



**2022 RULES OF COMPETITION AND  
REGULATIONS**

## Contents

1. GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS .....	5
1.1. Application and Definitions.....	5
1.2. Consequences of Breach .....	7
1.3. Joint Team Nominations .....	7
1.4. Monies Owing to SWVFA .....	8
1.5. Registrations, Forfeits and Abandonments.....	9
1.6. Protection of Important Fixtures .....	11
1.7. Sanctioned Matches .....	11
1.8. Insurance.....	12
1.9. Strict Liability of Clubs .....	12
1.10. Club Name or New Club Name Application .....	12
1.11. Ticketing and Refunds of Money.....	14
1.12. Security at Home Pitches .....	14
1.13. Representative Teams .....	14
1.14. Member Protection.....	15
1.15. Club Compliance and National Club Accreditation.....	15
1.16. Correspondence / Communication .....	16
1.17. COVID-19 Protocols.....	16
2. COMPETITION RULES.....	17
2.1. General Information .....	17
2.2. Player Eligibility .....	17
2.3. Gender Rules.....	18
3. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS .....	19
3.1. Facilities/Pitch Arrangements.....	19
3.2. The Technical Area .....	20
3.3. Match Records .....	21
3.4. Online Match Records .....	22
3.5. Ground Marshals .....	22
3.6. Player's Strip/Apparel .....	23
3.7. Stretchers / First Aid.....	24
3.8. Smoking / Drinking at League Venues .....	24
3.9. National Flags, Slogans & Emblems .....	25

<b>3.10. Lighting Standards</b> .....	25
<b>4. FIXTURE DETAILS</b> .....	25
<b>4.1. Duration of SWVFA Competition fixtures</b> .....	25
<b>4.2. Abandoned Competition Fixtures</b> .....	26
<b>4.3. Postponed/Rescheduled Competition Fixtures</b> .....	27
<b>4.4. Weather Conditions</b> .....	28
<b>4.5. Match Points</b> .....	28
<b>4.6. Non-Participation in a Competition Fixture</b> .....	29
<b>4.7. Change of Venue/Fixture Requests by Club</b> .....	29
<b>4.8. COVID-19 or Other Pandemic Round Cancellations</b> .....	30
<b>5. MATCH OFFICIALS</b> .....	31
<b>5.1. Match Official Fees</b> .....	31
<b>5.2. Assistant Match Officials</b> .....	31
<b>5.3. Non-Attendance or Unavailability of Match Official</b> .....	31
<b>5.4. Decisions of the Match Official</b> .....	31
<b>5.5. Match Records and Misconduct Reports</b> .....	31
<b>5.6. Player Safety and Blood Rule</b> .....	32
<b>6. REGISTRATION</b> .....	32
<b>6.1. Registration Process</b> .....	32
<b>7. CODES OF BEHAVIOUR</b> .....	32
<b>8. MINIMUM FACILITY REQUIREMENTS – SWVFA COMPETITIONS</b> .....	33
<b>9. FOOTBALL LIGHTING POLICY &amp; REQUIREMENTS</b> .....	33
<b>SCHEDULE 1 – SWVFA COMPETITION REGULATIONS</b> .....	34
<b>1. COMPETITION STRUCTURE</b> .....	34
<b>2. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS</b> .....	36
<b>3. FINALS SERIES</b> .....	37
<b>SCHEDULE 3 - CODES OF BEHAVIOUR</b> .....	39
<b>Overview</b> .....	39
<b>General Principles for all Persons Involved in Sport</b> .....	39
<b>Players’ Code of Behaviour</b> .....	40
<b>Coaches’ Code of Behaviour</b> .....	40
<b>Administrators’ Code of Behaviour</b> .....	41
<b>Match Officials’ Code of Behaviour</b> .....	41

<b>Parents Code of Behaviour</b> .....	41
<b>Spectators' Code of Behaviour</b> .....	42
<b>Victorian Code of Conduct for Community Sport</b> .....	42
<b>Code of Conduct</b> .....	43
<b>Breaches of the Code</b> .....	43
<b>State Sporting Association Responsibility</b> .....	44
SCHEDULE 4 – MINIMUM FACILITY REQUIREMENTS .....	45
SCHEDULE 5 – SWVFA DISPENSATION POLICY .....	48
OVERVIEW.....	49
DISPENSATION PROCESS.....	49
DETERMINING A DISPENSATION APPLICATION .....	50
SUBMITTING A DISPENSATION APPLICATION .....	50
TRANSGENDER, NON-BINARY AND INTERSEX .....	51
<b>MINIROOS BOYS &amp; GIRLS (U7 – U11)</b> .....	51
MEDICAL DISPENSATION .....	52
FIRST YEAR DISPENSATION .....	52
PLAY FOOTBALL DISPENSATION .....	53
<b>JUNIOR BOYS (U12- U18) &amp; JUNIOR GIRLS (U12 – U18)</b> .....	53
MEDICAL DISPENSATION .....	53
FIRST YEAR DISPENSATION .....	53
ABOVE AGE DISPENSATION .....	54
GENDER DISPENSATION.....	54
PLAY FOOTBALL DISPENSATION .....	55
FINALS/PLAYOFF ELIGIBILITY EXEMPTION DISPENSATION .....	56
<b>SENIOR WOMEN'S</b> .....	56
SENIOR WOMEN'S AGE DISPENSATION.....	56
GENDER DISPENSATION.....	56
FINALS/PLAYOFF ELIGIBILITY EXEMPTION DISPENSATION .....	57
<b>SENIOR MEN'S</b> .....	57
SENIOR MEN'S AGE DISPENSATION .....	57
GENDER DISPENSATION.....	57
FINALS/PLAYOFF ELIGIBILITY EXEMPTION DISPENSATION .....	58
CONTACT US.....	58

## 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 SWVFA's sole discretion, including where required as a result of Government regulation(s). If these Rules are amended for any reason, SWVFA will take reasonable steps to notify Clubs of the amendment(s).
- 1.1.4. Terms defined in the SWVFA Constitution, 2022 SWVFA 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 the South West Victoria Football Association, as amended and updated by SWVFA from time to time.
  - c. **Club** is any associated incorporated body that is a member under the conditions as set out in the SWVFA constitution.
  - 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 SWVFA and includes matches to which SWVFA appoints Match Official(s). This will include pre-season friendly matches.
  - f. **Cup Fixture** means any knock-out cup match, fixture or other event organised and/or administered by SWVFA or FA before, after or in conjunction with a Regular Season and includes, but is not limited to, the Australia Cup.
  - g. **Default Notice** means a notice of default issued by SWVFA in relation to an amount owed to SWVFA by a Club or a player which that Club or player has failed to pay in accordance with Rule 1.4.
  - h. **Division** means a particular grade or level of men's, women's and Junior competitions within SWVFA Football.
  - i. **FA** means Football Australia.
  - j. **FV** means Football Victoria.
  - k. **SWVFA** means South West Victoria Football Association.
  - l. **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.
- m. **Final** means a Competition Fixture played to determine the final standings or champion of a specific League or competition administered by SWVFA.
- n. **Forfeit** means failure to participate in a Competition Fixture if the Club or Team in question has failed to notify SWVFA at least three (3) days prior to the Competition Fixture.
- o. **Futsal Club** means a Club which plays in a futsal competition administered by FV or SWVFA.
- p. **GDT** means the SWVFA Grievance Discipline and Tribunal By-Law (as amended from time to time)
- q. **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.
- r. **Home Club** means the Club named first in a Competition Fixture.
- s. **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.
- t. **IFAB** means International Football Association Board.
- u. **League** (when referred to in reference to Men's, Women's and Junior football) means a particular competition within a Division.
- v. **Match Official** means a match official as defined in the GDT.
- w. **Match Record** means the official log (hard copy or online) of the Competition Fixture recording all match details including participants and results.
- x. **Misconduct** has the meaning given to it in the GDT.
- y. **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.
- z. **Non-Participation in a Fixture** means failure to participate in a Competition Fixture having notified SWVFA more than three (3) days prior to the Competition fixture.
- aa. **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.
- bb. **Play Off Match** means a Competition Fixture played to determine the final standings of a League or the eligibility for promotion/relegation of a Team between Divisions.
- cc. **Played** means:
  - i. A Team has participated in a Competition Fixture.
  - ii. In specific reference to a player, Played means:
  - iii. Being listed on the Match Record in a League where the interchange rule applies; or
  - iv. Starting the Competition Fixture on or consequently being substituted onto the Field of Play in a League where the substitution rule applies.
  - v. If a player is originally listed on the Match Record and it is subsequently indicated on the Match Record that the player is no longer to participate in the Competition Fixture, that change must be acknowledged by signature of the

senior Match Official prior to the commencement of the Competition Fixture. Failure to comply will deem the player to have Played that fixture under rule 1.1.5.cc.

- dd. **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.
- ee. **Postponed** means a Competition Fixture which has not commenced as scheduled.
- ff. **Registered** means registered and eligible in PlayFootball in accordance with the 2022 FV Registration Regulations.
- gg. **Regrading Result** means a result which has been attributed due to a team that has been regraded into a Competition.
- hh. **Regular Season** means the time and Competition Fixtures between the first and last round of the relevant competition in addition to any Play Off Match(es) required for the Division in question.
- ii. **Rule or Rule of Competition** means a rule set out in a clause or clauses of these 2022 Rules of Competition.
- jj. **Risk Assessment and Security Policy** is the SWVFA policy which outlines minimum security requirements and responsibilities at Competition Fixtures
- kk. **Sanctioned Match** means any match to which FV/SWVFA appoints one (1) or more Match Official(s) but does not administer directly. This includes matches to which SWVFA is unable to appoint one (1) or more Match Official(s) due to availability, but a request for appointment has been made and acknowledged.
- ll. **Team** means a football team entered by a Club in a League or, in junior football (U5s to U20s) a team entered by a Club in a competition, administered by FV or SWVFA.
- mm. **Technical Area** is as defined in the Venue Category Minimum Requirements set out in SCHEDULE 4 – MINIMUM FACILITY REQUIREMENTS.

