekend where any of a Club's higher Division Teams outlined are not scheduled to play in a Competition Fixture, that Team's most recent Competition Fixture shall apply.

13.1.25 For Clubs that have teams listed in Men's State League Competitions, no more than three (3) players who have played in their Club's Men's State League Team (seniors or reserves) on any given weekend may play in a Geelong Senior Men's Division Competition Fixture that weekend.

13.1.26 If a Club has two (2) Teams in the same League (of a particular Senior Division) then players are 'team-tied' following completion of the sixth (6th) round of the Regular Season to one of those teams. Clubs will be required to submit a Team list for each Team for Round 7 onwards, listing each player, which will be tied to that particular team for the remainder of the regular season. Any new player joining one of those Teams after the sixth (6th) round must be allocated to (and can only play for) one (1) of the tied-Teams for the remainder of the Regular Season

13.1.27 Up to a maximum of three (3) players listed to a particular Team may play for the Club's other Team(s) in that League on a given weekend.

13.1.28 Irrespective of the kickoff time for games on a particular day. If a men's division 2 match is scheduled before a clubs 'men's division 1 match the club must still only list a maximum of three (3) players who are able to play both matches.

13.2 Men's Masters

13.2.1 FV Geelong competitions shall comprise 1 Over 35's (Men's Masters) Division or such other number determined by FV at any time.

13.2.2 Regulations 13.2 shall apply to all Men's Masters Competition Fixtures. If a particular matter is not covered by these Regulations, reference will be made to the 2021 Rules of Competitions and Masters Regulations for metropolitan competitions if they address that matter and the relevant regulation will apply.

a. Men's Masters Competition Fixtures will be played on either Friday, Sunday or Monday, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary.

b. Friday or Monday night Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 6:30pm or later than 8:30pm, unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.

SCHEDULE 2 - 2022 GEELONG MEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS
13. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

13.2.3 Men's Masters Competition Fixtures cannot be scheduled for a Friday or Monday night if the distance between the home venues of the two (2) Clubs exceeds 50km, unless upon written agreement of the two (2) Clubs or as determined by FV at its absolute and sole discretion.

13.2.4 Sunday Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 11.00am or later than 8.30pm, unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.

13.2.5 The applicable kick off times for Sunday Competition Fixtures apply to any Competition Fixtures held on public holidays.

13.2.6 All Players that play in 2022 Men's Masters Competition Fixtures must be 35 years or older as at 1 January 2022, with the following exemption:

a. A club may list up to two (2) outfield players on the match record who are not yet 35 but whom have attained the age of 30 as of 1st of January of the Current competition season without prior written dispensation

b. Clubs may apply for dispensation from Regulation 13.2.6 provided it:

i. Submits a request in writing to FV; and

ii. Any Player(s) it is requesting dispensation for which would provide exemption from Regulation 13.2.6 is 34 years old as at 1 January 2021; and

iii. Provides any other information requested by FV.

13.2.7 Players who are provided dispensation will not be counted for the purpose of regulation 13.2.6.a.

13.2.8 Requests made in accordance with Regulation 13.2. will only be considered at FV's sole discretion.

2022 RULES OF COPETITION

GEELONG WOMENS

FOOTBALL VICTORIA

SCHEDULE 3 - 2022 GEELONG WOMEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS
14. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

14.1 General Information

14.1.1 These Regulations shall apply to all Geelong Women's Competition Fixtures. If a particular matter is not covered by these Regulations, reference will be made to the 2022 Rules of Competition and Women's State League Regulations competitions if they address that matter and the relevant regulation will apply.

14.1.2 To be eligible to participate in women's competitions run by FV, Players must turn 14 years (or older) in 2022, unless an application to FV for exemption from Regulation 14.1.2 is made by the Player's Club on behalf of a Player and is accepted by FV.

14.1.3 An application made under Regulation 14.1.2 must meet the following minimum criteria:

a. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club supporting the application;

b. The application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's state Team or representative Team coach if applicable;

c. The application must be supported by a signed letter of consent from the player's parent or guardian supporting the application; and

d. The application must be supported by a signed letter of support from the player's medical professional listing general medical details of the player including height and weight and;

e. The Club/player must provide FV with any further information required.

14.1.4 An application made under Regulation 14.1.2 will be considered by the FV. FV has sole discretion in relation to any application made under that Regulation.

14.1.5 The Senior Women's Divisions shall be named Women's Division 1 & Women's Division 2.

14.1.5.1 The names and number of Divisions offered by FV may change from time to time if it is required to do so.

14.1.6 Geelong Women's Fixtures will be played on Friday, Saturday or Monday. FV may schedule Geelong Women's fixtures on other days as it deems necessary in the circumstance.

14.1.7 Competition Fixtures may not kick-off earlier than 11:00am or later than 8:30pm unless the Competition Fixture has been rescheduled as per Rule 4.3.

14.1.8 Competition Fixtures cannot be scheduled for a Friday or Monday night if the distance between the home venues of the two (2) Clubs exceeds 50km, unless upon written agreement of the two (2) Clubs or as determined at the sole discretion of FV.

14.1.9 If a Club has two (2) Teams in the same League (of a particular Senior Division) then players are 'team-tied' following completion of the sixth (6th) round of the Regular Season to one of those teams. Clubs will be required to submit a Team list for each Team for Round 7 onwards, listing each player, which will be tied

that particular team for the remainder of the regular season. Any new player joining one of those Teams after the sixth (6th) round must be allocated to (and can only play for) one (1) of the tied-Teams for the remainder of the Regular Season

14.1.10 No more than three (3) players who have Played in any of their Club's higher Division Teams on any given weekend may play in a Geelong Senior Women's Division Competition Fixture that weekend.

