

BASEBALL RETURN TO PLAY COVIDSafe PLAN

Friday 19 November 2021

Return to Play - 2021/22 VSBL

Season

VERSION 33



BASEBALL
VICTORIA

INTRODUCTION

Baseball Victoria, our members, clubs, and the wider community have all been affected by COVID-19. The health, wellbeing, and safety of all involved in our sport is paramount, as such Baseball Victoria will continue to work closely with the relevant health authorities, both at a national and state level, to ensure we successfully navigate our way to safely resuming activity and play for baseball in Victoria.

The purpose of this document is to provide the Office of Sport and Recreation Victoria, local government and councils and the associated government departments that manage venues and facilities throughout the state with a comprehensive strategy of a return to activity and a return to play.

All information provided is sourced from relevant national and state government departments and strictly follows the guidelines as prepared by Sport Australia in the [AIS Framework for Rebooting Sport in a COVID-19 environment](#) and the Department of Sport and Recreation Victoria. In an evolving landscape with COVID-19, the recommendations and guidelines detailed in this document will be updated regularly in line with national and state announcements.

SUMMARY POSITION

After reaching vaccination targets, Victoria is enjoying greater freedoms including the return of community sport.

There are no restrictions on travel and accommodation or retail/hospitality/entertainment for the fully vaccinated. There are no limits on the number of people who can gather in your home or in a public place (i.e. in a park). Community sport is permitted indoors and outdoors, regardless of vaccination status.

Masks are required indoors only in limited settings including retail, health care, aged care and justice facilities, at primary schools, and on public transport/taxis/rideshare. Masks are not required for community sport, although wearing a mask is recommended if you can't physically distance, if you have any symptoms, or if you are with people who may be vulnerable to COVID-19.

Baseball Victoria follows Victorian Government COVIDSafe Settings, and all clubs must comply with CHO directions and any additional directions of your landowners.

As per the CHO COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination (Workers) Directions, there is an exemption for community sport volunteers so while vaccination is strongly recommended, it is not required. Please note canteens and bars operate under hospitality restrictions; therefore, all members must be fully vaccinated to use an indoor canteen/bar at a community sport facility.

Service Victoria QR code check-ins are required for businesses, including community sport organisations. Clubs must maintain an attendance register and COVID-19 restriction compliance documentation.

[Return to play registration](#) is required for all participants before taking the field.

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DOCUMENT VERSIONS

DOCUMENT VERSION	APPLICABLE DATES	CHANGES
Version 1	25 May – 1 June 2020	Return to activity
Version 2	1 June 2020	Activity groups from 10 to 20 athletes
Version 3A	19 June 2020 – Onwards	Continued activity – 20 athletes return to contact training – 20 athletes, return to baseball – full competition
Version 3B	24 June 2020	Continued activity – 20 athletes, junior return to baseball
Version 3C	30 June 2020	Continued activity – 20 athletes, junior return to baseball, lockdown postcode information
Version 3D	4 July 2020	Continued Activity – 20 athletes, junior return to baseball, addition - lockdown postcode information – 2 additional postcodes
Version 4	9 July 2020	Melbourne Metro and Mitchell Shire lockdown – continued activity in Regional Victoria
Version 5	2 August 2020	Victorian update restrictions, stage 4 Melbourne, stage 3 regional Victoria
Version 6	15 September 2020	Regional Victoria, step 3, return to junior play and senior non-contact training in small groups
Version 7	23 September 2020	Updated to include full regional Victoria and Metro Melbourne roadmap, updated specific small group training information
Version 8	18 October 2020	Updated Victorian Government restrictions for metro and regional Victoria
Version 9	28 October 2020	Updated Victorian Government restrictions for metro and regional Victoria – return to activity
Version 10	3 November 2020	Updated to include COVID Safe Plan
Version 11	8 November 2020	Changes to restrictions, roadmap next steps.
Version 12	22 November 2020	Additional easing of restrictions in to the 'last step' of the government roadmap
Version 13	6 December 2020	Additional easing of restrictions for COVID Summer.
Version 14	4 February 2021	Updated restrictions, return to NYE dated restrictions.
Version 15	5 March 2021	Update to new masks restrictions.
Version 16	17 May 2021	Updated restrictions, hot spot instructions
Version 17	27 May 2021	7 day lockdown
Version 18	3 June 2021	Extended metro lockdown, easing regional restrictions
Version 19	9 June 2021	Easing restrictions for metro Melbourne and regional Victoria
Version 19.02	10 June 2021	Update easing of restrictions, masks are required outdoors
Version 20	18 June 2021	Updated for continued easing of restrictions – play returns in metro and regional
Version 21	23 June 2021	Continued easing of restrictions, return to play with spectators across Victoria.
Version 22	15 July 2021	State-wide lockdown
Version 23	27 July 2021	Easing of restrictions
Version 24	4 August 2021	Spectators return to community sport
Version 25	5 August 2021	Lockdown 6
Version 26	9 August 2021	Lockdown 6 – easing of restrictions for Regional Victoria
Version 27	11 August 2021	Lockdown 6 metro extension – updated for regional 21 Aug and extended 1 Sept
Version 28	8 September 2021	Easing of regional restrictions, metropolitan Melbourne remains the same
Version 29	17 September 2021	Lockdown in Ballarat, slight easing of restrictions in metropolitan Melbourne
Version 30	1 October 2021	Victoria's Roadmap, easing of restrictions
Version 31	22 October 2021	Easing of lockdown, return to training
Version 32	29 October 2021	Return to play, 2021/22 VSBL season
Version 33	19 October 2021	Return to play, 2021/22 VSBL season - updated

