



# 2024 RULES OF COMPETITION

**ADVANCED COMPETITIONS**



**FOOTBALL  
VICTORIA**

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# 1.0 GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ADVANCED COMPETITIONS

## 1.1. Application and Definitions

- 1.1.1 These Rules shall apply to all Advanced 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, 2024 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 failed to commence for any reason or has been stopped by the Match Official prior to its conclusion in accordance with Rule 4.2.
  - b. **Advanced Competition** means NPLW, NPLM, VPLM, JGNPL and JBNPL competitions.
  - c. **Advanced Competition 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 an Advanced Competition.
  - d. **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.
  - e. **Community Teams** means team participating in competitions other than Advanced Competitions.

- f. **Club** has the same meaning as in the FV Constitution.
- g. **Club Associate(s)** has the meaning given to it in the GDT.
- h. **Competition Fixture** means any match that is administered by FV and includes matches to which FV appoints Match Official(s).
- i. **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 and the Australia Cup.
- j. **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.
- k. **Divisions** means a particular grade or level of men's or women's competition within Victorian Football (such as VPLM 1, VPLM 2).
- l. **FA** means Football Australia.
- m. **FV** means Football Victoria.
- n. **Field** means to take the field of play or record a Player's name on the Match Record and "Fields", "Fielded", "Play" or "Participate" shall have corresponding meanings.
- o. **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 meters of the boundary line of the football pitch.
- p. **Finals** means a Competition Fixture played to determine the final standings or champion of a specific competition administered by FV.

- q. **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.
- r. **GDT** means the FV Grievance, Discipline and Tribunal By Law (as amended from time to time).
- s. **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.
- t. **Home Club** means the Club named first in a Competition Fixture.
- u. **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.
- v. **IFAB** means International Football Association Board.
- w. **JBNP** means NPL junior boys competition including Teams, Leagues and Divisions between NPL under 14's and NPL under 18's competitions.
- x. **JGNPL** mean NPL junior girls competition including Teams, Leagues and Divisions between NPL under 13's, under 15's and under 17's competitions.
- y. **League** (when referred to in reference to Men's or Women's football), means a particular competition within a Division.
- z. **Match Official** means a match official as defined in the GDT.
- aa. **Match Record** means the official log (hard copy or electronic/online) of the Competition Fixture recording all match details including participants and results.
- bb. **Misconduct** has the meaning given to it in the GDT.

- cc. **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.
- dd. **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.
- ee. **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.
- ff. **NPLM** means National Premier League Men's Senior and Under 23's competitions.
- gg. **NPLW** means National Premier League Women's Senior and Under 20's competitions.
- hh. **NPLM National Finals Series** means the national playoff competition administered by FA post the Regular Season for NPLM.
- ii. **NST Clubs** means those Clubs selected to participate in the National Second Tier in the 2025 season.
- jj. **Participation Licence** means the non-exclusive licence agreement entered into by a Club and FV for the Club to enter teams into Advanced Competitions.
- kk. **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 Divisions.
- ll. **Played** means:
  - (i) A Team has participated in a Competition Fixture.

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

- (ii) To have taken the field of play; or



- (iii) Been listed on the Match Record; or
  - (iv) If a player is originally listed on the Match Record and it is subsequently indicated on the Match Record that the player is no longer to 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 Competition Fixture.
- mm. **Player ID Card** means the PlayFootball generated ID card containing recent photo, date of birth, FA number, full name and Club name for that player.
- nn. **Player Points System (PPS)** means the Player Points System as outlined in the Participation Licence.
- oo. **Player Roster Composition** means the Player Roster Composition as outlined in the Participation Licence.
- pp. **Player Points Cap** means the number of points permitted for each club under the Player Points System.
- qq. **Postponed** means a Competition Fixture which has not commenced as scheduled.
- rr. **Registered** means registered and eligible in PlayFootball in accordance with the FA National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations as well as the 2024 FV Registration Regulations.
- ss. **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.
- tt. **Risk Assessment & Security Policy** is the FV policy which outlines minimum security requirements and responsibilities required at Advanced Competition Fixtures.
- uu. **Rule or Rules of Competition** means a rule set out in a clause or clauses of these 2024 Rules of Competition.

- vv. **Sanctioned Match** means any match:
  - (i) to which FV appoints one (1) or more Match Official(s) but does not administer directly;
  - (ii) 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 by FV; or
  - (iii) that FV approves between two affiliated clubs or competing teams.
  
- ww. **Standalone Fixture** means a single or coupled fixture comprising of Under 23's (NPLM and VPLM) or Under 20's (NPLW) and Senior match at a FV approved venue.
  
- xx. **Team** means a football team entered by a Club in an Advanced Competition.
  
- yy. **Technical Area** is as defined in the Advanced Competitions Facility Standards in Schedule 3.
  
- zz. **VPLM** means VPL Men's senior competitions including Teams, Leagues and Divisions in VPLM 1 and VPLM 2 Under 23's & VPLM 1 and VPLM 2 Senior competitions.

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 be subject to any applicable GDT Penalties.

## 1.3 **Monies Owing by 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:
- (i) 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;
  - (ii) Suspend or expel that Club (or Team(s)) from any Competition Fixture (including Cup Fixtures) and/or FV competitions.
  - (iii) Prohibit that Club (or Team(s)) from promotion whilst the debt remains unpaid.
  - (iv) Relegate that Club (or Team(s)) while the debt remains unpaid.
  - (v) Deduct championship points from a Club (or Team) for the current season where the debt remains unpaid.
  - (vi) Deduct championship points from a Club (or Team) for the following season where the debt remains unpaid or accrues after 31 October of the relevant year.
- 1.3.4 If FV and a Club agree to a repayment plan in relation to a debt owed by the Club to FV and the Club fails to meet any of the terms of that payment plan by the stipulated date and time, FV may immediately and without the need to issue a further Default Notice, impose one or more of the sanctions referred to in Rule 1.3.3.

#### *Monies Owing By a Player*

- 1.3.5 All amounts owed by a player to FV must be paid within 30 days of the date of the invoice issued by FV in relation to the amount payable or such sooner time as required under the GDT.
- 1.3.6 If a player fails to pay any amount owing to FV in accordance with Rule 1.3.5, FV may issue a Default Notice giving the player a further 14 days to pay that amount.

- 1.3.7 If a player fails to comply with a Default Notice issued in accordance with Rule 1.3.6, or 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 Rule:
- a. **Change of Status** has the same meaning as in the FV Registration Regulations.
  - b. **Dual Registration** has the same meaning as in the FV Registration Regulations.
  - c. **Ineligible** means a player who is one of the following:
    - (i) Playing for the wrong Club or Team;
    - (ii) Playing within a stand-down period due to Change of Status;
    - (iii) Playing while registered for two clubs at the same time without a Dual Registration exemption to do so;
    - (iv) Playing while not Registered;
    - (v) Playing while under Suspension under the GDT;
    - (vi) A player who has been shown a red card earlier in a fixture that is still being played;

- (vii) Playing while ineligible to do so for any other reason determined by FV;
  - (viii) A Player or Players in breach of Rule 2.2
- d. **Offence** means when FV has found upon investigation, audit, processing or notification there has been a breach of these Rules including any of the previous fixtures in which an Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) has Participated.
  - e. **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.
  - f. **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.
  - g. **Unregistered** means a player who is not Registered.

*Registration – Scope of Penalties*

- 1.4.2 All Clubs and Teams must Register all Players in accordance with the FV Registration Regulations and FA National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations.
- 1.4.3 FV may find Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) through random audits, daily processing or upon investigation following notification of a breach of this Rule.
- 1.4.4 Where a Club or Team Fields an Unregistered or Ineligible Player in a Competition Fixture, including Finals or Play-Off Matches, the following shall apply, subject to Rule 1.4.4(d):
  - a. Where a Team is found to have Fielded an Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) during a single Competition Fixture(s), the score for the respective Competition Fixture(s) may 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. Where a Club or Team is found to have Fielded an Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) in multiple Competition Fixtures, FV may:
- (i) deduct between 0-12 competition points from the Team 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 Rule 1.4.4. (a) or (b) 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 it can be demonstrated by the Club that it was misled by the Player in relation to eligibility/registration;
  - (iv) the experience of the Team or Club administrator; and
  - (v) the age-group affected; and
  - (vi) any other factors FV may consider relevant in the circumstances.

*By way of example: where FV learns in round 9 of a season that an Under 14's 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, or reverse such Competition Fixtures as necessary.*

- d. Sub-Rules (a) and (b) above shall not apply where the Club has made enquiries to FV about the Player(s) prior to the Competition Fixture and was informed in writing by FV that the Player was Registered/Eligible as necessary.
- 1.4.5. Where FV learns of Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) via internal audits, and no Club or Team has raised a formal protest about those Players within the time set out in the next sub-Rule, 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 (7) calendar days.

*Note on Rule 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 Rule 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 Under 12's to Under 15's inclusive and junior metro football, the focus is on participation. Where Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) in these leagues are identified, FV will favor an interpretation of a genuine administrative error unless it can be shown that the Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) were Played intentionally. However in Advanced Competitions, 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 (which does not include Players with multiple registrations as a result of, for example, name variants), the above sanctions will be imposed until such system or technical error is proven by the Club or Team or Player, save that;

- a. Only those system or technical errors that occur on weekdays up until 5.00pm on a Friday, (excluding Public Holidays) will be taken into account; and
- b. Should a Club or Team decide to process registrations on non-business days (Weekends and/or Public Holidays) or after 5.00pm on a Friday, the Club or Team 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 5 days (or as otherwise reasonably requested by the FV).
- 1.4.9. A failure to comply with Rule 1.4.8. results in all of that Club's teams playing for no points until the requested information is provided. Should a Club subsequently comply with Rule 1.4.8, such points will not be returned or Matches replayed.