## **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. Joint Team Nominations**

- 1.3.1. Where a Club has insufficient numbers to nominate a junior team in an age group, they may apply for nomination as a joint team.
- 1.3.2. Teams may be made up from different Clubs to form one or more teams in an age group/competition.
- 1.3.3. Players playing in "joint teams" will remain members of that Club to which they first registered and will be due any such benefits from that Club.
- 1.3.4. Team colours will need to be approved by the SWVFA Administration and/or the SWVFA Board.

- 1.3.5. All teams must nominate a coach and team manager for all team entries, who must be registered (as non-playing members of the SWVFA if they are not registered as a player of their club), as a coach on PlayFootball.

#### **1.4. Monies Owing to SWVFA**

##### *Monies Owing By A Club*

- 1.4.1. All amounts owed by a Club to SWVFA must be paid within 30 days of the date of the invoice issued by SWVFA in relation to that amount.
- 1.4.2. If a Club fails to pay any amount owing to SWVFA in accordance with Rule 1.4, SWVFA may issue a Default Notice giving the Club a further 14 days to pay that amount.
- 1.4.3. If a Club fails to comply with a Default Notice issued in accordance with Rule 1.4.2, or agree to a repayment plan with SWVFA for the amount owed, SWVFA may, at its sole discretion:
- a. Rule that Club (or the applicable Team(s) within that Club) ineligible to earn competition points in any Competition Fixture or Sanctioned Match in which the Club (or Team) plays, until the debt is paid;
  - b. Suspend or expel that Club (or Team(s)) from any Competition Fixture (including Cup Fixtures) and/or SWVFA competitions.
  - c. 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.
- 1.4.4. If SWVFA and a Club agree to a repayment plan in relation to a debt owed by the Club to SWVFA and the Club fails to meet any of the terms of that payment plan by the stipulated date and time, SWVFA may immediately and without the need to issue a further Default Notice, impose one or more of the sanctions referred to in Rule 1.4.3 above.

##### *Monies Owing By A Player*

- 1.4.5. All amounts owed by a player to SWVFA must be paid within 30 days of the date of the invoice issued by SWVFA in relation to the amount payable.
- 1.4.6. If a player fails to pay any amount owing to SWVFA in accordance with Rule 1.4.5, SWVFA may issue a Default Notice giving the player a further 14 days to pay that amount.
- 1.4.7. If a player fails to comply with a Default Notice issued in accordance with Rule 1.4.6, or agree to a repayment plan with SWVFA for the amount owed, FV/SWVFA may, at its sole discretion, suspend that player from any or all SWVFA competitions or representative Teams on such terms as it sees fit until such debt is paid or secured to the satisfaction of SWVFA.
- 1.4.8. SWVFA may offset any monies owed by SWVFA to a Club or a player against any amount owed by a Club or a player to SWVFA prior to the issue of an invoice to a Club or player for amounts owing to SWVFA.



## 1.5. Registrations, Forfeits and Abandonments

### *Definitions*

#### 1.5.1. 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 SWVFA;
  - viii. A Player or Players in breach of Rule 2.2; or
  - ix. A Player or Players in respect of Rule 2.3.
- e. Offence means when SWVFA 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 SWVFA 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*

- 1.5.2. All Clubs and Teams must Register all Players in accordance with the FV Registration Regulations.
- 1.5.3. SWVFA may find Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) through random audits, daily processing or upon investigation following notification of a breach of this Rule.
- 1.5.4. 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 1.5.4a above, where SWVFA finds that a Club or Team has Fielded Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) in multiple Competition Fixtures over a period of time, SWVFA 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 SWVFA may take into account in making a decision under Clause 1.5.4b above include, but are not limited to:
  - i. whether or not in SWVFA's opinion the Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) was intentionally or inadvertently Fielded; and
  - ii. whether a genuine administrative error occurred; and
  - iii. whether the Club made any enquiries to SWVFA 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 SWVFA may consider relevant in the circumstances.

*By way of example: where SWVFA 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, SWVFA may either deduct up to 12 points from the Team and not reverse any individual Competition Fixtures, reverse such Competition Fixtures as necessary.*

- 1.5.5. Where SWVFA 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, SWVFA 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).
- 1.5.6. 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 1.5.6: 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 the SWVFA and FV promptly.*

*Additional notes: in junior football for U12s to U16s inclusive, the focus is on participation. Where Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) in these leagues are identified, SWVFA 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 senior competitions, the SWVFA and SWVFA'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*

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

#### *Request for Information*

- 1.5.8. Where SWVFA 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 SWVFA).
- 1.5.9. A failure to comply with Clause 1.5.8 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 1.5.8 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.

#### **1.6. Protection of Important Fixtures**

- 1.6.1. Where an A-League, W-League, International or an Inter-State match is scheduled in the SWVFA competition area, SWVFA may determine that no other Competition Fixture or Sanctioned Match take place at the same time.

#### **1.7. Sanctioned Matches**

- 1.7.1. Any Club taking part in a Sanctioned Match must abide by any and all codes of conduct or codes of behaviour prescribed by the SWVFA, FV and/or FA from time to time, including the Codes of Behaviour attached to the Rules at Schedule 5.
- 1.7.2. By participating in a Sanctioned Match, the Club and any league or association to which that Club belongs, submits to the jurisdiction of the SWVFA, FV, its Rules and Regulations and the GDT.
- 1.7.3. 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.

1.7.4. 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 SWVFA Registration Regulations, writing to the FV Registrations Team for prior approval.

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

## **1.8. Insurance**

1.8.1. 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*

1.8.2. 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*

1.8.3. 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.

## **1.9. Strict Liability of Clubs**

1.9.1. 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-SWVFA 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.

## **1.10. Club Name or New Club Name Application**

1.10.1. 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.

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

1.10.3. 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.

1.10.4. Process for new name application by a Club:

- a. All submissions will be considered in accordance with [FA Inclusivity Principles for Club Identity](#)

- b. The Club name must be approved in writing by the local government authority and be representative of the geographic area within which the Club is located.
  - c. Club name approval by SWVFA, FV and/or FA will at all times be subject to the Club holding any applicable legal right(s) to use that name and any associated logo. It is a Club's sole responsibility to ensure that it holds any applicable legal rights.
  - d. The Club must:
    - i. Submit on Club letterhead its request for a change of Club name or new Club name with the [NRRO2B](#) form
    - ii. Provide full disclosure of the reasons for the requested change.
    - iii. include a minimum of three (3) proposed names with their application for change of Club name or new Club name that can be assessed and comply with Rule 1.10.4.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 1.10.4.d.(v), 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. SWVFA 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 SWVFA'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 SWVFA that there are no outstanding debts or other obligations to the former council/municipality.
- 1.10.5. SWVFA will not approve the relocation of a Club to a different municipality unless it is in the best interests of South West & Western Victorian football in general (to be determined at the sole discretion of SWVFA) 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 SWVFA).
- 1.10.6. No Club will be allowed more than one (1) incorporated name or registered business/playing name.

#### *Incorporation*

- 1.10.7. A Club must provide SWVFA 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 SWVFA, FV and/or FA of a new club name or a club name change being revoked.

### **1.11. Ticketing and Refunds of Money**

- 1.11.1. Rule 1.11 is applicable to all Competition Fixtures where admission fees are charged.
- 1.11.2. Customers that present an authentic SWVFA 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 SWVFA (for example in relation to Finals or Playoffs).
- 1.11.3. Ticket prices must be clearly displayed at venue entry point.
- 1.11.4. Admittance fee to all senior competition matches will be set by the SWVFA Board of Management and clubs notified prior to the start of the season. Home and away season gates will be collected and retained by the home club except for the Cup Grand Finals, and Home and away finals Grand Final which will be collected and retained by the SWVFA.

### **1.12. Security at Home Pitches**

- 1.12.1. The Home Club is responsible for providing appropriate arrangements to ensure the orderly behaviour of spectators and provide for the protection of Match Officials, players and Club Associates and officials at Competition Fixtures including but not limited to any specific requirements of SWVFA which are notified to the Home Club.
- 1.12.2. Each Home Club is responsible for security and/or police as directed by SWVFA. Ordinarily this will be wholly the responsibility of the Home Club but SWVFA reserves the right to require any Club involved in a Competition Fixture to meet SWVFA determined security requirements.
- 1.12.3. Home Clubs and Host Clubs must provide a lockable facility for all valuables of Match Official(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.
- 1.12.4. Rules 1.12.1 – 1.12.3 apply to a Club's home ground or facility and any neutral ground or facility 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.
- 1.12.5. 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.
- 1.12.6. Each Club is not responsible for the valuables of its players, and valuables that are left in change rooms are done so at the owners' personal risk.

### **1.13. Representative Teams**

- 1.13.1. Any player registered for an SWVFA affiliated club will be eligible to represent the SWVFA 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 the SWVFA.
- 1.13.2. All Clubs must release players for training and preparation for, and participation in, representative matches, camps or tours.
- 1.13.3. Where a Club has three (3) or more outfield players or one (1) goalkeeper from the same Team participating in an SWVFA/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. FV State Teams
- b. National Teams
- c. SWVFA representative squads

1.13.4. All requests pursuant to Rule 1.13.3 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 SWVFA/FV/FA for representative duty. SWVFA shall determine the outcome of any request under this Rule at its absolute discretion and that decision cannot be appealed or reviewed.

#### **1.14. Member Protection**

1.14.1. 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](#).

1.14.2. 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. The SWVFA has developed its Dispensation Policy in line with the 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 SWVFA to participate in competitions that they would otherwise not be eligible.

1.14.3. 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.

1.14.4. 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.

1.14.5. As an FV affiliated association, the SWVFA 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.

#### **1.15. Club Compliance and National Club Accreditation**

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

- a. Any Club compliance program;
- b. The [National Club Development Program](#) (NCDP) criteria;
- c. Consumer Affairs Victoria;
- d. Australian Securities and Investment Commission (as applicable);
- e. Any other relevant regulator or Government body.

### **1.16. Correspondence / Communication**

- 1.16.1. All correspondence by SWVFA to Clubs shall be deemed to have been received by Clubs:
- 1.16.2. In the case of online communication, the day on which it was published online;
- 1.16.3. In the case of email or fax communication, the time at which it was sent;
- 1.16.4. Clubs must ensure that their, specified email accounts and the FV/SWVFA website are checked regularly, and that any information received is forwarded to the addressee or relevant parties within the Club. The SWVFA and FV will send all correspondence to two contacts as identified in the Office Bearers section of the PlayFootball website.
- 1.16.5. 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 the Club's the Office Bearers section of the PlayFootball , and on Club Letterhead. Requests made by anyone not listed as a Club representative on the Office Bearers section of the club's PlayFootball site may not be actioned by SWVFA.
- 1.16.6. 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 on the Office Bearers section of the PlayFootball and checked regularly by Club Associates and/or Club Officials.
- 1.16.7. 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/SWVFA or otherwise.
- 1.16.8. SWVFA reserves the right to only communicate with nominated club contacts as listed on Play Football.

