



MASTERS



METRO



AFL MASTERS VIC METRO

CLUB TOOLKIT

2026

Get Your Season Kick-Started!

With the 2026 season fast approaching, we're excited to support our clubs, volunteers and communities in making this our biggest year yet.

AFL Masters is built on connection, participation and a lifelong love of the game - and our clubs are at the centre of it all.

This toolkit provides practical, easy-to-use resources to help you promote your club, strengthen your digital presence, engage your community and attract new players across all competitions.

We encourage you to use these tools to connect, grow and bring your club to life in your local community.

Wishing you a successful and enjoyable 2026 season.



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2026 CLUB TOOL KIT

PLAY AFL RESOURCES

NATIONAL COMMUNITY HANDBOOK

The National Community Handbook, developed by the AFL, outlines community football policies that cover various aspects, including:

- eligibility;
- registration;
- member protection and integrity;
- health and safety; and
- as well as disciplinary measures.



National Community Football Policy Handbook

The National Community Football Policy Handbook ("handbook") aims to

 Play AFL

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY HANDBOOK](#)

LAWS OF THE GAME

To ensure that the game cherished by the AFL community remains both exciting and safe for all, the League follows the Laws of the Game set forth by the AFL.



Laws of the Game

 Play AFL

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE LAWS OF THE GAME](#)

PLAY HQ

Play HQ serves as the essential platform for managing various aspects such as registrations, payments, fixtures, live scoring, statistics, and overall competition management.

User Guides

The Play AFL website offers a variety of user guides to support clubs and players, including:

- How to Register (Individual)
- Registering Your Club
- Season Setup Checklist
- Coach Registration & Accreditation



PlayHQ

Concussion Management Functionality - Player or Parent/Guardian User Guide

 Play AFL

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD PLAYHQ USER GUIDES](#)

CLUB HELP

The Club Help section on the Play AFL website has loads of resources and templates for your Club to utilise. Spend more of your valuable time doing the things around the club you love and that matter, and less on the administration side of things!



CLUB FUNDING
Explore various ways you can obtain funding for your club.

[FINANCE](#)



CLUB PRESIDENT ROLE DESCRIPTION
Use these resources to find a club president for your local club!

[CLUB COMMITTEE ROLES](#)



FACILITY MANAGEMENT
Close to 3,000 grounds are used for Australian football across the country with this number increasing each year due to the strong participation growth being experienced in our game in all corners of our nation.

[CLUB MANAGEMENT](#)



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
The AFL acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands where we work and play our game. Our vision for reconciliation is that the AFL community will be known as a place where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are respected and celebrated, and that they have pathways to successfully and equitably participate at all levels, not only in our game but in a reconciled Australia.

[FINANCE](#)



CLUB PROMOTION
Everything you need to promote your club.

[CLUB HELP](#)



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT TEMPLATES
Enhance your club's financial management with templates. Find practical tools to streamline budgeting, ensuring a solid financial foundation for your club's success.

[CLUB MANAGEMENT](#)

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW ALL CLUB HELP RESOURCES](#)

RESOURCES

Club Management Resources:

- AFL Standards of Engagement
- AGM / Annual Report Templates
- Campaign Materials
- Coaching Resources
- Committee Meeting Templates
- Facility Management
- Financial Management Templates
- Gender Diversity Policy
- Recruitment & Onboarding Templates
- Risk Management & Insurance
- Risk Management Templates
- Senior & Junior Club MOU Agreement
- Sustainability
- Volunteer Management Templates

[CLUB MANAGEMENT RESOURCES](#)

Financial Resources:

- Club Funding
- Financial Management
- Government Sport Vouchers
- Grants

[FINANCE RESOURCES](#)

Growth & Retention Resources

- Player Retention & Transition

[GROWTH & RETENTION RESOURCES](#)



RESOURCES



Diversity

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
- Cultural Diversity
- LGBTQI+
- Women & Girls Umpiring

[DIVERSITY RESOURCES](#)