#### *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.
- 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.

#### *Appeals*



- 1.4.14. FV reserves the right during the Season to implement (and publish details of) an appeals mechanism against FV's decisions under Rule 1.4.4. Under such mechanism, Clubs who have had points so deducted may appeal that decision to the FV Tribunal, to be dealt with further to the GDT.
- 1.4.15. An appeal under Rule 1.4.14 shall constitute a Tribunal Referral for the purposes of the GDT.
- 1.4.16. The cost of an appeal under Rule 1.4.14 shall be as determined by FV from time to time and may be higher than standard Tribunal Request Fee referred to in the GDT.

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

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

## **1.6. Sanctioned Matches**

- 1.6.1. Any Club taking part in any Sanctioned Match must abide by any and all codes of conduct or codes of Behaviour 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 2024 FV Registration Regulations, writing to the FV Registrations Team for prior approval.
- 1.6.5. All Competition Fixtures take precedence over non-FV matches or fixtures or tournaments. Failure to fulfill Competition Fixtures for a non FV Competition 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 Associates and players registered with FV as it sees fit, provided Clubs are incorporated at all times and meet the relevant affiliation, licence and registration requirements.

### **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**

- 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.

## 1.8. Strict Liability of Clubs

- 1.8.1. Each Club shall be responsible for the conduct of its Club Associates 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 1.9.1 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 1.9 includes the incorporated name, registered business name and/or approved playing name of a Club.

- 1.9.4. Process for new name application by a Club:
- a. All submissions will be considered in accordance with [FA Inclusivity Principles for Club Identity](#)
  - b. The Club name 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 [NRRO2B](#) 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
  - 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.

### ***Incorporation***

- 1.9.11 A Club must provide FV with documentary evidence of registration of any new name with the appropriate government authority.

### **1.10 Ticketing and 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 Advanced Competitions 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 Advanced Competition Clubs must abide by FV's Minimum Match Ticketing Standard Policy which may be amended from time to time.

### **1.11 Representative Teams**

- 1.11.1 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.

- 1.11.2 All Clubs must release players for training and preparation for, and participation in, representative matches, camps or tours.
- 1.11.3 Where a Club has four (4) or more outfield players or two (2) goalkeepers 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. National Teams
  - c. FV State Teams
- 1.11.4 All requests pursuant to Rule 1.12.3 must be received no less than 10 days prior to the Competition Fixture in question, unless the player is called up within the 10 day period by FV/FA for representative duty.
- 1.11.5 FV shall determine the outcome of any request under this Rule at its absolute discretion.

## **1.12 Member Protection**

- 1.12.1 FV has adopted the FA National Member Protection Framework including for all FV affiliated competition administrators, Clubs, players and Club Associates. The Member Protection Framework can be found by clicking the following [link](#).
- 1.12.2 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.

## **1.13 Club Compliance and National Club Accreditation**

- 1.13.1 In order to be eligible to compete in FV competitions in 2024 a Club must comply with the requirements set out by the following:
- a. FV's Club Compliance Program;

- b. The FA 'Club Changer'- National Club Development Program criteria (if required);
- c. FV's By-Law 12 Club Compliance Policy;
- d. Consumer Affairs Victoria; and
- e. Australian Securities and Investment Commission (as applicable).

#### **1.14 Correspondence / Communication**

- 1.14.1 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.
- 1.14.2 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.
- 1.14.3 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 PlayFootball. Requests made by anyone not listed as a Club representative in PlayFootball may not be actioned by FV.
- 1.14.4 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 PlayFootball & FV club contact guide.
- 1.14.5 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.
- 1.14.6 FV reserves the right to only communicate with nominated club contacts as listed on PlayFootball or the FV Club Contact Guide.

### 1.15 **Participation Licence**

The terms of the Participation Licence are incorporated in to and shall form part of these Rules of Competition and must be complied with at all times. 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 Advanced Competitions and their Club Associates must comply with the COVID-19 Return to Training/Play Conditions and COVID-19 Rules – Impacted NPL Competitions as published on the FV website and updated from time to time. These rules may also reference or be implemented in the event of any future pandemics/natural disasters, as required and stipulated by Football Victoria.

Return to Training/ Play Conditions: <https://www.footballvictoria.com.au/return-football>

Covid-19 Rules- Impacted 2024 NPL Competitions

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ot5GWwe5b9xwOoimlhx1ggrVrzsmj8uO/view?usp=sharing>

## 2.0 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 Regular 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 Regular Season at which all Teams have Played each other an equal number of times, a 'BYE' will be inserted to replace the withdrawn Team in the fixture, and
  - a. All championship points along with goals scored (for & against) for:
    - (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 up to the point of the season at which all Teams have Played each other an equal number of times will be erased;
    - (ii) Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team from the point of the season at which all Teams have Played each other an equal number of times, until the time the Team withdrew, will be erased.
  - c. For the avoidance of doubt, FV may consider forfeited matches as Played for the purposes of Rules 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 and remains eligible under the same;
  - b. is not under suspension by FV/FA and FIFA;
  - 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 requirement set out in Rule 3.3;
  - e. presents a current Player ID Card upon request to the Match Official 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.
- 2.2.3. 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 Associate 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. Females are permitted to Play in JBNPL Competition Fixtures up to and including Under 16 JBNPL, provided always that the Club must seek prior dispensation from FV following the process outlined in the FV Dispensation Policy.

- 2.3.2. Males are not permitted to Play in NPLW or JGNPL competitions.
- 2.3.3. FV retains the sole discretion to review any dispensation granted under Rule 2.3.1 during the Regular Season.

## 3.0 FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

### 3.1. Facilities/ Pitch Arrangements

#### 3.1.1. Clubs will:

- a. provide a venue that complies with the Advanced Competitions Facility Standards set out in Schedule 3 by no later than 14 January of the calendar year.
- b. provide a safe environment for players, Match Officials, Club Associates 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, Building Act 1993 and Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (including but not limited to any directions issued by the Chief Health Officer); and,
  - (iii) any local laws;
  - (iv) have up to date liquor licence including RSA and food handling certificates.

#### 3.1.2. A Club which advises FV prior to commencement of the 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. At the absolute discretion of FV, a Club which fails to meet its facility requirements under Rule 3.1 may be relegated to a lower Division in the following Regular Season.
- 3.1.4. FV may in its absolute discretion upon written request grant a temporary dispensation from compliance with Rule 3.1 to a Club which:
  - a. is in the process of upgrading its facilities to meet FV's requirements; or
  - b. due to circumstances beyond its reasonable control the Club cannot comply with 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; or
  - 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

- i. Registered Health Practitioner or;
    - ii. Sports Trainer/ Physio
  - e. Team Manager/ Match Analyst
- 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 it does 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 colours that clearly distinguish them from all players and Match Officials on the field of play e.g. a bib, jackets.
- 3.2.6. The Match Official may expel any person from the Technical Area at any time as he or she sees fit. The Competition Fixture will not recommence until that person has left the Technical Area and field of play to the Match Official's satisfaction.
- 3.2.7. A player or Club Associate who is under suspension must not be present in the Technical Area. Should a player or Club Associate be in breach of this rule they will be subject to further penalties under the GDT.

### **3.3. Match Records**

- 3.3.1. Clubs will 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 NPLM, NPLW and all VPLM competitions, not less than 60 minutes before the commencement of any Competition Fixture.

- b. In the case of JBNPL and JGNPL, unless otherwise stated in the regulations, not less than 30 minutes before the commencement of any Competition Fixture.

3.3.3. A club will be charged with Misconduct if:

- a. Any player listed on the Match Record is ineligible in accordance with either these Rules, the FV Registration Regulations, FA National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations or the GDT;
- b. More than 17 players are listed on the Match Record.
- c. It fails to list on the Match Record the shirt number, full name and FFA 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 opposition's), the Club must sign and indicate any disputed information by circling the detail in question. Only the following information can be disputed:

- a. Goal Scorers;
- b. Red and Yellow Cards
- c. Final Score; or
- d. Player Eligibility.

3.3.6. Match Record Disputes will only be investigated by FV of its own volition or in the following circumstances:

- a. The Match Record and 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); and
- (iv) Any other information accepted from the Club at the absolute discretion of FV.

3.3.7. Match Records will only be amended if FV is satisfied that the information disputed is proven beyond reasonable doubt.

3.3.8. FV may extend or abridge the deadline referred to in Rule 3.3.6.a, in its absolute discretion.

### **3.4. Security at Home Pitches**

3.4.1. 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 and Club Associates at Competition Fixtures including but not limited to any specific requirements of FV which are notified to the Home Club.

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

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

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

3.4.5. Rule 1.11.1 – 1.11.4 apply to a Club's home ground or facility and any neutral ground or facility (including The Home of the Matilda's, 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.

- 3.4.6. 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.
- 3.4.7. 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 the owner's personal risk.
- 3.4.8. Rule 3.4 is subject to FVs Risk Assessment and Security Policy which may be amended from time to time.