14.1.11 Irrespective of the kickoff time for games on a particular day. If a women's division 2 match is scheduled before a clubs 'women's division 1 match the club must still only list a maximum of three (3) players who are able to play both matches.

14.1.12 For the purpose of Regulation 14.1.11, on a weekend where any of a Club's higher Division Teams are not scheduled to play in a Competition Fixture, or are scheduled to kick off after the lower division's Competition Fixture, that Team's most recent Competition Fixture will apply.

14.1.13 Players who are participating in both the VPLW/Women's State League Competition and the Geelong Women's' Competition can only be registered to one (1) Registration Type on Play Football: '2.3 Metro Senior Women'. Being registered and made active to this Registration Type will allow players to play in both Metropolitan and Geelong Competitions.

14.1.14 Once a Player has played at a higher Division(s) including Women's State League Seniors (Seniors or Reserves) for ten (10) Competition Fixtures or more, they will be considered ineligible for any Geelong Senior matches in a lower category (e.g., Women's Division 1) for their Club for the remainder of the Regular Season (including Finals).

14.1.15 Subject to regulation 14.1.14. For each Geelong Senior Women's team, no more than three (3) players who have Played in any of their Club's higher Division teams on any given weekend (including Women's State League) may play in a Geelong Senior Women's Division Competition Fixture that weekend.

2022 RULES OF COMPETITION

GEELONG JUNIORS

FOOTBALL VICTORIA

SCHEDULE 4 - 2022 GEELONG JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS
15. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

15.1 General Information

15.1.1 These Regulations shall apply to all Junior Geelong Competition Fixtures. If a particular matter is not covered by these Regulations, reference will be made to the Metropolitan Junior Regulations if they address that matter and the relevant regulation will apply.

15.1.2 All Junior Boys Divisions shall be named 'A' or 'B' grade, except in the instance of Boys' Under 12 which shall be named Kangaroos, Wallabies & Joeys respectively.

15.1.3 The names and number of Divisions offered by FV may change from time to time if it is required to do so.

15.1.4 Player ID Cards are required in all junior Competition Fixtures.

The default day of play for the following age groups is Saturday:

Girls' Under 12

Girls' Under 13

Girls' Under 14/15

Girls' Under 16/17

15.1.5 The default day of play for the following age groups is Sunday:

Boys' Under 12

Boys' Under 13

Boys' Under 14

Boys' Under 16

Boys' Under 18

15.1.6 FV Junior Boys & Girls Competition Fixtures may also be scheduled on Friday or Monday, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary.

15.1.7 Competitions Fixtures cannot be scheduled for a Friday or Monday night if the distance between the home venues of the two (2) Clubs exceeds 50km, unless written agreement from the two (2) Clubs is received or as determined by FV at its absolute and sole discretion.

15.1.8 A Player who is participating above their age group will not be prevented from returning to play in his or her rightful age group unless that Player is suspended.

15.1.9 A player may be granted a dispensation to play down a maximum of one (1) age group at FV's sole discretion as per the regulations within the FV Dispensation Policy.

15.1.10 FV may request information or clarification from a player or Club applying for dispensation under Regulation 15.1.9 as it sees necessary and will make a decision in relation to the dispensation request at its sole discretion.

15.1.11 FV may refuse to grant a dispensation requested under Regulation 15.1.9 in circumstances where the player in question has played in football in school or other competitions not administered by FV or FA. FV may seek further information from the Club in question before making a determination under this Regulation and the Club must submit that information as part of the dispensation request.

15.1.12 For all Junior Boys competitions in which multiple Divisions exist, a Player who has played at a higher Division in a particular age group (e.g. 13As) for five (5) Competition Fixtures or more, cannot drop to a lower category (e.g. 13Bs) within the same age group for his or her Club for the remainder of the Regular Season (including Finals). This Regulation does not, however, prevent a player who is playing 'up' an age group returning to his or her rightful age group in accordance with Regulation 15.1.8.

15.1.13 If a Club has two (2) Teams in the 'A' Division of a particular age group then players are team-tied from the fifth (5th) round Competition Fixture of the Regular Season. Clubs with tied-Teams will be required to submit a Team list for each Team, listing the players within their designated Team. Any new player joining a Team must be allocated to only one (1) of the tied-Teams.

15.1.14 Players who are participating in both the Metropolitan Junior League Competition and the Geelong Junior Competition can only be registered to one (1) Registration Type on Play Football: '2.2 Metro Juniors. Being registered and made active to this Registration Type will allow players to play in both Metropolitan and Geelong Competitions

15.2 Junior Boys' Competitions

15.2.1 Subject to Regulation 15.1.9 and 15.1.12, players in the following age groups may take part in the Junior Boys' Competition 2022:

Age Group	Year of Birth
Twelves (12s)	Born on or after 1 January 2010
Thirteens (13s)	Born on or after 1 January 2009
Fourteens (14s)	Born on or after 1 January 2008
Sixteens (16s)	Born on or after 1 January 2006
Eighteens (18s)	Born on or after 1 January 2004

15.3 Junior Girls' Competitions

15.3.1 Subject to Regulation 15.1.9 and 15.1.12, players in the following age groups may take part in the Junior Girls' Competition 2022:

Age Group	Year of Birth
Twelves (12s)	Born on or after 1 January 2010
Thirteens (13s)	Born on or after 1 January 2009
Fourteens/Fifteens (14s/15s)	Born on or after 1 January 2008
Sixteens/Seventeens (16s/17s)	Born on or after 1 January 2006

SCHEDULE 4 - 2022 GEELONG JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS
15. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

15.4 Under 12 & 13 Competitions

15.4.1 As an exception to the Venue Requirements as set out in **Schedule 7**, the Boys' and Girls' Under 12 & 13 competition in 2022 will be played as per regulation 18.1.

