



**NATIONAL  
PREMIER LEAGUES  
VICTORIA**

# **2023 RULES OF COMPETITION**

**NPL WOMEN & GIRLS**

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# 1. GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS

## 1. GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS

### 1.1. Application and Definitions

- 1.1.1. These Rules shall apply to all NPL Womens and NPL Girls Competition Fixture(s) and Sanctioned Match(es) as defined in Rule 1.1.4.
- 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 their application shall not be affected and shall continue to be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.
- 1.1.3. Terms defined in the FV Constitution, 2023 FV Registration Regulations and/or the GDT shall have the same meaning in these Rules unless otherwise stated.
- 1.1.4. In addition to Rule 1.1.3 unless the context otherwise requires, the following definitions apply:
- a. **Abandoned** means a Competition Fixture which has commenced but has been stopped by the Match Official prior to its conclusion.
  - 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 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, the Australia Cup and 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 (such as 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.
  - 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.

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- l. **Final** means a Competition Fixture played to determine the final standings or champion of a specific competition 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. **GDT** means the FV Grievance, Discipline and Tribunal By Law (as amended from time to time).
- o. **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.
- p. **Home Club** means the Club named first in a Competition Fixture.
- q. **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.
- r. **IFAB** means International Football Association Board.
- s. **League** (when referred to in reference to means in 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).
- t. **Match Official** means a match official as defined in the GDT.
- u. **Match Record** means the official log (hard copy or online) of the Competition Fixture recording all match details including participants and results.
- v. **Misconduct** has the meaning given to it in the GDT.
- w. **Nike FC Cup** is the senior women's knockout cup competition contested by FV Clubs.
- 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. **NPL** means all National Premier Leagues competitions participated in by Victorian Clubs.
- bb. **NPL Club** has the same meaning as Club in the FV Constitution, however, is specific to a Club that has signed a Participation Licence and is competing in NPL Competitions.
- cc. **NPL Competitions** means the collective term for both NPL Girls and NPL Womens.
- dd. **NPL Girls** means NPL junior girls competition including Teams, Leagues and

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Divisions between NPL under 13s and NPL under 17s competitions.

- ee. **NPL Womens** is the Senior female open age and under 19's competition of NPL.
- ff. **Participation Licence** means the non-exclusive licence agreement entered into by a Club and FV for the Club to enter teams into NPL competitions.
- gg. **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.
- hh. **Played** means:
  - (i) A Team has participated in a Competition Fixture.  
In specific reference to a player,
  - (ii) **Played** means:
  - (iii) Being listed on the Match Record in a League where the interchange rule applies; or
  - (iv) Starting the Competition Fixture on or consequently being substituted onto the field of play in a League where the substitution rule applies.
  - (v) 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 participate 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.
- ii. **Player ID Card** means the Play Football generated ID card containing recent photo, date of birth, FFA number, full name and Club name for that player.
- jj. **Player Roster Composition** means the Player Roster Composition as outlined in the Participation Licence.
- kk. **Postponed** means a Competition Fixture which has not commenced as scheduled.
- ll. **Registered** means registered and eligible in Play Football in accordance with the 2023 FV Registration Regulations.
- mm. **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 purpose of promotion and relegation.
- nn. **Risk Assessment and Security Policy** is the document which outlines minimum security requirements and responsibilities required at NPL Competition Fixtures.
- oo. **Rule** or **Rule of Competition** means a rule set out in a clause or clauses of these 2023 Rules of Competition.
- pp. **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 Officials due to availability, but a request for appointment has been made and acknowledged.

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qq. **Team** means a football team entered by a Club in NPL Competitions.

rr. **Technical Area** is as defined in the Venue Category Minimum Requirements set out in schedule 3.

1.1.5. Decisions made by 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 these Rules, any proven breach of or failure to comply with an obligation or requirement set out in these Rules may amount to Misconduct and will be subject to 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 or such sooner time as required under the GDT.

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 absolute 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.

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.



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- 1.3.7. If a player fails to comply with a Default Notice issued in accordance with Rule 1.3.6, or agree to a repayment plan with FV for the amount owed, FV may, at its absolute 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 Clause:
- 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; or
    - (viii) A Player or Players in breach of Rule 2.2.
  - 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, Status and Transfer 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.

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## *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 Clause.
- 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) any remorse shown; and
    - (v) the experience of the Team or Club administrator; and
    - (vi) the age-group affected; and
    - (vii) 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, or refer the matter to Tribunal for determination, in its absolute discretion.*

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- 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:
- the time limit specified in the rules of competition for the relevant competition; or
  - 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:
- 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
  - 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 is 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.

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## *Forfeits*

- 1.4.10. Clubs must notify FV as soon as practicable in advance in the event that they are unable to participate in a Competition Fixture.
- 1.4.11. A Forfeit occurs when a Club or Team fails to participate in a Competition Fixture and does not notify FV at least three (3) days prior to the Competition Fixture.
- 1.4.12. In the event of a Forfeit, the forfeiting Team:
  - a. is deemed to have lost the Competition Fixture 3-0;
  - b. will receive a forfeit notice from FV; and
  - c. must respond to the forfeit notice and provide written reasons to explain why they were unable to field a Team.
- 1.4.13. Any Team which incurs Forfeits in four (4) Competition Fixtures within a Regular Season may be removed from its League at FV's absolute discretion.

## **1.5. Protection of Important Fixtures**

- 1.5.1. Where an A-League, Women's World Cup, 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 any Sanctioned Match must abide by any and all codes of conduct or codes of behavior as may be prescribed by FV and/or FA from time to time, including the Codes of Behaviour attached to these Rules at Schedule 2.
- 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 events must apply in accordance with the 2023 FV Registration Regulations, writing to the FV Play Football 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 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 officials and players registered with FV as it sees fit, provided Clubs are incorporated at all times.



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## *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 officials.

## **1.8. Strict Liability of Clubs**

- 1.8.1. Each Club shall be responsible for the conduct of its Club Associates and 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. Any 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 as published on the FA website.
- 1.9.2. FV will only assess an application under Rule 1.8.1 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 1.8 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 needs to be approved in writing by local government authority and be representative of the geographic area within which the Club is located.
  - c. The Club must:
    - (i) Submit on Club letterhead its request for a change of Club name or application for a new Club name with the NRR02B form.
    - (ii) Provide full disclosure of the reasons for the requested change.
- 1.9.5. The application for change of Club name or new Club name must include a minimum of three (3) proposed names that can be assessed, again with full disclosure as per Rules 1.9.4.a
- 1.9.6. Subject to Rule 1.9.4.b and c., 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

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- City
  - Old
  - Sporting
- 1.9.7. FV may, at its absolute 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.
- 1.9.8. 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.
- 1.9.9. 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 absolute 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 absolute discretion of FV).
- 1.9.10. No Club will be allowed more than one (1) incorporated name or registered business/playing name.
- 1.9.11. Incorporation
- A Club must provide FV with documentary evidence of registration of any new name with the appropriate government authority.

## 1.10. Ticketing & Refunds of Money

- 1.10.1. Ticket prices must be clearly displayed at the venue entry point and ticket box at 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 FV pass as per the FV NPL Accreditation Board distributed by FV from year to year 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. 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.
- 1.10.6. 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 Club charging admission fees or FV in the instance of Finals, the admission ticket (or part thereof) issued in accordance with Rules 1.10.2.
- 1.10.7. NPL Clubs must abide by FV's Minimum Match Ticketing Standard Policy which may be amended from time to time.