KEY PRINCIPLES

In addition to the [National Principles for the Resumption of Sport and Recreation Activities](#) published by the Australian Government on 2 May 2020, Baseball Victoria is adhering to the following guidelines as part of the national family of baseball states and territories:

1. GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES

1. Baseball Victoria will follow any direction from the state and federal government and align with the [AIS Framework for Rebooting Sport](#).
2. Baseball Victoria will review activities as directed by the state government should restrictions or guidelines be amended or updated.
3. In line with Victorian Government requirements, Baseball Victoria and all clubs must use the [Service Vic app](#).

2. GOOD HYGIENE

1. Hand hygiene facilities or products must be available to all participants and attendees. This includes access to a sink and soap for handwashing and/or hand sanitiser with over 60 percent alcohol.
2. Avoid sharing equipment or apparel.
3. Minimise catering or shared food/drink facilities.
4. Frequently touched surfaces, work areas and equipment are cleaned thoroughly.
5. Signage will be provided by Baseball Victoria. This signage will be customisable for clubs to convey important social distancing, hygiene and cleaning protocols.

3. RESTRICTIONS

Under **no** circumstances should anyone with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 attend any baseball training, games or events.

This includes any fever, respiratory symptoms, shortness of breath, sore throat, cough, fatigue, or lack of sense or smell.

Participants who have recently returned from interstate or overseas must follow all government restrictions around testing and quarantine before they can attend baseball activity. If you test positive for COVID-19, you must quarantine for ten days. The people you live with are your household contacts and they must quarantine for 7 days if fully vaccinated, or 14 days if not.

4. MONITORING

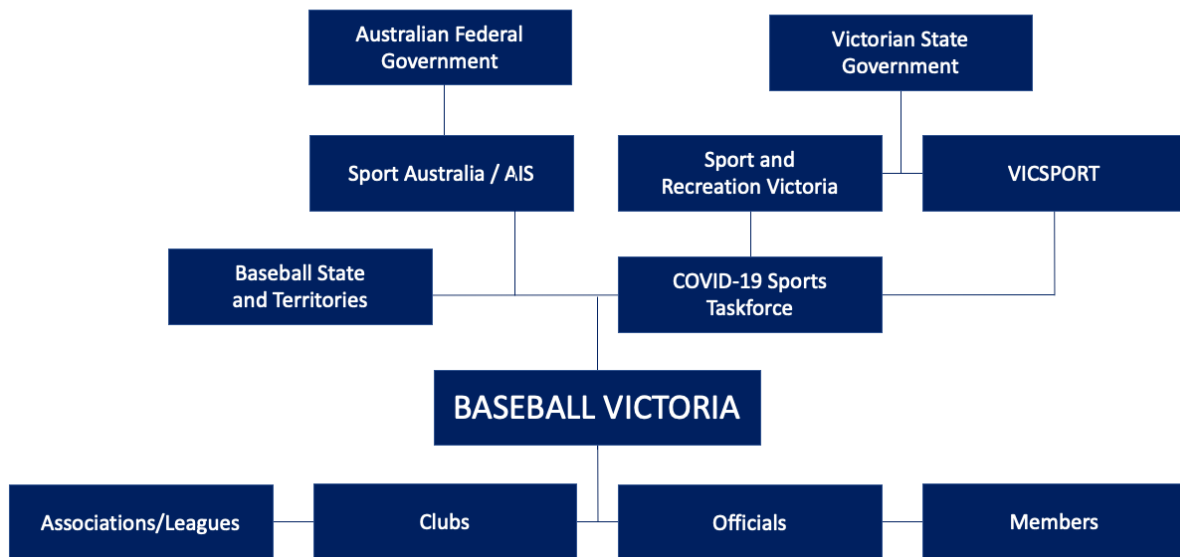
1. A COVID-19 Officer will be appointed at each club to ensure protocols are undertaken and maintained.
2. In addition to encouraging all participants to download the [Service Vic app](#), members will be required to register with SportsTG, including players, committee members, and coaching staff.
3. All clubs will maintain a register of attendees, including dates and times, via the Service Vic app.
4. Safety of all participants and the wider community is the top priority for Baseball Victoria and underpins all decisions related to the return to activity/play. Resumption of baseball activities should not compromise the health of individuals or the community. Returning to baseball will contribute to the health, economic, social, and cultural benefits of the participants and wider Victorian community.

