



# FUTURE OF FOOTBALL & NETBALL PROJECT

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**Senior Male Football and Senior Netball Proposal**

Updated - March 2024



# **FUTURE OF FOOTBALL & NETBALL PROJECT**

## **INTRODUCTION**

**The AFL Barwon Future of Football & Netball Project was started in September 2023, to collectively explore ways to seize opportunities and address challenges in the Barwon region, to ensure Junior & Senior, Male & Female, Football & Netball - is delivered to the highest accord.**

The future of Senior Male Football & Senior Netball has experienced significant engagement since September 2023, including but not limited to:

**1**

**THREE TOWNHALL FORUMS TO DISCUSS, EVALUATE AND PRESENT POTENTIAL FUTURE COMPETITION MODELS**

**2**

**SMALLER GROUP MEETINGS WITH LEAGUE PRESIDENTS & OTHER REPECTIVE STAKEHOLDERS**

**3**

**ONE-ON-ONE CLUBS CONSULTATIONS TO UNDERSTAND THEIR OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE**

**4**

**THE RELEASE OF THE SENIOR MALE FOOTBALL & SENIOR NETBALL PROPOSAL ON 5TH DECEMBER 2023**

Since the release of the Senior Male Football & Senior Netball Proposal on 5th December 2023, additional engagements and consultations have transpired that have contributed to the release of this document:

*AFL Barwon Senior Male Football & Senior Netball Proposal - Updated - March 2024*

This Updated Proposal reflects a proposed, simplified competition structure for Senior Male Football & Senior Netball. With considerable detail enclosed on the following pages, key elements of the previous proposal that have been modified include:

1. Removal of a *criteria* to determine transition from current structures to proposed structures; and
2. The retention of the current League structures (i.e. Bellarine FNL & Geelong FNL).

The proposed Club Championship framework over a multi-year, singular-Club, upward and downward movement cycle, has been retained.

The Updated Proposal has been developed following significant feedback across the aforementioned engagements, and AFL Barwon expresses its sincere thanks to all who have contributed.



# FUTURE OF FOOTBALL & NETBALL PROJECT

## LEAGUES & CLUBS

### GEELONG FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE



### BELLARINE FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE





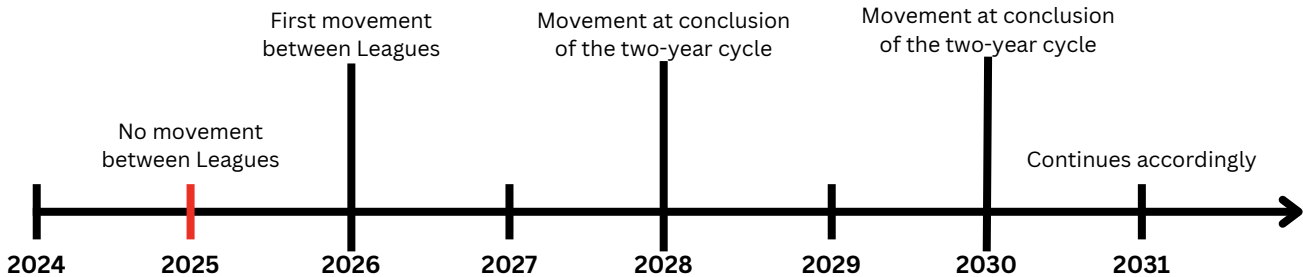
# FUTURE OF FOOTBALL & NETBALL PROJECT

## MOVEMENT BETWEEN LEAGUES FRAMEWORK

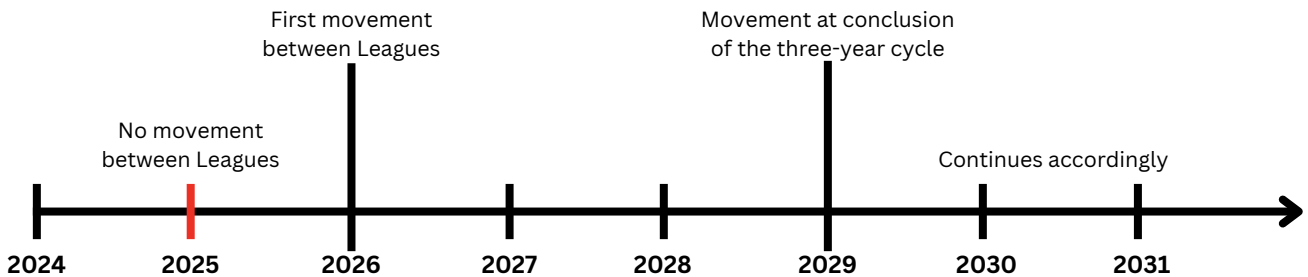


The Geelong FNL & the Bellarine FNL to enter a singular-Club upward and a singular-Club downward movement cycle between the two FNLs, every two or three years, based on the Club Championship Points calculation framework.