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

- 1.17.1. All Clubs competing in SWVFA 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>.



## 2. COMPETITION RULES

### 2.1. General Information

- 2.1.1. All Competition Fixtures are played under the IFAB Laws of the Game, unless otherwise specified in these Rules.
- 2.1.2. Only Teams from SWVFA Member Clubs may enter SWVFA competitions.
- 2.1.3. If a Team is withdrawn on or before the point of the season at which all Teams have played each other once, a 'BYE' will be inserted to replace the withdrawn Team in the fixture, and all championship points along with goals scored (for & against) 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 season at which all Teams have played each other an equal number of times, a 'BYE' will be inserted for the remainder of the season to replace the withdrawn Team in the fixture, and:
- a. All championship points along with goals scored (for & against) for:
    - i. Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team up to the point of the season at which all Teams have played each other an equal number of times will remain.
    - ii. Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team after 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.
  - b. All Best & Fairest 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 remain.
    - 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, SWVFA may consider forfeited matches as Played for the purposes of Rule 2.1.4.

- 2.1.5. If a Team withdraws prior to the start of the Regular Season and cannot be replaced, a "BYE" will be inserted into the fixture or the fixture may be amended to accommodate the new number of Teams
- 2.1.6. SWVFA may alter Competition Fixture kick-off times as it deems necessary in its sole and absolute discretion.

### 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, FV and SWVFA Registration Regulations;
  - b. all registration fees for the player are current as per rule 1.4, subject to Rule 2.2.2;
  - c. the player is not under suspension by SWVFA, 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 SWVFA (refer to relevant SWVFA 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 Home and Away, Cup, 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 SWVFA 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 SWVFA's Dispensation Policy. SWVFA at its sole discretion may amend any part of the Dispensation Policy as required from time to time.
- 2.2.5. At SWVFA'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/SWVFA 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.

### **2.3. Gender Rules**

- 2.3.1. The Gender Rules form part of the SWVFA Dispensation Policy. The SWVFA at its sole discretion may amend any part of the dispensation policy as required from time to time.
- 2.3.2. Under the Victorian Equal Opportunity Act, it is unlawful to discriminate on the ground of gender up until the age of 12 years.
- 2.3.3. SWVFA 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.  
In the absence of separate girl's and boy's competitions after this age, players who identify as non-binary, transgender or intersex are permitted to participate in the available mixed 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 SWVFA/FV.

- c. Players who identify as female are permitted to participate in all male competitions up to, and including, Under 16 boys. The player must turn 16 or below during the 2022 calendar year and may play in their equivalent age group of male competitions without the prior approval of SWVFA/FV.
- d. Players who identify as female are not permitted to participate in male competitions above Under 16, with the exception of any player who receives prior written approval from SWVFA/FV.
- e. The Club must provide SWVFA with the following documentation in support of their application for gender dispensation in relation to a regional player and/or an FA-approved player;
  - i. a signed letter from the player's Club President supporting the application.
  - ii. a signed letter from the player's Club Technical Director supporting the application.
  - iii. a signed letter of consent from the players parent (s) or guardian supporting the application.
  - iv. a document listing general medical details of the player by a medical professional including height and weight; and
  - v. any further information requested.
- f. 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: SWVFA may request supporting documentation as part of any application under these guidelines and applicants may be referred to FA's policy.

2.3.4. All decisions in relation to the gender rules are final and at the discretion of the FA & FV diversity and inclusion team, technical team and SWVFA competitions team. These decisions are not appealable.

### 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 SWVFA Competitions as prescribed and promulgated by SWVFA from time to time. The minimum class of facility required for relevant SWVFA Competitions is:
  - i. SWVFA Senior Men's (all Divisions) and Senior Women's - 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 6.

- 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;
  - 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. SWVFA's minimum requirements for all Facilities Standards are set out in SCHEDULE 4 – MINIMUM FACILITY REQUIREMENTS.
- 3.1.3. A Club which advises SWVFA 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 SWVFA to not comply with these requirements may:
  - a. Have its home fixtures moved to an alternate venue or forfeit those home fixtures if a move to an alternate venue is not possible in SWVFA's opinion.
  - b. Be required by SWVFA 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 SWVFA deems appropriate.
  - c. Have Team(s) withdrawn from competition during the current Regular Season.
- 3.1.4. SWVFA may in its sole discretion upon written request grant a temporary dispensation from compliance with Rule 3 to a Club which:
  - a. is in the process of upgrading its facilities to meet SWVFA's requirements; or
  - b. due to circumstances beyond its reasonable control the Club cannot comply with SWVFA's requirements; or
  - c. has satisfied SWVFA that the Club is taking all reasonable steps to ensure compliance with SWVFA's facility requirements.
- 3.1.5. SWVFA 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 eleven (11) 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. The Technical area must be well defined, either by white lines, cones, or ropes.
- 3.2.2. Subject to Rule 3.2.4, all persons must remain seated within the confines of the Technical Area, except in special circumstances e.g. a physiotherapist or doctor entering the field of play, with the Match Official's permission, to assess an injured player.
- 3.2.3. Players may leave the Technical Area to warm up, provided it does not interrupt the view of any Match Official.

- 3.2.4. Only one (1) person may stand up at one (1) time within the Technical Area. 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 etc.
- 3.2.6. The Match Official may expel any person from the Technical Area at any time as he or she sees fit. The Competition Fixture will not recommence until that person has left the Technical Area and Field of Play to the Match Official's satisfaction.
- 3.2.7. A player or Club Associate who is under suspension must not be present in the Technical Area. Should a player or Club Associate be in breach of this rule they will be subject to further penalties under the GDT.

### **3.3. Match Records**

- 3.3.1. Clubs will be required to adhere to any requirements relating to the use of online match records, results reporting and match data recording, as prescribed by SWVFA 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 15 minutes before the commencement of any SWVFA 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 16 players are listed on the Match Record; or
  - c. it fails to list on the Match Record the shirt number, full name and FFA ID number for each player, or adds players to the Match Record after 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 SWVFA in the following circumstances:
- a. The Match Record and a request to conduct a match investigation is lodged with SWVFA within 7 days of the Competition Fixture; and
  - b. The following evidence is submitted by the Club in support of its request for a match investigation:
    - i. Full Match Record;
    - ii. Video and/or photographic evidence;
    - iii. Statutory Declaration(s); and
    - iv. Any other information accepted from the Club at the discretion of SWVFA.
- 3.3.9. SWVFA reserves the right to amend the Match Records and will only be amended if SWVFA is satisfied that there was no malice or intent to gain an advantage. In this instance, Clubs may not be charged with Misconduct as per Rule 3.3.5 and SWVFA's decision is final in this regard and is not appealable.
- 3.3.10. 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.
- 3.3.11. It is the responsibility of a club official (Coach/Team Manager/Marshall) from each team to confirm that the players listed on the match record are in attendance for the game that they are listed on the match record for. This applies to games across all senior and junior competitions. Players are not to be listed on a match record if they are not playing in the game for which they are listed on the match record. If a player is listed on a match record and it is determined that they are not participating in the game for which they are listed for then a line is to be placed through this player on the match record in the presence of the officiating match official and team officials at the conclusion of the scheduled game. Any player who it is determined did not participate or was not in attendance for a match that they were listed on the match record for are not to be recorded on the online match/results system for that game.

#### **3.4. Online Match Records**

- 3.4.1. At the completion of each game in all competitions, Men's, Women's and Junior's in the SWVFA, The Home teams must enter the result in the Competition Management Software. This will include, Names of players as per team sheets, goals scored and names of goal scorers, number of yellow and red cards and name of offenders. The Home team will be responsible for entering both the Home and Away Team details by 8pm Sunday Night.
- 3.4.2. An official warning will be issued to the offending club for non-compliance.
- 3.4.3. Any Home team (Not Club) receiving four (4) warnings in a season, for not entering in that weekends game results (including match scores per team e.g. 3-2) by the Sunday night deadline of 8pm, will receive penalty equating to the reduction of one (1) premiership point to that home team.

#### **3.5. Ground Marshals**

- 3.5.1. Each Club must provide one marshal for each SWVFA fixtured game.

- 3.5.2. Ground Marshals must:
- be at least 18 years old and provide the Match Official with their name;
  - be in a clearly identifiable uniform;
  - be visible from the Field of Play at all times;
  - escort the Match Official(s) to and from the change rooms and the Field of Play at the commencement of the Competition Fixture, at half time and at full time; and;
  - where required, assist the Match Officials(s) to ensure a safe playing environment for all players, Club Officials and spectators.
- 3.5.3. Match Officials must not leave their dressing rooms to enter the Field of Play or return to their rooms from the Field of Play until the identifiable Ground Marshals are present.
- 3.5.4. SWVFA may vary the minimum Ground Marshal requirements for any Competition Fixture at any time.
- 3.5.5. 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.
- 3.5.6. Clubs must ensure the [FV Ground Marshal Handbook](#) is provided to relevant persons prior to completing the duty.

### 3.6. Player's Strip/Apparel

- 3.6.1. Clothing
- All Teams must nominate a 'Home' playing strip. The Club's 'Home' playing strip must be entered into FV/SWVFA's online competition management system.
  - All playing strips must be approved by SWVFA.
  - Any change to club strips during the season must be updated on GameDay and communicated to SWVFA 5 working days prior to the Club's next Competition Fixture.
  - Predominantly black playing shirts will not be permitted under any circumstances.
  - All under garment colours will be governed by FIFA rules
  - The Home Club in each Competition Fixture is required to wear there nominated 'Home' playing strip.
  - 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.
  - The purpose of Rule 3.6 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 Leagues:

	SWVFA Men/Women Senior Comps	SWVFA Junior Comps
Playing Shirt	No Clash Permitted	No Clash Permitted

Shorts	Clash Permitted	Clash Permitted
Socks	Clash Permitted	Clash Permitted

**Table 3.6 – Clashes and Permissions**

- i. Bibs are not permitted to be worn in any Competition Fixture above Under 12's.
- j. All playing shirts must have a visible and clear number on the back of the shirt.
- k. All playing numbers displayed on shirts must be unique within the Team.
- l. 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 3.6.1.d, or
  - ii. a Club changes their home playing strip without notifying SWVFA Competitions by no later than three days prior to Competition Fixture, and this change results in a SWVFA Competition Fixture being postponed as a result of a strip clash.
- m. Goalkeepers may wear any colour, provided their strip does not clash with either Team or the Match Official.
- n. All Clubs must have two (2) goalkeeper strips available at all home and away fixtures.