FV Community Under 12 & Under 13 Competition (9v9)	
Number of Players	9v9 Including Goal Keeper. Max of 5 Substitutions
Field of Play	Length: 60 – 70m Width 40-50m
Goal Size and Type	Height 2m Width: 5m Permanent or portable goal must be compliant with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's Notice. 28 of 2010
Field Marking	Cones, Markers or Painted Lines are allowed
Penalty Area	Depth 10m Width: 20m Penalty Spot 7m from goal line
Duration of Game	2 x 30 minute halves
Half time	5 minutes
Referee	FV Appointed Green Shirt Referees
Assistant Referees	Club appointed Assisted Referees
Interchange	Maximum 5 Players
Ball Size	4

15.4.2 The offside rule will apply for under 12 and under 13 9v9 competition as per FIFA LOTG.

15.4.3 In accordance with FIFA LOTG, a penalty kick will be awarded if a player commits a direct free kick offence inside their penalty area.

15.4.4 The goalkeeper is allowed to handle the ball anywhere in the penalty area. To restart play after a save or gathering the ball with their hands, the ball must be thrown or rolled from the hands or played from the ground with their feet within 6 seconds, The goalkeeper is not allowed to kick or dropkick the ball from their hands.

15.4.5 Goal kicks can be taken from anywhere within the penalty area. Opponents must be outside the penalty area until the ball is in play. The ball is in play once it is kicked and leaves the penalty area.

15.4.6 Opponents must be at least 6 meters away from the ball until it is in play. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.

15.4.7 Red and Yellow Cards will be issued as per FIFA LOTG except in the following.

a. For any fouls that would ordinarily result in a red card, the match official will instruct the player to leave the field of play for the remainder of the match, any player sent from the field of play may be replaced by another player at the time of the offence. In this instance, neither team will be required to play with fewer than 9 players.

15.5 Division Categories

15.5.1 Under 12 competitions are self-graded (Kangaroos, Wallabies & Joeys Leagues).

15.5.2 Leagues of no less than six (6) Teams or greater than fifteen (15) Teams will be created in Kangaroo, Wallaby or Joey Leagues.

15.5.3 Where there are sixteen (16) or more Team entries in any given Division, Teams will be split geographically to alleviate travel time.

15.5.4 FV's preferred League size will remain ten (10) teams, with the remaining Teams maintaining a viable League of between six (6) and fifteen (15) Teams.

15.5.5 Match Records are applicable for FV Geelong Region Under 12 & 13 Competitions.

15.5.6 Red & yellow cards are applicable in FV Geelong Region Under 12 & 13 Competitions. In the case a Red card is shown to a player by the Match Official:

15.5.7 That player will be sent off the field for the remainder of the match however shall be replaced by an Interchange player for the remainder of the game.

15.5.8 Scores will be recorded in FV Geelong Region Under 12 & 13.

15.5.9 League tables will be recorded in FV Geelong Region Under 12 & 13 Completions

15.6 Regrading Procedure

15.6.1 FV at their sole discretion will determine whether regrading will occur within a competition season.

15.6.2 Follow the conclusion of Round 4 of the Regular Season, a request to regrade to a new league will only be considered by FV:

a. The league to which the team wants to move contains a bye (i.e. an uneven number of teams); and

b. The League from which the team wants to move does not contain a bye (i.e. an even number of teams); OR

c. There is a concurrent request from a Team to move between the two Leagues referred to in Rules 15.5.2(a) and 15.5.2 (b) above which would effectively result in a direct swap between the two Teams in question and, therefore, no disruption to either of the respective leagues.

FV reserves the right to action a mandatory regrade based on the facilitation of a straight swap between two Leagues

If in the situation multiple requests to move into the same league are received, the regrade priority will be given based on results and standings

15.6.3 No Club shall have more than two (2) Teams re-graded in the same competition age group except in exceptional circumstances as deemed necessary by FV.

15.6.4 FV may consider a request to re-grade which does not satisfy the criteria stipulated in Rule 15.5.2 above in exceptional circumstance. In doing so, it will give consideration to the following:

15.6.4.1 The extent of League and fixture disruption for other Teams caused by the proposed move.

15.6.4.2 Match results recorded between Rounds 1-4 of the current Regular Season. No request to re-grade will be considered if a Team has not won or lost all three fixtures.

15.6.4.3 History of the Team's performance across previous seasons.

15.6.4.4 Any additional information sought or requested by FV, including but not limited to referee and opposition feedback.

15.6.4.5 The following match determinations will apply to competitions affected by an approved request to re-grade:

15.6.4.6 Any re-graded Team will commence in its new League in Round 5.

15.6.4.7 Results and ladders for the regraded impacted league will be reset and previous results accounted for as 'grading games'.

15.6.4.8 The Re-grading Period will commence following Round 4 of the Regular Season. All re-grading requests must be received by FV no later than 24 hours after the conclusion of a Team's Round 4 Competition Fixture. Any request received after this time will not be considered unless, in the opinion of FV, the request benefits all affected Leagues.

15.6.4.9 All regrading requests must be submitted through the online form which can be found on the FV Website. One form will be required for each re-grading request that is submitted. Requests for re-grading or confirmation sought over the phone or via email will not be considered by FV.

2022 RULES OF COMPETITION

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL 7's

FOOTBALL VICTORIA

SCHEDULE 5 – 2022 WOMEN'S FOOTBALL SEVENS COMPETITION REGULATIONS
16. COMPETITION STRUCUTRE

16.1 General Information

16.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all Women's Football Sevens (WF7) fixtures within the following metropolitan FV Competitions.