## 1.11. Security at Home Pitches

- 1.11.1. The Home Club is responsible for providing appropriate arrangements to ensure the orderly behaviour of spectators and provide for the protection of Match Officials, players

# 1. GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS

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.
- 1.11.4. Home 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 not being allocated Competition Fixtures at their home ground.
- 1.11.5. Rule 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 FV in the instance of Finals and Play Offs will be held responsible if it is found that Match Official(s) do not receive all items back.
- 1.11.7. Each Club is responsible for the valuables of its players, and valuables that are left in change rooms. Any valuables that are left in changerooms are done so at their own risk.
- 1.11.8. Rule 1.9 is subject to FVs 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 FV Competition Fixture in which that Club or Team is required to participate, it may seek the 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 1.11.3 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.
- 1.12.5. FV shall determine the outcome of any request under this Rule at its absolute discretion

# 1. GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS

## 1.13. Member Protection

- 1.13.1. In order to address issues of discrimination and vilification, FV has adopted the FA National Member Protection Framework for all FV affiliated competition administrators, Clubs, players and Club Associates and officials. This framework can be found by clicking the following link..
- 1.13.2. FV has partnered with the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission in order to promote Fair, Go Sport! The aim of this project is to eradicate discrimination, particularly against those who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex.
- 1.13.3. FV has partnered with Vic Health in order to promote the Bystander Intervention Program. The aim of this program is to eradicate race and ethnic based discrimination.
- 1.13.4. 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 2023 a Club must comply with the requirements set out by the following:
  - a. FV's Club Compliance Program;
  - b. [FV's ByLaw 12 - Club Compliance](#)
  - c. [The National Club Development \(NCDP\) criteria](#);
  - d. Consumer Affairs Victoria;
  - e. Australian Securities and Investment Commission (as applicable).

## 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 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 officials.



# 1. GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS

- 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 PlayFootball or the FV club contact guide.

## **1.16. Participation Licence**

The terms of the Participation Licence are incorporated in to and shall form part of these Rules of Competition. To the extent of any inconsistency between the terms of these Rules of Competition and the terms of the Participation Licence, the terms of the Participation Licence will prevail.

## **1.17. COVID-19 Protocols**

All Clubs competing in the NPL Womens and NPL Girls Competition and their Club Associated must comply with the most up to date COVID-19 Return to Training/ Play Conditions and Covid – 19 Rules - Impacted Competitions as published on the FV Website and updated from time to time (click here)

## 2. COMPETITION RULES

### 2. COMPETITION RULES

#### 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 registered 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 season at which all teams have played each other once a 'BYE' will be inserted to replace the withdrawn team in the fixture, and all championship points along with goals scored (for & against) that team will be erased. All Best & Fairest or Gold Medal 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 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. all championship points along with goals scored (for & against) for FV:
    - (i) Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn team will be erased.
  - b. All Best & Fairest or Gold Medal votes gained in;
    - (i) Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team will be erased;
  - c. For the avoidance of doubt, FV may consider forfeited matches as Played for the purposes of Rule 2.1.4.
- 2.1.5. 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.
- 2.1.6. FV may alter the Regular Season, Competition Fixtures kickoff, dates, venues and/or times as it deems necessary in its absolute discretion.

#### 2.2. Player Eligibility

- 2.2.1. A player is eligible to play in his or her team provided he or she:
  - a. has been registered in line with FA and FV Registration Regulations.
  - b. is not under suspension by FV/FA.
  - c. meets the competition's age group and gender rules, where applicable and subject to any dispensation granted by FV.
  - d. They comply with the Match Record requirements set out in Rule 3.3.
  - e. presents a current Player ID Card upon request to the Match Official for the player in the Competition Fixture, where competitions require ID cards.
  - f. 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. COMPETITION RULES

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

### 2.3. Gender Rules

- 2.3.1. Males may not play in any female competitions at any age level.

## 3. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

### 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 NPL Facility Standards outlined in Schedule 3 by no later than 10 January of the calendar year;
  - 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; and
    - (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.
  - e. Have up to date liquor licence including (RSA) and food handling certificates.
- 3.1.2. A Club which advises FV prior to commencement of 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 Competition 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. may be requested by FV to advise what steps the Club will take to ensure that it can meet these facility requirements and may be relegated to such League as FV deems appropriate.
- 3.1.3. FV may in its absolute discretion upon written request grant a temporary dispensation from compliance of Rule 3.1 to a Club which:
- a. is in the process of upgrading its facilities to FV's requirements; or
  - b. due to circumstances beyond its reasonable control the Club cannot comply with these requirements including temporary measures; or
  - c. has satisfied FV that the Club is taking all reasonable steps to ensure compliance with these facility requirements.
  - d. Satisfies FV that any requirements that need temporary dispensation does not impact fundamental match day operations including the impact on opposition teams, spectators and officials.
- 3.1.4. FV may in its absolute discretion upon written request may 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

## 3. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

- b. due to circumstances beyond its reasonable control the Club cannot comply with these requirements; or
  - c. has satisfied FV that the Club is taking all reasonable steps to ensure compliance with these facility requirements including temporary measures
  - d. satisfies FV that any facility requirement(s) that need temporary dispensation do not impact fundamental match day operations including any impact on opposition Teams, spectators and officials.
- 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 11 persons are permitted to be within the Technical Area at any given time during a Competition Fixture. Those persons may only include:
- a. Head Coach
  - b. Assistant Coach
  - c. Goal Keeper Coach
  - d. Strength & Conditioning Coach
  - e. Registered Health Practitioner or Sports Trainer/Physio
  - f. Match Analyst/Team Manager
- 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.
- 3.2.5. All persons within the Technical Area must be wearing colors 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.

### 3.3. Match Records

- 3.3.1. Clubs must adhere to any future 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:
- a. in the case of NPL Women's not less than 60 minutes before the commencement of

## 3. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

- any FV Competition Fixture.
  - b. in the case of NPL Girls, unless otherwise stated in that competition's regulations, not less than 30 minutes before the commencement of any FV Competition Fixture.
- 3.3.3. A club will be guilty of Misconduct if:
- a. any player listed on the Match Record is ineligible in accordance with either these Rules or the GDT;
  - b. More than 17 players are listed on the Match Record; or
  - c. the club 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 the submission to the Match Official (and without the Match Officials permission), and shall be processed in accordance with the terms of the GDT.
- 3.3.4. 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.
- 3.3.5. If a Club disagrees with any of the details on a Match Record (either its own or the oppositions), 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.
- 3.3.6. Match Record Disputes will only be investigated by FV in the following circumstances:
- a. The Match Record and a request to conduct a match investigation is lodged with FV within 7 days of the Competition Fixture; and
  - b. 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);
    - iv. Any other information accepted from the Club at the absolute discretion of FV.
- 3.3.7. FV may extend or abridge the deadline referred to in Rule 3.3.6.a. in its absolute discretion.
- 3.3.8. Match Records 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.

### 3.4. Ground Marshals

- 3.4.1. Each Club must provide the number of marshals as directed by FV.



## 3. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

- 3.4.2. Ground Marshals must:
- be at least 18 years old;
  - be in clearly identifiable uniform;
  - be visible from the Field of Play at all times; and,
  - 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
  - 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 Competition Fixtures**

League	Minimum Number of Ground Marshals
NPL Womens	4
NPL Girls	2

- 3.4.4. FV may vary the minimum Ground Marshal arrangements for any FV Competition Fixture at any time.
- 3.4.5. Each FV Club, home and away, is required to provide 50% of the required marshals for all Competition Fixtures.
- 3.4.6. Ground Marshal numbers may be varied in line with FVs Risk Assessment and Security Policy.

### 3.5. Player's Strip/Apparel

- 3.5.1. Clothing and Protective Gear
- All teams must nominate a 'Home' & 'Alternate' playing strip. All strips must be approved by FV.
    - Any change to these strips must be communicated to FV five (5) working days prior to the Club's next Competition Fixture.
  - Predominantly black playing shirts will not be permitted in NPL Girls Fixtures.
  - The Home Club in each Competition Fixture is required to wear their nominated 'Home' playing strip.
  - In the instance of a 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.
  - In the instance of a strip not being available to a club it will be deemed the

### 3. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

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.