**3.6.2. Protective Gear**

- 3.6.2.1. Any player requiring vision correction should wear contact lenses, or wear spectacles that:
- a. are firmly secured with a sports band or adjustable strap;
  - b. have purpose-designed and closely fitted curled ends on the arms; or
  - c. are specially designed protective sports glasses constructed of plastic with rubberised cushioning and no metallic parts.

3.6.2.2. Players equipment must be in line with IFAB Laws of the Game

**3.7. Stretchers / First Aid**

3.7.1. Each Home Club must allocate one (1) stretcher suitable for first aid and emergency use, as outlined in Schedule 3, at all Competition venues. The stretcher must be located as near as practical to the pitch

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

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

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

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

3.8.2. Clubs are responsible for ensuring that smoking and drinking alcohol are confined to licensed and permitted areas. Clubs should be familiar with and refer to



State legislation regarding new smoking laws.

### 3.9. National Flags, Slogans & Emblems

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

### 3.10. Lighting Standards

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

## 4. FIXTURE DETAILS

### 4.1. Duration of SWVFA Competition fixtures

- 4.1.1. Periods of Play
  - a. All SWVFA Competition Fixtures will be played over Normal Time as specified in Table 4.1

Age Group	Duration of Competition Fixtures
Under Twelve (12)	2 x 30 minute halves (= 60 minutes)
Under Fourteen (14)	2 x 35 minute halves (= 70 minutes)
Under Sixteen (16)	2 x 35 minute halves (= 70 minutes)
Senior Women's	2 x 30 minute halves (= 60 minutes)
Senior Men's (Division 1 & Division 2)	2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)

**Table 4.1 – Duration of Normal Time Across Age Groups**

- a. Periods of play for specific competitions may be altered by SWVFA provided they are implemented throughout the age group or competition.
  - b. 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
    - 4.1.2.1. Teams must be ready to begin playing by the stated kick off time.
    - 4.1.2.2. If either Team is not ready to begin playing within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick off time the Match Official may determine:
      - a. In the case where only one (1) Team is not ready, that the offending Team has forfeited the Competition Fixture.

- b. In a case where both Teams are not ready, postpone the Competition Fixture. SWVFA may subsequently determine that this Competition Fixture is to be recorded as a 'no result'.
- c. In a case 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

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

## 4.2. Abandoned Competition Fixtures

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

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; or
- d. the Match Official, in consultation with security staff and ground marshals where applicable, determines that the conditions for players, coaches, Match Officials or supporters have become unsafe or untenable for any reason;
- e. one or both of the Teams is not ready to commence the Competition Fixture within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick-off time; or
- f. in accordance with Rule 4.4.

4.2.3. If a Competition Fixture is abandoned due to a matter set out in Rule 4.2.2 SWVFA 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 SWVFA 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, SWVFA 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,

SWVFA 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 SWVFA determines that additional players are eligible (for example, in the case of player injury with supporting medical documentation); and
- iii. SWVFA 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. SWVFA 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.
- vi. 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, all Match Officials are entitled to receive 100% of their normal match fee.

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

### **4.3. Postponed/Rescheduled Competition Fixtures**

4.3.1. Competition Fixtures may only be postponed or rescheduled by appointed Match Officials or SWVFA competitions staff.

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

- a. Will take into consideration all relevant circumstances including but not limited to league standings and the scheduling of Cup Fixtures.
- b. SWVFA will not compensate any clubs due to the rescheduling of competition fixtures

4.3.3. SWVFA 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 SWVFA and any Club which fails to do so will automatically forfeit the Competition Fixture and may face penalty under the GDT.

- 4.3.4. If a Competition Fixture is postponed by the Match Official, both the Match Official and the Home Club must notify SWVFA by the following working day that the Competition Fixture has been postponed.
- 4.3.5. Any postponed or abandoned Competition Fixture that requires rescheduling will be rescheduled to the next available catch-up round (if available) or midweek at SWVFA's discretion.
- 4.3.6. Any Competition Fixture scheduled by SWVFA to be replayed must be completed by no later than one (1) week after the conclusion of the Regular Season unless otherwise approved or directed by SWVFA in writing. SWVFA may record the result of any Competition Fixture not completed within this time frame as a 'No Result'.
- 4.3.7. 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 may be subject to Misconduct under the GDT. SWVFA may also record the final score of any such Competition Fixture as a 'No Result'.
- 4.3.8. When a Competition Fixture is postponed, all appointed Match Officials are entitled to receive 50% of their normal match fee if the Match Official was present at the venue when the Competition Fixture was postponed. Match Officials may not claim more than one (1) postponed match fee from one venue on one day.

**4.4. Weather Conditions**

- 4.4.1. SWVFA and/or the Match Official may postpone, 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.
- 4.4.2. Refer to SWVFA [Extreme Weather Policy](#) for all rules and guidelines referring to extreme weather conditions.

**4.5. Match Points**

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

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

**Table 4.5: Match Points**

- 4.5.2. SWVFA reserves the right to record any Competition Fixture as a 'No Result' if the circumstances require or as a result of a breach of these Rules.
- 4.5.3. 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.
- 4.5.4. If more than one (1) Team finishes the Regular Season on the same number of points, their final position will be determined as follows:
  - a. The Team with the greatest Goal Difference will finish higher.

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

#### **4.6. Non-Participation in a Competition Fixture**

- 4.6.1. Clubs/Teams are obliged to participate in all Competition Fixtures. Any Club/Team which fails to do so may be subject to Misconduct under the GDT.
- 4.6.2. If both Clubs/Teams refuse to play or are not ready to commence the Competition Fixture as scheduled (refer to Rule 4.1.2.2), SWVFA may award a 'No Result'.
- 4.6.3. In the event of forfeit without adequate notification to SWVFA, the payment of any Match Official fees is entirely (100%) the responsibility of the non-participating Club. The payment will be shared (50%) if both Clubs do not (or are not ready to) participate in the Competition Fixture.
- 4.6.4. Non-participation and forfeit fines for specific competitions may be altered by SWVFA provided that they are implemented throughout the competition.
- 4.6.5. 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 penalties under the GDT.
- 4.6.6. Any Team which fails to participate in three (3) Competition Fixtures within a Regular Season may be removed from its League at SWVFA's discretion.
- 4.6.7. If a Club's reserves Team fails to participate in three (3) Competition Fixtures, SWVFA may, at its discretion, remove the Club's senior Team from its League during the Regular Season.
- 4.6.8. Where the Australian Federal Government or Victorian State Government issues protocols or directions that prevent a Competition Fixture from taking place, the sanctions outlined in this clause may not apply.

#### **4.7. Change of Venue/Fixture Requests by Club**

- 4.7.1. 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 SWVFA no less than 5 days

prior to the scheduled Competition Fixture. FV/SWVFA 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 kick-off times or dates will be subject to Rule 4.7.2.

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

4.7.2. Fixture date and time change requests:

- a. SWVFA will consider fixture changes if the request is received no less than 14 days prior to the fixture with written consent provided to SWVFA by Club Officials of both Clubs.
- b. An example of a valid reason for a change of date and time fixture request is both clubs agreeing to play a twilight/night fixture
- c. A change of date and time fixture request will not be granted on the basis of a club not being able to field sufficient numbers due to external/internal club functions or social activities.
- d. A request for a change of date and time fixture request will be considered on the basis of a club not being able to field sufficient numbers due to extreme uncontrollable circumstances such accidents, deaths or severe illness that may impact the ability of a team to field a side, this will be determined on a case by case basis following application and at the discretion of the SWVFA Board (in this instance the 14 days' notice as per 4.7.2a may be waived)
- e. Scheduled SWVFA competition catch-up and Cup Fixture rounds will only be used in the case of postponed or abandoned Competition Fixtures.
- f. Exemption from Rule 4.7.2.b 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.

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

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

#### **4.8. COVID-19 or Other Pandemic Round Cancellations**

4.8.1. If a Round, or Rounds of matches are cancelled by the order of a State or Federal Government, the fixture will recommence from the place at where it stopped prior to the cancellation. (e.g. If Rounds 8 and 9 were forced to be cancelled, the fixture would recommence at Round 8 when play was able to recommence)

4.8.2. If Rounds are cancelled catch-up games will be taken from the end of the fixture and played in the available catch-up slots, or at other times as agreed by the competing clubs and the SWVFA (e.g. If Rounds 8 and 9 were forced to be cancelled, Rounds 21 and 22 would be played in the available catch-up slots).

## 5. MATCH OFFICIALS

### 5.1. Match Official Fees

- 5.1.1. The SWVFA will endeavour to appoint a Match Official to each Competition Fixture, subject to availability and applicable fixture schedule.
- 5.1.2. Match Official fees are set out on the SWVFA website and will apply for the duration of the Regular Season, although are subject to change at any time.
- 5.1.3. Unless otherwise stated in the Competition Regulations, payment all Match Official fees must be made by the SWVFA after the day of the Competition Fixture.
- 5.1.4. If a Competition Fixture is abandoned or postponed, all Match Officials are entitled to receive match fees in accordance with Rules 4.2.5 and 4.3.8 respectively.

### 5.2. Assistant Match Officials

- 5.2.1. Where available, two (2) assistant Match Officials shall be appointed to a Competition Fixture to assist the Match Official.
- 5.2.2. If insufficient assistant Match Officials have been appointed, each Team must provide an assistant Match Official. Failure to comply will result in a forfeit.