**Table 3.4 – Minimum Number of Security for Competition Fixtures**

<b>League</b>	<b>Minimum Number of Security Guards</b>
NPLM Senior	6
NPLW Senior & Under 20's	N/A
VPLM 1 Senior	4
VPLM 2 Senior	4
NPLM Under 23's	N/A
VPLM 1 Under 23's	N/A
VPLM 2 Under 23's	N/A
JBNPL	N/A
JGNPL	N/A

### **3.5. Ground Marshals**

- 3.5.1. Each Club must provide the number of marshals directed by FV.
- 3.5.2. Ground Marshals must:
- a. be at least 18 years old;
  - b. be in clearly identifiable uniform;
  - c. be visible from the Field of Play at all times;



- d. escort the Match Official(s) to and from the change rooms and the Field of Play at the commencement of the Competition Fixture, at half time and at full time; and
  - e. where required, assist the Match Official(s) to ensure a safe playing environment for all players, Club Associates and spectators.
- 3.5.3. 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 3.5 – Minimum Number of Ground Marshals for Competition Fixtures**

League	Minimum Number of Ground Marshals	
	Home Team	Away Team
NPLM Senior	6	2
NPLW Senior & Under 20's	4	2
VPLM 1 Senior	4	2
VPLM 2 Senior	4	2
NPLM Under 23's	4	2
VPLM 1 Under 23's	4	2
VPLM 2 Under 23's	4	2
JBNPL	2	2
JGNPL	1	1

- 3.5.4. FV may vary the minimum Ground Marshal arrangements for any FV Competition Fixture at any time.
- 3.5.5. Each FV Club in all NPLW, JBNPL and JGNPL fixtures, home and away, must provide 50% of the Ground Marshals for all Competition Fixtures. Refer to table below for minimum number of Ground Marshals for NPLW, JBNPL and JGNPL fixtures.
- 3.5.6. Ground Marshal numbers may be varied in line with FV's Risk Assessment and Security Policy
- 3.5.7. To view the Football Victoria Ground Marshal Handbook, [click here](#).

### **3.6. Player's Strip/ Apparel**

#### *3.6.1. Clothing and Protective Gear*

- a. All Teams must nominate a 'Home' & 'Alternate" playing strip.
  - (i) All playing strips must be approved by FV.
  - (ii) Any change to these strips must be communicated to FV five (5) working days prior to the Club's next Competition Fixture.
- b. These strips must be contrasting colours from one another.
- c. Predominantly black playing kits will not be permitted in JBNPL and JGNPL Competition Fixtures.
- d. The Home Club in each Competition Fixture is required to wear their nominated 'Home' playing strip.
- e. 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 sufficient alternate playing strip.
- f. In the instance of a strip not being available to a club, it will be deemed the responsibility of the club to ascertain written consent from the opposing club to avoid any strip clash. This written agreement must be sent to FV prior to the fixture.
- g. The purpose of Rule 3.5 is to ensure that the two Clubs wear playing strips that distinguish them from each other and also the Match Officials. Clubs and Match Officials should refer to the following table to determine whether or not a strip clash exists. The table lists which items of the strip are permitted to clash for different Divisions/Leagues:

**Table 3.5 – Clashes & Permissions**

	<b>NPLM, NPLW and VPLM (Seniors)</b>	<b>NPLM, NPLW and VPLM (U23s and U20s)</b>	<b>JBNPL and JGNPL</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 in accordance with Rule 4.2 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; 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 JBNPL and JGNPL competitions provided it does not clash with either Team or the Match Officials.
- l. All clubs must have two (2) goalkeeper strips available at all home & away fixtures.

### 3.6.2. 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.

### **3.7. Stretchers/ First Aid**

- 3.7.1. Each Home Club must allocate one (1) stretcher suitable for first aid and emergency use, for each pitch hosting a Competition Fixture.
- 3.7.2. Each Home Club must provide a First Aid Kit including, but not limited to:
  - a. Band Aids;
  - b. Bandages; and
  - c. Ice Pack (or other available ice).
  - d. Must provide a hospital register clearly visible in the first aid and match officials room.
- 3.6.3 Home Clubs competing in JBNPL and JGNPL fixtures are required to provide a LI Sports Trainer and/or Physio for match day coverage. The LI Sports Trainer and/or Physio must be made available for both home and away Teams during each Competition Fixture.

### **3.8. Smoking / Drinking at Venues**

- 3.8.1. It is prohibited for anyone to smoke or consume alcohol within the confines of the Field of Play.
- 3.8.2. 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 smoking laws.

### 3.9. National Flags, Slogans & Emblems

- 3.9.1. Clubs must comply at all times with the [FA Diversity & Inclusion Policy](#).
- 3.9.2. 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.
- 3.9.3. FV may require the immediate removal of any offending material at any time.

### 3.10. Lighting Standards

- 3.10.1. 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.
- 3.10.2. The lighting standards must be as follows:

COMPETITION		MINIMUM LUX LEVEL	UNIFORMITY 1	UNIFORMITY 2
NPLM/NPLW	Competition	200	0.60	0.40
	Training	100	0.50	0.30
NPLM/NPLW UNDER 23s/UNDER 20s	Competition	200	0.60	0.40
	Training	100	0.50	0.30
VPLM 1 / VPLM 2 SENIORS	Competition	200	0.60	0.40
	Training	100	0.50	0.30
VPLM 1 / VPLM 2 UNDER 23s	Competition	200	0.60	0.40
	Training	100	0.50	0.30
JBNPL/JGNPL	Competition	100	0.50	0.30
	Training	100	0.50	0.30

## 4.0 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
JBNPL 14	2 x 30 minute halves (= 60 minutes)
JBNPL 15	2 x 35 minute halves (= 70 minutes)
JBNPL 16	2 x 40 minute halves (= 80 minutes)
JBNPL 18	2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)
JGNPL 13	2 x 30 minute halves (= 60 minutes)
JGNPL 15	2 x 35 minute halves (= 70 minutes)
JGNPL 17	2 x 40 minute halves (= 80 minutes)
VPLM 23	2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)
VPLM 1 & VPLM 2	2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)
NPLW 20	2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)
NPLM 23	2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)
NPLM & NPLW Seniors	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 JBNPL and 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.

#### 4.1.3 *Half Time Interval*

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 will 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 at the 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; or
  - b. prior to commencement of the Competition Fixture, all Match Officials are entitled to receive 50% of their normal match fee if the Match Official(s) were present at the venue when the Competition Fixture was due to commence.
- 4.2.6. Match Officials may not claim more than one (1) postponed match fee from one venue on one day.
- 4.2.7. If a Competition Fixture is abandoned by the Match Official, both the Match Official and the Home Club must notify FV in writing by the following business 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 discretion, FV:
- a. is not subject to any deadlines or timeframes whether set out in these Rules or otherwise;
  - b. will take into consideration relevant circumstances including but not limited to the scheduling of Cup Fixtures; and
  - c. 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 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 completed within this time frame as a 'No Result'.
- 4.3.5. Any Club Associate or Club found guilty of rearranging a Competition Fixture or requesting the appointment of Match Officials outside a set kick-off time or date will be subject to penalty 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 played, 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. 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 postpone, 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:

5. 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' if the circumstances require or as a result of a breach of these Rules.

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

4.5.4. If one (1) or more Teams during the Regular Season on the same number of points, their final position will be determined as follows:

- a. The Team with the greatest Goal Difference will finish higher.
- b. If Goal Difference is the same, then the Team that has scored the most Goals FOR will be deemed to have finished higher.
- c. If Goal Difference is the same and Goals FOR is the same, then the final order will be determined by the aggregate results of Competition Fixtures Played between those Teams For the current Regular Season (excluding Cup Fixtures).
- d. If the aggregate scores between the Teams are the same, then AWAY goals will count as double.
- e. Alphabetical order.

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

4.5.6. If one (1) or more Teams finish the Regular Season on the same number of points, their final position will be determined as follows:

- a. The Team with the greatest Goal Difference will finish higher.
- b. If Goal Difference is the same, then the Team that has scored the most Goals FOR will be deemed to have finished higher.
- c. If Goal Difference is the same and Goals FOR is the same, then the final order will be determined by the aggregate results of Competition Fixtures Played between those Teams For the current Regular Season (excluding Cup Fixtures).
- d. If the aggregate scores between the Teams are the same, then AWAY goals will count as double.
- e. Toss of a coin in the event of a tie of two (2) clubs.

4.5.7. 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.

4.5.8. 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 Playoff, then FV will fixture a Play Off Match between those 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*

- a. 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.
- b. A written request, including booking confirmation, to relocate a Competition Fixture to an improved facility must be received by FV no less than fourteen (14) 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 request that involves a change to kickoff times or dates will be subject to Rule 4.6.2.
- c. 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.

- d. Alternate venues will be assessed against the Advanced Competitions Facility Standard with any approval/dispensation to rest at the absolute discretion of FV.

#### 4.6.2 *Fixture Date/ Time Change Requests*

- a. FV will consider a fixture change request by a Club if the request is received no less than fourteen (14) days prior to the fixture with written consent provided to FV by the Club Associates of both Clubs. Any request submitted within fourteen (14) days is subject to the availability of Match Officials and the absolute discretion of FV.
- b. No date or time change request will be accepted for the final round of any Advanced Competition.
- c. Scheduled FV competition catch-up and Cup Fixture rounds will only be used in the case of postponed or abandoned Competition Fixtures.
- d. Exemption from Rule 4.6.2.c may only be made if:
  - (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 and other Competition Fixture being Played in that catch-up or Cup Fixture round.

4.6.3 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.