- f. 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. Table 3.5 lists which items of the strip are permitted to clash for different Divisions/Leagues.
- g. Table 3.5 outlines which items of kit are permitted to clash:

**Table 3.5 – Clashes & Permissions**

	<b>NPL Womens Seniors</b>	<b>NPL Womens (U19's)</b>	<b>NPL Girls</b>
<b>Playing Shirt</b>	No Clash Permitted	No Clash Permitted	No Clash Permitted
<b>Shorts</b>	No Clash Permitted	Clash Permitted	Clash Permitted
<b>Socks</b>	No Clash Permitted	No Clash Permitted	Clash Permitted

- h. Bibs are not permitted to be worn in any Competition Fixture.
- 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 pursuant to the GDT 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 [nplvictoria@footballvictoria.com.au](mailto:nplvictoria@footballvictoria.com.au) and this change results in a FV Competition Fixture being postponed.
  - (iii) Goalkeepers may wear any color, except predominately black in NPL Girls Competitions provided it does not clash with either team or the Match Official.
  - (iv) All clubs must have two (2) goal keeper strips available at all home and away fixtures

#### 3.5.2. Eyewear

- a. 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. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

### 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 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.

Home Clubs competing in NPL Girls fixtures are required to provide a L1 Sports Trainer and/or Physio for match day coverage. The L1 Sports Trainer and/or Physio must be made available for both home and away Teams during each Competition Fixture.

### 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 new 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 in Rule 9.

## 4. FIXTURE DETAILS

### 4. FIXTURE DETAILS

#### 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
NPL Girls 13	2 x 30 minute halves (= 60 minutes)
NPL Girls 15	2 x 35 minute halves (=70 minutes)
NPL Girls 17	2 x 40 minute halves (= 80 minutes)
NPL Womens	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. The Match Official may cut short any Competition Fixture (including reducing the length of each half before the 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 kickoff time only if:
  - (i) it is in line with IFAB rules;
  - (ii) he or she has notified the coaches of each participating team.
- d. For the avoidance of doubt, there will be no time added in JGNPL fixtures, unless in the event there is a serious injury requiring an ambulance to be called to remove an injured player from the playing field and then only at the discretion of the match official after the player has been removed.

##### 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 FV 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. FIXTURE DETAILS

### 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.

## 4.2. Abandoned Competition Fixtures

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

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

- a. any Team has its playing numbers reduced for any reason below the minimum FIFA 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 or FV determines that playing conditions have become unsafe or untenable for any reason;
- d. the Match Official, in consultation with security staff and ground marshals, 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, and Clubs must use reasonable endeavours to report any likely abandonment circumstances to FV in advance, particularly in order to avoid unnecessary travel by regionally based Clubs and Teams.

4.2.3. If a Competition Fixture is abandoned due to a matter set out in Rule 4.2.2 FV will determine one of the following outcomes of the Competition Fixture at its absolute 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. Competition Fixture to be replayed in full.
- c. Competition Fixture to be awarded as a 'No Result'.
- d. Competition Fixture result is 0-0.
- e. 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).
- f. 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 at the time the Competition Fixture recommences; and

## 4. FIXTURE DETAILS

- (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
  - (iii) FV will determine what, if any, further substitutions or replacement players are eligible to participate during the recommenced Competition Fixture.
  - (iv) FV will determine at its absolute discretion the date, time and venue for the recommenced fixtures,
  - (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.
- g. Competition Fixture at time of abandonment is to 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.
  - 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 in writing 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 absolute discretion. In exercising that absolute discretion, FV:
- a. Is not subject to any deadlines or timeframes set out in these Rules or otherwise: and
  - b. Will take into consideration all relevant circumstances including but not limited to the scheduling of Cup Fixtures; and
  - 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. Clubs must fulfill any postponed or rescheduled FV 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. 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 directed by FV in writing. FV may record the result of any Competition Fixture not



## 4. FIXTURE DETAILS

completed within this time frame as a 'No Result'.

- 4.3.5. Any Club Associate or Club found guilty of rearranging a FV Competition Fixture or requesting the appointment of Match Officials outside a set kick-off time or date will be subject to penalty under the GDT and may be subject to further penalties under the GDT. FV may also record the final score of any such Competition Fixture as a 'No Result'.
- 4.3.6. In the event of a postponed or rescheduled Competition Fixture which is required to be replayed, clubs have five (5) business days from the originally scheduled Competition Fixture to 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 provided the FV Competition Fixture will be rescheduled at FV's absolute discretion.
- 4.3.7. In the event of a NPL Women's/NPL Girl's postponed or rescheduled Competition Fixture which is required to be played, FV will determine at its absolute discretion the date time and venue of the Competition Fixture. This decision will be deemed final and not subject to appeal
- 4.3.8. 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.
- 4.3.9. With the exception of where the COVID-19 Rules – Impacted NPL 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

- 4.4.1. FV and/or the Match Official may delay or abandon any Competition Fixture due to weather, pitch conditions such as but not limited to excessive heat/humidity, lightning or rain that may endanger participants health and/or safety. Refer to [Extreme Weather Policy](#).

### 4.5. Match Points

- 4.5.1. 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

- 4.5.2. FV reserves the right to record any Competition Fixture as a 'No Result'.
- 4.5.3. 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. FIXTURE DETAILS

- 4.5.4. If one (1) or more teams finish the Regular Season on the same number of points, their final position will be determined as follows:
- The team with the greatest Goal Difference will finish higher.
  - If Goal Difference is the same, then the team that has scored the most Goals FOR will be deemed to have finished higher.
  - 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)
  - if the aggregate scores between the teams are the same, then AWAY goals will count as double.
- 4.5.5. If one (1) or more teams have the identical number of match points, Goal Difference, Goals Scored & Conceded, and the results between the teams is the same, then those teams will be deemed to have tied.
- 4.5.6. 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 will fixture a Play Off Match between the tied Teams in accordance with these Rules to separate them.

### 4.6. Change of Venue/Fixture Requests by Club

- 4.6.1. *Change of Venue Requests*
- Change of venue requests may only be made on the basis of perceived unplayable pitch conditions, or to relocate a Competition Fixture to an improved facility.
  - A written request, including booking confirmation, to relocate a Competition Fixture to an improved facility must be received by FV no less than ten (10) days prior to a 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 change request based on deteriorating pitch or venue conditions may be considered within the fourteen (14) day period prior to the Competition Fixture at the absolute discretion of FV.
  - Alternate venues will be assessed against the NPL Facility Standard, any approval/dispensation is at the absolute discretion of FV.
- 4.6.2. *Fixture Date/Time Change Requests*
- FV will consider a fixture changes if the request by a Club is received no less than 14 days prior to the fixture with written consent provided to FV by the Club Officials of both Clubs. Any request submitted within fourteen (14) days is subject to the availability of match officials and the absolute discretion of FV.
  - No date or time change request will be accepted for the final round of any NPL Womens Competition Fixtures.
  - Scheduled FV competition catch-up and Cup Fixture rounds will only be used in the case of postponed or abandoned Competition Fixtures.
  - Exemption from Rule 4.6.2.c may only be made if;

## 4. FIXTURE DETAILS

- (i) a request is made in accordance with Rule 4.6.2.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.
- 4.6.3. Rules 4.6.1 and 4.6.2 do not apply to Finals or Play Off Matches.
- 4.6.4. Any decision to reschedule a Competition Fixture (or otherwise) under Rule 4.6 is subject to FV's right to reschedule a Competition Fixture in accordance with Rule 4.3.2.
- 4.6.5. FV' decisions in relation to rescheduling of Competition Fixtures will be final and binding on all parties and are not subject to appeal.
- 4.6.6. FV holds ultimate power and absolute discretion over the fixturing of Competition Fixtures.