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

- 5.3.1. If the Match Official fails to honour his or her appointment, the next most senior Match Official (Replacement) will take charge of the Competition Fixture.
- 5.3.2. If the Match Official is late arriving at a Competition Fixture, the Replacement will take charge until the Match Official is ready to take over.
- 5.3.3. If no registered Match Official is present to act as the Replacement ten (10) minutes prior to 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.
- 5.3.4. If a Competition Fixture does not kick off within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick off time due to the absence of a Match Official, the Home Club will be deemed to have forfeited the Competition Fixture.
- 5.3.5. All Clubs must fulfil all Competition Fixtures, regardless of whether or not the SWVFA appointed Match Official is present to take charge. Failure to do so may result in a penalty under the GDT.

### 5.4. Decisions of the Match Official

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

### 5.5. Match Records and Misconduct Reports

- 5.5.1. 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 both Match Records.

- 5.5.2. Match Records must be:
- a. submitted by the Match Official to SWVFA in relation to all Senior and Junior, Men's and Women's Competition Fixtures (seniors and reserves); and
  - b. 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 SWVFA if requested.
- 5.5.3. Match Records to be submitted to SWVFA in accordance with Rule 5.5.2 must be submitted within 48 hours from completion of the relevant Competition Fixture or a request from SWVFA (in accordance with Rule 5.5.2.b).
- 5.5.4. Misconduct Reports must be submitted in accordance with the requirements set out in the GDT.

#### **5.6. Player Safety and Blood Rule**

- 5.6.1. 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.
- 5.6.2. The Match Official may allow the injured player to re-join the Competition Fixture only after the Match Official is satisfied that the injury or wound has been safely covered and contained.
- 5.6.3. If a player's uniform or attire has blood on it, the Match Official will require the player to change his or her attire before re-joining the Competition Fixture.
- 5.6.4. 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.

## 6. REGISTRATION

### **6.1. Registration Process**

- 6.1.1. The Registration Process is set out in the 2022 FV/SWVFA [Registration Regulations](#)
- 6.1.2. The final date for a player transfer for any senior or junior season will be 5pm on the Sunday proceeding the completion of last game of the halfway point of the season of that particular competition. (e.g. if the senior men's competition is 22 rounds then the final date of for a player transfer would be 5pm on the Sunday post the completion of Round 11)
- 6.1.3. The final date for a new registration for any senior player will be no later than 7 rounds from the end of the home and away season of the competition that a player may be registering for (e.g. if the senior men's competition is 22 rounds then the final date of for a new registration would be prior to the commencement of round 15 of that competition).

## 7. CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

- 7.1. Please refer to SCHEDULE 3 - CODES OF BEHAVIOUR which sets out all relevant Codes of Behaviour and Codes of Conduct applicable to SWVFA competitions,



Competition Fixtures, Clubs, players, Match Officials and Club Associates and Officials.

## 8. MINIMUM FACILITY REQUIREMENTS – SWVFA COMPETITIONS

8.1. Please refer to SCHEDULE 4 – MINIMUM FACILITY REQUIREMENTS for all Minimum Facility Requirements - SWVFA Competitions

## 9. FOOTBALL LIGHTING POLICY & REQUIREMENTS

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

## SCHEDULE 1 – SWVFA COMPETITION REGULATIONS

### 1. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

#### 1.1. General Information

- 1.1.1. These rules shall apply to all competition fixtures (including league fixtures, cup games, finals & play-off matches) of SWVFA.
- 1.1.2. All competition matches will be played on Sunday, although SWVFA may schedule games on other days as it deems necessary
- 1.1.3. The kick-off times may be changed to accommodate playing at different times, venues or days. The SWVFA board reserves the right to change or alter playing times to accommodate fixturing requirements.
- 1.1.4. To be eligible to participate in Men's competitions run by SWVFA, players must turn 15 years (or older) in the current calendar year, and unless an application to SWVFA for exemption from this rule is made by the player's club on behalf of a player and is accepted by SWVFA.
- 1.1.5. To be eligible to participate in Women's competitions run by SWVFA, players must turn 14 years (or older) in the current calendar year, and unless an application to SWVFA for exemption from this rule is made by the player's club on behalf of a player and is accepted by SWVFA.
- 1.1.6. Any request for an exemption must at a minimum meet the following criteria;
  - a) must be supported by a signed letter from the player's club supporting the application;
  - b) must also be supported by a signed letter of consent from the player's parent or guardian supporting the application. At its discretion the SWVFA may request more information be presented for consideration.
- 1.1.7. Where clubs enter multiple teams in a competition or age group: Players are not able to swap between teams. They are tied to one side for the entire season. This does not apply to under 16 players when playing in an open aged competition.

#### 1.2. Men's – Division 1 Competition

- 1.2.1. The Division 1 Competition shall comprise of the team entries received by the SWVFA for the relevant year.
- 1.2.2. The Division 1 teams will play each other on a home and away basis determined by the SWVFA.
- 1.2.3. When insufficient players are available to field senior teams, clubs must field teams in order of hierarchy: Division 1 then Division 2.
- 1.2.4. The team finishing 1st in all competitions at the conclusion of the home and away season will be crowned League Champions.
- 1.2.5. At the conclusion of the home and away season, the top four (4) placed teams, must play a compulsory finals series to determine the SWVFA Premier and Runner-up.
- 1.2.6. The applicable kick off times for Saturday or Sunday matches apply to any matches held on public holidays.

### **1.3. Men's – Division 2 Competition**

- 1.3.1. The Division 2 Competition shall comprise of the team entries received by the SWVFA for the relevant year.
- 1.3.2. The Division 2 teams will play each other on a home and away basis determined by the SWVFA.
- 1.3.3. When insufficient players are available to field senior teams, clubs must field teams in order of hierarchy: Division 1 then Division 2.
- 1.3.4. No more than two (2) players who have played in their Club's most recent Division 1 fixture will be eligible to play in the Division 2 fixture that weekend.
- 1.3.5. Where a Club's Division 1 team is not scheduled to play in a Competition Fixture, or has a Bye, no more than two (2) players who have played in their Club's most recent Division 1 fixture will be eligible to play in the Division 2 fixture that weekend.
- 1.3.6. The team finishing 1st in all competitions at the conclusion of the home and away season will be crowned League Champions.
- 1.3.7. At the conclusion of the home and away season, the top four (4) placed teams, must play a compulsory finals series to determine the SWVFA Premier and Runner-up.

### **1.4. Women's Competition**

- 1.4.1. The Women's competition shall comprise of the team entries received by the SWVFA for the relevant year.
- 1.4.2. The Women's teams will play each other on a home and away basis determined by the SWVFA.
- 1.4.3. The team finishing 1st in Women's division at the conclusion of the Home and Away season will be crowned League Champions.
- 1.4.4. The applicable kick off times for Sunday matches apply to any matches held on public holidays.
- 1.4.5. At the conclusion of the home and away season, the top four (4) placed teams, must play a compulsory finals series to determine the SWVFA Premier and Runner-up.

### **1.5. Junior Competitions**

- 1.5.1. Junior teams in all divisions will play each other on a home and away basis determined by SWVFA.
- 1.5.2. Players in the following age groups may take part in the junior competition:

<b>1.5.3. Age Group</b>	<b>Year of Birth</b>
1.5.4. Twelves (12s)	Turning 12 on or after 1st January in year of competition
1.5.5. Thirteens (13s)	Turning 13 on or after 1st January in year of competition
1.5.6. Fourteens (14s)	Turning 14 on or after 1st January in year of competition
1.5.7. Fifteens (15s)	Turning 15 on or after 1st January in year of competition
1.5.8. Sixteens (16s)	Turning 16 on or after 1st January in year of competition
- 1.5.9. Where multiple divisions apply to any given age group, divisions to be graded according the teams ability. Teams may be promoted from the lower division if deemed appropriate. Once a player has played 3 or more games in the higher

division they are cup tied to the higher division and are ineligible to return and play in the lower division, this includes finals.

- 1.5.10. A player from the lower division is eligible to play in the higher division even if they have not played 3 games, however they must have played the qualifying number of games with their club.
- 1.5.11. Sunday fixtures kick off times will be determined by the SWVFA at the start of each season.
- 1.5.12. The applicable kick off times for Sunday matches apply to any matches held on public holidays.
- 1.5.13. The team finishing 1st in each division at the conclusion of the home and away season will be crowned League Champion.
- 1.5.14. At the conclusion of the home and away season, the top four (4) placed teams, must play a compulsory finals series to determine the SWVFA Premier and Runner-up.

## 2. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

### 2.1. Substitution/Interchange

- 2.1.1. Interchange Rule – Division 1, Division 2, Women's, and Juniors
  - 2.1.1.1. a maximum of 16 players may be named on the match record. Clubs may make any number of interchanges during the course of the match.
  - 2.1.1.2. a referee may decline the interchange of players in the last five minutes of a match if in his opinion the change is being made to deliberately delay the restart of play.
  - 2.1.1.3. where a player's name is on the team sheet as an interchange player, they will be deemed to have played even if they did not take the field.
  - 2.1.1.4. listing a player on the team sheet who is either not present or capable of taking to the field shall incur a fine of \$500 per offence.
- 2.1.2. All substitutes must be seated within the technical area.
- 2.1.3. Substitutes are permitted to warm up outside of the Technical Area, provided they are wearing an alternative coloured uniform to the team strip.
- 2.1.4. When warming up, substitutes must use an area furthest from the opposing team or as advised by the Match Official.

### 2.2. Match Balls

- 2.2.1. The home club shall provide the appointed Match Official with three (3) relevant sized Match balls no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled fixture.
- 2.2.2. At the conclusion of the game, the Match Official will return the 3 Match balls to the home club.
- 2.2.3. All clubs must use a licensed match ball from one of SWVFA's licensed ball manufacturers as advised by SWVFA from time to time.
- 2.2.4. Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to SWVFA by the Match Official.

