



**Western Victoria Female Football League
New Team Information Pack**

Introduction

AFL Western District and AFL Wimmera Mallee teamed up to launch the Deakin University Female Football League (DUFFL) in 2017. On the back of unprecedented growth of female football and the launch of the AFL Women's League in February 2017 the Commissions were keen to open up the opportunity to girls aged 13- 18 to play Australian Rules football.

The League was formed in 2017 with 8 clubs participating, growing to 10 teams in 2018.

In 2018, six senior women's exhibition games were held to promote opportunities at a senior level for females.

In 2019, the league expanded to a senior competition, with four sides taking part. 2019 also saw the introduction of an extended junior finals series played over 3 weeks, and the addition of an 11th junior side. In 2020 the League was renamed the Western Victoria Female Football League.

The competition provides females with the opportunity to participate, socialise, develop skills and learn from experiences that provide a physically healthy lifestyle.

In 2021 the competition looked like this:

- 9 clubs
- 424 Players
- 8 Junior and 6 Senior sides
- Commenced in April
- 10 home and away games
- Plans for a 3-week finals series

Benefits of female teams for football clubs

- Retain junior girls and their families for longer
- Inclusive club environment
- Increased membership for clubs
- Increased volunteer base
- Greater diversity in membership
- Assists in funding applications (government and private)
- Increasingly, local councils are requiring female participation as a requirement for ground funding allocations

Benefits for players and their families

- Fun
- Fitness, Health and wellbeing
- Friendship
- Ongoing participation from Auskick to seniors
- Continuing to participate in sport
- Opportunity to play in team sport
- Opportunity to represent club, league and state
- Engage in High Performance opportunities
- Improved relationships between daughters and fathers through shared interests
- Family bonding

Criteria for Affiliation

Clubs must:

- Have proof of incorporation – incorporation pursuant to the Act or be a company incorporated pursuant to the Corporations Act.
- Must be up to date with their Incorporation obligations.
- Comply with and satisfy AFL Victoria’s requirements for new teams
- Be a financial member for the previous season of the league or association with which it was then affiliated (if applicable).
- Have a team name and uniform that is, or will be altered so as to be, acceptable by management if deemed appropriate.
- Have club facilities and financial circumstances that are of an acceptable standard (i.e. identify the proposed grounds for use and ensure permission or a letter of support is provided from council and the club president).
- Have a strategy for the recruitment of players – short and long term.
- Have a committee structure including names and identifying how the women’s team will be represented in the club structure.
- Coach(s) must be an accredited Youth / Senior coach via the coach.afl portal
- Accredited sports trainer(s)
- Clubs to provide central, goal, boundary umpire and time keeper each week
- All coaches and club officials must hold a current Working with Children Check – WWCC
- At least one of the coach, team manager or trainer must be female
- Present a Strategic and/or Business Plan including budget along with Policies and Guidelines for the club.
- Be able to demonstrate consultation, if required, with other stakeholders that this application will impact on (e.g. surrounding junior/senior clubs, local Councils, etc.).
- Have an identified playing list consisting of a minimum of 15 eligible players per side.
 - Note: games can be played for premierships provided both teams field a minimum of 12 players per side.

Fees

League Affiliation fees are in addition to AFL Victoria Insurance Costs and are aligned to numbers of teams entered

Where to from here?

- Register your interest by completing the EOI form (attached)
- Club to set up a Steering Committee
- Promotion via club Facebook page and local media
- Interested people to gather numbers and get together
- Coaching & team management
- Planning, training
- Expressions of Interest close Wednesday December 1st 2021 for the 2022 season.

If your Club can meet the set Club Requirements and wishes to enter a female team in the Western Victoria Female Football League, please contact Mike Farrow on 0417 125 482 or admin@hfnl.com.au

Alternatively, your local Football Development Manager can also be contacted:

- South West – Jock Whiting – 0408331736 jock.whiting@afl.com.au
- Hampden – Alicia Drew – 0422 571 816 alicia.drew@afl.com.au
- Wimmera Mallee – Aslyn Witney – aslyn.witney@afl.com.au



Female Football Expression of Interest

Club Name			
Primary Contact for the club			
Age group	Under 14's	Under 18's	Women's
Proposed year of inclusion into the WVFFL	2022	2023	Unsure at this stage
Proposed staff (Guide only)			
Coach			
Team Manager			
Trainer			
What steps (if any) are currently being taken by your club in preparation for a Female football team?			
Does your club have any reservations or concerns that you would like to address with us regarding your entry to the competition?			

