



**Bendigo Junior
Football League**



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The BENDIGO • C • L • U • B • INC

Most Disciplined Club Award

SPORTSPower

BENDIGO

Over the 16 rounds of this season, each round the umpires will score each team out of 5 in three different areas: behaviour of players, behaviour of officials (coaches, managers etc.) and behaviour of supporters. This means there is a maximum total of 15 points available per round, and a maximum total of 240 points available for the season.

Every four weeks the top scorer of every age group is put into a lucky dip raffle and the winning club receives a \$200 SportsPower voucher to be spent on goods that will benefit the club.

The winner of the first monthly prize was Castlemaine Youth Girls, the second monthly prize was U/14 Strathfieldsaye 2, and the third monthly prize was U/12 South Bendigo 2.

At the end of the season, the team in each division with the highest score will receive \$1,000, which will be presented to the clubs at the annual dinner.

Important Dates

**Coaches & Team
Managers meeting:**
19th of August

Finals: 24th, 31st of
August and 7th of
September

BJFL Grand finals:
14th of September

**U/12 & Youth Girls
Vote Count:** 27th of
August

**U/14 & U/16 Vote
Count:** 3rd of
September

Annual Dinner: 10th
of September



Bendigo Bank
Bigger than a bank

Finals Series

The BJFL will be scheduling all finals to be played on Sunday's only this year, the first two weeks of finals we will be utilizing Harry Trott reserve and two other venues, week three - Harry Trott reserve and one other venue with the grand finals to be played at the Strathfieldsaye sports complex in Tannery lane on Sunday 14th September.

We will try to assist clubs that may have more than one team playing on the same day by scheduling them at the same venue whenever practical, this will help create a great atmosphere by enabling spectators to remain at the venue and watch other teams from within their club.

Photos for sale



Please go to:

<http://www.bendigofnl.com.au/photos>
to purchase your BJFL images.



There are new photos available every week,
and prices start at \$10.

DVD's for sale

Copies of the Goldfields Trophy DVD are still available to be ordered.

If you would like a copy please ring Norm or Amy on 5434 2400 or drop into the hub at Level 1, 45-49 Mundy Street, Bendigo.



Hazeldene's Development Squad Wrap

The 2014 BJFL Development Program has been completed. For many, a busy 8 week period between the start of May and end of June has provided an invaluable footballing experience via high level coaching and top quality games against interleague level opposition. Over 160 Bendigo footballers had the opportunity to represent their home town at one or more of the three carnivals; Moama, Shepparton and finally the Goldfields Trophy against Ballarat.

Our squads performed well at Moama a carnival that was used mostly as a selection tool for the more formal carnivals against Shepparton and Ballarat. We thank the Shepparton Junior Football League for hosting the carnival for the second year in a row to allow us reschedule our ongoing carnivals in a one home and one away fashion. The relationship we have developed with the Shepparton Juniors has provided not only great competition at interleague level but valuable information sharing and collaboration between the leagues that has led to positive policy implementations for our grading and competition structures. The pinnacle of our program is selection into the team to represent Bendigo against Ballarat in the Goldfields Trophy. This year marked the 29th year of competition against Ballarat and the current score sees Ballarat on 16 wins and Bendigo on 13. It should however be noted that in the past 10 years Ballarat has won on 8 occasions. It is with some pride that I congratulate all Bendigo representatives for doing their part in bringing home the Goldfields Trophy for 2014. It is an honour to represent your home town and an even greater honour to have brought home the trophy. We look forward to our clash with Ballarat again next year and know fully that while a home win is fantastic an away win will truly mark the resurgence of the Bendigo Junior Football League at interleague level.

On behalf of the Bendigo Junior Football League I would like to thank our small but hardworking Interleague Committee for their efforts again this year, the Strathfieldsaye Football Club for hosting the Goldfields Trophy and all of our coaches and team support staff who volunteer their time and expertise for the benefit of junior football development in our region. I would also like to extend a special thankyou to AFL Central Vic for all of their hard work and support throughout this year's program. The fantastic job undertaken by Norm Sheahan and Amy Kenyon took an enormous load off our committee and we cannot thank them enough. Finally, I would like to thank our players and hope that regardless of their level of involvement throughout the program that they enjoyed their experience and return to their home clubs improved footballers.

Development Squad Sponsors

Thank you to those businesses who kindly sponsor our Development Squad program.



Goldfields Trophy Photos



BJFL State Representatives

Congratulations to our BJFL players who were chosen in the Victorian State Representative Teams for their age group.