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

4.6.5 FV holds ultimate power and absolute discretion over the fixturing of Competition Fixtures.

## 5.0 MATCH OFFICIALS

### 5.1. Match Official Fees

- 5.1.1. FV will endeavour to appoint a Match Official to each Competition Fixture, subject to availability and applicable fixture schedule.
- 5.1.2. 2024 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	Assistant Referee	4 <sup>th</sup> Official
NPLM Seniors	\$300	\$160	\$120
NPLM Under 23's	\$150	\$90	-
NPLW Seniors	\$270	\$140	\$100
NPLW Under 20's	\$120	\$80	-
VPLM 1 Seniors	\$230	\$125	\$100
VPLM 1 Under 23's	\$120	\$80	-
VPLM 2 Seniors	\$210	\$125	\$100
VPLM 2 Under 23's	\$110	\$80	-
JBNPL Under 18's	\$110	\$70	
JBNPL Under 16's	\$80	\$60	
JBNPL Under 15's	\$60	\$50	
JBNPL Under 14's	\$60	\$40	
JGNPL Under 17's	\$90	\$60	
JGNPL Under 15's	\$60	\$50	
JGNPL Under 13's	\$50	\$35	

- 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 dishonored, the Club will be invoiced for the outstanding amount plus any costs reasonably incurred by FV as a result of the cheque being dishonored.
- 5.1.5. If a Competition Fixture is abandoned or postponed, all Match Officials are entitled to receive match fees in accordance with Rule 4.2.5.

## **5.2. Assistant Match Officials**

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

## **5.3. Non- Attendance or Unavailability of Match Officials**

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

#### **5.4. Decisions of the Match Official**

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

#### **5.5. Pitch & Facility Inspection Report**

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

#### **5.6. Match Record & Misconduct Report**

- 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 took place, and a copy submitted to FV if requested.
- 5.6.3. Match Records to be submitted to FV in accordance with Rule 5.6.2 must be submitted within 24 hours from the completion 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 rule 5.6.3.



## **5.7. Player Safety & 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 requirements relating to the use of online match records, results reporting and match data recording, as prescribed by FV from time to time.

## 6.0 REGISTRATIONS

### The Registration Process is set out in the 2024 FV Registration Regulations

#### 6.1. Player Rosters

6.1.1. Mandatory Rosters for the following leagues:

Competition	Maximum	Minimum
NPLM Senior VPLM 1 Senior VPLM 2 Senior	23	20
NPLM U23 VPLM 1 U23 VPLM 2 U23	20	16 pre season window / 18 mid season window
NPLW Senior	23	20
NPLW U20	20	16
JGNPL	see below	see below
JBNPL	see below	see below

6.1.2. Players can only be added to the Club's Senior roster during the registration windows set out in below table, unless otherwise approved by FV:

	OPEN	CLOSE
<b>NPLM</b>		
First Registration Window	Wednesday, 10 January 2024	Tuesday, 6 February 2024
Second Registration Window	Tuesday, 25 June 2024	Thursday, 4 July 2024
<b>NPLW</b>		
First Registration Window	Monday, 4 December 2023	Wednesday, 20 December 2023
Second Registration Window	Tuesday, 7 May 2024	Monday, 20 May 2024
<b>VPLM</b>		
First Registration Window	Wednesday, 10 January 2024	Tuesday, 6 February 2024
Second Registration Window*	Tuesday, 25 June 2024	Thursday, 4 July 2024

\*dates to be determined based on Football Australia's Domestic Match Calendar

6.1.3. Clubs must submit to FV their NPLM/NPLW/VPLM Rosters prior to closure of the above windows.

6.1.4. Each NPLM, NPLW and VPLM club must nominate two (2) goalkeepers on both their Senior and Under 23's/Under 20's rosters by the dates outlined in Rule 6.1.2.

- 6.1.5. Players who register to the Under 23's will only be permitted to Play up into seniors if they register prior to the close of the first professional registration window. Under 23 players who register after the first windows deadline day will be ineligible to Play up into the senior squad until the second professional window opens.
- 6.1.6. Any player registered for a Club's Under 23's or JBNPL Teams following the closure of the second registration window set out in above table 6.1.2 is not permitted to Play for the NPLM or VPLM Senior Team.
- 6.1.7. Any player on a professional contract must be listed on club Senior roster at all times unless otherwise approved by FV.

## **6.2. Player Points System**

- 6.2.1. The Player Points System is defined in the Participation Licence and updated from time to time.
- 6.2.2. The Player Points system only applies to NPLM Senior Teams.
- 6.2.3. The Player Rosters for each Club must comply with the PPS.
- 6.2.4. The Player Rosters for each Club must be maintained by the Club in the manner advised by FV and submitted to FV for approval.
- 6.2.5. The Player Points Cap for NPLM Senior Teams in 2024 is 200.
- 6.2.6. Clubs may only list two VISA players on any given senior NPLM Match Record.
- 6.2.7. If a Senior Team participates in a Competition Fixture whilst over the 200 points limit the match will be awarded as a 3-0 win to the opposition.
- 6.2.8. Players can only be added to the Club's roster during the registration windows set out in Rule 6.2.2 and subject to Rule 6.2.
- 6.2.9. FV and FA reserve the right to alter the Player Points System to cope with unforeseen circumstances.
- 6.2.10. All Professional Players must be listed on the Club's Senior Player Roster in compliance with the PPS (Pre-Season Window and Mid-Season Transfer Window).

6.2.11. During the Mid-Season transfer window, a Professional Player must appear on the Senior Player Roster in compliance with the PPS at all times.

### **6.3. Player Roster Composition (PRC)**

6.3.1. 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.

6.3.2. Clubs must comply with the PRC at all times.

6.3.3. A mandatory player roster of between 20 and 23 players is required for each Club's NPLW Team.

6.3.4. A player roster of no more than 20 players is required for:

- a. NPLW Under 20's
- b. JGNPL Under 17's
- c. JGNPL Under 15's

6.3.5. A player roster of no more than 16 players is required for:

- a. JGNPL Under 13's (9v9 Competition)

6.3.6. Clubs must submit the below as requested by FV in line with each registration period:

- a. Senior Player Roster Composition (PRC); and
- b. NPLW Under 20's roster

6.3.7. All clubs must submit rosters for the JGNPL prior to the start of the season as requested by FV.

6.3.8. Each club must nominate two (2) goalkeepers on both their NPLW Senior and Under 20's rosters by the dates outlined in Rule 6.1.2.

6.3.9. Any change to a player roster must be communicated to and approved by FV prior to the player taking part in a NPLW Competition Fixture.

6.3.10. No player may be added to the NPLW Senior PRC roster outside of the designated registration periods (as outlined by FV).

6.3.11. 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.

6.3.12. 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.

6.3.13. Player lists from the PRC for all NPLW Senior Teams may be published on the FV Website at the discretion of FV.

6.3.14. Any player listed on a NPLW or JGNPL roster is not eligible to Play in the Club's Community teams at any time.

6.3.15. A Club which does not hold a NPLW Senior Participation Licence may Field players up in age groups from its JGNPL teams (Under 13's – Under 17's) into its Victorian Premier League Women's (VPLW) competition teams as follows:

- a. Unlimited players from a JGNPL roster can Play up per fixture at one time for the Club's reserves or VPLW Senior team. Players must be 15 years of age at 1 January 2024 to be eligible to Participate in the reserves or senior women's competition.

6.3.16. A Club which does not hold a JGNPL Participation Licence may Field players up from its Community Junior Teams into its NPL Women's (U20 or Senior Team) Competition 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.

#### **6.4. Junior Boys NPL (JBNPL) Registration**

JBNPL Registrations replicates clause 12 of Football Victoria's Registration Regulations 2024 for ease of reference.

- 6.4.1. A JBNPL Player may be Registered only during one (1) of the two (2) Registration Periods set out or approved by FV.
- 6.4.2. A Player Registering for a JBNPL team must be listed on a JBNPL Player Roster in order to be eligible to play.
- 6.4.3. A Player Registered for a Club's JBNPL team cannot Play in that Club's Community team.
- 6.4.4. A Player registered for a Club's Community team cannot Play in that Club's JBNPL team.

- 6.4.5. Each Player participating in a Club's JBNPL team must be Financial in order to be Eligible to play.
- 6.4.6. All JBNPL Players must have an ID photo uploaded on Play Football.
- 6.4.7. Each JBNPL Club is responsible for ensuring;
- a. all JBNPL Players are Registered during Registration Periods;
  - b. JBNPL Player Rosters are true and accurate;
  - c. JBNPL Player Rosters are submitted by deadline date(s);
  - d. JBNPL Player Eligibility; and
  - e. JBNPL Players have an ID photo in accordance with clause 11.1 in the FV Registration Regulations.
- 6.4.8. A Player cannot be Registered and added to the JBNPL Roster outside the Registration Period.
- 6.4.9. The JBNPL Player Roster must be submitted prior to Registration Period deadlines as per the Rules of Competition.
- 6.4.10. Only Players listed on a JBNPL Player Roster will be eligible to Play in a JBNPL Team.

#### *Playing Up or Across Squads*

- 6.4.11. Where a Club does not hold a JBNPL Participation Licence that Club may Field Players up in age groups from their Community teams (Under 14 – Under 21) only into their respective senior NPLM/VPLM squads (Under 23 and Senior competitions). Players must be 15 years of age at 1 January 2024 to be eligible to Participate in NPLM or VPLM Competitions.
- 6.4.12. Where a Club does not hold a NPLM Participation Licence, that Club may Field Players up in age groups from its JBNPL teams (Under 14's – Under 18's) into its Community Competitions teams as follows:
- a. A maximum of four (4) players from a JBNPL Roster can Play up per fixture at one time in the Club's Under 20's or Under 21's Community Competitions teams.

