

## Junior Metropolitan Restructure: Frequently Asked Questions

Only Clubs that have met the requirements of the FFV Club Compliance By-Law will be permitted to participate in FFV Competitions. Such compliance will be evidenced by the following:

1. Following your AGM (to be held prior to November 30) send a copy of the minutes where your amended constitution was approved, to FFV.
2. Lodge your new constitution with Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV).
3. Once your new constitution has been approved by CAV please send in a copy of a CAV confirmation letter for FFV records.

### **What is the purpose of the restructure?**

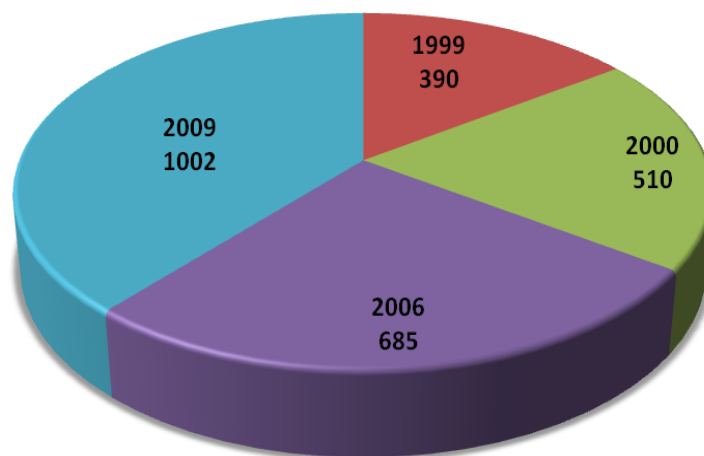
With Football Federation Victorian experiencing a rapid growth in Junior football participation, the four zone league structure originally created to accommodate 390 Junior teams in 1999 has become outdated. A change is now necessary to better suit over 1000 Junior teams in 2010, therefore we have reconstructed the Junior Leagues to benefit all stakeholders.

### **What is the rational behind the change?**

The sport has been growing at a steady rate since 1999, with a significant increase of 33% (77 Junior Boys Leagues to 100 Junior Boys Leagues) in team registrations over a short period of time from 2006-2009. The table and graph below outline these increases:

Metropolitan Junior Boys Team Entries	
Year	Teams
1999	390
2000	510
2006	685
2009	1002

### **JUNIOR BOYS TEAM ENTRIES**



### What is the rationale behind the change? (Continued)

Since 2000 the number of Junior teams has almost doubled with the majority of the growth coming since 2006 as a result of the World Cup. We can therefore expect more growth in 2010 followed by another surge in Junior team entries after the 2010 World Cup.

By rezoning the leagues now, we are best prepared for that growth and be able to accommodate the best possible league structure to suit the number of team entries.

The number of registered Junior Players has increased significantly over the past six years. An overview of registration numbers for junior players competing in Metropolitan leagues since 2003 is shown below.

Metropolitan Leagues Registrations	Years			Change from 2003 - 2009
	2003	2006	2009	
Junior Boys 11-18	10,798	11,979	14,881	4,083
Junior Girls 11-18	1,898	3,338	3,772	1,874
Junior Boys 5-10	5,984	5,023	8,635	2,651
Junior Girls 5-10	375	557	921	546
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,055</b>	<b>20,897</b>	<b>28,209</b>	<b>9,154</b>

In order to offer the best possible football experience for this increasing number of players and continue to attract new players we have increased the number of playing zones to minimise the travel required for all players.

### Why are there now six (6) different zones for the Junior Boys Structure?

Instead of the traditional North, West, South and East Divisions we have allocated Clubs into their Melbourne Metropolitan Zones which fall in line with Football Federation Victoria's Strategic Plan and better fits the growth of Junior Football with Clubs increasing the size of their Junior teams and new Clubs arising in new and existing areas.

The Boys leagues have been broken down into the following Zones for 2010

- South East
- Southern
- Eastern and North East
- Central and Northern
- North West
- Western



### **What are the benefits of having six (6) zones?**

The distance Clubs have to travel to matches has been greatly reduced in order to increase player retention across all age groups. Parents and players alike will now find the sport more appealing which should lead to a further increase in participation.