16.1.2. Where team numbers permit, Women's Football Sevens will be divided into the following zones:

a. West

b. North

c. East

d. South

16.1.3. In circumstances where team numbers entered do not allow viable zonal League, FV may amalgamate available teams into one or more of the following competitions:

a. Metropolitan (stand alone)

b. North-West

c. South-East

d. Any other zone that FV determines in its sole discretion based on team numbers entered.

16.1.4. WM7 competition structure may consist of two (2) cycles.

16.1.5. Each WM7 cycle may consist of 7 rounds with a proposed Final Series after Cycle 2.

16.1.6. FV's preferred League size for WM7 is eight (8) Teams to facilitate a seven (7) round cycle.

16.1.7. Clubs may enter teams for one or both of the cycles.

16.1.8. All WM7 competitions fixtures and results will reset after Cycle 1.

16.1.9. There will be no promotion and relegation between individual WF7 Competition Leagues or between Women's State Leagues and WF7 Competitions.

16.1.10. Competition Fixtures may only be played on public holidays with the permission of FV.

16.1.11. To be eligible to participate in Women's Football Sevens competitions run by FV, a player must be at least 14 years of age as at 1 January 2022, unless an application to FV for exemption from Rule 16.1.7 is made by the player's Club on behalf of a player and is accepted by FV.

16.1.12. An application made under Rule 16.1.7 must meet the following minimum criteria:

a. the application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's Club president supporting the application;

b. the application must be supported by a signed letter from the player's State Team/Representative Team coach or Club Technical Director;

c. the application must be supported by a signed letter of consent from the player's parent or guardian supporting the application;

d. The application must be supported by a signed letter of support from the player's medical professional listing general medical details of the player including height and weight; and

e. the Club/player must provide FV with any further information requested.

16.1.13. An application made under Rule 16.1.7 will be considered by FV. FV has sole discretion in relation to any application made under that Regulation.

16.1.14. As an exception to the Player's Strip / Apparel set out in Rule 3.5, the WF7 competition does not require players to wear a Club Strip.

16.1.15. In addition to 16.1.14 players on the same team may wear a bib or strip of predominantly the same colour (excluding black).

16.2 Multiple Teams in Women's Football Sevens

16.2.1. Clubs may enter more than one Team in the Women's Metro Sevens Competition provided that Clubs with multiple Teams in the Women's Metro Sevens Competition must comply with the player eligibility Rules as set out in Rules 16.3.

16.3 Player Restrictions

16.3.1. Clubs with Women's State League Team(s) are permitted to play players between Women's State League and Women's Football Sevens Competition provided that:

Victorian Premier League Womens (VPLW) and Women's State League 1 & 2

a. No more than two (2) players who have played in their Club's VPLW (seniors or reserves), Women's State League 1 (seniors or reserves) or Women's State League 2 Team in their most recent fixture may play in a WF7 Competition Fixture that weekend.

Women's State League 3, 4 and 5

b. There are no restrictions on players who have played in their Club's Women's State League 3, 4 or 5 Team(s) on any given weekend also playing in a Club's WF7 Competition Fixture on the same weekend.

SCHEDULE 5 – 2022 WOMEN'S FOOTBALL SEVENS COMPETITION REGULATIONS
16. COMPETITION STRUCUTRE

16.4 Women's Football Sevens Competition – Playing the Game

16.4.1. As an exception to the Venue Requirements as set out in Schedule 7, the WF7 competition will be played as per rule 16.4.1.

FV Community Women's Football Sevens Competition	
Number of Players	7 v 7 including Goalkeeper. Maximum of 10 eligible players on the Match Record.
Field of Play	½ Full Size Pitch Length: 60m - 70m Width: 40m - 50m
Goal Size and Type	Height: 2m Width: 5m Permanent or portable goal must be compliant with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's Notice. 28 of 2010
Field Marking	Cones, Markers or Painted Lines are allowed
Penalty Area	Depth: 10m Width: 20m Penalty Spot 7m from goal line
Duration of Game	2 x 20 minute halves
Half time	5 minutes
Referee	FV Appointed Referee
Interchange	Maximum 3 Players
Ball Size	5

16.4.2. The offside rule will not apply, a player cannot be offside in the WF7 Competition.

16.4.3. In accordance with FIFA LOTG, a penalty kick will be awarded if a player commits a direct free kick offence inside their penalty area.

16.4.4. The goalkeeper is allowed to handle the ball anywhere in the penalty area. To restart play after a save or gathering the ball with their hands, the ball must be thrown or rolled from the hands or played from the ground with their feet within 6 seconds, The goalkeeper is not allowed to kick or dropkick the ball from their hands.

16.4.5. Goal kicks can be taken from anywhere within the penalty area. Opponents must be outside the penalty area until the ball is in play. The ball is in play once it is kicked and leaves the penalty area.

16.4.6. There are no Throw-Ins in Women's Football Sevens. Players must place the ball on the ground and the ball is Kicked into play (Kick-Ins are indirect).

16.4.7. For Centre Kick Offs, Corners, Kick-Ins and Goal Kicks , any opposition players must be 5 metres away from the ball at the start of play when each of these kicks are taken.

16.4.8. Red and Yellow Cards will be issued as per FIFA LOTG except in the following.

a. For any fouls that would ordinarily result in a red card, the match official will instruct the player to leave the field of play for the remainder of the match, any player sent from the field of play may be replaced by another player at the time of the offence. In this instance, neither team will be required to play with fewer than 7 players.

16.5 New Teams/New Divisions/New Leagues

16.5.1. All Clubs may apply to enter a new Team or Teams into WF7 Competition. FV will communicate League Structures based on the Team entries received and determine if Leagues need to be merged to form viable Leagues.

16.5.2. FV reserves the right to establish another tier in the WF7 Competition if Team entry numbers allow.

16.5.3. A decision made under Regulation 16.5.2 will depend on the number of Club and Team entries for WF7 Competition in 2022.