- b. Unlimited players from a JBNPL roster can Play up per fixture at one time for the Club's reserves or senior men's Community Competitions teams. Players must be 15 years of age at 1 January 2024 to be eligible to Participate in reserves or senior men's Community Competition teams.

6.4.13. The JBNPL and NPLM/VPLM are two separate competitions. Therefore, players who are listed and registered in the NPLM or VPLM as defined in the licence are only eligible to Participate as described below:

- a. Where an age eligible Player is listed on the Club's NPLM or VPLM, Under 23 or Senior Roster, that Player may only play up/across squads (between Under 23 or Senior NPLM/VPLM teams) if the Player is eligible to Participate in the competition pursuant to clause 2.2 (including age eligibility) and otherwise adheres to these 2024 Rules of Competition.
- b. For avoidance of doubt, a Player who is registered to a Club's NPLM or VPLM, Under 23 or Senior Roster, who is either 16, 17 or 18 years of age (and eligible to Participate in an Under 16 or Under 18 competition in 2024 pursuant to clause 2.2), will not be permitted to drop down to the JBNPL Competition. This rule is not applicable to age eligible goal keepers.

6.4.14. JBNPL Roster Size:

<b>JBNPL</b>	<b>Maximum</b>	<b>Minimum</b>
Under 18's	20	16
Under 16's	20	16
Under 15's	20	16
Under 14's	20	16

6.4.15. JBNPL Registration Periods

<b>NPL</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>CLOSE</b>
First Registration Period	19 December 2023	29 January 2024
Second Registration Period	3 June 2024	6 June 2024

6.4.16. To the extent that this Rule 6.4 is inconsistent with the FV Registration Regulations 2024, the Registration Regulations shall apply to the extent of the inconsistency.

## 7.0 CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

Please refer to **Schedule 2** which sets out relevant Codes of Behaviour and Codes of Conduct applicable to FV competitions, Competition Fixtures, Clubs, Players, Match Officials and Club Associates.

Further codes may come into force during the 2024 season and shall be deemed applicable.



## **8.0 MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF EACH VENUE CATEGORY**

Please refer to **Schedule 3** for a copy of the FV Advanced Competitions Facility Standard.

## **9.0 FOOTBALL LIGHTING POLICY & REQUIREMENTS**

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

## 10.0 ADVANCED COMPETITION STRUCTURE

### 10.1. General Information

10.1.1. In 2024 Advanced Competitions shall include the following:

League Name	Number of Clubs
National Premier League Men's	14
National Premier League Women's	12
Victorian Premier League Men's 1	14
Victorian Premier League Men's 2	12
National Premier League Men's Under 23's	14
National Premier League Women's Under 20's	12
Victorian Premier League Men's 1 Under 23's	14
Victorian Premier League Men's 2 Under 23's	12
Junior Boys National Premier Leagues Under 18's	47
Junior Boys National Premier Leagues Under 16's	47
Junior Boys National Premier Leagues Under 15's	47
Junior Boys National Premier Leagues Under 14's	47
Junior Girls National Premier Leagues Under 17's	10
Junior Girls National Premier Leagues Under 15's	10
Junior Girls National Premier Leagues Under 13's	9

10.1.2. These Regulations are in addition to the Participation Licence signed by each Advanced Competition Club. Participation in Advanced Competitions is subject to compliance with both these Regulations and the terms of the Participation Licence.

10.1.3. NPLM/NPLW/VPLM Senior and Under 23's/Under 20's Competition Fixtures to be fixtured at a default grouping to Play on the same day at the same venue, unless otherwise determined by FV.

10.1.4. NPLM/NPLW/VPLM fixtures may only be Played on public holidays with the prior permission of FV.

- 10.1.5. FV reserves the right to determine dates and times of Competition Fixtures with specific regards to the number of matches Played within the immediate proximity of the relevant Competition Fixture; including but not limited to Australia Cup, Nike F.C. Cup and Dockerty Cup commitments.
- 10.1.6. Any promotion and relegation provisions referred to in Rule 10 are subject to the relevant Competitions continuing in 2024 in the same, or substantively the same, structure. For the avoidance of doubt any promotion and relegation of teams is at the absolute discretion of FV. There is no right to promotion.
- 10.1.7. FV reserves the right in its absolute discretion to amend the structure of Advanced 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 (including a National Second Tier), or compulsory Player pathways.
- 10.1.8. Any promotion and relegation provisions referred to in Rules 10.2-10.10 are subject to clause 10.11 and the establishment of a National Second Tier.

## **10.2. National Premier League Men's Senior (NPLM Senior)**

- 10.2.1. NPLM Senior shall consist of a single Division comprising 14 Clubs or such other number as may be determined by FV in its absolute discretion, including as a result of participation in the National Second Tier.
- 10.2.2. Those Clubs finishing in the bottom two places on the ladder at the end of the NPLM Senior Regular Season may be relegated in the following season. Relegation is in the absolute discretion of FV.
- 10.2.3. If a Team is withdrawn from NPLM Senior 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.
- 10.2.4. NPLM Senior Teams will play each other on a home and away basis over 26 Rounds unless otherwise determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 10.2.5. All Competition Fixtures referred to in Rule 10.2.4 (including wins/losses, goals for, goals against) will count towards that Team's ladder position.

### 10.3. Finals

- 10.3.1. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV the NPLM Senior Team finishing on top of the ladder at the conclusion of the Regular Season may be named NPLM Premiers. For the avoidance of doubt simply finishing on top of the ladder does not entitle the NPLM Senior Team to be named Premiers.
- 10.3.2. Unless otherwise determined by FV the NPLM Premiers may represent Victoria in the NPLM National Finals Series as determined by FA.
- 10.3.3. The Teams finishing in positions 1 to 6 at the conclusion of the NPLM Senior Regular Season may qualify for the Victorian NPLM Senior Finals Series (which shall proceed at FV's absolute discretion). The Victorian NPLM Senior Finals Series will be contested as follows:
- 10.3.4. FV will determine the fixture details (venue, date and kick off time) for each finals series' and playoff fixture.

<b>Week 1 Elimination Final</b>	<b>Venue</b>
1 & 2	Bye
3 v 6 (losing team eliminated)	Home v Away (3 <sup>rd</sup> placed team to host)
4 v 5 (losing team eliminated)	Home v Away (4 <sup>th</sup> placed team to host)
<b>Week 2 Preliminary Final</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> place will host the lowest place qualifier from the Competition Fixture (Elimination Final)	Home v Away
2 <sup>nd</sup> place will host the highest place qualifier from the Competition Fixtures (Elimination Final)	Home v Away
<b>Week 3 Grand Final</b>	
The NPL Grand Final between the winners of the matches from Preliminary Final Competition	The Grand Final will be hosted at an FV appointed venue.
<b>Champions</b>	
The winner of the NPL Grand Final may be named the Victorian NPL Champion.	

### 10.4. Procedures to Determine the Winner of Finals

- 10.4.1. All Finals Played in the 2024 NPLM Senior Finals Series will be Played over one (1) leg.

- 10.4.2. If, after any Final, the scores between the Teams are tied, extra time of two equal periods of 15 minutes will be Played to decide the winner.
- 10.4.3. 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.

### **10.5. National Premier League Women's Senior (NPLW Senior)**

- 10.5.1. NPLW Senior shall consist of a single Division comprising 12 Clubs or such other number as may be determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 10.5.2. Those Clubs finishing in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> at the end of the NPLW Senior Regular Season may be relegated in the following season in the absolute discretion of FV. Should the FV Emerging Team finish 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> they will not be subject to relegation and the next lowest finishing Team may instead be relegated.
- 10.5.3. If a Team is withdrawn from NPLW Senior 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.
- 10.5.4. NPLW Senior Teams will play each other on a home and away basis over 22 Rounds unless otherwise determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 10.5.5. All Competition Fixtures referred to in Rule 10.5.4 (including wins/losses, goals for, goals against) will count towards that Team's ladder position.

### **10.6. Finals**

- 10.6.1. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV the NPLW Senior Team finishing on top of the ladder at the conclusion of the Regular Season may be named NPLW Premiers. For the avoidance of doubt simply finishing on top of the ladder does not entitle the NPLW Senior Team to be named Premiers.
- 10.6.2. Unless otherwise determined by FV the NPLW Premiers may represent Victoria in the NPLW National Finals Series as determined by FA.
- 10.6.3. The Teams finishing in positions 1 to 4 at the conclusion of the NPLW Senior Regular Season may qualify for the Victorian NPLW Senior Finals Series (which shall proceed

at FV's absolute discretion). The Victorian NPLW Senior Finals Series will be contested as follows:

- 10.6.4. FV will determine the fixture details (venue, date and kick off time) for each finals series' and playoff fixture.

<b>Week 1 Semi Final</b>	<b>Venue</b>
1 & 4 (Winner Progresses to Grand Final)	Home Venue Team the finished 1 <sup>st</sup> in regular Season competition
2 v 3 (Winner Progresses to Grand Final)	Home Venue Team the finished 2 <sup>nd</sup> in regular Season competition
<b>Week 2 Grand Final</b>	
Winner of 1&4 v Winner of 2v3	The Grand Final will be hosted at an FV appointed venue.
<b>Champions</b>	
The winner of the NPLW Grand Final may be named the NPLW Champions.	

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

- 10.7.1. All Finals Played in the 2024 Finals Series will be Played over one (1) leg.
- 10.7.2. If, after any Final, the scores between the Teams are tied, extra time of two equal periods of 15 minutes will be played to decide the winner.
- 10.7.3. 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.