## 5. MATCH OFFICIALS

### 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. 2023 the Match Official fees as set out on the FV website and will apply for the duration of the Regular Season, although are subject to change at any time.

COMPETITION	REFEREE	AR1	AR2	4TH OFFICIAL	MATCH TOTAL
NPLW	\$250.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$65.00	\$480.00
NPL U19	\$95.00	\$60.00	\$50.00	N/A	\$195.00

COMPETITION	REFEREE	ASSISTANT REFEREE	4TH OFFICIAL
NPL U17	\$80.00	\$45.00	N/A
NPL U15	\$50.00	\$40.00	N/A
NPL U13	\$40.00	\$30.00	N/A

- 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

- 5.2.1. Where available a two (2) assistant Match Officials shall be appointed to a Competition Fixture (including junior Competition Fixtures) to assist the Match Official.
- 5.2.2. If insufficient assistant Match Officials have been appointed, each team must provide assistant the Match Official. Failure to comply will result in a forfeit.
- 5.2.3. No player(s) listed on a Match Record or Team Sheet can act as a Match Official during any Competition Fixture.

## 5. MATCH OFFICIALS

### 5.3. Non-Attendance or Unavailability of Match Official

- 5.3.1. If the Match Official fails to honour his or her appointment, the next most senior Match Official (Replacement) will take charge of the Competition Fixture.
- 5.3.2. 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.
- 5.3.3. 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.
- 5.3.4. No player(s) listed on a Match Record or Team Sheet can act as a Match Official during any 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 penalty under the GDT.

### 5.4. Decisions of the Match Official

- 5.4.1. The decisions of the Match Officials about any fact connected with the play are final and cannot be disputed by any party.

### 5.5. Pitch & Facility Exception Report

- 5.5.1. At the conclusion of each Competition Fixture, the Match Official must complete the Pitch & Facility Exception Report, where necessary, and then ensure all relevant Competition Fixture documentation is lodged with FV within two (2) working 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 Records.
- 5.6.2. Match Records must be:
  - a. Submitted by the Club to FV where no FV Match Official officiates an Competition Fixture and
  - b. Retained by all Match Officials in relation to each Competition Fixture for a minimum of 12 months from the end of the Regular Season in which the Competition Fixture too 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 the competition of the relevant Competition Fixture date. (in accordance with Rule 5.6.2.a) or a request from FV (in accordance with Rule 5.6.2.b)
- 5.6.4. Misconduct Reports must be submitted in accordance with the requirements set out in the GDT.

## 5. MATCH OFFICIALS

### 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 and officials.
- 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 spilt 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 in his or her absolute discretion allow the player to wear an alternative numbered, or blank, shirt.

### 5.8. Match Reporting

- 5.8.1. Match Officials must enter all match results & player data in accordance with Rule 11.3
- 5.8.2. Match Officials will be required to adhere to any future 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

## 6. REGISTRATION

### 6.1. The Registration Process is set out in the 2023 FV Registration Regulations.

- 6.1.1. A Player registered as a Professional in the A-League (LAL) Competition may re-register as an Amateur immediately after their last Match as a Professional on the condition that the playing contract with their associated A-League Womens (ALW) club has ended.
- 6.1.2. Clause 6.1.1 is an exception to the 30-day stand-down period set out in clause 3.3(a) of the National Registration Regulations.

### 6.2. Player Roster Composition (PRC)

- 6.2.1. The PRC is as defined in the Participation Licence and as promulgated by FV from time to time. A further copy of the PRC is contained in Schedule 4 to these Rules of Competition.
- 6.2.2. Clubs must comply with the PRC at all times.
- 6.2.3. A mandatory player roster of between 20 and 23 Players is required for each Club's NPL Women's Team.
- 6.2.4. A player roster of no more than 20 players is required for:
  - a. NPL 19 Girls
  - b. NPL 17 Girls
  - c. NPL 15 Girls
- 6.2.5. A player roster of no more than 14 players is required for:
  - a. NPL U13 Girls (9v9)
- 6.2.6. Clubs must submit the below as requested by FV in line with each registration period:
  - a. Senior Player Roster Composition (PRC) roster; and
  - b. Under 19's roster
- 6.2.7. All clubs must submit rosters for the NPL Junior Girl age groups (U13, U15 & U17) prior to the start of the season as requested by FV.
- 6.2.8. Each club must nominate two (2) goalkeepers on both their Senior Women's and Under 19s rosters by the dates outlined in 6.2.6.
- 6.2.9. Any change to a player roster must be communicated to FV prior to the player taking part in a NPL Women's Competition Fixture.
- 6.2.10. No player may be added to the NPL Womens Senior PRC roster outside of the designated registration periods (as outlined by FV) If a Club participates in a Competition Fixture whilst in breach of the PRC, it will forfeit that match and the match will be awarded as a 3-0 win to its opposition.
- 6.2.11. In the event both Clubs are found to be in breach of the PRC in a Competition Fixture, that match will be recorded as a No Result.
- 6.2.12. Player lists from the PRC for all NPL Women's Senior Teams may be published on the FV Website at the discretion of FV.

## 6. REGISTRATION

- 6.2.13. Any player listed on a NPL Womens or NPL Girls roster is not eligible to play in the Club's Community teams at any time.
- 6.2.14. A Club which does not hold a Senior NPLW Participation Licence may field players up in age groups from its NPL Girls teams (Under 13 – Under 17) into its Victorian Premier League Womens (VPLW) competition teams as follows:
  - a. Unlimited players from a NPL Girls roster can play up per fixture at one time for the Club's reserves or seniors Womens VPLW Competitions team. Players must be 15 years of age as 1 January 2023 to be eligible to participate in the reserves or senior women's competitions.
- 6.2.15. A club which does not hold a Junior NPL Girls Participation Licence may field players up from its Community Junior teams into its NPL Women's (U19/1st team) competitions teams as follows;
  - a. Community Junior Girls

For clarity an NPLW club who has a Community Senior Women's team are ineligible to borrow players into NPLW Senior competition.

## 7. CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

### 7. CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

Please refer to **Schedule 2** 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. Further codes may come into force during the 2023 season and shall be deemed applicable.

## 8. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF EACH VENUE CATEGORY

### 8. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF EACH VENUE CATEGORY

Please refer to **Schedule 3** for all Venue Category Minimum Requirements.

## 9. FOOTBALL LIGHTING POLICY & REQUIREMENTS

### 9. FOOTBALL LIGHTING POLICY & REQUIREMENTS

Applicable lighting standards and requirements for Competition Fixtures are set out in [Football Lighting Policy](#) as published on the FV website and as amended from time to time.

# 10. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

## 10. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

### 10.1. General Information

- 10.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all:
- a. NPL Womens Competition Fixtures;
  - b. NPL Girls Competition Fixtures,
- collectively referred to in these Regulations as '**NPL Competitions**'.

- 10.1.2. In 2023 NPL Competitions shall include the following:

League Name	Abbreviation	Number of Teams
National Premier Leagues Womens	NPLW	11
National Premier Leagues Girls 19	NPLW 19	11
National Premier Leagues Girls 17	NPL 17	10
National Premier Leagues Girls 15	NPL 15	10
National Premier Leagues Girls 13	NPL 13	9

- 10.1.3. These Regulations are in addition to the Participation Licence signed by each NPL Club. Participation in NPL Competitions is subject to compliance with both these Regulations and the terms of the Participation Licence. See further Regulation 13.5.1 below.
- 10.1.4. All NPLW Teams and NPL 19 Teams from each NPL Club may play on the same day. NPL 19 Competition Fixtures may be played as a curtain raiser to NPLW Competition Fixtures on that day, unless otherwise determined by FV.
- 10.1.5. NPL Competitions fixtures may only be played on public holidays with the permission of FV.
- 10.1.6. FV reserves the right to determine dates and times of Competition Fixtures with specific regards to the number of matches played within the surrounding two weeks; including but not limited to State Knock Out Cup commitments.
- 10.1.7. FV reserves the right in its absolute discretion to amend the structure of NPL Competitions, including the number of Clubs in each Division, before, during or after the Regular Season, as a result of FA actions, including the establishment of any new or varied FA auspiced Leagues or Divisions, or compulsory Player pathways.

