



2022 RULES OF COMPETITION

GEELONG REGULATIONS



**FOOTBALL
VICTORIA**

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1. GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS

1.1. Application and Definitions

- 1.1.1. These Rules shall apply to all Competition Fixture(s) and Sanctioned Match(es) as defined in Rule 1.1.5.
- 1.1.2. If any provision of these Rules is held invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction then the remainder of these Rules and the application thereof shall not be affected thereby and shall continue to be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.
- 1.1.3. These Rules shall be subject to amendment in FV's sole discretion, including where required as a result of Government regulation(s). If these Rules are amended for any reason, FV will take reasonable steps to notify Clubs of the amendment(s).
- 1.1.4. Terms defined in the FV Constitution, 2022 FV Registration Regulations and/or the GDT shall have the same meaning in these Rules unless otherwise stated.
- 1.1.5. In addition to Rule 1.1.4 unless the context otherwise requires, the following definitions apply:
 - a. **Abandoned** means a Competition Fixture which has failed to commence for any reason or has commenced but has been stopped by the Match Official prior to its conclusion in accordance with Rule 4.2.
 - b. **Competition Regulations** or **Regulations** means the regulations which supplement these Rules and which apply to the competitions administered by FV for Men's Football, Women's Football, Junior Football and Metro & Masters Football, as amended and updated by FV from time to time.
 - c. **Club** has the same meaning as in the FV Constitution and includes but is not limited to a Futsal Club.
 - d. **Club Associate(s) or Club Official(s)** has the meaning given to it in the GDT.
 - e. **Competition Fixture** means any match that is administered by FV and includes matches to which FV appoints Match Official(s).
 - f. **Cup Fixture** means any knock-out cup match, fixture or other event organized and/or administered by FV or FA before, after or in conjunction with a Regular Season and includes, but is not limited to, the Dockerty Cup, FFA Cup and Women's State Knockout Cup (currently the Nike F.C Cup).
 - g. **Default Notice** means a notice of default issued by FV in relation to an amount owed to FV by a Club or a player which that Club or player has failed to pay in accordance with Rule 1.3.
 - h. **Division** means a particular grade or level of Men's or Women's Competition within Victorian Football (e.g. Men's State League 1 or Women's State League 3 or Men's Metropolitan League 3).
 - i. **FA** means Football Australia
 - j. **FV** means Football Victoria.

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- k. **Field of Play** means:
 - (i) At an enclosed pitch the entire area within the temporary or permanent perimeter fencing; or
 - (ii) At an open pitch the entire area within 3 metres of the boundary line of the football pitch.
- l. **Final** means a Competition Fixture played to determine the champion of Finals Series administered by FV.
- m. **Forfeit** means failure to participate in a Competition Fixture if the Club or Team in question has failed to notify FV at least three (3) days prior to the Competition Fixture.
- n. **Futsal Club** means a Club which plays in a futsal competition administered by FV.
- o. **GDT** means the FV Grievance Discipline and Tribunal By Law (as amended from time to time)
- p. **Goal Difference** means the difference between goals scored by a Club/Team (Goals For) and goals scored against a Club/Team (Goals Against) in a match or season.
- q. **Home Club** means the Club named first in a Competition Fixture.
- r. **Host Club** means a Club which hosts one or more Competition Fixtures or Finals at its home venue, whether or not that Club participates in one of those Competition Fixtures or Finals or not.
- s. **IFAB** means International Football Association Board.
- t. **League** (when referred to in reference to Men's or Women's football) means a particular competition within a Division (such as Men's State League 1 South East or Women's State League 3 North or Men's Metropolitan League 3 North West).
- u. **Match Official** means a match official as defined in the GDT.
- v. **Match Record** means the official log (hard copy or online) of the Competition Fixture recording all match details including participants and results.
- w. **Misconduct** has the meaning given to it in the GDT.
- x. **No Result** means recording a '0-0' score line in a Competition Fixture with no points or goals awarded to either Team. A 'No Result' is recorded as a Competition Fixture played.
- y. **Non-Participation in a Fixture** means failure to participate in a Competition Fixture having notified FV more than three (3) days prior to the Competition fixture.
- z. **Normal Time** means the maximum length of two (2) equal periods not including added time as specified in Rule 4.1 and Table 4.1, unless any time reduction is otherwise determined in accordance with Rule 4.1.

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- aa. **Play Off Match** means a Competition Fixture played to determine the final standings of a League or the eligibility for promotion/relegation of a Team between Leagues or Divisions.
- bb. **Played** means:
 - (i) A Team has participated in a Competition Fixture.

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

 - (ii) Being listed on the Match Record in a League where the interchange rule applies; or
 - (iii) Starting the Competition Fixture on or consequently being substituted onto the Field of Play in a League where the substitution rule applies.
 - (iv) If a player is originally listed on the Match Record and it is subsequently indicated on the Match Record that the player is no longer to participate in the Competition Fixture, that change must be acknowledged by signature of the senior Match Official prior to the commencement of the Competition Fixture. Failure to comply will deem the player to have 'Played' that fixture under rule 1.1.4.aa.
- cc. **Player ID Card** means the Play Football generated ID card containing recent passport style photo, date of birth, FFA number, full name and Club name for that player.
- dd. **Postponed** means a Competition Fixture which has not commenced as scheduled.
- ee. **Registered** means registered and eligible in Play Football in accordance with the 2022 FV Registration Regulations.
- ff. **Regrading Result** means a result which has been attributed due to a team that has been regraded into a Competition.
- gg. **Regular Season** means the time and Competition Fixtures between the first and last round of the relevant competition or as otherwise determined by FV acting in its absolute discretion, in addition to any Play Off Match(es) required for the League in question.
- hh. **Rule** or **Rule of Competition** means a rule set out in a clause or clauses of these 2022 Rules of Competition.
- ii. **Match Day Risk Assessment and Security Policy** is the FV policy which outlines minimum security requirements and responsibilities at Competition Fixtures
- jj. **Sanctioned Match** means any match to which FV appoints one (1) or more Match Official(s) but does not administer directly. This includes matches to which FV is unable to appoint one (1) or more Match Official(s) due to availability, but a request for appointment has been made and acknowledged.
- kk. **Team** means a football team entered by a Club in a League or, in junior football (U7s to U21s) a team entered by a Club in a competition, administered by FV.

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

1.1.6 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 the Rules or Regulations, any proven breach of or failure to comply with an obligation or requirement set out in these Rules or Regulations may amount to Misconduct and if so shall be subject to the provisions of the GDT.
- 1.2.2. To avoid doubt, where these Rules or Regulations do not specify the consequences of a breach or failure to comply with these Rules or Regulations, such breach or failure to comply may still amount to Misconduct and if so shall be subject to the provisions of the GDT.