### TWO-YEAR MOVEMENT CYCLE OPTION TIMELINE:



### THREE-YEAR MOVEMENT CYCLE OPTION TIMELINE:



**KEY:** Surf Coast FNC & 12th Club to enter the Bellarine FNL, creating competing Club-parity across the two Leagues.



# ***FUTURE OF FOOTBALL & NETBALL PROJECT***

## ***MOVEMENT BETWEEN LEAGUES FRAMEWORK***



**The Geelong FNL & the Bellarine FNL to enter a singular-Club upward and a singular-Club downward movement cycle between the two FNLs, every two or three years, based on the Club Championship Points calculation framework.**

### **MOVEMENT BETWEEN LEAGUES:**

Movement criteria across the divisions is based on a Club Championship framework. This framework recognises the equal importance of both Football and Netball to whole Club sustainability and success.

Club Championship Points are allocated equally across:

- Male Seniors Football;
- Male Reserves Football;
- A-Grade Netball; and
- B-Grade Netball.

12 points are awarded for finishing in 1st place, at the conclusion of the Home & Away (H&A) season.

1 point is awarded for finishing last, at the conclusion of the Home & Away (H&A) season.

Through combining the finishing places at the end of the H&A season, as per the allocations above, the Club Championship points for the year are totalled. The combined totals of all years within the cycle (two-year or three-year cycle in effect), determines the Club Championship standings in each League. This framework is the same as per the previous Proposal.

Based on Club Championship standings, the top-placed Club in the Bellarine FNL is moved upward, and the bottom-placed Club in the Geelong FNL is moved downward. The first movement between Leagues is proposed for the start of the 2026 season, with Club Championship standings from the 2024 & 2025 seasons calculated, to determine the first movement between Leagues, for 2026.



# FUTURE OF FOOTBALL & NETBALL PROJECT

## ADDITIONAL FOOTBALL EQUITABLE EQUALISATION MEASURES



To create greater equalisation between Leagues, and within each League, Football Total Team Points (TTPs) & Allowable Player Payments (APPs) allocations are proposed below:

| 2025    |      |        |         |      |        |
|---------|------|--------|---------|------|--------|
| GFNL    | TTPs | \$ APP | BFNL    | TTPs | \$ APP |
| Team 1  | 40   | 100k   | Team 1  | 40   | 85k    |
| Team 2  | 40   | 100k   | Team 2  | 40   | 85k    |
| Team 3  | 40   | 100k   | Team 3  | 40   | 85k    |
| Team 4  | 40   | 100k   | Team 4  | 40   | 85k    |
| Team 5  | 40   | 100k   | Team 5  | 42   | 88k    |
| Team 6  | 40   | 100k   | Team 6  | 42   | 88k    |
| Team 7  | 42   | 100k   | Team 7  | 44   | 88k    |
| Team 8  | 42   | 100k   | Team 8  | 44   | 92k    |
| Team 9  | 44   | 105k   | Team 9  | 46   | 92k    |
| Team 10 | 44   | 105k   | Team 10 | 46   | 92k    |
| Team 11 | 46   | 105k   | SCFNC   | 50   | 100k   |
| Team 12 | 46   | 105k   | Team 12 | 50   | 100k   |

| 2026    |      |        |         |      |        |
|---------|------|--------|---------|------|--------|
| GFNL    | TTPs | \$ APP | BFNL    | TTPs | \$ APP |
| Team 1  | 40   | 100k   | Team 2  | 40   | 88k    |
| Team 2  | 40   | 100k   | Team 3  | 40   | 88k    |
| Team 3  | 40   | 100k   | Team 4  | 42   | 90k    |
| Team 4  | 40   | 100k   | Team 5  | 42   | 90k    |
| Team 5  | 42   | 102.5k | Team 6  | 42   | 90k    |
| Team 6  | 42   | 102.5k | Team 7  | 44   | 92k    |
| Team 7  | 44   | 105k   | Team 8  | 44   | 92k    |
| Team 8  | 44   | 105k   | Team 9  | 44   | 92k    |
| Team 9  | 44   | 105k   | Team 10 | 46   | 95k    |
| Team 10 | 46   | 110k   | Team 12 | 46   | 95k    |
| Team 11 | 46   | 110k   | SCFNC   | 48   | 100k   |
| Team 1  | 46   | 110k   | Team 12 | 48   | 100k   |