### **Why are Northern and Central together as one zone?**

There are currently not enough Clubs from each of these individual zones to sustain a competitive league in several age groups, therefore merging the two zones together has created a sustainable league in all age groups with teams being grouped together that will be of a similar standard.

The long term vision is that as the sport grows we can split the Northern and Central zones and revert to an eight (8) zone Junior Boys League Structure. This will be reviewed at the conclusion of each season.

### **Why are Eastern and North East together as one zone?**

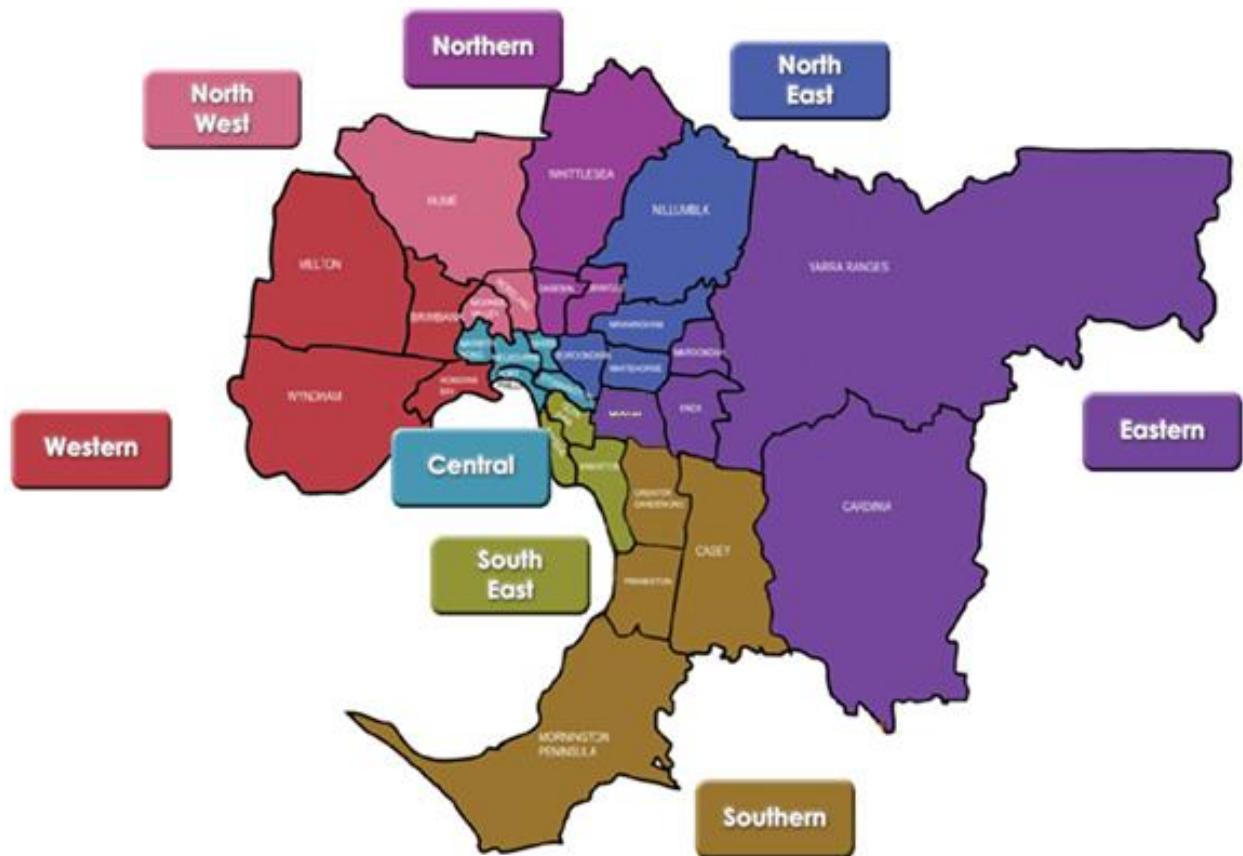
The reasons are similar to the Central and Northern Zones merging where once again the long term vision is that as the sport continues to grow Zones will no longer be merged together and can sustain their own competitive leagues. This will also be reviewed at the conclusion of each season.