### 3. FINALS SERIES

#### 3.1. Competition Format –Finals Series

- 3.1.1. The top four (4) teams at the conclusion of the SWVFA home and away season will progress to the league finals series.
- 3.1.2. The format of the SWVFA Finals Series will be as follows:
  - 3.1.2.1. Week 1 Semi- Final 1: 1st v 4th
  - 3.1.2.2. Week 2 Semi-Final 2: 2nd v 3rd
  - 3.1.2.3. Week 3 Grand Final: Winner Semi-Final 1 v Winner Semi-Final 2
- 3.1.3. Host venues will be determined at the absolute discretion of SWVFA during the course of the season.
- 3.1.4. SWVFA will cover all referee match fees for the Finals Series.
- 3.1.5. If any SWVFA Finals Series fixture is postponed, abandoned or cancelled, that fixture will be played within three (3) days of the original fixture at the absolute discretion of SWVFA. This may include the fixture being played the following day, and/or the fixture being played at an alternative venue.
- 3.1.6. SWVFA grand final may be postponed to 7 days after scheduled game.
- 3.1.7. If game cannot be rescheduled, highest place team is deemed the winner in semi finals

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

- 3.2.1. All matches played in the finals series will be played over one leg.
- 3.2.2. If, at the conclusion of any Division 1, Division 2, or Women's final, the scores between the teams are tied, then extra time of two (2) equal periods of 15 minutes will be played, in accordance with FIFA Law 8. At the conclusion of any junior final the scores are tied, then extra time of two (2) equals periods of 5 minutes will be played.
- 3.2.3. If scores remain equal at the conclusion of both periods of extra time, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game, to determine the winner of the Match.
- 3.2.4. The team who wins the Grand Final will become the SWVFA League Premiers of that season.

#### 3.3. Discipline

- 3.3.1. Yellow cards accumulated by a player during the Home and Away season will not be counted towards the final series. However, if a Player receives their 5th yellow card in their club's final Home and Away match he/she shall be suspended for one (1) game of the SWVFA Finals Series.
- 3.3.2. If a player receives a red card in the Finals Series, their club will be notified of the player's suspension in writing within 72 hours following the fixture in which the red card was received.

#### 3.4. Player Restrictions

- 3.4.1. Each player must have played in at least five (5) rounds for Men's Division 1 and Division 2 competitions, and three (3) rounds for Junior and Women's competitions, of the current league home and away season for that club to be eligible to play finals.

- 3.4.2. If a player has played more Division 1 than Division 2 games, that player is considered a Division 1 player and not eligible for Division 2 finals. If a player plays equal number of games in Division 1 and Division 2, they are considered a Division 1 Player and not eligible for Division 2 finals.
- 3.4.3. Juniors turning 16 on or after 1st January in year of competition are exempt from 3.4.2.
- 3.4.4. If a player plays seven or more Division 1 games, they are ineligible for Division 2 finals.
- 3.4.5. If a player plays less than seven Division 1 games, and that player has played more Division 1 than Division 2 games, that player is considered a Division 1 player and not eligible for Division 2 finals.
- 3.4.6. A player that has qualified for finals in Division 2, may play Division 1 without playing any home and away games. However, is then tied to Division 1 in finals.

## SCHEDULE 3 - CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

### Overview

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

[FA National Spectator Code of Behaviour](#)

[FA National Code of Conduct](#)

[Victorian Code of Conduct for Community Sport \(Fair Play Code\)](#)

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

### General Principles for all Persons Involved in Sport

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

- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by engaging in corruption, forgery or falsification, or by abusing a position to obtain a personal benefit.
- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by the throwing or fixing of a match, by accepting bribes, or by any conduct intended to unfairly effect the result of a match;
- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by any other conduct that materially injures the reputation and goodwill of Football.

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

### Players' Code of Behaviour

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

### Coaches' Code of Behaviour

- Place the safety and welfare of the participants above all else.
- Be aware of and support the sport's injury management plans and return to play guidelines.
- Help each person (athlete, official, etc) to reach their potential. Respect the talent, developmental stage and goals of each person and encourage them with positive and constructive feedback.
- Encourage/support opportunities for people to learn appropriate behaviours and skills.
- Support opportunities for participation in all aspects of the sport.
- Treat each participant as an individual.
- Obtain appropriate qualifications and keep up-to-date with the latest coaching practices and the principles of growth and development of participants.
- Act within the rules and spirit of your sport.
- Promote fair play over winning at any cost.
- Respect the decisions of officials, coaches and administrators.
- Show respect and courtesy to all involved with the sport.
- Display responsible behaviour in relation to alcohol and other drugs.
- Act with integrity and objectivity and accept responsibility for your decisions/actions.



- Ensure your decisions and actions contribute to a harassment-free environment. Wherever practical, avoid unaccompanied and unobserved one-on-one activity (when in a supervisory capacity or where a power imbalance exists) with people under the age of 18.
- Ensure that any physical contact with another person is appropriate to the situation and necessary for the person's skill development.
- Do not allow your qualifications or coaching experience to be misrepresented.
- Never advocate or condone the use of illicit drugs or other banned performance enhancing substances or methods.
- Never participate in or advocate practices that involve match fixing.
- Respect the rights and worth of every person, regardless of their age, race, gender, ability, cultural background, sexuality, or religion.
- Do not tolerate abusive, bullying or threatening behaviour.

### Administrators' Code of Behaviour

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

### Match Officials' Code of Behaviour

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

### Parents Code of Behaviour

- Remember that children play the sport for their enjoyment, and not yours;
- Encourage children to participate and have fun.
- Focus on the child's effort and performance rather than winning or losing.

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

### Spectators' Code of Behaviour

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

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

- Respect the decisions of the Match Officials, and teach children to do the same;
- Never ridicule or unduly scold a child for making a mistake;
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, race, colour, religion, language, politics, national or ethnic origin; Not use violence in any form, whether it is against other Spectators, Team Officials (including coaches) or Players;
- Not engage in discrimination, harassment or abuse in any form including the use of obscene or offensive language or gestures, the incitement of hatred or violence or partaking in indecent or racist chanting;
- Comply with any terms of entry of a venue, including bag inspections, prohibited and restricted items such as flares, missiles, dangerous articles and items that have the potential to cause injury or public nuisance;
- not, and must not attempt to, bring into a venue national or political flags or emblems (except for the recognised national flags of any of the competing Teams) or offensive or inappropriate banners, whether written in English or a foreign language;
- Not throw missiles (including on to the field of play or at other spectators) and must not enter the field of play or its surrounds without lawful authority; and
- Conduct themselves in a manner that enhances, rather than injures, the reputation and goodwill of FV/SWVFA, FA, and football generally.

It is the host Club's responsibility to ensure this Spectator Code of Behaviour is implemented and enforced against all spectators.

### Victorian Code of Conduct for Community Sport

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

- State Sporting Associations, leagues and clubs also have a responsibility to ensure participation in any community sport event is free of any anti-social behaviour. This means that behaviour both on and off the field should not prevent others from taking part and getting active.
- The Victorian Code of Conduct for Community Sport outlines behaviours which are expected of every person involved in community sport, and behaviours which must not be tolerated.
- The Code supports Victoria's Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women by taking a zero tolerance stance towards violence against women. The Code also aims to encourage cultural and behavioural change as a pre-emptive measure against violence.
- Acts of violence, discrimination and vilification are illegal acts in Victoria. It is a club's responsibility to report these to the appropriate legal authorities and ensure these acts are not tolerated by the sport or club.
- State Sporting Associations, leagues and clubs will have the responsibility of adhering to and enforcing the code through sport specific penalties. Organisations that do not adhere to and enforce the Code will not be eligible for funding from Sport and Recreation Victoria, and any existing funding will cease.

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

### Code of Conduct

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

- inclusion of every person regardless of their age, gender or sexual orientation
- inclusion of every person regardless of their race, culture or religion
- opportunities for people of all abilities to participate in the sport and develop to their full potential
- respect is shown towards others, the club and the broader community
- a safe and inclusive environment for all
- elimination of violent and abusive behaviour
- protection from sexual harassment or intimidation.

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

### Breaches of the Code

The following behaviours are considered breaches of the Code:

- Violent or abusive behaviour towards another person.
- Vilification of any kind towards another person.
- Discrimination against another person based on their age, gender or sexual orientation.
- Discrimination against another person based on their race, culture, religion or any other irrelevant personal characteristic.
- Sexual harassment or intimidation of another person.

- Victimisation of another person for exercising their rights through the Code of Conduct.
- Failure to maintain a safe environment.

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

### State Sporting Association Responsibility

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

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

## SCHEDULE 4 – MINIMUM FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

Heading	Rule	Venue Class	Requirement
<b>Section 1 - Field of Play and Environments</b>			
General	1.1	Senior & Junior	The Field of Play and related equipment including goals and corner flags must be compliant with the Laws of the Game.
Pitch size	1.2.1	Men's	Length - Minimum 96 metres, maximum 105 metres Width - Minimum 60 metres, maximum 68 metres
Pitch size	1.2.2	Women's	½ Full Sized Pitch Length – Minimum 60 metres, maximum 70 metres Width – Minimum 40 metres, maximum 50 metres
Pitch size	1.2.3	Junior	Length - Minimum 90 metres, maximum 105 metres Width - Minimum 50 metres, maximum 68 metres
Run offs	1.3	Senior & Junior	A minimum runoff area of 3 metres to any tripping hazard or solid obstruction, including fences and Team benches, must be provided.
Goals	1.4.1	Senior & Junior	Goalposts and nets must be in accordance with the Laws of the Game. The goalposts and crossbar must be made of metal or other approved material. They may be square, rectangular, round or elliptical in shape and must not be dangerous to players. The distance between the posts is 7.32 m and the distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is 2.44 m. Both goalposts and the crossbar have the same width and depth, which do not exceed 12 cm. The goalposts and crossbars must be white. Goals must have nets which must be secured effectively to the posts and ground to ensure the ball is trapped. The nets must be pulled back to allow sufficient safe space within the goal space.
Goals	1.4.2	Senior & Junior	Permanent and semi-permanent goals must conform to Australian Standard AS 4866.1-2007 - Playing field equipment- Soccer goals Part 1: Safety aspects and be properly installed and secured. Movable goals must be compliant with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's Consumer Protection Notice No.28 of 2010.  Goals must not have sharp edges protruding that may cause injury.