1.3. Monies Owed to FV

Monies Owed By a Club

- 1.3.1. All amounts owed by a Club to FV must be paid within 30 days of the date of the invoice issued by FV in relation to that amount.
- 1.3.2. If a Club fails to pay any amount owing to FV in accordance with Rule 1.3.1, FV may issue a Default Notice giving the Club a further 14 days to pay that amount.
- 1.3.3. If a Club fails to comply with a Default Notice issued in accordance with Rule 1.3.2, or agree to a repayment plan with FV for the amount owed, FV may, at its sole discretion:
- 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.
 - Suspend or expel that Club (or Team(s)) from any Competition Fixture (including Cup Fixtures) and/or FV competitions.
 - Prohibit that Club (or Team(s)) from promotion whilst the debt remains unpaid.
 - Relegate that Club (or Team(s)) while the debt remains unpaid.
 - Deduct championship points from a Club (or Team) for the current season where the debt remains unpaid.
 - 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.

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Monies Owed By a Player

- 1.3.5. All amounts owed by a player to FV must be paid within 30 days of the date of the invoice issued by FV in relation to the amount payable or such sooner time as required under the GDT.
- 1.3.6. If a player fails to pay any amount owing to FV in accordance with Rule 1.3.5, FV may issue a Default Notice giving the player a further 14 days to pay that amount.
- 1.3.7. If a player fails to comply with a Default Notice issued in accordance with Rule 1.3.6, or agrees to a repayment plan with FV for the amount owed, FV may, at its sole discretion, suspend that player from any or all FV competitions or representative Teams on such terms as it sees fit until such debt is paid or secured to the satisfaction of FV.
- 1.3.8. FV may offset any monies owed by FV to a Club or a player against any amount owed by a Club or a player to FV prior to the issue of an invoice to a Club or player for amounts owing to FV.

1.4. Registrations, Forfeits and Abandonments

Definitions

- 1.4.1. For the purposes of this Rule:
 - a. **Change of Status** has the same meaning as in the FV Registration Regulations.
 - b. **Dual Registration** has the same meaning as in the FV Registration Regulations.
 - c. **Field** means to record a player's name on the Match Record and "Fields" and "Fielded" have corresponding meanings.
 - d. **Ineligible** means a player who is one of the following:
 - (i) Playing for the wrong Club or Team;
 - (ii) Playing within a stand-down period due to Change of Status;
 - (iii) Playing while registered for two clubs at the same time without a Dual Registration exemption to do so;
 - (iv) Playing while not Registered;
 - (v) Playing while under Suspension under the GDT;
 - (vi) A player who has been shown a red card earlier in a fixture that is still being played;
 - (vii) Playing while ineligible to do so for any other reason determined by FV;
 - (viii) A Player or Players in breach of Rule 2.2; or
 - (ix) A Player or Players in respect of which Rule 2.3.

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- e. **Offence** means when FV has found upon investigation, audit, processing or notification there has been a breach of this Clause including any of the previous fixtures in which an Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) has participated.
- f. **Register** and **Registered** means a player who is registered in accordance with the applicable FV Registration Regulations, and/or FA National Registration Regulations, including without limitation seeking an International Transfer Clearance (ITC) where applicable.
- g. **Request for information** refers to where from time to time FV may request that a Club provide to it information in relation to player registration matters or otherwise as reasonably requested in order to ensure the integrity of football.
- h. **Unregistered** means a player who is not Registered.

Registration – Scope and Penalties

- 1.4.2. All Clubs and Teams must Register all Players in accordance with the FV Registration Regulations.
- 1.4.3. FV may find Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) through random audits, daily processing or upon investigation following notification of a breach of this Rule.
- 1.4.4. Where a Club or Team Fields an Unregistered or Ineligible Player in a Competition Fixture, including Finals or Play-Off Matches, the following applies:
 - a. A Team that is found to have fielded an Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) during a Competition Fixture(s), the score for the respective Competition Fixture(s) must be amended as follows:
 - (i) where that Team loses the Competition Fixture, the result is the greater of the actual score or a 3-0 result;
 - (ii) where the score is a draw that Team is deemed to have lost the Competition Fixture 3-0; or
 - (iii) where that Team wins the Competition Fixture, the result is a 3-0 win to the non-infringing Team.
 - b. Notwithstanding Clause 1.4.4a above, where FV finds that a Club or Team has Fielded Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) in multiple Competition Fixtures over a period of time, FV may in its absolute discretion:
 - (i) deduct competition points from the Team, capped at 12 points, without altering any of the corresponding individual Competition Fixture results; or
 - (ii) reverse such Competition Fixture results 3-0 as necessary
 - c. Matters that FV may take into account in making a decision under Clause 1.4.4b above include, but are not limited to:
 - (i) whether or not in FV's opinion the Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) was intentionally or inadvertently Fielded; and
 - (ii) whether a genuine administrative error occurred; and

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- (iii) whether the Club made any enquiries to FV about the Player(s) prior to the Competition Fixture; and
- (iv) the experience of the Team or Club administrator; and
- (v) the age-group affected; and / or
- (vi) any other factors FV may consider relevant in the circumstances.

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

- 1.4.5. Where FV learns of Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) via internal audits, and no Club or Team has raised a formal protest about those Players within the time set out in the next sub-clause, FV may deal with the matter via a warning and reprimand for the first occasion in its absolute discretion. The matter is then considered finalised (see *Additional Notes* section below).
- 1.4.6. The time limit for a Club or Team to Protest from the date of the relevant Competition Fixture, after which the result of the Competition Fixture is considered finalised, is:
 - a. the time limit specified in the rules of competition for the relevant competition; or
 - b. if there is no such time limit specified, ten calendar days.

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

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

System or Technical Error

- 1.4.7. To avoid doubt, if there is a system or technical error in processing a registration, the above sanctions will be imposed until such system or technical error is proven by the Club or Team or Player, save that:
 - a. Only those system or technical errors that occur on weekdays up until 5.00pm on a Friday, (excluding Public Holidays) will be taken into account; and
 - b. Should a Club or Team decide to process registrations on non-business days (Weekends and/or Public Holidays) or after 5.00pm on a Friday, the Club or Team

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

Request for Information

- 1.4.8. Where FV requests a Club to provide information in relation to a Club's registration matters, or otherwise as reasonably requested in order to ensure the integrity of football, the Club must comply within 7 days (or as otherwise reasonably requested by the FV).
- 1.4.9. A failure to comply with Clause 1.4.8 above results in all of that Club's teams playing for no points until the requested information is provided. Should a Club subsequently comply with Clause 1.4.8 above, any games which were played for no points during the non-compliance period will not be replayed, and any points lost are deemed as forfeited.