## **10.8. Player Restrictions**

- 10.8.1. Players registered in the JGNPL Under 17's or NPLW Under 20's must have Played at least five (5) Regular Season Competition Fixtures during the current Regular Season to qualify to Play NPLW Senior Finals in 2024.

### **10.9. Victorian Premier League Men's 1 Senior (VPLM 1 Senior)**

- 10.9.1. VPLM 1 Senior shall consist of 14 Teams or such other number as may be determined by FV in its absolute discretion, including as a result of participation in the National Second Tier.
- 10.9.2. Each VPLM1 Senior Team will play each other on a home and away basis over 26 Rounds unless otherwise determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 10.9.3. All Competition Fixtures referred to in Rule 10.9.2 (including wins/losses, goals for, goals against) will count towards that Team's ladder position.
- 10.9.4. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV, including as a result of participation in the National Second Tier:
  - (a) the VPLM1 Senior Team finishing top of the ladder at the end of the Regular Season may be named VPLM 1 Premiers and may be promoted to NPLM in the following season.
  - (b) the VPLM1 Senior Team finishing second on the ladder at the end of the Regular Season may be promoted to NPLM in the following season.
- 10.9.5. For the avoidance of doubt simply finishing top or second on the competition ladder does not entitle the VPLM 1 Team to be promoted or crowned Premiers. Promotion is in the absolute discretion of FV.
- 10.9.6. Those Clubs finishing in the bottom two places on the ladder at the end of the VPLM 1 Senior Regular Season may be relegated in the following season. Relegation is in the absolute discretion of FV.

### **10.10. Victorian Premier League Men's 2 Senior (VPLM 2 Senior)**

- 10.10.1. VPLM 2 Senior shall consist of 12 Teams or such other number as may be determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 10.10.2. Each VPLM 2 Senior Team will play each other on a home and away basis over 22 Rounds unless otherwise determined by FV in its absolute discretion.
- 10.10.3. All Competition Fixtures referred to in Rule 10.10.2 (including wins/losses, goals for, goals against) will count towards that Team's ladder position.
- 10.10.4. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV:



- (a) the VPLM 2 Senior Team finishing top of the ladder at the end of the Regular Season may be named VPLM 2 Premiers and may be promoted to VPLM 1 in the following season.
- (b) the VPLM 2 Senior Team finishing second on the ladder at the end of the Regular Season may be promoted to VPLM 1 in the following season.

10.10.5. For the avoidance of doubt simply finishing top or second on the ladder does not entitle a VPLM 2 Team to be promoted or crowned Premiers. Promotion is at the absolute discretion of FV. For the avoidance of doubt simply finishing on top of the ladder does not entitle the Team to be named Premiers.

10.10.6. Those Clubs finishing in the bottom two places on the ladder at the end of the VPLM 2 Senior Regular Season may be relegated in the following season. Relegation is in the absolute discretion of FV.

### **10.11. Promotion & Relegation - National Second Tier (NST)**

10.11.1. FV reserves the right in its absolute discretion to amend the structure of Advanced 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 (including a National Second Tier), or compulsory Player pathways.

10.11.2. In the event the National Second Tier commences in 2025, the following promotion and relegation provisions may apply;

- (a) NST Clubs may be removed from the NPLM or VPLM1 competition for the 2025 Season and may be offered a licence to compete in VPLM2 in the 2025 Season.
- (b) NST Clubs competing in VPLM2 in the 2024 Season may be offered a licence to continue to compete in VPLM2 in the 2025 Season.
- (c) The Club finishing in the bottom position on the ladder at the end of the NPLM Senior Regular Season (not including NST Clubs) may be relegated in the 2025 Season.
- (d) The Club finishing in the bottom position on the ladder at the end of the VPLM1 Senior Regular Season (not including NST Clubs) may be relegated in the 2025 Season.
- (e) The Clubs finishing in the bottom two places on the ladder at the end of VPLM2 Senior Regular Season (not including NST Clubs) may be relegated in the 2025 Season.
- (f) Promotion from VPLM1 and VPLM2 to be determined by reference to the vacancies created by the provisions in (a) – (e) and competition ladder standings at the end of the Season.

## **10.12. Under 23's Competition – NPLM/VPLM**

- 10.12.1. Players born prior to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2001 will be deemed 'overage' Players.
- 10.12.2. Clubs may list and Field a maximum of 4 Senior Team players in any one (1) Under 23's Competition Fixture.
- 10.12.3. In all Under 23's Competition Fixtures, Clubs must denote each overage player on the Match Record by placing an asterisk next to that player's shirt number.
- 10.12.4. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV the Team finishing top of the NPLM, VPLM 1 and VPLM 2 Under 23's competitions respectively at the conclusion of the Regular Season may be named Premiers of their respective Leagues. For the avoidance of doubt simply finishing on top of the ladder does not entitle the Team to be named Premiers.

## **10.13. Under 20's Competition - NPLW**

- 10.13.1. Players born prior to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2004 will be deemed 'overage' Players.
- 10.13.2. Clubs may list and Field a maximum of 4 Senior Team players in any one (1) Under 20's Competition Fixture.
- 10.13.3. In all Under 20's Competition Fixtures, Clubs must denote each overage player on the Match Record by placing an asterisk next to that player's shirt number.
- 10.13.4. NPLW Under 20s League shall consist of a single division comprising of 12 Clubs or such other number as may be determined by FV in its absolute discretion. NPLW competitions (including U20's) will include FV Talented Player Development Teams.
- 10.13.5. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV the NPLW U20's Team finishing on top of the ladder at the conclusion of the Regular Season may be named Premiers. For the avoidance of doubt simply finishing on top of the ladder does not entitle the Team to be named Premiers.

## **10.14. JGNPL**

- 10.14.1. JGNPL Under 17's and Under 15's Leagues shall consist of a single division comprising of 10 Clubs or such other number as may be determined by FV in its absolute discretion. JGNPL competitions (Under 17s and Under 15s) will include FV Talented Player Development Teams.

10.14.2. JGNPL Under 13's League shall consist of a single division comprising of 9 Clubs or such other number as may be determined by FV in its absolute discretion.

10.14.3. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV, each JGNPL Team finishing on top of the ladder at the conclusion of the Regular Season may be named Premiers. For the avoidance of doubt simply finishing on top of the ladder does not entitle the Team to be named Premiers for their respective competitions.

### 10.15. JBNPL Competitions

10.15.1. All JBNPL competitions for Under 14 to Under 18 will be split geographically into 4 leagues (North, West, South and East) JBNPL.

10.15.2. Each JBNPL Team will play a total of up to 11 Pre-Qualification Competition Fixtures within its respective JBNPL Zones, under the competition format determined by FV.

10.15.3. The final ladder positions for each age group at the completion of the Pre-Qualification phase will determine the 2024 JBNPL Competition consisting of a total of up to 22 Round seasons in the format identified in the table below.

Pre-Qualifying Position	Finishing	Competition	Amount of Teams
Teams finishing in ladder positions 1-3 in North, South, West and East		Top Tier JBNPL	*12 Team Competition
Teams finishing in ladder positions 4-6 in North, South, West and East		2 <sup>nd</sup> Tier JBNPL	*12 Team Competition
Teams Finishing in ladder positions 7-12 North and West		3 <sup>rd</sup> Tier JBNPL North West	*12 Team Competition
Teams Finishing in ladder positions 7-12 South and East		3 <sup>rd</sup> Tier JBNPL South East	*12 Team Competition

\*number of teams in each competition may vary due to team entry.

10.15.4. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV the Team finishing on top of their respective leagues at the completion of the 22 round season may be named Premiers. For the avoidance of doubt simply finishing on top of the ladder does not entitle the Team to be named Premiers for their respective competitions.

10.15.5. Every JBNPL Club may only enter one Team in each of the Under 14's, Under 15's, Under 16's and Under 18's JBNPL Competitions.

## **10.16. Player Eligibility**

- 10.16.1. All Advanced Competition players must be registered in PlayFootball in line with the FV Registration Regulations.
- 10.16.2. Players must be at least 15 years old by January 1, 2024 to be eligible to Participate in NPLW, NPLM and VPLM Senior and Under 23's/Under 20's competitions.
- 10.16.3. A Club may seek dispensation from Rule 10.15.2 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 supporting the application; and
  - d. The Club/player must provide FV with any further information requested
  - e. The application must be supported by a document listing general medical details of the player by a medical professional; and
  - f. The application must be supported by a maturity offset report for the player provided by a sport science professional.
- 10.16.4. There will be no dispensations provided to allow overage players to compete in the JBNPL Under 18's competition.
- 10.16.5. All decisions in relation to Rule 10.15.3 are at the absolute discretion of the FV Technical Director.
- 10.16.6. All players competing in JBNPL competitions are required to have Photo ID cards and present those ID cards to the Match Official before competing in any JBNPL 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 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 invalid.
- 10.16.7. Clubs may apply for a dispensation for one (1) player to Play down one age group under the guidelines for Relative Age Effect (RAE)/ Late Maturers (LM) which are reviewed and communicated from time to time by FV.
- 10.16.8. Players in the following age groups may take part in the relevant Advanced Competitions:

Age Group	Year of Birth
JBNPL 14	Born on or after 1 January 2010
JBNPL 15	Born on or after 1 January 2009
JBNPL 16	Born on or after 1 January 2008
JBNPL 18	Born on or after 1 January 2006
NPLM Under 23	Born on or after 1 January 2001

### **10.17. Fixtures – NPLM/NPLW/VPLM**

- 10.17.1. NPLM, NPLW and VPLM 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 approved.
- 10.17.2. Friday or Monday night Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 6.15pm (NPLM, NPLW, VPLM Under 23s/Under 20s) or 7.30pm (NPLM, NPLW, VPLM Senior), unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.
- 10.17.3. Saturday or Sunday Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 11.00am (NPLM, NPLW, VPLM Under 23s/Under 20s) or 1.00pm (NPLM, NPLW, VPLM Senior), unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.

