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# CFFA Nationals Tournament Document: Team Selection Process & Criteria

VICTORIAN CHURCHES FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION INC.

# TEAM SELECTION TIMELINE

This timeline applies to all VCFA State Team Selections for the CFFA National Tournament in 2023.

DATE	INFORMATION
28 March 2023	VCFA informs Clubs of upcoming CFFA Nationals Titles at Junior & Senior Team Briefings - encouraged to notify potential players, coaches and managers.
11 May 2023	General Manager to officially open applications for Chaplain, Team Leader, Coaches and Team Managers for 5x age groups via email. Applications close by mid May (Monday, 22 May 2023). NOTE: application forms available to download on VCFA website).
16 May 2023	VCFA Sub-Committee reviews applications and references for Coaches and Team Managers & Leadership Group ( <b>preliminary review only</b> ).
22 May 2023	Applications for nominations close - VCFA Sub-Committee to begin detailed review of applications and make recommendations to VCFA Board (by week end).
Week of 29 May 2023	VCFA coordinates and administers the selection processes for each age group trial (providing administrative and selection support to appointed coaches)
Week of 5 June 2023	1st trial night held - Location & Date TBC
Week of 12 June 2023	2nd trial night held - Location & Date TBC
Week of 19 June 2023	3rd trial night held - Location & Date TBC
Week of 26 June 2023	ONLY IF REQUIRED - 4th trial night held - Location & Date TBC
2 July 2023	Final Representative teams selected by Coaches (and endorsed by Clubs). VCFA confirms team selections and contacts selected players.
Week of 3 July 2023	Individual team training starts - weekly sessions where possible. Coaches to nominate ideal dates, times and locations with the General Manager to liaise with Clubs to facilitate.
Week of 14 August 2023	Coaches encouraged to organise practice matches before the tournament. Ideally 2-4x practice matches organised prior to the tournament.
Week of 28 August 2023	Shirt presentation to be held - Location and details TBC
28 September to 3 October 2023	Tournament held. Dates of Tournament are Friday 29 September to Monday, 2 October. Travel dates are one day either side of the Tournament (so Thursday, 28 September to Tuesday, 3 October).

# TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA AND SELECTION PROCESS

The VCFA will ensure that the selection process is consistent and transparent to all involved so they feel that they have had a fair and equitable chance of being selected in the representative team.

## CLUB INVOLVEMENT

- Request to be distributed to Clubs seeking willingness and availability to host trials (in line with the dates provided above)
- Request Club involvement in joining the VCFA Sub-Committee to assist in review of applications in timely manner (i.e. seek references / confirmation of applicant suitability)
- Have clubs discern prior to trials which players would be suitable for selection from those at their club wishing to trial (top 3-4 from each team for example)
- Clubs to assist in finding players (particularly at under 17 girls as there is no competition currently catering to these age groups)
  - o Clubs will be required to send through list of eligible players (correct age and appropriate ability) with contact details, for coaches use
- Club may send someone from the appropriate age group who has a good knowledge of the player(s) attending trials from his/her club so as to lend advice (if asked) about players abilities
  - o VCFA will also provide and/or nominate clubs to provide administration helpers to man a registration desk where forms are handed over and a number is distributed to each player trialling so as to be distinguishable to selectors

## REGISTRATION

- Have a minimum of 3 trial dates planned and announced in advance of trials beginning and have players register online for the dates they wish to attend.
- Players are encouraged to attend all trials, but coaches will be given the opportunity at each trial to welcome or not welcome back players each week so trials are more manageable for selection.
- Player to attend trials with a form generated by VCFA which has pertinent information (e.g. name, club, date of birth, position and club endorsement [coach/manager/president name and contact])

## SELECTION CRITERIA

- Players wishing to trial must have played in the VCFA for a minimum of **five (5) games** in the current season
- A maximum of four (4) players may be selected from any one VCFA Club. The VCFA Board has the sole discretion to grant special exemption to the selection criteria where it deems fit.
- Players must be endorsed by their home club to be eligible. Club endorsement includes:
  - o character reference: the Club believes the player behaves in an appropriate manner on- and off the field
  - o financial reference: the Club believes the player is financially able to pay the full fee to attend the tournament. The Club understands that they will be invoiced for each successful player from their Club and will be required to seek reimbursement from the player.

## CONDITIONS

- Selection is completed by the selection panel and final say is given to the coach. The coach will then submit team lists to the Nationals Sub-Committee for approval before announcement of successful applicants.
- Exemptions to selection criteria should be applied and submitted to the VCFA Executive for review and authority. Notification as to the outcome of the exemption application will be given in writing by the VCFA Executive and/or General Manager within a reasonable timeframe.

## TRIALS

- VCFA officials and representatives (nominated coaches and managers) must be clearly identifiable at trials (hi-vis vest or similar to be provided by VCFA).
- All teams will trial at one location on one evening over four weeks (4x trials). A minimum of three trials must be attended for best chance at selection, unless due notice is given to coaches/managers.
- A registration desk will be set up on all three (or four) trial nights with all necessary information and as a meeting point for players, parents and coaches. Each player will be given a number to be identifiable to selectors when trialling.
- The trial session will be a structured selection process of small groups running through certain drills/skills stations where selectors grade their performance. At the end of each trial, a short meeting may be held with selectors and coaches, and players may be cut from further trials based on these scores. This will ensure numbers are kept as low as possible, and players are able to be told in person if they are unsuccessful.
- Goalkeepers should be graded separately for appropriate skill sets required. This may be done by goalkeeper coaches, separately from other trialists.

## **SELECTION**

- 24 players will be short-listed by coaches at the end of the third trial. Coaches may choose to host one more trial to finalise their list, if required.
- Maximum 22 players can be chosen to train on with the team, with six identified emergency players. For Seniors, a team of 18 may be taken while Junior teams will be permitted a maximum list of 17 players. These players will be played on rotation basis with the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> players notified of their emergency status.
- Emergency players must be notified of status before they continue on with the team, so as to avoid conflict when it comes to 'game time' at carnival. Emergency players should expect to only play when absolutely necessary (in times of injury etc.) and should not expect to play in the grand final if said team should make it that far.