Registration of Coaches and Team Officials

- 1.4.10 Clubs are required to submit Registration for all Coaches and Team Officials whom they appoint to Teams including but not limited to:
 - (i) Coaches (Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Goalkeeper Coach etc.)
 - (ii) Technical Directors;
 - (iii) Physiotherapists; and
 - (iv) Team Managers
- 1.4.11 The Registration can be completed by each Coach or Team Official Self- Registering via Play Football, and the Club accepting the Coach or Team Officials Registration.

1.5 Protection of Important Fixtures

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

1.6 Sanctioned Matches

- 1.6.1 Any Club taking part in a Sanctioned Match must abide by any and all codes of conduct or codes of behavior prescribed by FV and/or FA from time to time, including the Codes of Behaviour attached to these Rules at Schedule 5.
- 1.6.2 By participating in a Sanctioned Match, the Club and any league or association to which that Club belongs, submits to the jurisdiction of FV, its Rules and Regulations and the GDT.
- 1.6.3 Any Club or Team, association or organisation which administers or participates in any Sanctioned Match, must ensure that appropriate insurance and Work Cover arrangements are made to provide adequate and necessary coverage for their players, Match Officials, and all club associates involved in Sanctioned Matches.
- 1.6.4 Any Club or Team, association or organisation wishing to participate in any interstate or international match, tournament or event must apply in accordance with the 2022 FV Registration Regulations, writing to the FV Registrations Team for prior approval.

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

1.7 Insurance

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

Insurance of Players

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

Insurance of Club Associates and officials

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

1.8 Strict Liability of Clubs

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

1.9 Club Name or New Club Name Application

- 1.9.1 An application for either a new Club name or the change of an existing Club name must be made by the Club in question in accordance with [FA Inclusivity Principles for Club Identity Policy](#) as published on the FA website.
- 1.9.2 FV will only assess an application under Rule 1.9 when all relevant information has been lodged with FV. FV may reject an application for a new name or a change of name as it sees fit.
- 1.9.3 The reference to 'Club name' in this Rule 1.9 includes the incorporated name, registered business name and/or approved playing name of a Club.
- 1.9.4 Process for new name application by a Club:
- All submissions will be considered in accordance with [FA Inclusivity Principles for Club Identity](#)
 - The Club name must be approved in writing by the local government authority and be representative of the geographic area within which the Club is located.
 - Club name approval by FV and/or FA will at all times be subject to the Club holding any applicable legal right(s) to use that name and any associated logo. It is a Club's sole responsibility to ensure that it holds any applicable legal rights.

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d. The Club must:

- (i) Submit on Club letterhead its request for a change of Club name or new Club name with the [NRRO2B](#) form
- (ii) Provide full disclosure of the reasons for the requested change.
- (iii) include a minimum of three (3) proposed names with their application for change of Club name or new Club name that can be assessed, and comply with Rule 1.9.4.d.(iv).
- (iv) Receive written approval by local government authority and ensure that their proposed names are representative of the geographic area within which the Club is located.

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

- United
- Rovers
- City
- Old
- Sporting

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

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

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

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

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

1.9.8 *Incorporation*

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

1.10 Ticketing and Refunds of Money

- 1.10.1 Rule 1.10 is applicable to all Competition Fixtures where admission fees are charged.
- 1.10.2 Clubs that charge admission fees must hand over an admission ticket to the paying customer when the exchange of money is made.
- 1.10.3 It is the customer's responsibility to ensure that he or she retains proof of purchase.
- 1.10.4 Customers that present an authentic FA or FV Pass, Match Official Pass or are aged 14 years or younger, will be granted free entry to Competition Fixtures and do not require an admission ticket unless otherwise communicated by FV (for example in relation to Finals or Playoffs).
- 1.10.5 A copy of Rule 1.10 is to be displayed at the ticket box at all venues where admission fees are charged.
- 1.10.6 Paying customers will be entitled to a full refund (including car park fees) on the day of the Competition Fixture if the main Competition Fixture on the day has been postponed or abandoned prior to the conclusion of the first half of that fixture.
- 1.10.7 To be eligible to receive a full refund in accordance with Rule 1.10.6 the customer must present to the Home Club or the Host Club charging admission fees or FV in the instance of Finals, the admission ticket (or part thereof) issued in accordance with Rule 1.10.2.
- 1.10.8 Ticket prices must be clearly displayed at venue entry point.

1.11 Security at Home Pitches

- 1.11.1 The Home Club is responsible for providing appropriate arrangements to ensure the orderly behavior of spectators and provide for the protection of Match Officials, players and Club Associates and officials at Competition Fixtures including but not limited to any specific requirements of FV which are notified to the Home Club.
- 1.11.2 All Clubs, players, Match Officials, Club Associates and Club Officials must comply with the [FV's Match Day Risk & Security Policy](#) as promulgated by FV, and any security arrangements put in place as a result of the application of that policy.
- 1.11.3 Each Home Club is responsible for security and/or police as directed by FV. Ordinarily this will be wholly the responsibility of the Home Club but FV reserves the right to require any Club involved in a Competition Fixture to meet FV determined security requirements in accordance with Rule 1.11.2 or as otherwise determined by FV.
- 1.11.4 Home Clubs and Host Clubs must provide a lockable facility for all valuables of Match Officials(s). Failure to provide such a facility may result in the Home Club or Host Club not being allocated Competition Fixtures at their home ground.
- 1.11.5 Rules 1.11.1 – 1.11.4 apply to a Club's home ground or facility and any neutral ground or facility (including the State Football Centre at Darebin and the Knox Regional Football Centre) where that Club is listed as the Home Club for the purposes of a Competition Fixture to be played at the neutral ground or facility.

1. GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS

- 1.11.6 The Home Club or the Host Club will be held responsible if it is found that Match Official(s) do not receive all personal items back.
- 1.11.7 Each Club is responsible for the valuables of its players, and valuables that are left in change rooms are done so at the owners' personal risk.
- 1.11.8 Rule 1.11 is subject to FV's Risk Assessment and Security Policy which may be amended from time to time.

1.12 Representative Teams

- 1.12.1 Any player registered in Victoria will be eligible to represent Victoria in representative matches, camps or tours and each selected player must make themselves available for training, preparation and participation for representative matches, camps or tours when requested by FV.
- 1.12.2 All Clubs must release players for training and preparation for, and participation in, representative matches, camps or tours.
- 1.12.3 Where a Club has four (4) or more outfield players or two (2) goalkeeper from the same Team participating in an FV/FA approved representative match, camp or tour which conflicts with a Competition Fixture in which that Club or Team is required to participate, the Club may seek postponement of that Competition Fixture. Approved representative matches may include but are not limited to:
 - a. FA National Championships
 - b. FV State Teams
 - c. National Teams
- 1.12.4 All requests pursuant to Rule 1.12.3 must be received no less than 10 days prior to the Competition Fixture in question, unless the player is called up within the 10 day period by FV/FA for representative duty. FV shall determine the outcome of any request under this Rule at its absolute discretion and that decision cannot be appealed or reviewed.