### 10.2. NPLW Competitions

- 10.2.1. All NPLW and NPLW U19 Leagues shall consist of a single division comprising 8-12 NPL Clubs or such other number as may be determined by FV in its absolute discretion.



## 10. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- a. NPLW , NPL 19, NPL 17 and NPL 15 competitions will include FV Talented Player Development teams.
- 10.2.2. NPL Womens will play each other on a home and away basis over 22Rounds unless otherwise determined by FV in its absolute discretion
- 10.2.3. NPL Girls will play each other on a home and away basis over 27 Rounds unless otherwise determined by FV in its absolute discretion

### **Finals**

- 10.2.4. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV the NPL Team finishing on top of the ladder at the conclusion of the Regular Season may be named NPL Premiers. For the avoidance of doubt simply finishing on top of the ladder does not entitle the NPL Team to be named NPL Premiers.
- 10.2.5. All NPL Competitions will follow the finals format outlined below.
- 10.2.6. The Teams finishing in positions 1 to 4 at the conclusion of the Regular Season in each League will qualify for the NPL Finals Series for their League, which shall proceed at FV's absolute discretion. The NPL Finals Series will be contested as follows:
  - a. *Week 1*
    - (i) 1<sup>st</sup> place will host 4<sup>th</sup> place with the winning Team advancing to the Grand Final, losing team is eliminated.
    - (ii) 2<sup>nd</sup> place will host 3<sup>rd</sup> place, the winning Team will then compete in the Grand Final, losing team is eliminated;
  - b. *Week 2*
    - (i) The Grand Final between the winners of the matches outlined in Rule 10.2.5.a (i) and 10.2.5.a (ii)
    - (ii) The Grand Final will be hosted at an FV appointed venue.
  - c. The winner of the Grand Final will be crowned the Victorian NPL Champion for that League.

### **Procedures to Determine the Winner of Finals**

- 10.2.7. All Finals played in the 2023 Finals Series will be played over one (1) leg.
- 10.2.8. 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.
- 10.2.9. If scores remain equal at the conclusion of both periods of extra time, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game to determine the winner of the Final.

### **Player Restrictions**

- 10.2.10. Each Player must have Played at least five (5) Regular Season Competition Fixtures for that Team during the current Regular Season to qualify to play Finals in 2023 (Under 13's Under 15's, Under 17's & Under 19's).

## 10. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

### Fixtures

- 10.2.11. NPL Women's teams may nominate the following days to host their home Competition Fixtures: Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday, although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary, or otherwise approves.
- 10.2.12. Friday or Monday night Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 6.15pm (NPL 19s) or 8.15pm (Seniors), unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.
- 10.2.13. Saturday or Sunday Competition NPL Women's Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 12.15pm (NPL 19s) or 3.00pm (Seniors), unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.
- 10.2.14. Saturday or Sunday Competition Fixtures may not kick off later 8.30pm (Seniors & NPL Under 19), unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.
- 10.2.15. The applicable kick off times for Saturday or Sunday Competition Fixtures apply to any Competition Fixtures held on public holidays.
- 10.2.16. NPL Fixtures may be played on Saturday or Sunday although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary, or otherwise approves.
- 10.2.17. NPL Girls Fixtures may be played on Sunday although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary, or otherwise approves.
- 10.2.18. NPL Girls Fixtures have flexible kick off times provided they do not kick-off earlier than 8:30am or later than 6:30pm unless the FV Competition Fixture has been rescheduled as per Rule 4.3, or as otherwise determined by FV.
- 10.2.19. FV may alter preferred kick off times to accommodate travel to and from regional areas.
- 10.2.20. FV may alter kick off times of any Team within the NPL Girls competition upon the basis of a fixture clash.
- 10.2.21. FV will determine the fixture details (venue, date and kick off time) for each finals series' fixture.
- 10.2.22. Each NPL Club shall, in relation their NPL Womens Team:
  - a. provide a facility and pitch which complies with the requirements of Rule 3.1 for all home Competition Fixtures.
  - b. appoint and maintain a Media Liaison Officer;
  - c. provide access to an internet connection at its home facility.
  - d. make all Players available as may be required for promotional activities in their local communities as and when requested by FV.
- 10.2.23. Failure to comply with Regulation 10.2.20 will result in the imposition of a penalty under the GDT and may also result in a charge of Misconduct unless FV is satisfied that special dispensation should be granted.

### Promotion & Relegation

- 10.2.24. In 2023, the NPL Women's Victoria competition will comprise **promotion from** the Victorian Premier League Women's (VPLW) and **relegation to** the VPLW.

## 10. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- 10.2.25. Those clubs finishing 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the VPLW at the conclusion of the season may be offered promotion into the NPLW, provided they meet the respective licensing and competition requirements and minimum standards.
- 10.2.26. Those clubs finishing 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> in the NPLW at the conclusion of the season, may be relegated at the discretion of Football Victoria. For the 2023 season for clarity, this will only apply to the team finishing 11<sup>th</sup> as there are 11 teams in the competition.
- 10.2.27. If a Team is withdrawn from NPL prior to the start of the Regular Season, then that vacancy may be:
  - a. replaced with a bye; OR
  - b. left vacant at the absolute discretion of FV.
  - c. replaced by the team/club next eligible under Sporting Merit (finishing position)

# 10. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

## 10.3. NPL Girls Competitions

10.3.1. NPL Girls competitions will consist of the following age groups:

- a. Under 13
- b. Under 15
- c. Under 17

### Composition of League for Under 13

- a. Composition of League for Under 13 is to be read in conjunction with the remainder of these Rules and any other regulations or guidelines as published by FV from time to time.
- b. NPL Under 13 competitions are played under the IFAB Laws of the Game, and include the following:

<b>Number of Players</b>	9-a-side including a goalkeeper. Maximum of 5 interchange
<b>Field of Play</b>	Height: 60m (min) – 70m (max)
	Width: 40m (min) – 50m (max)
<b>Line Markings</b>	Cones, markers or painted lines are allowed
<b>Penalty Area</b>	10m deep x 20m wide
<b>Goal Size</b>	5m wide x 2m high Portable goals are required
<b>Ball Size</b>	Size 4

- c. Each NPL Girls Under 13 Team will have Competition Fixtures within its respective League, under the competition format determined by FV.
- d. Every NPL Women or Girls Club may only (and must) enter one Under 13s Team.
- e. Each competition fixture will consist of two equal periods of 30 minutes for total of 60 minutes in duration including a half-time interval of a maximum of (5) minutes.
- f. Teams may make any number of interchanges during the half-time break of a Competition Fixture or in the event of injury where the injured player is required to be replaced.
- g. Clubs must submit Under 13 squad rosters with a maximum of 14 players.

### Composition of Leagues Under 15 & Under 17

10.3.2. NPL Girls competitions will consist of one League in accordance with rule 10.1.2

- a. Each NPL Girls Team will play a total of 27 Rounds, under the competition format determined by FV,

10.3.3. Every NPL Club may only (and must) enter one Team per age group in NPL Girls Competition (NPL17 s, NPL 15s and NPL 13s)

## 10. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- 10.3.4. FV is not required to enter a Talented Player Development squad in each NPL Girls competition.