16.6 Vacancies in Women's Football Sevens Competition

16.6.1. From time to time vacancies may be created in WF7 Competitions due to:

a. A Team withdrawing from a WF7 Division;

b. A Team being expelled from a WF7 Division;

c. Other reasons from time to time.

16.6.2. If a vacancy is created in a WF7 Competition League prior to the commencement of the Regular Season (whether that vacancy is created during the previous season or in the 'off-season' prior to the commencement of the Regular Season in question), FV have sole discretion when filling a vacancy. FV may choose to leave the vacancy and replace it with a bye, fill the vacancy by offering it to Clubs in accordance with the priority set out in Rules 16.6.3 or decide upon an alternate outcome in FV's sole discretion.

16.6.3. Vacancies created in accordance with Regulations 16.6.1 will be filled by a Team nomination by a Club in the same geographic zone. If there are multiple team entries waiting for the vacancy the priority will be given based on the submission date of each team entry.

16.6.4. FV, acting in its discretion, may decide not to fill a vacancy in WF7 Competition where doing so would disrupt the clubs already allocated to that competition, for example where a vacancy is created in close proximity to the start of the Regular Season.

16.7 Scheduling of Matches – Days of Play

16.7.1. WF7 Competition Fixtures can be fixtured to a Centralised Venue or as Home and Away Fixtures

Centralised

a. All fixtures are scheduled at one venue only for the entire season.

b. Venue is selected to be central to the teams participating in the competition.

c. A Match Day Coordinator is provided from the host venue to oversee every fixture.

Home and Away

a. All fixtures are scheduled as a standard Home and Away Format

b. Home Clubs are responsible to oversee fixtures at their venue

16.7.2. WF7 Competition Fixtures will be played on either:

Weeknight

a. Day of Play - the night allocated is dependent on venue availability.

b. Once confirmed, the competition day will remain the same for the duration of the competition season.

c. Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 6.30pm or later than 9:30pm

Weekend

a. Day of Play – the day allocated is dependent on venue availability.

b. Once confirmed, the competition day will remain the same for the duration of the competition season.

c. Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 11am or later than 8:30pm

16.7.3. Competitions will be given a default fixture day and will only deviate due to fixture postponement or when agreed to by both Clubs and approved by FV

16.7.4. Regulations 16.7.1 and 16.7.2 are applicable for both Centralised or Home and Away Fixtures.

17.1 Interchange

17.1.1. A maximum of ten (10) players may be named on the Match Record. Clubs may make any number of interchanges during the course of the WF7 Competition Fixture.

17.1.2. Clubs and/or Coaches do not need to confirm with the referee when making a change and all changes must occur from the sideline.

17.2 Match Balls

17.2.1 The Home Club or Venue Coordinator shall provide the appointed Match Official with three (3) match balls (size 5) no later than 10 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled Competition Fixture.

17.2.2 All Clubs must use a licensed match ball from one (1) of FV's licensed ball manufacturers as advised by FV from time to time https://www.footballvictoria.com.au/news/fv-proud-announce-ball-licensees-2022-season.

17.2.3 Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to FV by the Match Official

17.3 Results of FV Competition Fixtures

WF7 Competition Leagues – Minimum Requirements

17.3.1. The Home Team must submit the Full Time Score.

17.3.2. All results for Sunday Competition Fixtures that kick off before 3.30pm shall be submitted online by the Home Club by 6.00pm that day.

17.3.3. For non weekend Competition Fixtures and Competition Fixtures that kick off after 3.30pm on a Sunday, the Home Club must enter the results by 9.00am on the day following the Competition Fixture.

17.3.4. All Competition Fixture results must be submitted via GameDay.

17.3.5. Clubs which fail to submit Competition Fixture results in accordance with Rule 17.3 may be penalised under the GDT.

18.1 Admittance to Competition Fixtures

18.1.1 Admittance to all WF7 Competition Fixtures is free of charge, including parking.

SCHEDULE 5 – 2022 WOMEN'S FOOTBALL SEVENS COMPETITION REGULATIONS
19. WF7 COMEPTITION FINALS SERIES

19.1 Competition Format

19.1.1 All WF7 Competitions may conclude the WF7 Cycle 2 with a Finals Series if the number of Team entries in the League permits a Finals Series.

19.1.2 If a Finals Series is implemented, the format of the Finals Series will be determined by FV at its sole and absolute discretion and communicated to Clubs accordingly.

19.2 Procedures to Determine the Winner of Finals

19.2.1 All Competition Fixtures played in the 2022 WF7 Finals Series will be played over one (1) leg.

19.2.2 If, at the conclusion of any Final, the scores between the Teams are tied, extra time of two (2) periods of 5 minutes will be played in accordance with FIFA Laws of The Game.

19.2.3 If scores remain equal at the conclusion of the period of extra time, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game to determine the winner of a Final.

19.3 Discipline

19.3.1 Yellow cards accumulated by a player during the WF7 Competition Finals Series will not be counted for the purposes of clause 4.3.a of the GDT. However, if a player receives their 5th yellow card in their Club's final Regular Season WF7 Competition Fixture she shall be suspended for their first Competition Fixture at the 2022 WF7 Final Series.

19.4 Player Restrictions

19.4.1 Each player must have Played at least three (3) Regular Season WF7 Competition Fixtures for a particular Team to qualify to play Finals in 2022 for that Team.

19.4.2 FV will only consider an exception to Rule 19.4.1 in exceptional circumstances and where a Club/Team can establish that it is unable to field a Team for a Final (in compliance with Regulation 13.4.1) due to insufficient player numbers as a result of availability (including injury). Any Club wishing to rely on Rule 19.4.2 must apply to FV:

a. in writing;

b. at least five (5) days before the Final is due to take place;

c. setting out the reasons it requests an exception be granted to Rule 19.4.1, providing evidence in support of player unavailability; and

d. provide FV with any further information required.