- 10.17.4. Saturday or Sunday Competition Fixtures may not kick off later than 8.30pm (NPLM, NPLW, VPLM Senior and Under 23's/Under 20's), unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.
- 10.17.5. The applicable kick off times for Saturday or Sunday Competition Fixtures apply to any Competition Fixtures held on public holidays.
- 10.17.6. FV may alter kick off times to accommodate travel to and from regional areas.
- 10.17.7. FV may alter kick off times upon the basis of a fixture clash.

### **10.18. Fixtures – JGNPL/JBNPL**

- 10.18.1. JGNPL and JBNPL Fixtures may be Played on Sunday although FV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary, or otherwise approves.
- 10.18.2. JGNPL and JBNPL 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.
- 10.18.3. FV may alter preferred kick off times to accommodate travel to and from regional areas.
- 10.18.4. FV may alter kick off times upon the basis of a fixture clash.
- 10.18.5. JBNPL Pre-Qualification Competition Fixtures may be scheduled to set times unless otherwise determined by FV.
- 10.18.6. JBNPL Teams may be required to play more than one (1) Competition Fixture on any given weekend.

## 11.0 FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

### 11.1. Substitution & Interchange

- 11.1.1. Each NPLM Senior Team 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 NPLM Competition Fixture. No more than six (6) substitutes permitted to be named on the Match Record.
- 11.1.2. Each VPLM Senior Team 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 VPLM Competition Fixture. No more than six (6) substitutes permitted to be named on the Match Record.
- 11.1.3. Each NPLM, NPLW, VPLM and Under 23's Team 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 Fixture. No more than six (6) substitutes permitted to be named on the Match Record.
- 11.1.4. For JGNPL Under 13's Competition Fixtures, a maximum of 14 Players may be named on the Match Record. Those Teams may make a maximum of 5 interchange periods during a Competition Fixture or as otherwise determined by FV in accordance with the following:
  - a. 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 and these shall not count towards the 5 interchange limit.
- 11.1.5. For JGNPL Under 15's and Under 17's Competition Fixtures, a maximum of 17 Players may be named on the Match Record. Those Teams may make any number of interchanges during a Competition Fixture or as otherwise determined by FV in accordance with the following:
  - a. For Under 15's Competition Fixtures a maximum of two interchange periods per Team in each half;
  - b. For Under 17's and Under 20's 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.
- 11.1.6. For JBNPL Competition Fixtures, a maximum of 17 Players may be named on the Match Record. Those Teams may make any number of interchanges during a Competition Fixture or as otherwise determined by FV in accordance with the following:
- a. For Under 14's Competition Fixtures, a maximum of two interchange periods per Team in each half;
  - b. For Under 15s to Under 18's Competition Fixtures, a maximum of three interchange periods per Team in each half;
  - c. Teams may conduct any number of interchanges during the half time interval;
  - d. Teams must notify the Match Official when they intend to utilize their allocated interchange periods;
  - e. Match Officials may permit an interchange to take place outside of the allocated interchange periods if, in their opinion and in consultation with Team first aid or medical staff, a player has sustained an injury and is required to be replaced.
- 11.1.7. A Match Official may decline the interchange of players in the last five (5) minutes of a Competition Fixture if in his/her opinion the change is being made to deliberately delay play.

## **11.2. Match Balls**

- 11.2.1. The Home Team 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 Rule 11.2.2. For all JGNPL Under 13 Competition Fixtures 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 in Competition Fixtures, as advised by FV from time to time.

11.2.3. Clubs must use the prescribed Mitre match ball in Competition Fixtures as follows:

<b>Competition</b>	<b>Ball Model</b>
NPLM Senior	Mitre Ultimax PRO
NPLM Under 23's	
NPLW	
NPLW Under 20's	
VPLM 1 Senior	Mitre Ultimax EVO*
VPLM 1 Under 23's	
VPLM 2 Senior	
VPLM 2 Under 23's	

\*VPLW teams must also use this ball

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 Rule 11.2 may result in a penalty under the GDT.

### **11.3. Results of Competition Fixtures**

11.3.1. NPLM, NPLW, VPLM 1, VPLM 2 Senior Team Competition Fixtures – Minimum Requirements

- a. The Match Official must enter:
  - (i) Half Time Score;
  - (ii) Full Time Score;
  - (iii) Home & Away Team Player List (including starting XI) & Numbers;
  - (iv) Home & Away Team Captain and GK;
  - (v) Home & Away Team 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 Rule 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, then
    - (i) The Home Team must enter information outlined in Rule 11.3.1a (including match score and information relating 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 including information relating 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. NPLM/VPLM Under 23's, NPLW Under 20's, JBNPL and JGNPL Competition Fixtures – Minimum Requirements

- a. The Match Official must enter:
  - (i) Full Time Score;
  - (ii) Home & Away Team Player List & Numbers;
  - (iii) Home & Away Team Officials;

- (iv) Home & Away Team goal scorers;
  - (v) Home & Away Team yellow cards;
  - (vi) Home & Away Team red cards; and
  - (vii) Home & Away Team substitutions (U23's and U20's only).
- b. Items outlined in Rule 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 11.3.2a (including match score and information relating 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 11.3.2a (excluding match score and including information relating to the away Team) in accordance with Rule 11.3.2.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.b may face a penalty under the GDT.
- 11.3.3. Clubs must 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 Teams will provide the following catering for visiting Teams in NPL Competitions:
- a. Competition Fixtures in NPLM, NPLW, VPLM 1 and VPLM 2 Seniors;
    - (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. Under 23 Competition Fixtures in NPLM, VPLM 1 and VPLM 2 and Under 20 Competition Fixtures in NPLW;
  - (i) 1 Slab of water (24 Bottles), or sports drink equivalent to be placed in the opposition change rooms prior to kick off.
- c. There are no minimum catering requirements for JBNPL and JGNPL fixtures.

### **11.5. Recording of Matches**

All Clubs are required to film all home matches of their NPLM, NPLW, VPLM 1 and VPLM 2 Teams (Senior and Under 23's/Under 20's). Footage must be filmed from at or near halfway, at the highest available elevation. Footage provided to FV must be match highlights (all goals, other highlights at Club's absolute discretion) in minimum 720p video quality.

- 11.5.1. Match highlights must be provided to FV no later than the Tuesday close of business following Friday, Saturday or Sunday Competition Fixtures, no later than Wednesday close of business for Monday Competition Fixtures, and no later than 2 working days after Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday Competition Fixtures.
- 11.5.2. All JBNPL and JGNPL Competition fixtures must be recorded by the Home Team and made available to FV upon request.

## 12. COMPETITION DETAILS

### 12.1. Admission to Competition Fixtures

- 12.1.1. Teams must be provided with the following admission passes entitling the bearer admission to the corresponding Competition Fixtures, subject to the conditions outlined on the pass:

Competition	Admission Passes
NPLM Senior	63
NPLM Under 23's	63
NPLW	63
NPLW Under 20's	63
VPLM 1 Senior	63
VPLM 1 Under 23's	63
VPLM 2 Senior	63
VPLM 2 Under 23's	63

- 12.1.2. These passes must be displayed upon entry by the visiting club on the day of the Competition Fixture.
- 12.1.3. In the event a Competition Fixture for which admission cannot be charged and a NPLM, NPLW, VPLM 1 or VPLM 2 Competition Fixture are Played at the same venue on the same day, no persons attending for the purpose of the non NPLM, NPLW, VPLM 1 or VPLM 2 Competition Fixture can be charged for entry into the venue.
- 12.1.4. Maximum admission prices for the 2024 season are as outlined below. Clubs may only charge the full amount (GST Incl.) if they are registered for GST.

Category	NPLM Senior & U23's	NPLW Senior & U20's VPLM Senior & U23
Adults	\$15.00 (inc GST)	\$10.00 (inc GST)
Students/ Pensioners/ Concession Holders	\$10.00 (inc GST)	\$5.00 (inc GST)
Holder of current FV Media Passes and current FA Media Passes	FREE	FREE
Current FV Special Pass Holders	FREE	FREE
14 and Under	FREE	FREE

\*\* Under 23's and Under 20's Standalone Fixtures cannot incur a gate charge.

- 12.1.5. No admission fees may be charged for JGNPL or JBNPL Competition Fixtures.
- 12.1.6. For NPLM, NPLW, VPLM 1 and VPLM 2 Senior 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.
- 12.1.7. For NPLM, NPLW, VPLM 1 and VPLM 2 Senior Competition Fixtures the Home Club must display an Accreditation Board at each entry point to the venue, as advised by FV.
- 12.1.8. NPLM, NPLW and VPLM Clubs may charge football patrons for entry into NPLM, NPLW, VPLM 1 and VPLM 2 Senior and Under 23's/Under 20's Competition Fixtures (but not for Under 23's/Under 20's Standalone Fixtures), other than Match Officials, Event Assistants, FV Directors and staff and Holders of an FV or FA media pass.
- 12.1.9. A car parking fee at NPLM Senior, NPLW Senior and VPLM Senior Competition Fixtures must not exceed \$3.00. No Club may charge for car parking at any other Competition Fixture.
- 12.1.10. No Club may charge car parking for Under 23's/Under 20's Standalone Fixtures.