Corner posts and flags	1.5	Senior & Junior	Corner posts and flags must be in accordance with the Laws of the Game. Posts must not be metal or spring loaded. They must be plastic or wood and stand a minimum of 1.5 metres above the ground with a non-pointed top. Corner flags must not feature nationalistic emblems or reference.
Pitch surface	1.6.1	Senior & Junior	The field of play must be safe and even without trip hazards.
Pitch surface	1.6.2	Senior & Junior	If a hard-based cricket wicket is present on the field of play it must be covered with soil or be of a material similar to grass. The edges of the wicket must not protrude from the ground or in any way cause a tripping hazard. The field of play must be configured so that the hard cricket wicket is not located within the penalty area.
Pitch surface - synthetic	1.6.3	Senior & Junior	Matches may be played on a pitch with a synthetic surface provided it has been constructed and maintained to at least FIFA 1 star standard or as otherwise approved by SWVFA.
Line markings	1.7.1	Senior & Junior	The playing pitch must be marked in accordance with Law 1. However, Matches may be played on fields with extraneous markings provided approval has been sought from SWVFA with specific regard to the number of, and colour of, any marking not outlined in Law 1.
Line marking products	1.7.2	Senior & Junior	Only products such as agricultural limestone or water based spray paint or other similar material which will not endanger ground users or damage turf grasses may be used for line marking.  Lime, Herbicides and other products such as 'Round Up' that are harmful to a person's health can cause damage to the playing surface are not to be used under any circumstances.
Stretcher	1.8	Senior & Junior	One stretcher suitable for first aid and emergency use must be placed at the half way line prior to the commencement of each Match. The stretcher must remain inside the barrier/fence, in a safe and accessible position to first aid staff, for the duration of the Match.  Wooden or canvas stretchers are not suitable. One stretcher may not be allocated to two pitches at any one time.
Technical Area	1.9.1	Senior & Junior	A Technical Area must be marked for each Team on the same side of the field and on opposite sides of the half way line. It must be located no closer than 7 metres and no greater than 20 metres from the half way line. The technical area extends 1 m on either side of the designated seated area and extends forward up to a distance no closer than of 1 m from the touch line. A Technical Area must be in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

Technical Area	1.9.2	Senior & Junior	The technical area must be marked in accordance with the line marking requirements in 1.7.2.
Technical Area	1.9.3	Senior & Junior	The technical area may be marked by crushable cones. If marked by lines they must be in accordance with the line marking requirements in 1.7.2.
Team benches	1.10.1	Senior & Junior	Two covered Team benches or equivalent seating with adequate seating for seven (7) people must be provided.

## Section 2 - Player and Officials Amenities

Players change rooms	2.1.1	Senior	<p>Two players' lockable dressing rooms must be provided for each pitch in use. Each room must have access to hot and cold showers and to toilet facilities within the building structure.</p> <p>Recommended size for senior dressing rooms, excluding required shower and toilet area, is 25m<sup>2</sup>.</p>
Players change rooms	2.1.2	Junior	<p>Two players' lockable dressing rooms must be provided for each pitch in use. Toilet facilities within or adjacent to the building structure.</p> <p>Recommended size for junior dressing rooms, excluding required shower and toilet area, is 20m<sup>2</sup>.</p>
Match Officials room	2.2.1	Senior & Junior	Match Officials must have exclusive access to a lockable dressing room. The Match Officials room must be accessible without passing through any players' change room which is in use.
Match Officials room	2.2.2	Senior & Junior	Recommended size for Match Officials rooms, including required shower and toilet area, is 20m <sup>2</sup> . The room must contain a writing desk or bench and chair and have access within the building to a toilet and shower providing hot and cold water.
First aid	2.3	Senior & Junior	A first aid area, which can be made private by the use of curtains, screens or similar and providing basic first aid equipment all of which must be kept clean and sterile.

## Section 3 - Spectator Amenities

Public toilets	3.1	Senior & Junior	Access to male and female public toilets (or suitable unisex/family toilets) must be provided. These may be shared with player toilets.
----------------	-----	-----------------	---

## Section 4 - Operations

Access	4.1	Senior & Junior	The venue must be accessible by emergency services vehicles.
--------	-----	-----------------	--

SCHEDULE 5 – SWVFA DISPENSATION POLICY



**DRAFT**  
**2022 DISPENSATION POLICY**



## OVERVIEW

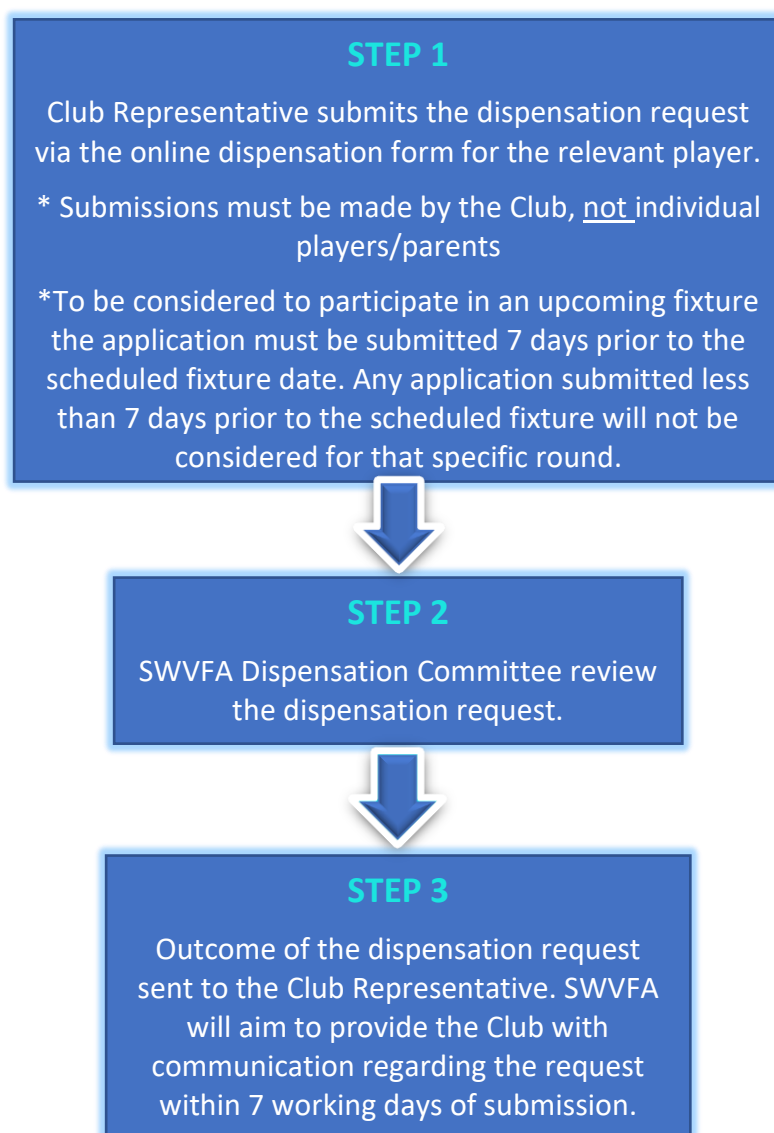
The purpose of this policy is to provide all stakeholders with a clear and concise process for dispensation requests amongst the SWVFA community competitions.

This policy allows Clubs to submit a request for a player(s) to be granted exemption by SWVFA to participate in competitions that they would otherwise not be eligible for.

To ensure all requests receive due consideration in line with the policy, SWVFA has formed a Dispensation Committee that includes representatives from the SWVFA and Football Victoria. The purpose of the committee is to provide relevant expertise in evaluating each request.

SWVFA at its sole discretion may amend any part of the dispensation policy as required from time to time.

## DISPENSATION PROCESS



\*Any Club that requests to submit further supporting documentation or information after the outcome of the request has been determined will incur a 're-review' administrative fee of \$75 invoiced to the Club.

## DETERMINING A DISPENSATION APPLICATION

There are a range of various factors SWVFA consider when determining the outcome of a dispensation application. A number of these factors may include and are not limited to:

- Maintaining the integrity of SWVFA competitions
- Playing history of the player
- Alternate reasonable opportunities for the player to participate at the Club in an eligible age group
- Alternate reasonable opportunities for the player to participate at a Club within reasonable age brackets in an age eligible age group
- The number of requests made for a certain team
- The number of requests made for a certain Club
- Supporting documentation from the national body - FA
- Supporting documentation from a certified medical practitioner
- The Club being able to provide the player with the assistance needed to prepare the player to play in an age eligible age group the following year
- Dispensation history of the player
- The submission being made in line with the stipulations surrounding the relevant dispensation category
- The wellbeing and safety of all participants
- Any other relevant circumstance or relevant supporting documentation

## SUBMITTING A DISPENSATION APPLICATION

All dispensation requests must be submitted by the Club on behalf of the relevant player. Submissions from individual parents/guardians/players will not be accepted.

To be considered to participate in an upcoming fixture the application must be submitted 7 days prior to the scheduled fixture date. Any application submitted less than 7 days prior to the scheduled fixture will not be considered for that specific round.

To submit a dispensation application please fill out the [Online Dispensation Application Form](#).

Please ensure that prior to submitting a dispensation request you are equipped with the following.

- FA ID number - to progress through the process the player must have an FA ID number. Please contact the Regional Development Manager via [Lachlan.Cole@footballvictoria.com.au](mailto:Lachlan.Cole@footballvictoria.com.au) for any queries regarding a player's FA ID number;
- all relevant information required to be submitted; and
- any relevant documentation as per the below regulations.

It is important to note that while Clubs submit dispensation application requests in accordance with this policy, approval is not guaranteed, nor should the Clubs anticipate approval prior to the dispensation request being considered and determined by SWVFA through the defined process.

Should the dispensation request be approved – the approval is only applicable for the competition season relevant to the year in which the request is made and the provided approval letter by SWVFA must be readily available on match day.

## TRANSGENDER, NON-BINARY AND INTERSEX

Everyone has a right to participate in football regardless of their gender identity, sexual orientation and intersex status. These are protected characteristics under the law. The below guidelines and policy points relate to the inclusion of trans and gender diverse athletes, as well as athletes with intersex variations. A full policy related to the community guidelines and policy on the inclusion of trans and gender diverse athletes will be released from Football Victoria which will give more comprehensive and detailed information for clubs and leagues. SWVFA wishes to reinforce its commitment to diversity and inclusion within football, and has a strict no-tolerance approach to transphobia.

For purposes of clarity, the following terminology is explained:

- Transgender: A person with a gender identity that is different from the gender/ sex assigned at birth
- Transgender man: someone with a male gender identity who was assigned female at birth.
- Transgender woman: someone with a female gender identity who was assigned male at birth.
- Cisgender: a non-transgender person, who identifies as the assigned gender at birth.
- Non-binary: Some people do not identify as exclusively female or male. As their gender identity is outside the female/ male binary, they are often referred to as 'non-binary.