### 10.4. NPL 19 Competition

- 10.4.1. Players born prior to 1st January 2004 will be deemed 'overage' Players for the purposes of NPL 19s competition.
- 10.4.2. In the NPL 19s competition, Clubs may list and field a maximum of 4 overage Players in any one (1) Competition Fixture.
- 10.4.3. In all NPL 19s Competition Fixtures, Clubs must denote each overage Player on the Match Record by placing an asterisk next to that Player's shirt number.

### 10.5. Player Eligibility 2023

- 10.5.1. All NPL Players must be registered in Play Football in line with FV Registration Regulations.
- 10.5.2. Players must be 15 years old as at 31 December 2022 to be eligible to participate in NPL Women's competition.

A Club may seek dispensation from Rule 10.5.2 provided it meets 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 Technical Director;
- c. The Application must be supported by a signed letter of consent from the player's parent or guardian;
- d. The Application must be supported by a document listing general medical details of the player by a medical professional;
- e. The Application must be supported by a maturity offset report for the player provided by a sport science professional; and
- f. The Club/player must provide FV with any further information requested

All decisions in relation to the Rule 10.5.2 are at the absolute discretion of the FV Technical Director.

- 10.5.3. Players that participate in FV Talented Player Development teams will be exempt from Rule 10.5.2
- 10.5.4. All Players competing in NPL Girls competitions are required to have Photo ID cards and present those ID cards to the Match Official before competing in any NPL Girls Competition Fixture. For clarity
- a. ID Cards must include the Player photo uploaded to Play Football.
  - b. An ID card with a photo attached after printing of the card will be deemed to be invalid.
  - c. ID Cards presented in an electronic form, including but not limited to smart phones, tablets, laptops and computers are valid.
  - d. Photocopied ID cards will be deemed invalid.

## 10. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- e. Overage players in accordance with Rule 10.4.1 are not required to provide Photo ID cards
- 10.5.5. Players may apply for exemption to play down one age group under the guidelines for Relative Age Effect which are promulgated by FV from time to time.
- 10.5.6. Players in the following age groups may take part in NPL Girls and NPLW U19 competitions:

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Year of Birth</b>
NPL 13	Born on or after 1 January 2010
NPL 15	Born on or after 1 January 2008
NPL 17	Born on or after 1 January 2006
NPL 19	Born on or after 1 January 2004

# 11. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

## 11. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

### 11.1. Substitution & Interchange

- 11.1.1. All Teams competing in NPL Women's Competition Fixtures may use a maximum of five (5) substitutes with a maximum of three (3) substitution opportunities and may additionally make substitutions at half time during any Competition Fixtures. No more than six (6) substitutes permitted to be named on the Match Record.
- 11.1.2. For all NPL Girls/U19 NPL Womens' Competition Fixtures a maximum of 17 Players may be named on the Match Record. Those Teams may make any number of interchanges in accordance with the following:
  - a. For NPL 15 Competition Fixtures a maximum of two interchange periods per Team in each half;
  - b. For NPL 17 and NPL 19 Competition Fixtures a maximum of three interchange periods per Team in each half;
  - c. Teams must notify the Match Official when they intend to utilise their allocated interchange periods.
  - d. Teams may conduct any number of interchanges during the half time interval.
  - e. Match Officials may permit an interchange to take place outside of the allocated periods if, in their opinion and in consultation with the Team's first aid or medical staff, a Player has sustained an injury and is required to be replaced.
- 11.1.3. A Match Official may decline the interchange of Players in the last five (5) minutes of a Competition Fixture if in his 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 (size 5) no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled Competition Fixture, subject to Regulation 11.2.2.
  - a. For all NPL 13 matches size 4 match balls must be provided.
- 11.2.2. All Clubs must use a licensed match ball from one of FV's licensed ball manufacturers as advised by FV from time to time.
- 11.2.3. All clubs must use the prescribed Mitre match ball in NPL Women's Competition Fixtures.
- 11.2.4. Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to FV by the Match Official.
- 11.2.5. A failure to comply with Regulation 11.2 will result in a penalty under the GDT.

### 11.3. Results of Competition Fixtures

- 11.3.1. NPL Women's Competition Fixtures – Minimum Requirements
  - a. The Match Official must enter:
    - (i) Half Time Score;
    - (ii) Full Time Score;



## 11. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

- (iii) Home & Away Team Player List;
  - (iv) Home & Away Team Captain and GK;
  - (v) Home & Away Club Officials;
  - (vi) Home & Away Team goal scorers;
  - (vii) Home & Away Team yellow cards;
  - (viii) Home & Away Team red cards; and
  - (ix) Home & Away Team substitutions
- b. Items outlined in 11.3.1.a must be entered within 90 minutes of the conclusion of the Competition Fixture.
- c. Match reports and player votes must be entered within 24 hours of the completion of the Competition Fixture.
- d. If no FV Match Official has officiated the Competition Fixture:
- (i) The Home Team must enter information outlined in Rule 11.3.1a (including match score and information pertaining to the home team) in accordance with Rule 11.3.1.b and Rule 11.3.1.c.
  - (ii) The Away team must enter information outlined in Rule 11.3.1a (excluding match score and information pertaining to the away team) in accordance with Rule 11.3.1.c.
  - (iii) Both the Home & Away team must submit to FV a copy of their match record within 48 hours of the completion of the Competition Fixture.
  - (iv) Clubs who fail to comply with Rule 11.3.1.d. may face a penalty under the GDT.
- 11.3.2. NPL Girls Fixtures – Minimum requirements.
- a. The Match Official must enter:
- (i) Full Time Score;
  - (ii) Home & Away Team Player List & Numbers;
  - (iii) Home & Away Team Goal Scorers;
  - (iv) Home & Away Team yellow cards; and
  - (v) Home & Away Team red cards;
- b. Items outlined in 11.3.2 must be entered within 24 hours of the completion of the Competition Fixture.
- c. If no FV Match Official has officiated the Competition Fixture then:
- (i) The Home Team must enter information outlined in Rule 11.3.1a (including match score and information pertaining to the home team) in accordance with Rule 11.3.2.b and Rule 11.3.2.c.
  - (ii) The Away team must enter information outlined in Rule 11.3.1a (excluding match score and information pertaining to the away team) in accordance with

## 11. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

Rule 11.3.1.c.

- (iii) Both the Home & Away team must submit to FV a copy of their match record within 48 hours of the completion of the Competition Fixture.
  - (iv) Clubs who fail to comply with Rule 11.3.2.c. may face a penalty under the GDT.
- 11.3.3. 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.

### 11.4. Catering

- 11.4.1. Home Clubs will provide the following catering for visiting teams in NPL Competitions:
- a. NPLW Competition Fixtures:
    - (i) 1 Slab of water (24 Bottles), or sports drink equivalent to be placed in the opposition change rooms prior to kick off.
    - (ii) 1 tray of sandwiches or equivalent hot food to be provided within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the match.
  - b. NPL 19 Competition Fixtures:
    - (i) 1 Slab of water (24 Bottles), or sports drink equivalent to be placed in the opposition change rooms prior to kick off.
  - c. NPL 13,15 & NPL 17 Competition Fixtures;
    - (i) There are no minimum catering requirements for junior fixtures

### 11.5. Recording of Matches

- 11.5.1. All Clubs are required to film all home matches of NPL Women's Team. In addition:
- a. Footage must be filmed from at or near half way, at the highest available elevation.
  - b. Footage provided to FV must be match highlights (all goals, other highlights at club's absolute discretion) in minimum 720p video quality.
- 11.5.2. Match Highlights of each match must be provided to FV no later than the Tuesday close of business following the NPL Women's Fixture in question, subject to Regulation 11.5.4 below.
- 11.5.3. For Competition Fixtures played on Monday, footage must be provided to FV no later than Wednesday close of business.
- 11.5.4. For other midweek matches, excluding Friday, footage must be received no later than 2 working days after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture.