## **12.2. Security**

- 12.2.1. All Clubs, Players, Match Officials and Club Associates must comply with FV's Match Day Risk & Security Policy as promulgated by FV from time to time, and any security arrangements put in place as a result of the application of that policy.
- 12.2.2. All NPLM Senior Teams are required to provide a minimum of 4 contracted security personnel to be present at each home Competition Fixture for their Senior Team.
- 12.2.3. NPLM Senior Teams may apply to reduce the minimum required contracted security to two security personnel provided it satisfies FV that the risk is significantly below that of a standard Competition Fixture.
- 12.2.4. FV may reverse any decision relating to Rule 12.2.2 if FV is made aware of new information or circumstances which increases the risk profile of the fixture.

- 12.2.5. Clubs are not required to provide contracted security for NPLW, VPLM Senior or Under 23's/Under 20's Competition Fixtures but it is recommended by FV to have a minimum of 2 contracted security present at such Competition Fixtures.
- 12.2.6. Clubs are not required to provide contracted security for JBNPL and JGNPL home Competition Fixtures
- 12.2.7. Rule 12.2 is subject to FVs Risk Assessment and Security Policy as amended from time to time.

### **12.3. Media & Other Passes**

- 12.3.1. FV Media Passes are provided at the absolute discretion of FV and entitle the holder entry into all FV Fixtures.
- 12.3.2. FV Season Passes are provided at the absolute discretion of FV and entitle the holder entry into specific FV Competitions Fixture.
- 12.3.3. FV may withdraw an FV Media or FV Season Pass at any time.
- 12.3.4. No Club may refuse entry to persons holding the following without FV's prior written consent unless the person poses a genuine security threat:
  - a. A current FV Media or FV Season Pass;
  - b. FA Media Pass or FA Match Pass

## 13. AWARDS

### 13.1. Best & Fairest Votes

- 13.1.1. At the conclusion of each NPLM, NPLW, VPLM 1 and VPLM 2 Senior 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 by the Match Official.
- 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 Rule 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 Rule 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 Under 23's, Under 20's, JBNPL or JGNPL 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 NPLM, NPLW, VPLM 1 and VPLM 2 Senior Regular Season and who is not deemed ineligible under Rule 13, 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 competition during the Regular Season will be deemed the Leading Goal Scorer of that competition.

13.2.2. FV will determine Leading Goal Scorers based on data entered into FV's online competition management system.

13.2.3. Subject to this rule and unless otherwise determined by FV leading Goal Scorers will be awarded for NPLM, NPLW, VPLM 1 and VPLM 2 Senior and Under 23s/Under 20s Leagues.

## **SCHEDULE 2- CODE OF BEHAVIOUR**

### **Overview**

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

- [FA National Spectator Code of Behaviour](#),
  - [FA National Code of Conduct](#),
  - [Victorian Code of Conduct for Community Sport \(Fair Play Code\)](#)
- 
- It is vital that everyone involved in Football, whether they are athletes, coaches, parents, officials or supporters, understand their responsibilities to ensure that all participants enjoy the sport.
  - It is strongly recommended that all players, parents, officials, coaches and members be given a copy of these codes by their Club, and that each Club ensures the codes are clearly displayed in their Clubrooms.
  - As well as reading and seeking to understand the instructions contained in the codes, FV asks all participants to recognise that there are underlying principles which extend beyond those specific instructions.

### **General Principles for all Persons Involved in Sport**

- Operate within the Rules and spirit of Football, promoting fair play over winning at any cost.
- Encourage and support opportunities for people to learn appropriate behaviours and skills.
- Support opportunities for participation in all aspects of the sport.
- Treat each person as an individual.
- Display control and courtesy to all involved with the sport.
- Respect the rights and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Respect the decisions of officials, coaches and administrators in the conduct of the sport.

- Wherever practical, avoid unaccompanied and unobserved one-on-one activity (when in a supervisory capacity or where a power imbalance will exist) with people under the age of 18 years.
- Adopt appropriate and responsible behaviour in all interactions.
- Adopt responsible behaviour in relation to alcohol and other drugs.
- Act with integrity and objectivity and accept responsibility for your decisions and actions.
- Ensure your decisions and actions contribute to a safe environment.
- Do not tolerate harmful or abusive behaviours.
- Do not bring the game of Football into Disrepute, by engaging in discriminatory, offensive or criminal behaviour.
- Ensure your decisions and actions contribute to a harassment free environment.
- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by engaging in harassment, including sexual harassment or any unwelcome sexual conduct which makes a person feel offended, humiliated and/or intimidated.
- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by provoking or inciting hatred or violence, including crowd violence.
- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by engaging in corruption, forgery or falsification, or by abusing a position to obtain a personal benefit.
- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by the throwing or fixing of a match, by accepting bribes, or by any conduct intended to unfairly effect the result of a match;
- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by any other conduct that materially injures the reputation and goodwill of Football.

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

## **Players' Code of Behaviour**

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

## **Coaches' Code of Behaviour**

- Place the safety and welfare of the participants above all else.
- Be aware of and support the sport's injury management plans and return to play guidelines.
- Help each person (athlete, official, etc) to reach their potential. Respect the talent, developmental stage and goals of each person and encourage them with positive and constructive feedback.

- Encourage and support opportunities for people to learn appropriate behaviors and skills.
- Support opportunities for participation in all aspects of the sport.
- Treat each participant as an individual.
- Obtain appropriate qualifications and keep up to date with the latest coaching practices and the principles of growth and development of participants.
- Act within the rules and spirit of your sport.
- Promote fair play over winning at any cost.
- Respect the decisions of officials, coaches and administrators.
- Show respect and courtesy to all involved with the sport.
- Display responsible behaviour in relation to alcohol and other drugs.
- Act with integrity 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 behavior.

### **Administrators' Code of Behavior**

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

### **Match Officials' Code of Behaviour**

- Place the safety and welfare of the athletes above all else.
- Be consistent and impartial when making decisions.
- Address unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all people.
- Modify your approach to suit the skill levels and needs of players.
- Praise and encourage all participants.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions.
- Do not tolerate unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
- Emphasise the spirit of the game rather than focus on negative aspects.

- Encourage and promote rule changes to all players and members.
- Be a good sport yourself, as actions speak louder than words.
- Keep up to date with the latest trends in refereeing.
- Remember that you set the example on the park, therefore, your behavior 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 Associates, including coaches, officials and administrators. Ensure any issues are raised through the correct channels;
- Do not smoke or consume alcohol near the Team bench (Technical Area) or sideline.

### **Spectators' Code of Behaviour**

All spectators must comply with the [FA National Spectator Code of Behaviour](#).

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

- Respect the decisions of the Match Officials, and teach children to do the same;
- Never ridicule or unduly scold a child for making a mistake;
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, race, colour, religion, language, politics, national or ethnic origin; Not use violence in any form, whether it is against other Spectators, Team Officials (including coaches) or Players;
- Not engage in discrimination, harassment or abuse in any form including the use of obscene or offensive language or gestures, the incitement of hatred or violence or partaking in indecent or racist chanting;
- Comply with any terms of entry of a venue, including bag inspections, prohibited and restricted items such as flares, missiles, dangerous articles and items that have the potential to cause injury or public nuisance;
- Not 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 \(Fair Play Code\)](#) outlines behaviours which are expected of every person involved in community sport, and behaviours which must not be tolerated.

The Code supports [Victoria's Strategy to Prevent Family Violence and all Forms of 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.

# **SCHEDULE 3- ADVANCED COMPETITIONS FACILITY STANDARDS**

Link to [Advanced Competitions Facility Standards](#)

## **SCHEDULE 4- 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.

## 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 3 Visa Players (2+1 AFC) 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 three visa players (2+1 AFC) 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 Advanced Competitions 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, 2024 to be eligible to Participate in the NPLW Competition. Should a player be under the age of 15 years old as at January 1 2024 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.
- 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 20’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’s-17’s) into their Senior Women’s team on a match day (e.g; a club may Play a player listed on the 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**

<b>Player's Age as at 31 December in the current NPLW season:</b>	<b>Youth Player Eligible</b>
17 years of age (2007 born)	Yes
16 years of age (2008 born)	Yes
15 years of age (2009 born)	Eligible based on FV approval only and Rules of Competition

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

#### **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 2024 Senior PRC roster in order to be eligible.

- Each Team must have a minimum of 7 Loyalty Players on their roster in any one season (subject to the above Rule).
- 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, and returns to the same Club and is listed on the 2024 PRC Roster, such player will be classified as a Loyalty Player.
- If a player was registered and listed on the Clubs Senior 2022 PRC, did not register to any Club (Victoria, Interstate or Overseas) in 2023, and re-registers to the same Club in 2024, 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 2024 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) (JGNPL U13's – U17's), or
  - b. if the Player has registered and been listed on the NPLW Club's Senior PRC Roster and/or Under 20's Roster for 3 consecutive seasons (inclusive of season 2024).

## **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/>
- 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 2024 registration periods and dates fall in line with the Domestic Match Calendar (DMC). Each team must submit a Senior PRC Roster and Under 20'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.

### **Finals Eligibility**

To be eligible to Play for finals selection, a player must be listed on the JGNPL Under 17's, NPLW Under 20's or Senior PRC, by each registration deadline (as advised by FV).

Players registered in the JGNPL Under 17's or NPLW Under 20's must have Played at least five (5) Regular Season Competition Fixtures during the current Regular Season to qualify to Play NPLW Senior Finals in 2024.