19.4.3 FV will consider any request made in accordance with Rule 19.4.2 together with all information provided in support of that request and make a decision regarding any exception requested. Any decision made in this regard is at the sole and exclusive discretion of FV and is not subject to review or appeal.

SCHEDULE 6 – CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

Overview

The following codes are deemed to be incorporated into these Rules of Competition:

- FA National Spectator Code of Behaviour,
- FA National Code of Conduct,
- Victorian Code of Conduct for Community Sport (Fair Play Code)

- It is vital that everyone involved in Football, whether they are athletes, coaches, parents, officials or supporters, understand their responsibilities to ensure that all participants enjoy the sport.
- It is strongly recommended that all players, parents, officials, coaches and members be given a copy of these codes by their Club, and that each Club ensures the codes are clearly displayed in their Clubrooms.
- As well as reading and seeking to understand the instructions contained in the codes, FV asks all participants to recognise that there are underlying principles which extend beyond those specific instructions.

General Principles for all Persons Involved in Sport

- Operate within the Rules and spirit of Football, promoting fair play over winning at any cost.
- Encourage and support opportunities for people to learn appropriate behaviours and skills.
- Support opportunities for participation in all aspects of the sport.
- Treat each person as an individual.
- Display control and courtesy to all involved with the sport.
- Respect the rights and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Respect the decisions of officials, coaches and administrators in the conduct of the sport.
- Wherever practical, avoid unaccompanied and unobserved one-on-one activity (when in a supervisory capacity or where a power imbalance will exist) with people under the age of 18 years.
- Adopt appropriate and responsible behaviour in all interactions.
- Adopt responsible behaviour in relation to alcohol and other drugs.
- Act with integrity and objectivity, and accept responsibility for your decisions and actions.
- Ensure your decisions and actions contribute to a safe environment.
- Do not tolerate harmful or abusive behaviours.
- Do not bring the game of Football into Disrepute, by engaging in discriminatory, offensive or criminal behaviour.

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- Do not tolerate harmful or abusive behaviours.
- Do not bring the game of Football into Disrepute, by engaging in discriminatory, offensive or criminal behaviour.
- Ensure your decisions and actions contribute to a harassment free environment.
- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by engaging in harassment, including sexual harassment or any unwelcome sexual conduct which makes a person feel offended, humiliated and/or intimidated.
- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by provoking or inciting hatred or violence, including crowd violence.
- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by engaging in corruption, forgery or falsification, or by abusing a position to obtain a personal benefit.
- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by the throwing or fixing of a match, by accepting bribes, or by any conduct intended to unfairly effect the result of a match;
- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by any other conduct that materially injures the reputation and goodwill of Football.

  (NB for the purposes of this code of behaviour 'Disrepute' means conduct, statement or appearance in public that is damaging to reputation).

Players' Code of Behaviour

- Give your best at all times.
- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit.
- Play by the Rules.
- Do not argue with the Match Official. If you disagree, have your captain or coach approach the Match Official during a break in play or after the Match is concluded.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other players, deliberately distracting or provoking another person is not acceptable or permitted in any sport.
- Be a good sport and be prepared to acknowledge good play whether it is from your Team or the opposition.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player.
- Co-operate with your coach, Teammates and opponents. Without them, there would be no competition.

- Remove all jewelry prior to training and Match play, as it is a hazard to you and those around you.
- Do not accept or use any banned or unauthorised drug(s), including the consumption of alcohol at any time.

Coaches' Code of Behaviour

- Place the safety and welfare of the participants above all else.
- Be aware of and support the sport's injury management plans and return to play guidelines.
- Help each person (athlete, official, etc.) to reach their potential. Respect the talent, developmental stage and goals of each person and encourage them with positive and constructive feedback.
- Encourage and support opportunities for people to learn appropriate behaviours and skills.
- Support opportunities for participation in all aspects of the sport.
- Treat each participant as an individual.
- Obtain appropriate qualifications and keep up to date with the latest coaching practices and the principles of growth and development of participants.
- Act within the rules and spirit of your sport.
- Promote fair play over winning at any cost.
- Respect the decisions of officials, coaches and administrators.
- Show respect and courtesy to all involved with the sport.
- Display responsible behaviour in relation to alcohol and other drugs.
- Act with integrity, objectivity and accept responsibility for your decisions and actions.
- Ensure your decisions and actions contribute to a harassment-free environment.
- Wherever practical, avoid unaccompanied and unobserved one-on-one activity (when in a supervisory capacity or where a power imbalance exists) with people under the age of 18.
- Ensure that any physical contact with another person is appropriate to the situation and necessary for the person's skill development.
- Be honest and do not allow your qualifications or coaching experience to be misrepresented.
- Never advocate or condone the use of illicit drugs or other banned performance enhancing substances or methods.
- Never participate in or advocate practices that involve match fixing.

SCHEDULE 6 – CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

- Respect the rights and worth of every person, regardless of their age, race, gender, ability, cultural background, sexuality or religion.
- Do not tolerate abusive, bullying or threatening behaviour.

Administrators' Code of Behaviour

- Act honestly, in good faith and in the best interests of the sport as a whole.
- Ensure that any information acquired, or advantage gained from the position is not used improperly.
- Conduct your responsibilities with due care, competence and diligence.
- Do not allow prejudice, conflict of interest or bias to affect your objectivity.
- Help coaches and officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development and assist in raising the standards of coaching and officiating.
- Ensure everyone involved in football emphasises fair play, and not winning at all costs.
- Be tolerant and calm under pressure and approach problem solving in a supportive manner as members and players will expect you to set an example for others.