### **Why have Clubs from the Monash Municipality been placed in Eastern and not South East?**

Despite the Eastern Metropolitan zone covering a large area, the number of teams competing in the Eastern Zone is currently quite low. Therefore to resolve this issue, all Clubs from the Monash Municipality have been placed in the Eastern Zone.

This is outlined in the Map on the following page where the following municipalities fall under each particular Zone.

<b>MUNICIPALITY OF EACH MELBOURNE METROPOLITAN ZONES</b>					
<b>SOUTH EAST</b>	<b>SOUTHERN</b>	<b>EASTERN</b>	<b>CENTRAL</b>	<b>NORTH WEST</b>	<b>WESTERN</b>
<b>Bayside</b>	<b>Casey</b>	<b>Cardinia</b>	<b>Maribyrnong</b>	<b>Hume</b>	<b>Brimbank</b>
<b>Glen Eira</b>	<b>Frankston</b>	<b>Knox</b>	<b>Melbourne</b>	<b>Moonee Valley</b>	<b>Hobsons Bay</b>
<b>Kingston</b>	<b>Greater Dandenong</b>	<b>Maroondah</b>	<b>Port Phillip</b>	<b>Moreland</b>	<b>Melton</b>
	<b>Mornington Peninsula</b>	<b>Monash</b>	<b>Stonnington</b>		<b>Wyndham</b>
		<b>Yarra Ranges</b>	<b>Yarra</b>		
		<b>NORTH EAST</b>	<b>NORTHERN</b>		
		<b>Boroondara</b>	<b>Banyule</b>		
		<b>Manningham</b>	<b>Darebin</b>		
		<b>Nillumbik</b>	<b>Whittlesea</b>		
		<b>Whitehorse</b>			



### What has changed with the Junior Girls Structure?

We have re-structured the Junior Girls Metropolitan leagues (that consisted of Clubs from North, West, South and East all in the one division) into a more suitable format.

Significant changes have occurred for the Junior Girls leagues, the first being the Under 13's and 14's have been combined as has the Under 15's and Under 16's. This has been done so we can rezone the Clubs to minimise travel and disband the Metropolitan Leagues.

The Girls leagues have been broken down into the following Zones for 2010

- Western, North West and Northern
- Central, North East and Eastern
- South East and Southern

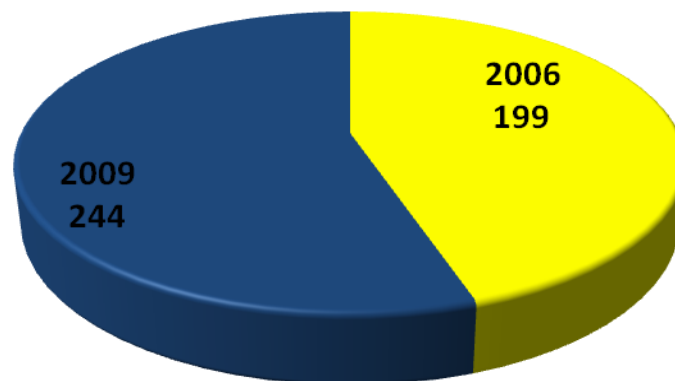
The Junior Girls have also had a positive increase in player numbers throughout the last four years meaning it is now possible to create leagues that are zonal. Therefore with the implementation of the new Junior Girls Structure the reduced travel will result in a further increase in participation.

## What has changed with the Junior Girls Structure? (Continued)

The table and graph below outline these increases:

Metropolitan Junior Girls Team Entries	
Year	Teams
2006	199
2009	244

### **JUNIOR GIRLS TEAM ENTRIES**



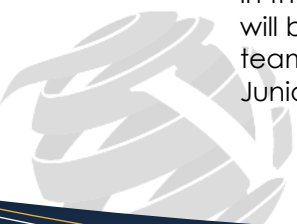
Football Federation Victoria will continue to monitor and review the Junior Girls league structure each year as the long term vision is to mirror the Junior Boys Structure as the player numbers for Junior Girls football increases.

#### **My league only has three teams in it, what will happen with this league?**

This is the 'Proposed League Structure' therefore some Clubs may not wish to compete next season in certain age groups or they may wish to enter new teams in other age groups. Once team entries have closed the Competitions Department will reconfigure the league structure depending on team entries.