Ainslie Kemp - Kyneton (Youth Girls)

Chonny Meemusour - Castlemaine (Youth Girls)

Isabella Ayre - Huntly (Youth Girls)

Ruby Campbell - Huntly (Youth Girls)

Alana Long - Kangaroo Flat (Youth Girls)

Kane Farrell - Castlemaine (Under 15)

Mason Wakefield - Strathfieldsaye (Under 12)



BJFL Board and Coaching Vacancies

The BJFL will be seeking additional members to be nominated to join the Executive at the AGM to be held on Tuesday 10th December, 2014.

Members are to be nominated by their own club and one other BJFL member club with the nominee to acknowledge the nomination.

Any enquiries may be directed to either Norm Sheahan at C.V. Footy or John Hewitt (BJFL Secretary)

Central Victorian Coaches Association

Since the start of the football season, I have witnessed some great coaching by many of our Central Victorian AFCA group right across the BJFL. Some of these coaches could have the opportunity to be awarded with a 'Bicknell's Coach of the Month Award'. All you need to do is nominate them. If you or your club would like to nominate a coach, please contact me on the below details or check out the website under AFCA.

In coach education, we have seen one hundred and thirty new coaches attend level one coaching accreditation courses in Bendigo. Many of these coaches are now involved with teams in the BJFL. This number is a great result for our region and well up on previous years. The course has undergone some changes and certainly is a great first insight into coaching for any new member into our coaching group (AFCA). Coaching education, particularly on-going education, is extremely important. If you want to offer your players, club and parents the best possible coaching, which should be every coach's goal, education and continual improvement as a coach are essential. Our next educational opportunity will involve a training session in Bendigo in August. Further information will be sent to clubs in the next few days.

The Sub-Committee has been busy over the last two months particularly. They have some great initiatives and plans to announce before the end of the year. Sub-committee members have all been given responsibility of key BJFL areas including; junior, youth, female and coaching coordinators.

I urge all coaches to keep in touch with myself and the sub-committee. Please take any coaching education opportunities over the next few months. It's well worth it! Finally, with finals fast approaching good luck to players & coaches, have fun and coaches remember that development is your number one responsibility as a junior/youth coach in the BJFL.

Regards,
Rick

0438410315 or ricky.coburn@aflvic.com.au

www.aflcentralvic.com.au



Junior Recommendations

In August 2013 a junior working party was put together with representatives from the BJFL, HDFL, LVFNL, NCFL, BFNL and members of the AFL Central Victoria Commission. The major objectives of this working party were established as:

Increase participation including the attraction and retention of players to our game

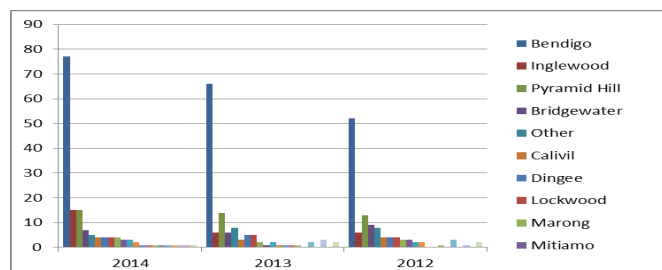
Promote even games of football

Ensure pathways are easy for players

A Junior forum was held last year and a series of recommendations made in October last year. Following on from that there has been extensive research and discussion on Junior football in the region. The AFL Central Victoria Commission has now approved the following recommendations that were put forward by the Junior working party:

Increase the age of the LVFNL Juniors from U'17 to U'18. The decision was based on the very clear evidence that the majority of LVFNL junior players play in the BJFL junior system. That is they play in the U'10, U'12, U'14 and U'16 grades. This amendment now allows 2 years for them to prepare for Senior football. This is seen as important given the large drop off of players at U'16 BJFL level (often due to lack of confidence in their ability) and U'17 LVFNL. It provides one extra year for player development. It is important to note here that the very large majority of LVFNL U'17 players are Bendigo based. We understand that this decision will not suit every club. However, to do nothing is not an option given the current state of the competition. We returned to our original objectives in making this decision. In particular, the goal to increase participation is of paramount importance and we believe this will assist in retaining numbers in the game.

Below is a graph of the postcodes of the U'17 players in the LVFNL over the past 3 years:



It is also important to note here that the HDFL Junior competition will remain at U'17. Unlike the LVFNL, the juniors in the HDFL tend to remain playing football at the end of the U'17 grade. However, it is noted that almost half of them leave the HDFL. It is also noted that HDFL clubs closer to Bendigo are struggling due to the options players and parents have at the end of U'14's. It is clear that further research on Junior pathways in the HDFL will need to be carried out over the next 9-12 months in consultation with the HDFL executive and/or board.