1.13 Member Protection

- 1.13.1 FV has adopted the FA National Member Protection Policy (**MPP**) for all FV affiliated competition administrators, Clubs, players and Club Associates and officials. The MPP can be found by clicking the following [link](#).
- 1.13.2 FV has partnered with Proud2Play and Pride In Sport in order to eradicate discrimination, particularly against those who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex. We have also updated [FV Dispensation Policy](#) which provides clear and concise process to dispensation requests. Dispensation requests allow Clubs to submit a request for a player/s to be granted exemption from FV to participate in competitions that they would otherwise not be eligible.
- 1.13.3 FV has a direct relationship with the Australian Human Rights Commission, Victorian Multicultural Commission and the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission in order to call on these expert organisations to receive advice, and deal with issues that will assist FV to eradicate race and ethnic based discrimination.

1. GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS

- 1.13.4 Football Victoria partners with Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) to run a range of diversity and inclusion programs to make football for all. These include programs such as the All Abilities Program, GO Deadly and GO Proud programs.
- 1.13.5 FV welcomes and fosters diversity in the world game. All persons, Clubs, players, Match Officials and/or Stakeholders involved with football are mandated to promote and provide safe and inclusive environments for all.

1.14 Club Compliance and National Club Accreditation

- 1.14.1 In order to be eligible to compete in FV competitions in 2022 a Club must comply with the requirements set out by the following:
 - a. Any Club compliance program;
 - b. [FV's Club Compliance Policy](#);
 - c. The [National Club Accreditation Scheme \(NCAS\)](#) criteria;
 - d. Consumer Affairs Victoria
 - e. Australian Securities and Investment Commission (as applicable).
 - f. Any other relevant regulator or Government body.

1.15 Correspondence / Communication

- 1.15.1 All correspondence by FV to Clubs shall be deemed to have been received by Clubs:
 - a. In the case of online communication, the day on which it was published online;
 - b. In the case of email communication, the time at which it was sent;
 - c. In the case of communication sent by mail, two (2) business days after such communication was posted.
- 1.15.2 Clubs must ensure that their postal mailboxes, specified email accounts (including Spam and Junk folders) and the FV website are checked regularly, and that any information received is forwarded to the addressee or relevant parties within the Club.
- 1.15.3 All correspondence relating to Club requests, including, but not limited to; Competition Fixtures, forfeits, grading, result disputes and disciplinary matters must be made by a Club representative listed on Play Football. Requests made by anyone not listed as a Club representative in Play Football may not be actioned by FV.
- 1.15.4 All Clubs must have an active email address and phone number and ensure that this address and phone number and all other relevant details are current, up to date in Play Football and checked regularly by Club Associates and/or Club Officials.
- 1.15.5 Failure by a Club to keep a current, active email address and phone number and to check that email address and any voicemail service connected to its phone number regularly, cannot be relied on by the Club in relation to the question of whether or not notice of any matter was received by the Club from FV or otherwise.
- 1.15.6 FV reserves the right to only communicate with nominated club contacts as listed on Play Football.

2. COMPETITION RULES

1.16 COVID-19 Protocols and Regulations

- 1.16.1 All Clubs competing in FV Competitions and their Club Associates must comply with the COVID-19 Return to Training/ Play Conditions as published on the FV website and updated from time to time <https://www.footballvictoria.com.au/return-conditions>
- 1.16.2 All Clubs competing in FV competitions are subject to and must adhere to the [Covid 19 Rules – Impacted 2022 Community Competitions](#) as published on the FV website and updated from time to time.

2.1 General Information

- 2.1.1 All Competition Fixtures are played under the IFAB Laws of the Game, unless otherwise specified in these Rules.
- 2.1.2 Only Teams from FV Clubs, country affiliates or representative Teams may enter FV competitions.
- 2.1.3 If a Team is withdrawn on or before the point of the Regular Season at which all Teams have played each other once a 'BYE' will be inserted to replace the withdrawn Team in the fixture. All championship points along with goals scored (for & against) for that Team will be erased. All Best & Fairest votes gained in Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team will also be erased.
- 2.1.4 If a Team is withdrawn after the point of the Regular Season at which all Teams have played each other an equal number of times, a 'BYE' will be inserted to replace the withdrawn Team in the fixture, and;
 - a. Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team will be erased including all championship points along with goals scored (for & against).
 - b. All Best & Fairest or Gold Medal votes gained in:
 - (i) Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team up to the point of the season at which all Teams have played each other an equal number of times will be erased;
 - (ii) Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team from the point of the season at which all Teams have played each other an equal number of times, until the time the Team withdrew, will be erased.

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

- 2.1.5 If the withdrawing team causes the fixture to be imbalanced where all teams do not have the same amount of games played during the season, FV at its discretion will either:
 - i. Have additional Competition Fixtures scheduled during their Regular Season; or
 - ii. Have Competition Fixtures removed from their Regular Season.
 - iii. Should FV decide upon 2.1.4 (i) Competition Fixtures may be scheduled either mid-week or during a catch up round, at FV discretion.

2. COMPETITION RULES

- 2.1.6 If a Team withdraws prior to the start of the Regular Season and cannot be replaced, a "BYE" will be inserted into the fixture or the fixture may be amended to accommodate the new number of Teams where practicable.
- 2.1.7 If a Team withdraws from a league involving fewer than 9 Teams or greater than 10 Teams, additional Competition Fixtures may be added or removed to ensure all Teams play an equal number of Competition Fixtures during the Regular Season.
- 2.1.8 FV may alter Competition Fixture kickoff dates, venues and/or times as it deems necessary in its sole and absolute discretion.
- 2.1.9 Subject to this regulation or unless otherwise determined by FV acting in its absolute discretion the Team finishing top of each League at the conclusion of the Regular Season may be crowned Premiers and the second placed Team may be Runner-Up. For the avoidance of doubt, simply finishing in first or second place on the ladder does not entitle the Team to be name Premiers or Runners Up.