RESOURCES

Baseball Victoria will provide links to all resource documentation on the [Baseball Victoria website](#), to be updated regularly and available to all clubs and members.

COMMUNICATION STRUCTURE

Baseball Victoria's communication structure receives and provides information as follows:



All communication including updates to materials and activity restrictions are communicated directly to members via email, via the Baseball Victoria website, and via the Baseball Victoria social media channels.

RETURN TO SPORT ROADMAP

In alignment with phase D of the Victorian Government's Roadmap to a COVID normal, community sport is permitted indoors and outdoors, regardless of vaccination status.

As per the CHO COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination (Workers) Directions, there is an exemption for community sport volunteers so while vaccination is strongly recommended, it is not required. Please note canteens and bars operate under hospitality restrictions; therefore, all members must be fully vaccinated to use an indoor canteen/bar at a community sport facility.

There are no restrictions on travel and accommodation or retail/hospitality/entertainment for the fully vaccinated. There are no limits on the number of people who can gather in your home or in a public place (i.e. in a park).

Masks are required indoors only in limited settings including retail, health care, aged care and justice facilities, at primary schools, and on public transport/taxis/rideshare. Masks are not required for community sport, although wearing a mask is recommended if you can't physically distance, if you have any symptoms, or if you are with people who may be vulnerable to COVID-19.

Baseball Victoria follows Victorian Government COVIDSafe Settings, and all clubs must comply with CHO directions and any additional directions of your landowners.

Service Victoria QR code check-ins are required for businesses, including community sport organisations. Clubs must maintain an attendance register and COVID-19 restriction compliance documentation.

[Return to play registration](#) is required for all participants before taking the field.



COVIDSafe PLAN for VICTORIAN CLUBS

Extracted from the COVIDSafe Plan has been developed to support businesses to safely reopen, maintain a COVIDSafe workplace, and prepare for a suspected or confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the workplace. **This plan will apply throughout our return to play for the 2021/22 VSBL season.**

COVID SAFE PLAN and VICTORIAN BASEBALL ARRANGEMENTS	
1. Ensure physical distancing	
Requirements: you must ensure volunteers and participants, and spectators are 1.5m apart as much as possible.	Full contact training and play will recommence, where they may be instances where players are closer than 1.5m, however all discussions, off field activity will be conducted with social distancing where possible.
Requirements: you should provide training to workers on physical distancing expectations while working and socialising. This includes informing volunteers, participants, and spectators to follow current public health directions when carpooling. This can be found at vic.gov.au	Information on carpooling provided in this plan to all Baseball Victoria participants (See General Requirements).
2. Wear a face covering	
Masks are not required for community sport, although wearing a mask is recommended if you can't physically distance, if you have any symptoms, or if you are with people who may be vulnerable to COVID-19.	Baseball Victoria clubs have disposable masks available to volunteers/ participants/ spectators on request.
Requirements: you should install screens or barriers in the workspace for additional protection where relevant.	Applicable where necessary for canteen/food service or bar products at the requirements of the club's COVID plan for hospitality.
Requirements: you should provide training, instruction, and guidance on how to correctly fit, use and dispose of PPE. You should inform volunteers, participants, and spectators that cloth masks should be washed each day after use. However, if during the day the mask is visibly dirty or wet, the mask needs to be washed immediately.	Information on masks provided as part of this plan to all volunteers/ participants/ spectators (see General Requirements).