Match Officials' Code of Behaviour

- Place the safety and welfare of the athletes above all else.
- Be consistent and impartial when making decisions.
- Address unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all people.
- Modify your approach to suit the skill levels and needs of players.
- Praise and encourage all participants.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions.
- Do not tolerate unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
- Emphasise the spirit of the game rather than focus on negative aspects.
- Encourage and promote rule changes to all players and members.
- Be a good sport yourself, as actions speak louder than words.
- Keep up to date with the latest trends in refereeing.
- Remember that you set the example on the park, therefore, your behaviour and comments should always be positive and supportive.

SCHEDULE 6 – CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

Parents Code of Behaviour

- Remember that children play the sport for their enjoyment, and not yours;
- Encourage children to participate and have fun.
- Focus on the child's effort and performance rather than winning or losing.
- Encourage children to always participate according to the rules;
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- Remember that children learn best by example, so applaud good play by both Teams;
- Support all efforts to remove racial and religious vilification, verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities;
- Respect the match official's decisions and teach your child to do likewise;
- Show respect and appreciation to Club officials, including coaches, officials and administrators. Ensure any issues are raised through the correct channels;
- Do not smoke or consume alcohol near the Team bench (Technical Area) or sideline.

Spectators' Code of Behaviour

All spectators must comply with the FA National Spectator Code of Behaviour.

It is important that all spectators at a Football Victoria (FV) approved fixture are able to enjoy the Match in a safe and comfortable environment. Accordingly, each person present at a FV fixture must:

- Respect the decisions of the Match Officials, and teach children to do the same;
- Never ridicule or unduly scold a child for making a mistake;
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, race, colour, religion, language, politics, national or ethnic origin; Not use violence in any form, whether it is against other Spectators, Team Officials (including coaches) or Players;
- Not engage in discrimination, harassment or abuse in any form including the use of obscene or offensive language or gestures, the incitement of hatred or violence or partaking in indecent or racist chanting;
- Comply with any terms of entry of a venue, including bag inspections, prohibited and restricted items such as flares, missiles, dangerous articles and items that have the potential to cause injury or public nuisance;
- not, and must not attempt to, bring into a venue national or political flags or emblems (except for the recognised national flags of any of the competing Teams) or offensive or inappropriate banners, whether written in English or a foreign language;

- Not throw missiles (including on to the field of play or at other spectators) and must not enter the field of play or its surrounds without lawful authority; and
- Conduct themselves in a manner that enhances, rather than injures, the reputation and goodwill of FV, FA, and football generally.
- It is the host Club's responsibility to ensure this Spectator Code of Behaviour is implemented and enforced against all spectators.

Victorian Code of Conduct for Community Sport

Every person in Victoria has the right to participate in community sport that is safe, welcoming and inclusive. At the same time, everyone plays a part in ensuring their behaviour and their actions are supportive of these values.

State Sporting Associations, leagues and clubs also have a responsibility to ensure participation in any community sport event is free of any anti-social behaviour. This means that behaviour both on and off the field should not prevent others from taking part and getting active.

The Victorian Code of Conduct for Community Sport outlines behaviours which are expected of every person involved in community sport, and behaviours which must not be tolerated.

The Code supports Victoria's Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women by taking a zero tolerance stance towards violence against women. The Code also aims to encourage cultural and behavioural change as a pre-emptive measure against violence.

Acts of violence, discrimination and vilification are illegal acts in Victoria. It is a club's responsibility to report these to the appropriate legal authorities and ensure these acts are not tolerated by the sport or club.

State Sporting Associations, leagues and clubs will have the responsibility of adhering to and enforcing the code through sport specific penalties. Organisations that do not adhere to and enforce the Code will not be eligible for funding from Sport and Recreation Victoria, and any existing funding will cease.

The Code provides the opportunity to make a positive impact on community participation in sport and recreation by encouraging appropriate behaviour at all times. Implementation of the Code will ensure that community sport remains safe and inclusive for all.

Code of Conduct

Every person: spectator, player, club member, official, participant, administrator, coach, parent or member of the community involved with the sport, should work to ensure:

- inclusion of every person regardless of their age, gender or sexual orientation
- inclusion of every person regardless of their race, culture or religion
- opportunities for people of all abilities to participate in the sport and develop to their full potential
- respect is shown towards others, the club and the broader community

- a safe and inclusive environment for all
- elimination of violent and abusive behavior
- protection from sexual harassment or intimidation.

This Code applies to community sport, training and club sanctioned activities.

Breaches of the Code

The following behaviours are considered breaches of the Code:

- Violent or abusive behaviour towards another person.
- Vilification of any kind towards another person.
- Discrimination against another person based on their age, gender or sexual orientation.
- Discrimination against another person based on their race, culture, religion or any other irrelevant personal characteristic.
- Sexual harassment or intimidation of another person.
- Victimisation of another person for exercising their rights through the Code of Conduct.
- Failure to maintain a safe environment.

If any of these behaviours take place within a sport or recreational context, the relevant State Sporting Association, league, association or club is able to impose penalties or sanctions. For this to occur, the breach must be confirmed through an appropriate assessment process at the appropriate level.

State Sporting Association Responsibility

The responsibility of a State Sporting Association through the Code of Conduct is to:

- promote the Code of Conduct to all persons involved in the sport or club
- ensure reporting and assessment processes are in place to identify and penalise breaches of the Code
- report on the implementation of the Code to the State Government on an annual basis
- ensure that every person involved in the sport is able to exercise their rights without fear of victimisation.