2.2 Player Eligibility

- 2.2.1 A player is eligible to play in his or her Team provided:
 - a. the player has been registered in line with FA and FV Registration Regulations;
 - b. all registration fees for the player have been received by FV, subject to Rule 1.3
 - c. the player is not under suspension by FV, FA or FIFA ;
 - d. the player meets the competition's age group and gender rules where applicable and subject to any dispensation granted by FV (refer to relevant FV Regulations);
 - e. the player complies with the Match Record requirements set out in Rule 3.3.
 - f. the player presents a current Player ID Card upon request to the Match Official for the player in the Competition Fixture, where that competition requires ID cards;
 - g. the player meets competition requirements for Finals or Play Off Matches.
- 2.2.2 Any Team which fields an ineligible player may be subject to penalty under the GDT.
- 2.2.3 Any Player playing under a dispensation granted by FV must produce the letter of dispensation on match day upon request by the Match Official. Failing to produce a letter of dispensation upon request by the Match Official may result in a charge of Misconduct under the GDT.
- 2.2.4 The dispensation process and regulations are clearly defined in Football Victoria's [Dispensation Policy](#). FV at its sole discretion may amend any part of the dispensation policy as required from time to time.
- 2.2.5 At FV's discretion, Clubs/players may be given dispensation from Rule 2.2.1.b for Cup Fixtures which take place prior to the commencement of the Regular Season.
- 2.2.6 If there is a dispute about a player(s) eligibility on the day of a Competition Fixture, the Match Official must note the details of that dispute and send those details to FV together with an incident report. No Club or Match Official may prevent a player from taking the field in a Competition Fixture on suspicion of ineligibility, unless that player is unable to present an ID Card in accordance with Rule 2.2.1.f.

2. COMPETITION RULES

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

Gender Rules

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

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

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

- a. Players who identify as non-binary, transgender or intersex are permitted to participate in the competition of their choice, up to the age of U12 for a girl's competition, and up to the age of U13 for a boy's competition.
- b. Players who identify as male are permitted to play in female competitions in accordance with the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 up until Under 12 girls. The player must turn 12 or below during the 2022 calendar year and may play in their equivalent age group of female competitions without the prior approval of FV.
- c. Players who identify as female are permitted to participate in male competitions up until Under 13 boys. The player must turn 13 or below during the 2022 calendar year and may play in their equivalent age group of male competitions without the prior approval of FV.
- d. Players who identify as female are not permitted to participate in male competitions from Under 14 and above with the exception of the player falling into one of the below categories.
 - (i) the player is currently registered to a regional club without any reasonable female pathway available to the player. To be clear a regional club is classified as a Club that has received prior written approval by FV to participate in FV metropolitan community competitions excluding Geelong based clubs; or
 - (ii) the player receives prior written approval from the FA Technical Department.

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

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

3. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

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

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

3.FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Facilities/Pitch Arrangements

3.1.1 It is the responsibility of all Clubs to:

- a. provide a venue that complies with the minimum facility requirements for FV Competitions as prescribed and promulgated by FV from time to time. The minimum class of facility required for relevant FV Competitions is:
 - i. FV Geelong Senior Men's, Senior Women's and Men's Masters - *Senior class*; and
 - ii. Junior League (U12-U19) – *Junior class*

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

- b. provide a safe environment for players, Match Officials, Club Officials and spectators;
- c. ensure that their facilities and equipment are clean and fit for purpose;
- d. ensure that all applicable State and local government statutory and other requirements have been met in respect of their facilities including but not limited to:
 - i. legitimate approved use of the facility by the owner or land manager;
 - ii. requirements under the Planning and Environment Act 1987, Food Act 1984 and Building Act 1993 and *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* (including but not limited to any directions issued by the Chief Health Officer);
 - iii. any local laws including gaming and liquor license legislation.
 - iv. holding an up to date liquor licence (RSA) and/or food handling certificate if applicable.

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

3. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

- a. have its home fixtures moved to an alternate venue or forfeit those home fixtures if a move to an alternate venue is not possible in FV's opinion.
 - b. be required by FV to advise what steps the Club will take to ensure that it can meet its facility requirements and may be relegated to such Division as FV deems appropriate.
 - c. have Team(s) withdrawn from competition during the current Regular Season.
- 3.1.3 At the discretion of FV, a Club which fails to meet its facility requirements under Rule 3.1 may be relegated to a lower Division in the following Regular Season.
- 3.1.4 FV may in its sole discretion upon written request grant a temporary dispensation from compliance with Rule 3.1 to a Club which:
 - a. is in the process of upgrading its facilities to meet FV's requirements; or
 - b. due to circumstances beyond its reasonable control the Club cannot comply with FV's requirements; or
 - c. has satisfied FV that the Club is taking all reasonable steps to ensure compliance with FV's facility requirement
- 3.1.5 FV will not grant dispensation under Rule 3.1 from compliance with any requirement that relates to matters of safety or legislative compliance.

3.2 The Technical Area

- 3.2.1 A maximum of nine (9) persons are permitted to be within the Technical Area at any given time during a Competition Fixture. Those persons may only include the coach and assistant coach, the team manager, the substitutes and a registered health practitioner, sports trainer or accredited first aider.
- 3.2.2 Subject to Rule 3.2.4, all persons must remain seated within the confines of the Technical Area, except in special circumstances e.g. a physiotherapist or doctor entering the field of play, with the Match Official's permission, to assess an injured player.
- 3.2.3 Players may leave the Technical Area to warm up, provided they do not interrupt the view of any Match Official.
- 3.2.4 Only one (1) person may stand up at one (1) time within the Technical Area. It is the Home Club's responsibility to provide sufficient seating for both Clubs in the respective technical areas.
- 3.2.5 All persons within the Technical Area must be wearing colours that clearly distinguish them from all players and Match Officials on the field of play e.g. a bib, jackets.
- 3.2.6 The Match Official may expel any person from the Technical Area at any time as he or she sees fit. The Competition Fixture will not recommence until that person has left the Technical Area and Field of Play to the Match Official's satisfaction.
- 3.2.7 A player or Club Associate who is under suspension must not be present in the Technical Area. Should a player or Club Associate be in breach of this rule they will be subject to further penalties under the GDT.

3. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

3.3 Match Records

- 3.3.1 Clubs will be required to adhere to any requirements relating to the use of online match records, results reporting and match data recording, as prescribed by FV from time to time.
- 3.3.2 Clubs must list on the Match Record all players taking part in a Competition Fixture and must produce to the Match Official a Match Record not less than 30 minutes before the commencement of any FV Competition Fixture.
- 3.3.3 If a Club disagrees with any of the details on a Match Record prior to the commencement of the fixture, the fixture must still take place as per the fixtured start time and refer to regulation 3.3.5
- 3.3.4 A Match Official has the discretion to amend a Match Record up until 30 minutes after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture. The Match Official must inform a representative of both teams who must sign the Match Record to confirm the amendment.
- 3.3.5 A Club will be charged with Misconduct if:
 - a. any player listed on the Match Record is ineligible in accordance with either these Rules or the GDT; or
 - b. more than 17 players are listed on the Match Record; or
 - c. it fails to list on the Match Record the shirt number, full name and FA ID number for each player, or adds players to the Match Record after submission to the Match Official (and without the Match Official's permission), and shall be processed in accordance with the terms of the GDT.
- 3.3.6 A representative from each Team must sign the Match Record at the conclusion of the Competition Fixture and should do so only after the appointed Match Official has recorded all outstanding details.
- 3.3.7 If a Club disagrees with any of the details on a Match Record (either its own or the opposition's), the Club must sign and indicate any disputed information by circling the detail in question. Only the following information can be disputed:
 - a. Goal Scorers;
 - b. Red and Yellow Cards;
 - c. Final score; or
 - d. Player eligibility.
- 3.3.8 Match Record Disputes will only be investigated by FV in the following circumstances:
 - 3.3.8.1 The Match Record and a request to conduct a match investigation is lodged with FV within 7 days of the Competition Fixture; and
 - 3.3.8.2 The following evidence is submitted by the Club in support of its request for a match investigation:

3. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

3.4 Ground Marshals

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

3.4.2 Ground Marshals must:

- a. be at least 18 years old and provide the Match Official with their name;
- b. be in a clearly identifiable uniform;
- c. be visible from the Field of Play at all times;
- d. escort the Match Official(s) to and from the change rooms and the Field of Play at the commencement of the Competition Fixture, at half time and at full time; and
- e. where required, assist the Match Officials(s) to ensure a safe playing environment for all players, Club Officials and spectators.

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

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

League	Minimum Number of Ground Marshals
All FV Geelong Competitions	2

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

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

3. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

- 3.4.6 Each home and away Club is required to provide 50% of the required Ground Marshals for each Competition Fixture, failure to do so may result in Misconduct under the GDT.
- 3.4.7 Clubs must ensure the [FV Ground Marshal Handbook](#) is provided to relevant persons prior to completing the duty.

3.5 Player's Strip/Apparel

3.5.1 Clothing

- a. All Teams must nominate a 'Home' and 'Alternate' playing strip. The Club's 'Home' and 'Alternate' playing strips must be entered into FV's online competition management system (GameDay) at least 10 days prior to Round 1 of the Regular Season or the Club in question may incur a penalty under the GDT.
- b. All playing strips must be approved by FV.
- c. Any change to club strips during the season must be updated on GameDay and communicated to FV 5 working days prior to the Club's next Competition Fixture.
- d. Predominantly black playing shirts will not be permitted under any circumstances.
- e. The Home Club in each Competition Fixture is required to wear their nominated 'Home' playing strip.
- f. In the instance of a strip clash between the home and away Team as determined by the Match Official, the away Team is required to provide a sufficiently alternate playing strip.
- g. In the instance of a strip not being available to a club, it will be deemed the responsibility of the club to ascertain written consent from the opposing club to avoid any strip clash. This written agreement must be sent to FV prior to the fixture.
- h. The purpose of Rule 3.5 is to ensure that the two Clubs wear playing strips that distinguish them from each other and also the Match Officials. Clubs and Match Officials should refer to the following table to determine whether or not a strip clash exists. The table lists which items of the strip are permitted to clash for different Divisions/Leagues:

Table 3.5 – Clashes and Permissions

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

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

3. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

- j. All playing numbers displayed on shirts must be unique within the Team.
- k. A Club may be penalised in accordance with Rule 4.6 if:
 - (i) a Competition Fixture does not commence due to an inability to resolve a clash of strips, and it can be established that such Club or Team did not comply with Rule 3.5.1.d, or
 - (ii) a Club changes their home playing strip without notifying FV Competitions via competitions@footballvictoria.com.au by no later than five (5) days prior to Competition Fixture, and this change results in a Competition Fixture being postponed as a result of a strip clash.
- l. Goalkeepers may wear any colour provided their strip does not clash with either Team or the Match Official.
- m. All Clubs must have two (2) goalkeeper strips available at all home and away fixtures.

3.5.2 Protective Gear

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

- (i) are firmly secured with a sports band or adjustable strap;
- (ii) have purpose-designed and closely fitted curled ends on the arms; or
- (iii) are specially designed protective sports glasses constructed of plastic with rubberised cushioning and no metallic parts.

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

3.6 Stretchers / First Aid

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

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

- a. Band Aids;
- b. Bandages; and
- c. Ice Pack (or other available ice).
- d. Must provide a hospital register clearly visible in the first aid and match officials room.

3.7 Smoking / Drinking at Venues

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

4. FIXTURE DETAILS

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

3.8 National Flags, Slogans & Emblems

- 3.8.1 Clubs must comply at all times with the [FA Diversity & Inclusion Policy](#)
- 3.8.2 All Clubs must have the prior written approval of FV before introducing or incorporating any design, emblem or slogan onto any Club logo or name, product or medium, including but not limited to playing strips, promotional material, Club letterhead, banners, advertisements, public announcements, website or any other form of communication.
- 3.8.3 FV may require the immediate removal of any offending material at any time.

3.9 Lighting Standards

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

4.1 Duration of Competition Fixtures

4.1.1 Periods of Play

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

Table 4.1 – Duration of Normal Time across Age Groups

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

4. FIXTURE DETAILS

- b. Periods of play for specific competitions may be altered by FV provided they are implemented throughout the age group or competition.
- c. Prior to the commencement of the Competition Fixture, the Match Official may cut short any Competition Fixture (including reducing the length of each half before commencement of the Competition Fixture) if in the Match Official's opinion playing conditions compromise player safety or to prevent the delay to the commencement of any subsequent Competition Fixture from its scheduled kick off time only if:
 - (i) it is in line with IFAB rules; and
 - (ii) he or she has notified the coaches of each participating Team.

4.1.2 Commencement Time

- a. Teams must be ready to begin playing by the stated kick off time.
- b. If either Team is not ready to begin playing within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick off time the Match Official may determine the Competition Fixture as Abandoned in accordance with Rule 4.2.
- c. In circumstances where both Teams and the Match Official agree, the Competition Fixture may commence up to 30 minutes after the scheduled kick off time, provided it does not delay the kick off of subsequent Competition Fixtures either at that venue or to which the Match Official is also appointed on that day.