3. Practise good hygiene	
Requirements: you must frequently and regularly clean and disinfect shared spaces, including high-touch communal items such as doorknobs and telephones.	Cleaning will be conducted in accordance with local council facilities requirements. High touch areas outside at the facilities, i.e. benches, fence entries, or equipment is cleaned after each use.
You should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean surfaces with appropriate cleaning products, including detergent and disinfectant • Replace high-touch communal items with hygienic alternatives, for example single-use or contactless options, where possible to do so • Clean between shifts 	Cleaning will be conducted in accordance with local council facilities requirements.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You should display a cleaning log in shared spaces. 	Provided.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You should make soap and hand sanitiser available for all volunteers, participants, and spectators throughout the field/sporting space and encourage regular handwashing. 	Provided as part of outdoor training, sanitation required before and after training (see General Requirements).
4. Keep records and act quickly if workers become unwell	
Requirements: you must enable volunteers, participants, spectators, and workers to get tested and stay home even if they only have mild symptoms.	Information provided as part of this Plan (see General Requirements).
Requirements: you must develop a business contingency plan to manage any outbreaks. This includes – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having a plan to notify volunteers, participants, and spectators if they come into contact with a positive case, noting members who show symptoms or have been in close contact should NOT attend the sport until they receive their test results 	Baseball Victoria's record keeping includes contact details and options to notify all volunteers/ participants/ spectators effected by any positive case. (see General Requirements , Baseball Victoria Notification Structure)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having a plan to identify and notify close contacts in the event of a positive case attending the field/sporting space during their infectious period 	Baseball Victoria's registration and training session listings include contact details.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having a plan to contact DHHS and notify the actions taken, provide a copy of the risk assessment conducted and contact details of any close contacts 	Participants via clubs or directly are required to notify Baseball Victoria of any positive case and where it has not already been done, Baseball Victoria would immediately contact DHHS.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having a plan to immediately notify WorkSafe Victoria on 13 23 60 if you have identified a person with coronavirus (COVID-19) within a club or the sport overall 	Where these are not specific workplaces, but facilities, as part of the Baseball Victoria notification structure (see General Requirements , Baseball Victoria Notification Structure)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having a plan in the event that you have been instructed to cease activity by DHHS 	<p>Baseball Victoria is able to cease activity as required and notify participants.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having a plan to re-open the baseball facility once agreed by DHHS and notify volunteers, participants, and spectators they can return to participation 	<p>Baseball Victoria is able to re-commence activity as required and notify participants.</p>
<p>Requirements: You must keep records of all people who enter participate for contact tracing.</p>	<p>Baseball Victoria has a system of registration for all training participants, coaches and volunteers. [Link to BV Website, Registration]</p> <p>All participants at every training session are recorded [Link to BV Website]</p> <p>All locations will be using the Secure Victoria, Victorian Government QR Code System.</p>
<p>Requirements: you should implement a screening system that involves temperature checking upon entry into a workplace.</p>	<p>Not currently applied to outdoor training for community participation, but this practice is part of high-performance training (Melbourne Aces, Melbourne Aces Academy).</p>
<p>5. Avoid interactions in enclosed spaces</p>	
<p>Requirements: you should reduce the amount of time volunteers, participants, and spectators are spending in enclosed spaces. This could include –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enabling working in outdoor environments Moving as much activity outside as possible, including serving customers, meetings, tearooms, lunchbreaks and locker rooms Enhancing airflow by opening windows and doors Optimising fresh air flow in air conditioning systems 	<p>Consideration given to where this is possible.</p> <p>Baseball Victoria continues to provide online meeting options.</p>
<p>6. Create workforce bubbles</p>	
<p>Requirements: you should keep groups of volunteers, participants, and spectators rostered on the same shifts at a single worksite and ensure there is no overlap of volunteers, participants, and spectators occurs during shift changes.</p>	<p>This will form part of hospitality COVID plans.</p>
<p>Requirements: maintain records of all volunteers, participants, and spectators who have disclosed that they reside with member and ensure that there is no cross-over between shifts.</p>	<p>This will form part of hospitality COVID plans.</p>

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

HYGIENE

The following general hygiene practices for players and officials always apply, in line with government advice:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Wash or sanitise your hands before eating (all players and officials should have personal hand sanitiser).
- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your mouth to cough or sneeze (using your elbow).
- No sharing of towels/water bottles/food, including lolly or fruit bowls.
- Any areas (meeting rooms, treatment rooms, change rooms etc) accessed by players and officials to be comprehensively cleaned and sanitised after each use.
- Clubs to take steps to adequately clean and disinfect player facilities (once available) before and after use.
- Clubs must do all they can to reinforce the above precautions, including making appropriate hand washing facilities available, as well as the provision of alcohol-based hand sanitiser and tissues.
- Medical officials must follow protocols as outlined in infection control training (ie: disposal of gloves in between treatments, wearing of face masks).