Transition: The legal steps a transgender person takes to affirm their gender identity

Intersex: The status of having a genetic, physical, or hormonal feature(s) that are not easily identified as being:

- Neither wholly female or male
- A combination of female and male
- Neither female or male

A person with an intersex variation may identify as man, woman, neither or both.

## MINIROOS BOYS & GIRLS (U7 – U11)

Clubs are to nominate teams into MiniRoos age eligible competitions or nominate for teams to be in MiniRoos competitions in line with their development and skill levels.

SWVFA do not require dispensation requests to be submitted for any player who is age eligible to participate in the MiniRoos competition (ages between 7 and 11 years old).

The below dispensation categories are available for the MiniRoos level of competition.

Note: Dispensation for this level of competition is only required to be submitted for players that wish to play in MiniRoos competitions however are not age eligible for Under 11's. This is specific to a player who is turning 12 during the respective calendar year and is not age eligible for the Under 11 MiniRoos competition.

#### MEDICAL DISPENSATION

SWVFA recognises that it may be necessary in some circumstances to provide dispensation for an individual to play in an SWVFA competition a maximum of one (1) year below their age due to a physical disability, mental disorder or physical size development consideration as identified and diagnosed by a certified medical practitioner.

A certified medical practitioner is a medical specialist who has attained the appropriate qualifications and accreditations to practise and includes both sports physicians and paediatricians.

The Club must provide SWVFA with the following documentation in support of their application for medical dispensation.

- a supporting letter from the players parent (s) or guardian
- current (within 12 months of the application unless evidencing a chronic condition) medical evidence to support the application from the players medical specialist detailing the need for dispensation; and
- any other information the club wishes to submit in support of the application.

#### FIRST YEAR DISPENSATION

A first-year dispensation may be granted to a player who has not previously been registered with SWVFA, FA or FV. This form of dispensation is to allow an individual to play in an SWVFA competition for which the usual eligible age is a maximum of one (1) year below the player's age and is only valid for one competition season. Dispensation is only granted for players to play down one age group. Requests to play down two (2) or more age groups are not permitted. This dispensation cannot be reapplied for the following competition season or any other season following the player's first season participating in an SWVFA, FA or FV competition.

SWVFA may in its sole discretion refuse to grant a dispensation request under this regulation in circumstances where the player in question has played football in school or other competitions not administered by SWVFA, FV or FA. SWVFA may seek further information from the Club in question before deciding under this regulation and the Club must submit that information as part of the dispensation request.

A first-year dispensation may be refused or revoked by SWVFA acting in its sole discretion if SWVFA later discovers that the Club did not provide relevant and/or requested information without a reasonable excuse.

## PLAY FOOTBALL DISPENSATION

A play football dispensation may only be granted in exceptional circumstances where there are no reasonable alternatives available to the player and in the opinion of SWVFA, it benefits the interests of one or more of the following to allow the dispensation:

- the player;
- the Team;
- the Club;
- the League in which the Team participates;
- football in Victoria in general.

Play football dispensation is only granted for players to play down one age group. Requests to play down two (2) or more age groups are not permitted.

If granted, the play football dispensation is a one year 'bridging dispensation' to allow the Club to take reasonable steps to prepare the player to play in their rightful age group the following season. It is envisaged that this dispensation will not be required for the following year.

## JUNIOR BOYS (U12- U18) & JUNIOR GIRLS (U12 – U18)

### MEDICAL DISPENSATION

SWVFA recognises that it may be necessary in some circumstances to provide dispensation for an individual to play in an SWVFA competition a maximum of one (1) year below their age due to a physical disability, mental disorder or physical size development consideration as identified and diagnosed by a certified medical practitioner.

A certified medical practitioner is a medical specialist who has attained the appropriate qualifications and accreditations to practise and includes both sports physicians and paediatricians.

The Club must provide SWVFA with the following documentation in support of their application for medical dispensation.

- a supporting letter from the players parent (s) or guardian
- current (within 12 months of the application unless evidencing a chronic condition) medical evidence to support the application from the players medical specialist detailing the need for dispensation; and
- any other information the club wishes to submit in support of the application.

### FIRST YEAR DISPENSATION

A first-year dispensation may be granted to a player who has not previously been registered with SWVFA, FA or FV. This form of dispensation is to allow an individual to play in an SWVFA competition for which the usual eligible age is a maximum of one (1) year below the player's age and is only valid for one competition season. Dispensation is only granted for players to play down one age group. Requests to play down two (2) or more age groups are not permitted. This dispensation cannot be reapplied for the following competition season

or any other season following the player's first season participating in an SWVFA, FA or FV competition.

SWVFA may in its sole discretion refuse to grant a dispensation request under this regulation in circumstances where the player in question has played football in school or other competitions not administered by SWVFA, FV or FA. SWVFA may seek further information from the Club in question before deciding under this regulation and the Club must submit that information as part of the dispensation request.

A first-year dispensation may be refused or revoked by SWVFA acting in its sole discretion if SWVFA later discovers that the Club did not provide relevant and/or requested information without a reasonable excuse.

#### ABOVE AGE DISPENSATION

An above age dispensation may be granted to allow a player to play in a competition more than four (4) years above their age group.

The Club must provide SWVFA with the following documentation in support of their application for an above age dispensation.

- 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 by SWVFA.

#### GENDER DISPENSATION

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

SWVFA allows players to play in gendered competition of their choosing under the following guidelines:

- 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.  
In the absence of separate girl's and boy's competitions after this age, players who identify as non-binary, transgender or intersex are permitted to participate in the available mixed competition.
- 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 SWVFA/FV.

- Players who identify as female are permitted to participate in all male competitions up to, and including, Under 16 boys. The player must turn 16 or below during the 2022 calendar year and may play in their equivalent age group of male competitions without the prior approval of SWVFA/FV.
- Players who identify as female are not permitted to participate in male competitions above Under 16, with the exception of any player who receives prior written approval from SWVFA/FV.

The Club must provide SWVFA with the following documentation in support of their application for gender dispensation in relation to 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

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

All decisions in relation to the gender rules are final and at the discretion of the SWVFA, the FA & FV diversity and inclusion team, and technical team. These decisions are not appealable.

#### PLAY FOOTBALL DISPENSATION

A play football dispensation may only be granted in exceptional circumstances where there are no reasonable alternatives available to the player and in the opinion of SWVFA, it benefits the interests of one or more of the following to allow the dispensation:

- the player;
- the Team;
- the Club;
- the League in which the Team participates;
- football in Victoria in general.

Play football dispensation is only granted for players to play down one age group. Requests to play down two (2) or more age groups are not permitted.

If granted, the play football dispensation is a one year 'bridging dispensation' to allow the Club to take reasonable steps to prepare the player to play in their rightful age group the

following season. It is envisaged that this dispensation will not be required for the following year.

#### FINALS/PLAYOFF ELIGIBILITY EXEMPTION DISPENSATION

A finals/playoff eligibility exemption dispensation may be granted to allow a player that has played less than five (5) Regular Season Competition Fixtures to qualify for finals/playoff fixtures.

SWVFA will only consider dispensation in exceptional circumstances and where a Club/Team can establish it is unable to field a team for a final due to insufficient player numbers as a result of unavailability (including injury). Any Club wishing to apply for a finals/playoff eligibility exemption dispensation must apply to SWVFA:

- in writing
- at least five (5) working days before the final is due to take place
- setting out the grounds on which it requests a dispensation be granted
- with evidence to support player unavailability; and
- providing SWVFA with any further information required and/or requested.

## SENIOR WOMEN'S

#### SENIOR WOMEN'S AGE DISPENSATION

A senior women's age dispensation may be granted in relation to a player who is under the age of 14 years old as of 1 January in the year of that relevant competition season and is requesting to play in a Senior Women's Competition.

The Club must provide SWVFA with the following documentation in support of their application for senior women's age dispensation.

- 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 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 by SWVFA.

#### GENDER DISPENSATION

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



## FINALS/PLAYOFF ELIGIBILITY EXEMPTION DISPENSATION

A finals/playoff eligibility exemption dispensation may be granted to allow a player that has played less than five (5) Regular Season Competition Fixtures to qualify for finals/playoff fixtures.

SWVFA will only consider dispensation in exceptional circumstances and where a Club/Team can establish it is unable to field a team for a final due to insufficient player numbers as a result of unavailability (including injury). Any Club wishing to apply for a finals/playoff eligibility exemption dispensation must apply to SWVFA:

- in writing
- at least five (5) working days before the final is due to take place
- setting out the grounds on which it requests a dispensation be granted
- with evidence to support player unavailability; and
- providing SWVFA with any further information required and/or requested.

## SENIOR MEN'S

### SENIOR MEN'S AGE DISPENSATION

A senior men's age dispensation may be granted in relation to a player who is under the age of 15 years old as of 1 January in the year of that relevant competition season and is requesting to play in a Senior Men's Competition.

The Club must provide SWVFA with the following documentation in support of their application for a senior men's age dispensation:

- 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 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 by SWVFA.

### GENDER DISPENSATION

Players who identify as female are not permitted to participate in Senior male competitions, with the exception of any player who receives prior written approval from FV.

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

## FINALS/PLAYOFF ELIGIBILITY EXEMPTION DISPENSATION

A finals/playoff eligibility exemption dispensation may be granted to allow a player that has played less than five (5) Regular Season Competition Fixtures to qualify for finals/playoff fixtures.

SWVFA will only consider dispensation in exceptional circumstances and where a Club/Team can establish it is unable to field a team for a final due to insufficient player numbers as a result of unavailability (including injury). Any Club wishing to apply for a finals/playoff eligibility exemption dispensation must apply to SWVFA:

- in writing
- at least five (5) working days before the final is due to take place
- setting out the grounds on which it requests a dispensation be granted
- with evidence to support player unavailability; and
- providing SWVFA with any further information required and/or requested.

## CONTACT US

If you have any further questions regarding the dispensation application process or SWVFA competitions dispensations more generally, please contact FV Regional Development Manager, Lachlan Cole on 0458 588 803 or email [Lachlan.Cole@footballvictoria.com.au](mailto:Lachlan.Cole@footballvictoria.com.au)