4.1.3 Half Time Interval

- a. The half-time interval must be a minimum of 5 minutes and no longer than 15 minutes in duration.
- b. The half-time interval must be a minimum of 5 minutes and no longer than 10 minutes in duration for the Under 12 & Under 13 competitions

4.2 Abandoned Competition Fixtures

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

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

- a. any Team has its playing numbers reduced for any reason below the minimum IFAB requirement of seven (7) players;
- b. the lighting at the venue fails such that in the opinion of the Match Official it is impossible or unsafe to continue to play;
- c. the Match Official determines that playing conditions have become unsafe or untenable for any reason;
- d. the Match Official, in consultation with security staff and ground marshals where applicable, determines that the conditions for players, coaches, Match Officials or supporters have become unsafe or untenable for any reason;
- e. One or both of the Teams is not ready to commence the Competition Fixture within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick-off time; or

4. FIXTURE DETAILS

- f. In accordance with Rule 4.4.
- 4.2.3 If a Competition Fixture is abandoned due to a matter set out in Rule 4.2.2, FV may determine one of the following outcomes of the Competition Fixture at its absolute and sole discretion:
- a. If 80 per cent or more of Normal Time of a Competition Fixture has been played, then the score at the time of abandonment may stand. 'Played' in the context of this Rule will be determined by FV with reference to the Match Official.
 - b. If a competition fixture has been abandoned between 60% & 80% of a competition fixture and the goal difference between the two teams exceeds 4 or more goals, FV may determine that the result be maintained at the time of abandonment. I.e. 4-0, 5-1, 6-2
 - c. Competition Fixture to be replayed in full.
 - d. Competition Fixture to be awarded as a 'No Result'.
 - e. Competition Fixture result is 0-0.
 - f. Competition Fixture result is 3-0 to the non-offending Team, unless the score at the time of abandonment was greater and in favour of the non-offending Team, in which case the greater result will stand. In determining what is a 'greater' result, FV will give preference to goals FOR in the first instance (i.e. 4-1 will be considered a 'greater' result than 3-0).
 - g. Competition Fixture to be replayed from the time at which the original Competition Fixture was abandoned. In the event a Competition Fixture is replayed in accordance with this Rule:
 - (i) The score at the time of the abandonment remains the score at the time the Competition Fixture recommences; and
 - (ii) Only players listed on the Match Record for the initial Competition Fixture between the two sides will be eligible to compete in the recommenced Competition Fixture, unless FV determines that additional players are eligible (for example, in the case of player injury with supporting medical documentation); and
 - (iii) FV will determine what, if any, further substitutions are allowed by each Team during the recommenced Competition Fixture, giving consideration to the number of substitutions made in the Competition Fixture before it was originally abandoned (including which players may take the Field of Play or be substituted on).
 - (iv) FV will determine at its absolute sole discretion the date time and venue for the recommenced fixture, this decision will be deemed final and not subject to appeal.
 - (v) Player, coach or team unavailability resulting in team non-participation in the recommenced fixture will result in a 3-0 forfeit to the offending team.

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- h. Competition Fixture result at time of abandonment shall stand.
- 4.2.4 Any Club or Club Associate found to be responsible either in whole or in part for the abandonment of a Competition Fixture may be subject to penalties under the GDT.
- 4.2.5 When a Competition Fixture is abandoned:
 - a. after commencement of the Competition Fixture, all Match Officials are entitled to receive 100% of their normal match fee; or
 - b. prior to commencement of the Competition Fixture, all Match Officials are entitled to receive 50% of their normal match fee if the Match Official(s) were present at the venue when the Competition Fixture was due to commence.
- 4.2.6 Match Officials may not claim more than one (1) postponed match fee from one venue on one day.
- 4.2.7 If a Competition Fixture is abandoned by the Match Official, both the Match Official and the Home Club must notify FV by the following working day that the Competition Fixture has been abandoned.

4.3 Postponed/Rescheduled Competition Fixtures

- 4.3.1. Competition Fixtures may be cancelled, postponed or rescheduled by FV in its absolute discretion. Otherwise, Competition Fixtures may only be postponed or rescheduled by appointed Match Officials or FV competitions staff.
- 4.3.2 FV may reschedule Competition Fixtures at its discretion. In exercising that discretion, FV:
 - a. is not subject to the deadlines or timeframes set out in these Rules or otherwise; and
 - b. Will take into consideration all relevant circumstances including but not limited to league standings and the scheduling of Cup Fixtures.
 - c. FV will not compensate any clubs due to the cancellation, postponement or rescheduling of competition fixtures
- 4.3.3 FV will determine the new time and date for the playing of a postponed/rescheduled Competition Fixture. Such decision is not open to appeal or review. Clubs are obliged to fulfill any postponed or rescheduled Competition Fixture as determined by FV and any Club which fails to do so will automatically forfeit the Competition Fixture and may face penalty under the GDT.
- 4.3.4 Player, coach or team unavailability resulting in team nonparticipation in the rescheduled fixture will result in a 3-0 forfeit to the offending team.
- 4.3.5 Any postponed or abandoned Competition Fixture that requires rescheduling will be rescheduled to the next available catch-up round or midweek at FV's discretion.
- 4.3.6 Any Competition Fixture scheduled by FV to be replayed must be completed by no later than one (1) week after the conclusion of the Regular Season unless otherwise approved or

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- 4.3.7 directed by FV in writing. FV may record the result of any Competition Fixture not completed within this time frame as a 'No Result'.
- 4.3.8 Any Club Associate or Club found guilty of rearranging a Competition Fixture or requesting the appointment of Match Officials outside a set kick-off time or date will be subject to Misconduct under the GDT. FV may also record the final score of any such Competition Fixture as a 'No Result'.
- 4.3.9 In the event of a postponed or abandoned Competition Fixture which is required to be replayed, Clubs may, within five (5) business days from the originally scheduled Competition Fixture, arrange an alternate date and venue. The date must fall within the Regular Season. Both date and venue must be approved by FV. If no venue and date is approved by FV, the Competition Fixture will be rescheduled at FV's discretion.
- 4.3.10 FV will not compensate any clubs due to the rescheduling of competition fixtures.
- 4.3.11 Player, coach, or team unavailability resulting in team non-participation in the rescheduled fixture will result in a 3-0 forfeit to the offending team.
- 4.3.12 With the exception of where the COVID 19 Rules – Impacted Community Competitions apply, any other Player, coach, or team unavailability resulting in team non-participation in the rescheduled fixture will result in a 3-0 forfeit to the offending team.