Future TTPs & APPs for 2027 and beyond, will be set a minimum of 12 months prior (e.g. 2027 set before the start of the 2026 season) following consultation with BFNL & GFNL Clubs, to ensure advanced notice and understanding of these competition provisions.



# FUTURE OF FOOTBALL & NETBALL PROJECT

## ADDITIONAL NETBALL EQUITABLE EQUALISATION MEASURES



To create greater equalisation between Leagues, and within each League, Netball Total Team Points (TTPs) & Allowable Player Payments (APPs) allocations are proposed below:

| 2025    |      |       |         |      |       |
|---------|------|-------|---------|------|-------|
|         |      | \$    |         |      | \$    |
| GFNL    | TTPs | APP   | BFNL    | TTPs | APP   |
| Team 1  | 22   | 15k   | Team 1  | 22   | 15k   |
| Team 2  | 22   | 15k   | Team 2  | 22   | 15k   |
| Team 3  | 22   | 15k   | Team 3  | 22   | 15k   |
| Team 4  | 22   | 15k   | Team 4  | 22   | 15k   |
| Team 5  | 22   | 15k   | Team 5  | 24   | 15k   |
| Team 6  | 22   | 15k   | Team 6  | 24   | 15k   |
| Team 7  | 24   | 15k   | Team 7  | 26   | 15k   |
| Team 8  | 24   | 15k   | Team 8  | 26   | 17.5k |
| Team 9  | 26   | 17.5k | Team 9  | 28   | 17.5k |
| Team 10 | 26   | 17.5k | Team 10 | 28   | 17.5k |
| Team 11 | 28   | 17.5k | SCFNC   | 30   | 20k   |
| Team 12 | 28   | 17.5k | Team 12 | 30   | 20k   |

| 2026    |      |     |         |      |     |
|---------|------|-----|---------|------|-----|
|         |      | \$  |         |      | \$  |
| GFNL    | TTPs | APP | BFNL    | TTPs | APP |
| Team 1  | 22   | 20k | Team 2  | 22   | 20k |
| Team 2  | 22   | 20k | Team 3  | 22   | 20k |
| Team 3  | 22   | 20k | Team 4  | 22   | 20k |
| Team 4  | 22   | 20k | Team 5  | 22   | 20k |
| Team 5  | 24   | 22k | Team 6  | 24   | 22k |
| Team 6  | 24   | 22k | Team 7  | 24   | 22k |
| Team 7  | 26   | 22k | Team 8  | 26   | 22k |
| Team 8  | 26   | 22k | Team 9  | 26   | 22k |
| Team 9  | 26   | 24k | Team 10 | 28   | 24k |
| Team 10 | 28   | 24k | Team 12 | 28   | 24k |
| Team 11 | 28   | 24k | SCFNC   | 28   | 24k |
| Team 1  | 28   | 24k | Team 12 | 28   | 24k |

Future TTPs & APPs for 2027 and beyond, will be set a minimum of 12 months prior (e.g. 2027 set before the start of the 2026 season) following consultation with BFNL & GFNL Clubs, to ensure advanced notice and understanding of these competition provisions.



# ***FUTURE OF FOOTBALL & NETBALL PROJECT***

## ***TOTAL TEAM POINTS AND ALLOWABLE PLAYER PAYMENTS PROVISIONS & FIXTURING***

### **TTPs & APPs PROVISIONS**

The provision of Football/Netball Total Team Points (TTPs) and Allowable Player Payments (APPs), would be assigned based on the H&A finishing positions year-on-year for a Club's Senior Male Football & A-Grade Netball teams - separately.

Example:

Club A finishes 8th in Football and 2nd in Netball, for a particular season (for the Example, referred to as the "current season").