ADDITIONAL GAME & TRAINING HYGIENE

- Alcohol-based hand sanitisers must be available in the dugout.
- Spitting and clearing of nasal/respiratory secretions on diamonds or other sport settings is not permitted.
- No sharing of headsets or computer screens/iPads, without cleaning measures in place.
- All equipment to be cleaned and disinfected prior and after sessions and games.



TESTING

- Any advice on testing for COVID-19 will be guided by the state government and health officials.
- Should any member become symptomatic, they must undergo relevant testing and follow isolation procedures until the results of the test are available.
- Any other relevant testing will be implemented at the request of health professionals.

NOTIFICATION OF POSITIVE TESTS

- Any member, participant, or volunteer that has a reasonable expectation or whom receives a positive test, must notify their club or Baseball Victoria, having already adhered to the Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services requirements to report and notify any positive test results.
- Any Baseball Victoria member (participant/coach/volunteer/club) can notify Baseball Victoria of any positive test or updated COVID information via the Baseball Victoria office telephone number: (03) 9645 8000 (this telephone number is connected to Baseball Victoria seven days a week, 24 hours a day) or via email to the Baseball Victoria CEO (Link: [Baseball Victoria Contact Details](#))
- All members MUST be registered to attend training (Link: [Baseball Victoria Registration](#)).

BV NOTIFICATION STRUCTURE

Baseball Victoria:

- Requires all participants, coaches, and volunteers to register to return to play (Link: [Baseball Victoria Registration](#)); including contact details (address and phone number)
- All training sessions are required to submit a list of attendees to Baseball Victoria (Link: [Baseball Victoria, Return to Training Attendance](#));
- Any Baseball Victoria member (participant/coach/volunteer) can notify Baseball Victoria of any positive test or updated COVID information via the Baseball Victoria office telephone number: (03) 9645 8000 (this telephone number is connected to Baseball Victoria 24/7) or via email to the Baseball Victoria CEO (Link: [Baseball Victoria Contact Details](#))
- Baseball Victoria will notify – DHHS, Sport and Recreation Victoria, the local council where the case is reported and VICSPORT.
- Baseball Victoria will notify any affected participants via their provided contact details, via text message, via email, via the Baseball Victoria website <https://baseballvictoria.com.au/>
- Any player/official member who has underlying health conditions or is considered a vulnerable person should consult with a healthcare professional prior to returning to the training or match day environment.
- Umpires, scorers, and game day officials will follow the same protocols as players detailed in the return to activity.

SANCTIONS

If clubs are either warned or fined by Police for breaking an enforceable direction, Baseball Victoria will follow the process under the [Baseball Victoria By-Laws](#) and [Member Protection Policy](#). If Baseball Victoria is notified of an instance where a club is reported to have breached an enforceable direction, the matter will be reported to Victorian Police.

An individual found in breach of current restrictions may be fined \$1000 on the spot and a club/association/business may be fined \$5000 on the spot by the Victorian Police. Non-compliance is considered a breach of the [Baseball Victoria Member Protection Policy](#) and [Baseball Victoria Code of Conduct](#) and as such penalties will apply.

INSURANCE

Baseball Victoria has provided insurance cover throughout the winter and summer shutdown of baseball activity.

Australian baseball's insurance is provided via a national scheme with Baseball Australia, and each of the states and territories.

Baseball insurance cover includes:

- Public & products liability
- Professional indemnity
- Personal accident
- Property & equipment
- Management liability (directors & officers liability)
- Travel insurance
- Cyber liability and privacy protection

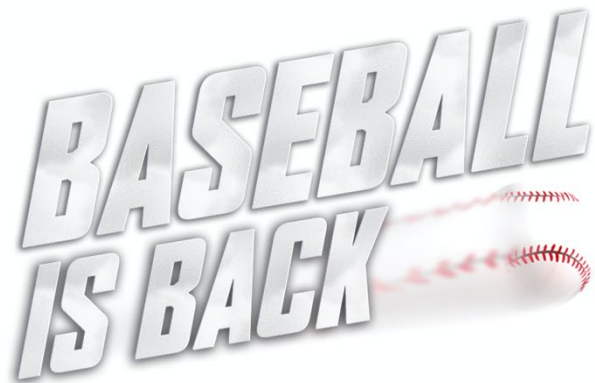
Copies of all Baseball Victoria/Baseball Australia policy statements can be accessed [HERE](#).