Maintain the 2 team cap in the BJFL U'14 & U'16 competition. However, encourage alignments between BFNL and LVFNL/HDFL clubs.

Evidence was produced to show that the cap imposed 3 years ago by the BJFL has served to increase the spread of players across teams throughout the league. This has ensured that clubs who were struggling for numbers are now fielding 2 sides. The overall number of players playing the game has also increased. However, it is acknowledged that this is a policy that must be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that we are not losing kids from playing the game.

A further initiative that has been taken is to provide an incentive for clubs to form alignments with LVFNL and HDFL clubs. On this basis, BFNL Junior football clubs can have a 3rd U'14 team if it is an aligned team with a district club. This is on the foundation that it is a strong, long term arrangement that is ticked off by the Commission and the BJFL. This alignment will continue through U'16 sides. The Commission sees it as essential to promote the alignment of BFNL clubs that have more than one U'16 side with a district club where players can continue to play football. A trial has taken place in 2014 with Golden Square having taken this approach with YCW and Quarry Hill. This will be reviewed at years end but there have been a number of successful elements of it that have been very good for the game. As it has been a trial, there have been lessons for all parties involved that will be taken forward. The model will be reviewed at years end.

Pathways

An objective of the working party is to ensure that the pathways for young players are easy and make sense. With this in mind we will work with clubs that don't flow through to Senior football to see if suitable alignments can be worked out so that players can be retained in the game. It is also the ambition of the working party to see if we can increase the amount of football in schools in order to increase participation in the sport. Work has already begun linking schools to clubs.

One Club Policy

We recommend continuing to pursue the amalgamation of Senior and Junior clubs to form the 'one club'. At the very least it is essential that Junior and Senior clubs have formalised systems of working together. The biggest deterrent to becoming one club has been financial. There is no reason why clubs with this concern cannot continue to run separate financial accounts.

BFNL U'18

It is recommended to work further with the BFNL on the U'18 competition. Further research will be required on how we can continue to improve the Premier junior competition in the region. One recommendation from the Junior working party that has been approved is to put a cap on the number of players on a BFNL U'18 list in a timely manner. The club must list the players 6 weeks prior to the start of the season. It is acknowledged that this is likely to affect only a minority of Bendigo based clubs but will provide players with more time and options if they don't make a particular list. It is also acknowledged that there will need to be some flexibility with the BFNL clubs outside of Bendigo. There will also be some exemptions for Pioneer listed players that have been club developed. Another cause for flexibility is if there is an alignment with a district club.

Reinvigorate BJFL U'16 competition

Given, the drop off of numbers both in the 15-16 age group, it is recommended to reinvigorate the U'16 competition. This will include initiatives such as Gala days with a 'Match of the round' under lights at Epsom. It could also include potential QEO games, curtain raisers and Friday night football. We need to ensure that all grades are afforded this opportunity. We also believe in creating draws that provide as many competitive games of football as possible. So if there are clear divisions within the same competition then more games will be played against 'like' teams. We believe that is more important to have as many even games of football as possible in favour over a completely equitable draw.

Social Football

Due to the big drop off players in the 15-18 age group we are examining a more 'social' game of football. This could be under the AFL 9's banner or under a different structure. The aim is to keep players playing under a modified rules system where there is no need to train and players can literally turn up and play in a very social environment. We know that there are changes to the way people are participating in exercise & sport and we need to be offering players alternatives to keep them interested in the game.

Paul Hamilton, Regional General Manager, thanked the Junior working party and the Commission for their work on the recommendations. "The recommendations have come about after much consultation and evidence based research. It is clear that work on Junior football will continue as we further seek to improve coaching and development pathways in the near future. Whilst I understand that not all people will agree with the recommendations, I do hope all people can understand the logic and reasons behind them. We are greatly indebted to all the passionate people that are involved in Junior football in our region and we will continue to work with them on building a bright future for our Australian game".



Fernwood is now the major sponsor of the BJFL Youth Girls Program.

They are offering 21 day memberships for only \$20! These also include many coupons including a free personal training session.

This package is valued at over \$150, and you can get it for only \$20!

If you are interested in purchasing one of these memberships, please call Amy at AFL Central Victoria on 5434 2400

Junior Girls “Come and Try” Program

All girl aged 9 - 12 come along to play football games with other girls

To be held at Dower Park, Station Street, Kangaroo Flat

Coaches from Bendigo Thunder, Youth Girls teams and AFL Central Vic Female Ambassador Grace Campbell

Starts Friday 25th July through to Friday 29th August

Free of charge and you can attend as many sessions as you wish

Please click on link for Registration form

<https://reg.sportingpulse.com/v6/regofrm.cgi?formID=41244>

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