The Senior Male Football team for Club A are provisioned for the following season, the TTPs and APPs applicable for the Senior Male Football Team finishing 8th in the current season.

The A-Grade Netball team for Club A are provisioned for the following season, the TTPs and APPs applicable for the A-Grade Netball Team finishing 2nd in the current season.

Summary:

Provision of TTPs & APPs are assigned per Team (therefore per Sport), per year, based on H&A finishing positions.

### **FIXTURING**

With the provision structures in-place for TTPs and APPs, this enables consistency year-on-year with how equitable equalisation measures would be assigned, and therefore, ensures these provisions are more measured, and less subjective.

In-line with these provision structures, Fixturing would be locked in at the start of the two-or-three year cycle, ensuring Clubs can plan and compete as part of an equitable fixture over the life of the cycle.

Fixture requests for Football & Netball would not take priority over the generation of an equitable Football & Netball fixture, but considered where equitability is not compromised.

Fixture generation would be determined from the Club Championship framework, to ensure it takes into equitable consideration, both Football & Netball.

### **SUMMARY**

These elements of the Updated Proposal would be enshrined in the new competition framework for the Bellarine FNL & Geelong FNL, creating year-on-year competition integrity, with certainty on equitable equalisation provisions and fixture generation.





# **FUTURE OF FOOTBALL & NETBALL PROJECT**

## **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Upward & Downward Movement Support**

It is important that Clubs are supported if they move up-or-down a League. The following measures will be provided to support the Clubs moved upward or downward:

- Support in developing a new Club Strategic Plan for the following three plus years;
- Financial support from AFL Barwon to support positioning in new League; and
- Continued engagement of the AFL Barwon Club Development Lead, to identify areas of opportunities and support engagement to overcome challenges.

### **Surf Coast FNC & a 12th Club Entering the Bellarine FNL in 2025 - Are They Setup for Success?**

The entry of any new Club to a League and/or the Senior competition landscape is important, and AFL Barwon will work with Surf Coast FNC, and the acceptance of a 12th Club into the Bellarine FNL, under a rigorous criteria which includes but not limited to:

- Facilities - sufficient and sustainable plans to achieve Female-friendly and competition standard infrastructure into the future;
- Financials - ensuring the Clubs have the financial capacity to be sustainable, and compete in a manner that only empowers the Club forward into the future; and
- Participation - ensuring there is a sustainable participation base and is this managed with an approach to serve the local community for decades to come.

The acceptance of a 12th Club into the Bellarine FNL, creates Club-parity with the same number of Clubs reflected across both Leagues, avoiding competition BYEs which would create fixturing and financial inequities for Clubs.

### **How is the 12th Club Entering the Bellarine FNL to be Decided?**

Along with the release of this *Updated Proposal*, will be the release of an Application Form that Clubs within the Barwon region ONLY can submit, to join the Bellarine FNL, if they are not part of the Bellarine FNL for the 2024 season.

The applications will be due Wednesday 24th April 2024 @ 11:59pm. This window of opportunity provides Clubs interested, time to consult their communities and submit an application for consideration.

The AFL Barwon Commission will then make a decision, in partnership with the existing Bellarine FNL Clubs, as to the 12th Club to join the Bellarine FNL in 2025.

### **Governance Structures**

Under the model detailed within this Updated Proposal document, the existing Bellarine FNL & Geelong FNL Board entities are to remain in-effect, unchanged.



# **FUTURE OF FOOTBALL & NETBALL PROJECT**

## **TIMELINE**

1

**RELEASE OF UPDATED SENIOR MALE FOOTBALL & SENIOR NETBALL PROPOSAL**

2

**FEEDBACK OPENS FOR UPDATED PROPOSAL**

3

**FEEDBACK CLOSES FOR UPDATED PROPOSAL**

Monday 25th March 2024 @ 12:00pm

Feedback can be delivered via [edward.wilson@afl.com.au](mailto:edward.wilson@afl.com.au) or via [www.aflbarwon.com.au/future](http://www.aflbarwon.com.au/future)

4

**AFL BARWON COMMISSION MEETING TO FORM DECISION ON UPDATED PROPOSAL**

Monday 25th March 2024 - Evening

5

**DECISION ON UPDATED PROPOSAL ANNOUNCED**

Following the 25th March 2024 AFL Barwon Commission Meeting



**For enquiries, please contact us.**

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