SCHEDULE 7 – MINIMUM FACILITY REQUIREMENTS - COMMUNITY COMPETITIONS

Heading	Rule	Venue Class	Requirement
Section 1 - Field of Play and Environs			
General	1.1	Senior & Junior	The Field of Play and related equipment including goals and corner flags must be compliant with the Laws of the Game.
Pitch size	1.2.1	Senior	Length - Minimum 96 metres, maximum 105 metres Width - Minimum 60 metres, maximum 68 metres
Pitch size	1.2.2	Junior	Length - Minimum 90 metres, maximum 105 metres Width - Minimum 50 metres, maximum 68 metres
Run offs	1.3	Senior & Junior	A minimum runoff area of 3 metres to any tripping hazard or solid obstruction, including fences and Team benches, must be provided.
Goals	1.4.1	Senior & Junior	Goalposts and nets must be in accordance with the Laws of the Game. The goalposts and crossbar must be made of metal or other approved material. They may be square, rectangular, round or elliptical in shape and must not be dangerous to players. The distance between the posts is 7.32 m and the distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is 2.44 m. Both goalposts and the crossbar have the same width and depth, which do not exceed 12 cm. The goalposts and crossbars must be white. Goals must have nets which must be secured effectively to the posts and ground to ensure the ball is trapped. The nets must be pulled back to allow sufficient safe space within the goal space.
Goals	1.4.2	Senior & Junior	Permanent and semi-permanent goals must conform to Australian Standard AS 4866.1-2007 - Playing field equipment- Soccer goals Part 1: Safety aspects and be properly installed and secured. Movable goals must be compliant with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's Consumer Protection Notice No.28 of 2010. Goals must not have sharp edges protruding that may cause injury.
Corner posts and flags	1.5	Senior & Junior	Corner posts and flags must be in accordance with the Laws of the Game. Posts must not be metal or spring loaded. They must be plastic or wood and stand a minimum of 1.5 metres above the ground with a non-pointed top. Corner flags must not feature nationalistic emblems or reference.

Pitch surface	1.6.1	Senior & Junior	The field of play must be safe and even without trip hazards.
Pitch surface	1.6.2	Senior & Junior	If a hard-based cricket wicket is present on the field of play it must be covered with soil or be of a material similar to grass. The edges of the wicket must not protrude from the ground or in any way cause a tripping hazard. The field of play must be configured so that the hard cricket wicket is not located within the penalty area.
Pitch surface - synthetic	1.6.3	Senior & Junior	Matches may be played on a pitch with a synthetic surface provided it has been constructed and maintained to at least FIFA 1 star standard or as otherwise approved by FV.
Line markings	1.7.1	Senior & Junior	The playing pitch must be marked in accordance with Law 1. However, Matches may be played on fields with extraneous markings provided approval has been sought from FV with specific regard to the number of, and colour of, any marking not outlined in Law 1.
Line marking products	1.7.2	Senior & Junior	Only products such as agricultural limestone or water based spray paint or other similar material which will not endanger ground users or damage turf grasses may be used for line marking. Lime, Herbicides and other products such as 'Round Up' that are harmful to a person's health can cause damage to the playing surface are not to be used under any circumstances.
Stretcher	1.8	Senior & Junior	One stretcher suitable for first aid and emergency use must be placed at the half way line prior to the commencement of each Match. The stretcher must remain inside the barrier/fence, in a safe and accessible position to first aid staff, for the duration of the Match. Wooden or canvas stretchers are not suitable. One stretcher may not be allocated to two pitches at any one time.
Pitch fence	1.9	Men's and Women's State League only	Where a pitch fence is not in place at least a rope or bunting around the pitch at a height of around 1 metre and a minimum 3 metres in distance from the side lines and goal lines must be in place to provide a clear indication of segregation of the playing area.
Technical Area	1.10.1	Senior & Junior	A Technical Area must be marked for each Team on the same side of the field and on opposite sides of the half way line. It must be located no closer than 7 metres and no greater than 20 metres from the half way line. The technical area extends 1 m on either side of the designated seated area and extends forward up to a distance no closer than of 1 m from the touch line. A Technical Area must be in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

Technical Area	1.10.2	Senior & Junior	The technical area must be marked in accordance with the line marking requirements in 1.7.2.
Technical Area	1.10.3	Senior & Junior	The technical area may be marked by crushable cones. If marked by lines they must be in accordance with the line marking requirements in 1.7.2.
Team benches	1.12.1	Senior & Junior	Two covered Team benches or equivalent seating with adequate seating for nine (9) people must be provided.
Section 2 - Player and Officials Amenities			
Players change rooms	2.1.1	Senior	Two players' lockable dressing rooms must be provided for each pitch in use. Each room must have access to hot and cold showers and to toilet facilities within the building structure. Recommended size for senior dressing rooms, excluding required shower and toilet area, is 25m2.
Players change rooms	2.1.2	Junior	Two players' lockable dressing rooms must be provided for each pitch in use. Toilet facilities within or adjacent to the building structure. Recommended size for junior dressing rooms, excluding required shower and toilet area, is 20m2.
Match Officials room	2.2.1	Senior & Junior	Match Officials must have exclusive access to a lockable dressing room. The Match Officials room must be accessible without passing through any players' change room which is in use.
Match Officials room	2.2.2	Senior & Junior	Recommended size for Match Officials rooms, including required shower and toilet area, is 20m2. The room must contain a writing desk or bench and chair and have access within the building to a toilet and shower providing hot and cold water.
First aid	2.3	Senior & Junior	A first aid area, which can be made private by the use of curtains, screens or similar and providing basic first aid equipment all of which must be kept clean and sterile.
Section 3 - Spectator Amenities			
Public toilets	3.1	Senior & Junior	Access to male and female public toilets (or suitable unisex/family toilets) must be provided. These may be shared with player toilets.
Section 4 - Operations			
Access	4.1	Senior & Junior	The venue must be accessible by emergency services vehicles.