#### **Our Club wishes to enter a new team, where will we be placed?**

Clubs entering new teams into the 2010 Junior Competition will automatically be placed in their respective Melbourne Metropolitan League, e.g. A Point Cook new team entry will be placed in the Western Zone. As the current directive from the board is all new team entries need to be placed in the lower divisions, this will continue with the new Junior Structure.



**There is a vacancy in one of the age groups we are competing in; can we apply to fill this vacancy?**

Yes, a team grading request form is available on the Competitions section of the website for any such requests. Teams can apply for a higher or lower grading on their existing teams (subject to vacancy).

Clubs can not request to be placed into a zone that is not their associated zone. FFV may consider placing late team entries in a different zone if there are no vacancies in their appropriate zone. Teams will then be placed into their correct zone for the following season.

**There is no vacancy in a league. Can we enter a new team?**

Yes, FFV will restructure leagues to include any new teams. New teams need to be entered prior to the 18<sup>th</sup> of March. Further information on this process will be issued once available.

With the increase in the number of zones from 4 to 6 and the introduction of a finals series (which was previously only available in Super League) between the winners of each grade, the best teams in each zone will still enjoy the opportunity to test themselves against the best teams across metropolitan Melbourne. In that respect one of the perceived benefits of Super League will remain, at least as far as A grade players are concerned, and the same opportunity to play against the best will now extend to all other grades.

In addition FFV's focus is on the development of young players which, FFA research shows, is directly linked to the quality of training they receive during the week – **not** only the quality of competitive matches. That is one of the reasons why FFV is encouraging all Clubs to have more accredited coaches.

The promotion/relegation system of previous seasons will remain where predominately the top two teams get promoted and the bottom two teams are relegated.

**What happens to the 2009 Super League Teams?**

The 2009 Super League teams (Under 13's to Under 16's) have been placed into the appropriate division of their correct zone. This was dependant on their league position in the Super League. With the new zone structure Clubs who were competitive in A Grade last season now have the opportunity to participate in a league of higher standard without the need to travel long distances.

**Will the Under 18 Super League exist in 2010?**

No, Super League across all age groups will no longer continue, therefore Clubs that were to have an Under 18 Super League team in 2010 will be given preference to participate in the Under 18 Purple (for Clubs that have a Senior Men's team in the Victorian Premier League or State One) or the highly competitive Under 18 Blue (all other Clubs).



## **Will the Under 18 Super League exist in 2010? (Continued)**

At the conclusion of the 2010 season the Competitions Department will look at how to further improve the Under 18's competition.

### **We had a team in the Under 16's in 2009 but they do not appear in the proposed 2010 Structure.**

Only teams finishing in top four of the 16 Super Leagues and top of the 16A have been included in this structure. All other Under 18's will need to be entered as new a team as per previous years.

### **What will Football Federation Victoria offer the talented players throughout winter?**

In conjunction with the Talented Player Development Department and the Head Coaches of each Victorian Champions League Zone, approximately 30 players from the 13, 14 & 15 boys and 13's and 14-17 girls will be identified and selected to be part of the Talented Player Train on Squad that throughout the winter season will be invited to participate in a training program that will also entail friendly fixtures to continue their development.

Zones will be encouraged and supported to include talented players from the Under 11's and Under 12's to give them the best chance to develop and potentially participate in the following season's Victorian Champions League. The training will be conducted by Football Federation Victoria's recognised Zone Coaches.

These players will still be involved with their winter club and this initiative will not impact on their winter season commitments. Please review Appendix One which outlines the FFV Player Development Pathway for Junior Boys and Girls.

### **Why is there no Talented Player Train on squads for 16-18 boys and 18 girls?**

Current development squad age groups are in line with FFA National Youth selection pathways and National Championship talent identification tournaments.

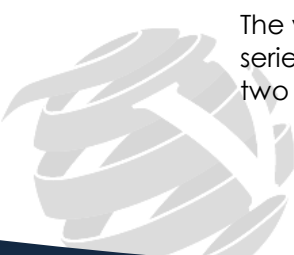
Players of these age groups are developed within other programs such as National Training Centre (NTC) and Melbourne Victory (Youth, Women's).