4.4 Weather Conditions

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

4.5 Match Points

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

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

- 4.5.3 FV reserves the right to record any Competition Fixture as a 'No Result' if the circumstances require or as a result of a breach of these Rules.
- 4.5.4 At the end of the Regular Season, all Teams will be ranked from highest to lowest by virtue of the total number of match points received.
- 4.5.5 If more than one (1) Team finishes the Regular Season on the same number of points, their final position will be determined as follows:

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- a. The Team with the greatest Goal Difference will finish higher.
 - b. If Goal Difference is the same, then the Team that has scored the most goals FOR will be deemed to have finished higher.
 - c. If Goal Difference is the same and goals FOR is the same, then the final order will be determined by the aggregate results of Competition Fixtures played between those Teams for the current season (excluding Cup Fixtures).
 - d. if the aggregate scores between the Teams are the same, then AWAY goals will count as double.
- 4.5.6 If more than one (1) Team has the identical number of match points, Goal Difference, goals FOR & AGAINST, and the results between the Teams is the same, then those Teams will be deemed to have tied.
- 4.5.7 If the final standing in any League is affected by a tie in accordance with Rule 4.5.5 so that it has a bearing on promotion or relegation to another League, Finals or Playoffs, then FV may fixture a Play Off Match between the tied Teams in accordance with these Rules to separate them

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

- 4.6.2 If both Clubs/Teams refuse to play or are not ready to commence the Competition Fixture as scheduled (refer to Rule 4.2.2.e), FV may award a 'No Result'.
- 4.6.3 Non-participation and forfeit fines for specific competitions may be altered by FV provided that they are implemented throughout the competition.
- 4.6.4 When insufficient players are available for a Competition Fixture a senior Team within a Club must take priority over a reserve Team. Failure to field either Team will be subject to penalty under the GDT.
- 4.6.5 Any Team which fails to participate in three (4) Competition Fixtures within a Regular Season may be removed from its League at FV's discretion.
- 4.6.6 If a Club's reserves Team fails to participate in three (4) Competition Fixtures, FV may, at its discretion, remove the Club's senior Team from its League during the Regular Season.

4.7 Change of Venue/Fixture Requests by Club

4.7.2 Change of Venue Requests

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

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

4.7.3 Fixture Date/Time Change Requests

- a. FV will consider a fixture change request by a Club if the request is received no less than 14 days prior to the fixture with written consent provided to FV by Club Officials of both Clubs. Exemptions may be granted for Rounds 1-4 (and 4-5 for Leagues which have been subject to regrading)
- b. No date or time change request will be accepted for the final round of any Men's or Women's State League fixture.
- c. Scheduled FV competition catch-up and Cup Fixture rounds will only be used in the case of postponed or abandoned Competition Fixtures.
- d. Exemption from Rule 4.7.2.c may only be made if;
 - (i) a request is made in accordance with Rule 4.7.2.a; and
 - (ii) five (5) days prior to the catch-up or Cup Fixture round neither Club is involved in any other Competition Fixture being played in that catch-up or Cup Fixture round.

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

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

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

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

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

5. MATCH OFFICIALS

5.1 Match Official Fees

- 5.1.1 FV will endeavor to appoint a Match Official to each Competition Fixture, subject to availability and applicable fixture schedule.
- 5.1.2 [2022 Match Official Fees](#) are set out on the FV website and will apply for the duration of the Regular Season, although is subject to change at any time.
- 5.1.3 Unless otherwise stated in the Competition Regulations, payment in cash or cheque of all Match Official fees must be made by the Home Club on the day of the Competition Fixture.
- 5.1.4 If payment is made by cheque, and that cheque is subsequently dishonoured, the Club will be invoiced for the outstanding amount plus any costs reasonably incurred by FV as a result of the cheque being dishonoured.
- 5.1.5 If a Competition Fixture is abandoned or postponed, all Match Officials are entitled to receive match fees in accordance with Rules 4.2.5.

5.2 Assistant Match Officials

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

5.3 Non-Attendance or Unavailability of Match Official

- 5.3.2 If the Match Official fails to honor his or her appointment, the next most senior Match Official (Replacement) will take charge of the Competition Fixture.
- 5.3.3 If the Match Official is late arriving at a Competition Fixture, the Replacement will take charge until the Match Official is ready to take over.
- 5.3.4 If no registered Match Official is present to act as the Replacement ten (10) minutes prior to scheduled start of the Competition Fixture, both Clubs shall agree on a person to act as the Match Official for the Competition Fixture, or until the appointed Match Official arrives. If, by the scheduled kick off time, no agreement can be reached, the Home Club must appoint a person to act as the Match Official for the Competition Fixture. If the match is not played due to the away team disputing the match official appointment, the away team may be deemed to have caused the abandonment of the competition fixture.
- 5.3.5 If a Competition Fixture does not kick off within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick off time due to the absence of a Match Official, the Home Club will be deemed to have forfeited the Competition Fixture.
- 5.3.6 All Clubs must fulfill all Competition Fixtures, regardless of whether or not the FV appointed Match Official is present to take charge. Failure to do so may result in a penalty under the GDT.

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

5.4 Decisions of the Match Official

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

5.5 Pitch & Facility Inspection Report

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

5.6 Match Records and Misconduct Reports

- 5.6.1 At the conclusion of each Competition Fixture, the Match Official shall consult with his or her assistant Match Officials, where appointed, and confirm the accuracy of all Competition Fixture information before completing each Team's Match Record.
- 5.6.2 Match Records must be:
- 5.6.2.1 submitted by the Match Official to FV in relation to all Men's and Women's State League Competition Fixtures (seniors and reserves); and
 - 5.6.2.2 retained by all Match Officials and Clubs in relation to each Competition Fixture for a minimum of 2 years from the end of the Regular Season in which the Competition Fixture took place, and a copy submitted to FV if requested.
- 5.6.3 Match Records to be submitted to FV in accordance with Rule 5.6.2 must be submitted within 48 hours from completion of the relevant Competition Fixture (in accordance with Rule 5.6.2.1 or a request from FV (in accordance with Rule 5.6.2.2).
- 5.6.4 Misconduct Reports must be submitted in accordance with the requirements set out in the GDT.

5.7 Player Safety and Blood Rule

- 5.7.1 The Match Official must ensure that any player who suffers an injury or wound which results in the loss of blood leaves the pitch immediately for the purpose of receiving medical attention and for the safety of other players.
- 5.7.2 The Match Official may allow the injured player to rejoin the Competition Fixture only after the Match Official is satisfied that the injury or wound has been safely covered and contained.
- 5.7.3 If a player's uniform or attire has blood on it, the Match Official may require the player to change his or her attire before rejoining the Competition Fixture.
- 5.7.4 If the injured player is required to change his or her uniform, and a shirt displaying the same number as the original shirt is unavailable, the Match Official may allow the player to wear an alternative numbered, or blank, playing shirt.

5.8 Match Reporting

- 5.8.1. Match Officials must enter all match results & player data in accordance with Rule **Error! Reference source not found.**
- 5.8.2. Match Officials will be required to adhere to any requirements relating to the use of online match records, results reporting and match data recording, as prescribed by FV from time to time.

6. REGISTRATION

The Registration Process is set out in the [2022 FV Registration Regulations](#).