Certificates of currency for any baseball club can be accessed [HERE](#).



RESOURCE DOCUMENTS

- [AIS Framework for Rebooting Sport in a COVID-19 environment](#)
- [National Principles for the Resumption of Sport and Recreation Activities](#)
- [Baseball Victoria Website – COVID-19 Updates](#)
- [Baseball Victoria Website – Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Baseball Victoria Website – COVID-19 Club Documents](#)
- [Baseball Victoria Website – COVID-19 Club Checklist](#)
- [Baseball Victoria Website – COVID-19 Club Signage](#)
- [Baseball Victorian Insurance – Certificates of Currency](#)
- [Australian Government COVID-19 Information](#)
- [Service Vic app](#)
- [COVIDSafe app](#)
- [Victorian Government COVID-19 Information](#)
- [Coronavirus.vic.gov.au](#)
- [Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services](#)



CLUB LISTINGS

Full Listing of Clubs – Alphabetically

Alfredton	Forest Hill	Northcote
Bacchus Marsh	Frankston	Ormond Glenhuntly
Ballarat Royals	Geelong	Pakenham
Bellarine	Glen Iris	Pivot City
Benalla	Greenhills Montmorency	Porepunkah
Bendigo East	Greensborough	Port Melbourne
Berwick City	Guild All-Stars	Preston
Berwick Dodgers	Hawks	Research Lower Plenty
Blackburn	Heathmont	Ringwood
Bonbeach	Knox	Saints (Mildura)
Boneo Braves	La Trobe Uni	Sale
Bundoora	Lara	Sandringham
Chelsea	Malmsbury	Scots
Cheltenham	Malvern	South East Warriors
Cheltenham (Winter)	Melbourne	Springvale
Churchill	Melbourne Uni	St Kilda
Colac	Mitchell Majors	Strathfieldsaye
Corio	Moe/Newborough	Sunshine
Croydon	Monash University	Traralgon
Dandenong	Moorabbin	Upwey Ferntree Gully
Deakin	Mordialloc	Wanderers
Diamond Creek	Mornington	Wangaratta
Dingley	Morwell	Watsonia
Doncaster	Mulgrave	Waverley
Eagles (Mildura)	NASC Bears	Werribee
East Belmont Saints	Newport	Westgarth
Essendon	North Balwyn	Williamstown
Falcons	North Coburg Rebels	Wodonga
Fitzroy	North Western Titans	
Footscray		

CLUB LISTINGS

Regional Victoria, including Suburb and LGA

CLUB	SUBURB	LGA
Alfredton	Lake Wendouree	Ballarat
Bacchus Marsh	Bacchus Marsh	Moorabool
Ballarat Royals	Wendouree	Ballarat
Bellarine	Wallington	Greater Geelong
Benalla	Benalla	Benalla
Bendigo East	Quarry Hill	Greater Bendigo
Churchill	Churchill	Latrobe
Colac	Colac	Colac Otway
Corio	Corio	Greater Geelong
Deakin	Waurin Ponds	Greater Geelong
Eagles (Mildura)	Mildura	Mildura
East Belmont Saints	Grovedale	Greater Geelong
Falcons	Eaglehawk	Greater Bendigo
Geelong	Grovedale	Greater Geelong
Guild All-Stars	Grovedale	Greater Geelong
Hawks	Mildura	Mildura
Lara	Lara	Greater Geelong
Malmsbury	Malmsbury	Greater Bendigo
Moe/Newborough	Moe	Latrobe
Morwell	Morwell	Latrobe
NASC Bears	Lavington	Albury City
Porepunkah	Porepunkah	Alpine
Saints (Mildura)	Merbein	Mildura
Sale	Sale	Wellington
Scots	Eaglehawk	Greater Bendigo
Strathfieldsaye	Strathfieldsaye	Greater Bendigo
Traralgon	Traralgon	Latrobe
Wanderers	Mildura	Mildura
Wangaratta	Wangaratta	Wangaratta
Wodonga	Wodonga	Wodonga