## 12. FIXTURE DETAILS

### 12. FIXTURE DETAILS

#### 12.1. Admittance to Competition Fixtures

- 12.1.1. Team Admittance Passes
- NPL Womens will be provided with 40 Admittance Passes for season 2023.
  - These passes must be displayed upon entry by the visiting club team members on the day of the Competition Fixture.
  - The passes referred to in 12.1.1.1. are also season passes and will entitle the bearer admittance to any NPL, NPL2 or NPL3 Competition Fixture, subject to the conditions outlined on the pass.
  - In the event a Competition Fixture for which admission cannot be charged and a NPLW Competition Fixture are played at the same venue on the same day, no persons attending for the purpose of the non NPLW Competition Fixture can be charged for entry into the venue.
- 12.1.2. Admittance Prices
- Maximum admittance prices for the 2023 season are as outlined below. Clubs may only charge the full amount (GST Incl.) if they are registered for GST. Ticket prices must be clearly displayed at venue entry point(s).
  - Standalone Under 19s fixtures cannot incur a gate charge.

#### NPLW & Under 19

Category	Admittance Price
Adults	\$10.00 (inclusive of GST)
Students/ Pensioners/ Concession Holders	\$5.00 (inclusive of GST)
Holder of current FV Media Passes and current FA Media Passes	FREE
Current FV Special Pass Holders	FREE
Under 14	FREE

#### 12.2. Conditions of Entry to Venues

- 12.2.1. For NPL Women's and NPL Girls Competition Fixtures the Home Club shall comply with FV's conditions of entry to Club venues and shall display those conditions at each entry point to the venue.

#### 12.3. Security

- 12.3.1. NPL Clubs are not required to provide contracted security for home matches.
- 12.3.2. Rule 12.6.1 is subject to FVs Risk Assessment and Security Policy which may be amended from time to time.

#### 12.4. Media and Other Passes

- 12.4.1. No Club may refuse entry to persons holding the following without FV's prior written consent unless the person poses a genuine security threat:
- 12.4.2. a current FV Season or FA Media Pass.

## 13. AWARDS

### 13. AWARDS

#### 13.1. Best and Fairest Votes

- 13.1.1. At the conclusion of each NPL Women's Competition Fixture, the Match Official must complete the Best and Fairest Votes and submit these to FV within two (2) working days.
- 13.1.2. All votes must be recorded on the FV competition management system.
- 13.1.3. All votes must be treated with the highest confidentiality.
- 13.1.4. 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 the relevant Competition Fixture.
- 13.1.5. A failure to comply with Regulation 13 may result in a Match Official being suspended from officiating or demoted to a lower competition Division.
- 13.1.6. A player who receives a suspension as defined in the GDT, with the exception of a Y5 suspension, shall be ineligible to win a Best and Fairest award in the competition that the suspension was received. To avoid doubt this Regulation includes but is not limited to a player who receives ten (10) Yellow Cards or more in a Regular Season
- 13.1.7. A Player who has a Direct Red Card revoked for mistaken identity shall be eligible to win a Best and Fairest award.
- 13.1.8. Best and Fairest awards will not apply in NPL Girls Leagues.
- 13.1.9. In the event an FV Match Official is not appointed to a Competition Fixture, no Best and Fairest votes will be awarded for that Competition Fixture.
- 13.1.10. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV the Player who has received the most Best and Fairest votes at the conclusion of the NPL Women Regular Season and who is not deemed ineligible under Rule 14, will be deemed the Best and Fairest winner for that League.
- 13.1.11. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV, 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 that League.

#### 13.2. Leading Goal Scorers

- 13.2.1. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV, the Player who scores the most goals in a single League during the Regular Season will be deemed the Leading Goal Scorer of that League.
- 13.2.2. FV will determine Leading Goal Scorers based on data entered into FV's online competition management system.
- 13.2.3. Leading Goal Scorers will be awarded for all NPL competitions, including NPL Women's and NPL Girls Leagues.

# SCHEDULE 2 – CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

## SCHEDULE 2 – 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](#)
- 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.
- Ensure your decisions and actions contribute to a harassment free environment.

## SCHEDULE 2 – CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

- 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.

## SCHEDULE 2 – CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

- 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 and 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.
- 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.

# SCHEDULE 2 – CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

## 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.

## 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;



## SCHEDULE 2 – CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

- 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 display, or attempt to display, the following items within the Venue:
  - a. National, political or racial flags or emblems except for the recognised National flags of the competing teams;
  - b. Offensive or inappropriate banners in either 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.

# SCHEDULE 2 – CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

## **Code of Conduct (This code applies to community sport, training and club sanctioned activities).**

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.
- Victimization 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.

## **SCHEDULE 2 – CODES OF BEHAVIOUR**

### **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 3 – NPL WOMEN’S FACILITY STANDARDS

## SCHEDULE 3 – NPL WOMEN’S FACILITY STANDARDS

[Link to FV NPL Facility Standards](#)

# SCHEDULE 4 – 2023 PLAYER ROSTER COMPOSITION

## SCHEDULE 4 – 2023 PLAYER ROSTER COMPOSITION

Consistent with the NPL Men's competition and the recommendations from the Women's National Competition Review (WNCR), each NPL Women's Senior Team will be subject to a modified version of a PPS. The aim of the PPS is to:

- Encourage players to remain within the same club structure
- Encourage Home grown players
- Establish a limit of A-League W (and hence national team) players in the one squad
- Encourage rising stars

As part of the WNCR, it was identified that the women's game does not have an issue with excessive player payments.

As part of the WNCR, it was identified that a modified version of the Men's PPS would be implemented in the NPL Women's to address a number of key issues in respect to player rosters. In moving towards a similar model that is adopted in the NPL Men's competition, the following model aims to provide us with an opportunity to directly address the key issues as identified in the WNCR, whilst also assessing the effectiveness of the current PPS model in operation across the NPL Women's competition in Victoria.

In order to achieve our objectives as outlined in the WNCR, the following system, titled the Player Roster Composition (PRC) is proposed to address the specific detail on the composition of a player roster via certain categories. This is a hybrid system that took into consideration the player roster regulations in the Westfield W-League, Foxtel National Youth League, A-League and the English Premier League. The PRC allows clubs the flexibility to build a player roster with the WNCR objectives in consideration.

The PRC will provide a great stepping stone in encouraging clubs to address the key areas in the NPL Women's competition such as:

- Incentivising and encouraging experienced players to remain
- Encouraging clubs to develop a youth development structure that promotes players from the club's youth teams into the Senior Women's team.
- Ensuring competition parity and stability by addressing key areas of a roster.

# SCHEDULE 4 – 2023 PLAYER ROSTER COMPOSITION

## Required Player Roster Composition Categories for NPLW in Victoria

Category	Requirements
Youth Players	Each Team is permitted to have no more than 6 youth players on their roster in the current NPLW season. A Youth Player is 17 years of age or younger as at 31 December of the current NPLW season.
Matildas	Each Team is permitted to have no more than 2 current FA contracted Matildas on their player roster in any one season
A-League Women's Players	Each Team is permitted to have no more than 4 A-League Women's Players on their player roster in any one season
Loyalty Players	Each Team must have a minimum of 7 Loyalty Players on their roster in any one season. For each player who registers to an elite pathway program (Emerging Matildas), each team will be permitted to submit one less loyalty player on their Senior PRC roster.
Visa Players	Each Team is permitted to have no more than 2 Visa Players registered on their roster in any one season. A Visa player can only be removed from a senior roster once they have been deregistered from Play Football. You may only have two visa players on a senior fixture match record.

