



FOOTBALL
VICTORIA



CRICKET
VICTORIA

CRICKET VICTORIA AND FOOTBALL VICTORIA

COVID-19

**Winter to Summer Seasons
2020 Transition Framework**

19 JUNE 2020



COVID-19 WINTER TO SUMMER SEASONS | 2020 TRANSITION FRAMEWORK

In response to the current challenges presented by Covid-19, Cricket Victoria and Football Victoria are seeking to enter an arrangement to assist in the transition of the winter to summer seasons.

To assist our respective stakeholders with planning (together with guidance to all Victorian Local Government Authorities), Football Victoria and Cricket Victoria have developed the following set of underlying principles to help the various leagues, associations and clubs with planning for return to play of our respective sports competitions.

The desire for community football and cricket to return is being carefully planned by both sports and will require collaboration with many health experts, government bodies at all levels, other sports and volunteers.

Principles of the agreement:

- Acknowledgment of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on both sports.
- A desire of both sports to see strong vibrant community football clubs and strong vibrant community cricket clubs and maximise participation opportunities for both sports through this period.
- Providing a framework for competitions and Local Government to plan ahead
- Acknowledgment of the role that Local Government/land managers will play in transitioning grounds between sports and allowing a gradual transition of grounds from football to cricket.
- Acknowledgment that an overlap of seasons should be minimised at junior level given some participants, volunteers, families and grounds are shared by both sports.
- Input has been received by various cricket and football stakeholders and the Victorian State Government to seek to find the best outcome for all.

AGREED POSITIONS BY BOTH CRICKET VICTORIA AND FOOTBALL VICTORIA

FOOTBALL / CRICKET SEASON TIMING

1. Senior and Junior competitions (excluding National Premier League as noted below)

- a. All cricket Grounds that are shared by Football are able to be transitioned to cricket season (i.e. synthetic pitches uncovered) from 28 September 2020
- b. Turf ovals will not be utilised for football after 27 September 2020 to allow for preparation of the wickets for the cricket season to commence
- c. For all Football matches played after October 1, 2020, priority usage for fixturing shall be (in order):
 - i. Single use facilities; then
 - ii. Shared facilities with synthetic pitches
- d. The National Premier League competition (Junior & Senior) is excluded from the dates noted in clauses 1-3 on the basis that it is played on stand-alone facilities and there is minimal cross-over in players, volunteers and administrators between this competition and cricket



2. FV Junior Competitions

- a. FV Junior community season to conclude no later than the following:
 - i. Home and Away matches 4 October 2020;
 - ii. Finals and relegation matches 11 October 2020

3. FV Senior Competitions

- a. FV senior competitions on shared facilities/grounds to conclude no later than 18 October 2020

4. Cricket Victoria Competitions

- a. On shared use facilities, priority use access shall be provided for cricket associations to fixture competitions from no earlier than the following (with play to commence when safe to do so – including ensuring matches do not proceed until pitches are adequately prepared):
 - i. Premier Cricket 1st & 2nd XI competition (Men and Women) – Saturday 10th October;
 - ii. Junior competitions from Friday 16th October; &
 - iii. All other Senior competitions from Friday 23rd October
- b. Nothing in this agreement prevents Cricket Associations from potentially starting earlier than the dates listed on grounds not shared with Football

ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY TO ASSIST WITH PLANNING

- Given a reduced handover period compared to 'normal' seasons, formal handover is recommended to occur as soon as possible after the football teams who normally use the ground have finished their season
- Football competitions are strongly encouraged to work with their relevant cricket association(s) and local government(s) as soon as possible to identify grounds to be used in October to assist with the transition between sports and for cricket association fixturing
- Local Government bodies will obviously play a significant role in working collaboratively with local football and cricket organisers to help plan ground usage and access
- Local clubs are encouraged to work collaboratively to see football teams with priority in-season and finals access for training and matches as well as cricket teams with support for pre-season preparations – including wherever possible both sports using shared facilities during any cross over period