### **Will there be finals for Junior Leagues?**

Yes, the winners of every single division will be placed into a final series from the Under 12 age group through to the Under 18's, this is for both the Junior Boys and Junior Girls leagues.

### **How will the final series work?**

The winners of each of the grades will play against each other and in a separate final series for example the winners of the Under 12 C Grades will play against each other over two weeks.



### **How will the final series work? (Continued)**

With the amount of matches being played it will not be possible for FFV to host all matches at DISC over the two weeks, therefore Clubs will be required to host some matches. We will work with the Clubs prior to the final series to fixture these matches.

### **Will the Under 11's play finals?**

No, the Under 11's falls under the Small Sided Football structure and whilst Under 11's will play for points, there will be no final series. Under 11's for 2010 will be Joeys and Kangaroos (self graded by Clubs) but will have no bearing on the league structure for 2011's Under 12's. In 2011 Under 12's will all be new team entries, Kangaroos and Joeys as the two options Clubs can select.

### **How many games can each team expect to play?**

With the Junior structure being 10 team leagues (where possible), Clubs can expect to play 18 league games. Clubs who win their respective leagues, will have additional game(s) for the final series, which will be run over two weeks.

### **Why has an A Grade team from 2009 been placed in B Grade for 2010?**

There a number of reasons why this may have occurred. Either the team in A Grade finished in the bottom two, or due to the number of Super League Clubs being placed in A Grade an A grade team may have to be positioned in B Grade. As in previous years clubs are not able to have two teams in A grade.

The only exception is the Under 14 South East A Grade, Under 15 South East A Grade and the Under 16 South East A Grade. The reason for this is that the options to fill the vacancies were limited. This will not be standard practice and will be phased out moving forward.

Clubs with two teams in A Grade will need to be aware of a new set of Rules of Competition regarding this issue with players floating from one team to another. These Rules of Competition will be out in February for all Clubs to view.

### **Are the names of the leagues official or working titles?**

The leagues are named as such to help all stakeholders familiarise themselves with the restructure E.g. 2010 13-14 Girls A Grade Central-North East-Eastern will be renamed prior to the season commencing.

### **How will the Under 9's and Under 7's be structured?**

Clubs can choose for Under 9's to participate in the Kangaroos or Joeys league in line with the Under 11's structure, however there will be no points or league tables. Under 7's will continue to participate as per the Club Hubs.

The Competitions Department will review the team entries for the Under 9's and Under 11's and release a league structure that reflects the rest of the Junior Metropolitan Re-Structure.



### Can I only play in the zone where I live?

No, FFV has not placed any restrictions on which club a player can play for during the winter season. However players and parents should be aware that the location of the club you register for in winter determines the eligibility for Victorian Champions League zone registration for summer.

If you have any further questions then please do not hesitate to contact the Competitions Department on 9474 1800 or [competitions@footballfedvic.com.au](mailto:competitions@footballfedvic.com.au)

FFV Boys Development Pathway				
Age	Community	State	National	International
21+	Club	Zone Team	A-League Overseas League Victorian Rep Team	Socceroos Olyroos
19-20	Club	Zone Team	A-League NYL/NTC Victorian Rep Team	Olyroos Young Socceroos
17-18	Club	Zone Team	National Youth League (NYL) NTC	AIS Young Socceroos
15-16	Club	Zone Teams	NTC State Teams	AIS Joeys
12-14	Club 11v11	Zone Team	NTC State Teams	AFC Football Festival
10-11	SSF Club 9v9	Zone training		
8-9	SSF Club 7v7			
< 7	SSF Inter Club & Gala days 4v4			



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# FFV Girls Development Pathway

Age	Community	State	National	International
21+	Club	Zone Teams	W – League NTC Victorian Rep Team	Matildas AIS
19-20	Club	Zone Teams	W – League NTC Victorian Rep Team	Matildas AIS Young Matildas
17-18	Club	Zone Teams	NTC W - League	Young Matildas
15-16	Club	Zone Teams	State Teams NTC	Young Matildas
12-14	Club 11v11	Zone Team	State Teams	AFC Football Festival
10-11	SSF Club 9v9	Zone Training		
8-9	SSF Club 7v7			
< 7	SSF Inter Club & Gala days 4v4			