### Competition Requirements

- At all times during a NPLW season, a Club must include a minimum of 20 Players on its Player Roster and may include a maximum of 23 Players on its Player Roster.
- A minimum of two (2) Goal Keepers must be listed on the Senior PRC Roster.
- Player Roster Composition only applies to the NPLW (Women's Senior) team only.
- All Players are required to be registered in-line with the NPL Rules of Competition and FV Registration Regulations.

### General

- A player may fulfil multiple categories simultaneously. I.e., A player may be classified as a Matilda and a A-League Women's Player on a Player Roster. Clubs must take this into consideration when constructing their Player Roster.
- All Players on the Player Roster and competing in the NPLW competition must be 15 years old by January 1, 2023 to be eligible to participate in the NPLW Competition. Should a player be under the age of 15 years old as at January 1 2023, the club must seek dispensation from Football Victoria (FV) as per the player eligibility ruling in the Rules of Competition.
- All A-League Women's Players must be included on a Clubs Senior PRC roster at all times.
- Where an A-League Women's Player changes clubs from one NPLW team, to another NPLW team, such player will retain their A-League Women's Player status for the remainder of the competition season.

# SCHEDULE 4 – 2023 PLAYER ROSTER COMPOSITION

- A player’s age is based on their age as at 31st December in that NPLW competition season.

## Player Roster

A NPLW Clubs Senior PRC Roster and Under 19’s Roster must be submitted in line with the Domestic Match Calendar (DMC) and as advised by Football Victoria competition deadline dates.

Clubs can promote players from their Youth Teams (U15-19) into their Senior Women’s team on a match day (e.g; a club may play a player listed on the Under 19’s or Under 17’s roster up into the senior team as many times as required). There is no limit as to how many games a player can play up into the Senior Team (only if the player is age eligible based on the Rules of Competition).

## PRC CATEGORIES DEFINED

### Youth Player

Please refer to the table below in respect to players eligibility for Youth Player category:

Player's Age as at 31 December in the current NPLW season:	Youth Player Eligible
17 years of age (2006 born)	Yes
16 years of age (2007 born)	Yes
15 years of age (2008 born)	Eligible based on FV approval only and Rules of Competition

### Loyalty Player

- Should a player move from their NPLW club into the Talented Player Pathway (A-League Women’s and/or NTC) and then return to their original NPLW club from the Talented Player Pathway they will be classified as a Loyalty Player for the purpose of the PRC.
- A loyalty player is a player that has registered for an NPL club for the second consecutive season.
- Should a player move from their NPLW club and register with another club (inclusive of a club Overseas) during the same competition season then return to their original NPLW club, for the purpose of the PRC they will not be considered a Loyalty Player (further example below):
  - a. If a player was registered to their NPLW Club at the beginning of the season, transferred to an Overseas Club, and then returned to their original NPLW Club (during the same FV season), that player would NOT be classified as a Loyalty Player for the purposes of the PRC.
  - b. If a player was registered to their NPLW Club for a season, transferred to an Overseas Club at the conclusion of the NPLW Victoria season, then returned to the same NPLW Club the following season, as there is no cross over of Clubs during the same NPLW season, the player would be classified as a Loyalty Player.
- For every player that is selected from their NPLW Club into the Talented Player Pathway (FV - Emerging Matildas), the Club will be able to nominate one less Loyalty Player for the purposes of the PRC on their roster.

For the avoidance of doubt, the player MUST have been listed on the Clubs 2023 Senior PRC roster in order to be eligible.

# SCHEDULE 4 – 2023 PLAYER ROSTER COMPOSITION

- Each Team must have a minimum of 7 Loyalty Players on their roster in any one season (subject to the above clause).
- For the avoidance of doubt, where a Club does not have a player who is selected to the Talented Player Pathway Program (FV- Emerging Matildas), the Club must nominate 7 Loyalty Players on their Senior PRC Roster.
- Where a player was listed and nominated on the 2023 PRC (that was submitted and approved by FV by the deadline – 12 April 2023), and returns to the same Club and is listed on the 2023 PRC Roster, such player will be classified as a Loyalty Player.
- If a player was registered and listed on the Clubs Senior 2021 PRC, did not register to any Club (Victoria, Interstate or Overseas) in 2023, and re-registers to the same Club in 2023, the player will be classified as a Loyalty Player for the purposes of the PRC.

## A-League Women's Players

- An A-League Women's Player is defined as: a player who has entered into a playing contract and/or agreement with a Club that competes in the A-League Women's competition as defined by Australian Professional Leagues (APL).  
For the avoidance of doubt, train-on players and trial players are not A-League Women's Players for the purposes of the PRC.
- A Player, who would otherwise be classified as a A-League Women's Player under the PRC will not be considered as a A-League Women's Player for the purposes of an NPLW Club's Player Roster for the 2023 season in the following circumstances:
  - a. if the Player has registered for 3 years or more as a junior at the NPLW Club (or original applicant) (NPLGirls U12's – U17's), or
  - b. if the Player has registered and been listed on the NPLW Club's Senior PRC Roster and/or Under 19's Roster for 3 consecutive seasons (inclusive of season 2023).

## Australian Player

An Australian Player is any Player who is:

- a citizen of Australia;
- a Permanent Resident of Australia (where Permanent Resident means a person resident in Australia on a "permanent" visa class issued by the Australian Government, evidenced by either the person's Visa Grant Notice or as a listed entitlement on the person's online Visa Entitlement Verification); or
- the holder of a subclass 200 refugee visa or a subclass 866 protection visa issued by the Australian Government. For further details see: <http://www.border.gov.au>

## Visa Player

- A Visa Player is any Player who does not meet the above definition of Australian Player.
- NPL Clubs are encouraged to refer to the following website for further clarification regarding visas: <http://www.border.gov.au/>



# SCHEDULE 4 – 2023 PLAYER ROSTER COMPOSITION

- For the purposes of the PCR, a New Zealand Citizen is classified as a Visa Player unless she satisfies the definition of an Australian Player. Please refer to the Department of Immigration website for further clarification regarding the status of New Zealand Citizens in Australia: <http://www.border.gov.au>

## Registration Periods/Player Registrations

The 2023 registration periods and dates fall in line with the Domestic Match Calendar (DMC). Each team must submit a Senior PRC Roster and Under 19's Roster by the deadline as specified by Football Victoria.

All players, whether registering as amateur player or professional players must be registered on Play Football during the NPL registration period as specified by Football Victoria in order to be eligible to play in the NPL competition.

No exemptions can be granted for any players who are not registered by the deadline.

## Exemption Requests

In line with the Domestic Match Calendar (DMC), no players can be registered or added onto the PRC outside of the designated registration periods.

Football Victoria has no ability to review or approve any exemptions outside of the designated registration periods.

Where a club wishes to apply for an exemption, such exemption may only be reviewed by Football Australia (FA) in conjunction with the registration regulations.

## U19 Player Roster

Clubs must submit an U19 Player Roster during the registration period deadline for the Senior PRC. The Under 19's Roster must have a minimum of 16 players and a maximum of 20 players. A minimum of two (2) Goal Keepers must be listed and nominated on the Under 19's roster.

Selection of match day U19 squads are not limited to players solely listed on the U19 Player Roster. Clubs may still select 'overage' players from the Senior team to play down (maximum of 4 players as per the Rules of Competition) or players from their U17's team to play up.

## Finals Eligibility

To be eligible to play for finals selection, a player must:

- Be listed on a 2023 NPLW Roster (Under 17's, Under 19's or Senior PRC) by each registration deadline (as advised by FV).

For the avoidance of doubt, a player does not have to participate in a minimum of five (5) regular season fixtures to qualify for finals in 2023 for the NPLW Senior Competition.