Role Descriptions

- Club President / Registrar / Secretary / Vice President
- Council Liaison Officer
- Equipment Officer / Facility Maintenance Officer / Grounds Manager
- First Aid Coordinator
- Gate Keeper
- Grants Coordinator
- Marketing & Communications Coordinator
- Memberships Coordinator
- Merchandise Coordinator
- Player Recruitment Officer
- Runner / Timekeeper / Umpire Escort
- Social Media Coordinator
- Sponsorship Coordinator
- Sports Trainer Coordinator
- Team Manager
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Water Carrier
- Women & Girls Director

[ROLE DESCRIPTION RESOURCES](#)

INJURY MANAGEMENT:

Trainers & First Aid

AFLVM adheres to the guidelines set out in the National Community Football Handbook regarding injury management.

Clubs are required to ensure appropriate minimum requirements for trainers and first aid are met at both matches and training sessions.

- At least one first aid provider with Appropriate Minimum Qualifications (refer to table 15.3)
- First aid kit and adequate sport-specific equipment available
- Marked venue access for emergency vehicles

You can view these requirements below:

[PG.59 SECTION 15 - INJURY MANAGEMENT OF THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY HANDBOOK](#)



CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT:

Affiliated clubs are required to record all player concussions in PlayHQ to ensure player health and safety remains a high priority.

Key Features

- **Player Ineligibility & Clearance:** Records suspected concussions, making players ineligible until they complete the return-to-play process.
- **Automated Notifications:** Alerts players about return steps and informs club admins during recovery.
- **Return-to-Play Declarations:**
 - After 21+ Days: Players must confirm completion of the graded loading program and medical clearance, with no club action needed.
 - Before 21 Days: Players must declare no concussion occurred with doctor confirmation; clubs must verify medical clearance for eligibility.
- **Reporting Dashboard:** Offers de-identified insights on concussion incidents, return status, average recovery time, and basic demographics.
- **Privacy:** Post-return date, the concussion incident is only visible to the profile owner, not leagues or clubs.

Why This Matters

- **For Players:** Automatic notifications guide them to the Play AFL Concussion Hub for step-by-step assistance.
- **For Clubs/Leagues:** Empowers players to manage their return, enhancing oversight and reducing administrative tasks.

[DOWNLOAD CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT GUIDES HERE](#)



2026 CLUB TOOL KIT

RULES OF THE GAME

AFLVM MODIFIED RULES

AFLVM Men’s and Women’s League rules are based on the playing rules of the AFL, with a few modifications that overrule AFL rules where required.

These changes help keep the league friendly and fun for everyone.

[DOWNLOAD COPY OF AFLVM MODIFIED RULES HERE](#)



AFLVM RULE CHANGES IN 2026

New Changes Implemented in the 2026 Season

SHRUGGING IN THE TACKLE

‘Prior Opportunity’: A deliberate shrug or raising of the arms to break or draw a high tackle will now be considered prior opportunity. Once a player chooses to shrug, fend, or lift their arm and is tackled, failure to dispose of the ball correctly is likely to result in a holding the ball decision.

LAST DISPOSAL OUT OF BOUNDS BETWEEN THE ARCS

Kick or handball that goes out of bounds between the arcs = free kick to opponent.

RUCK NOMINATIONS

Rucks must nominate as per 2025, however the umpire may restart play without a nominated Ruck present. The intent is to get play started again as soon as possible once the area is clear.

Examples of the above can be found here:

[SHRUG - PLAY AFL](#)

[LAST DISPOSAL - PLAY AFL](#)

[RUCK NOMINATIONS - PLAY AFL](#)

AFLVM RULE CHANGES IN 2026

AFLVM do not adhere to the following rules:

ALIGN KICK IN TIME

Not applicable in AFLVM - must wait for umpires to wave flags prior to starting play again.

CENTRE BALL UP CONTESTS

No change – at all centre ball-ups, a competing ruck must start in the centre circle. Cannot cross the centre line until ball is thrown up.

STAND RULE

AFLVM will not adopt the stand rule in 2026.

6-6-6 STARTING POSITIONS

AFLVM will not adapt the 6-6-6 starting rule in 2026.



AFL Masters Vic Metro is committed to safety, respect, and enjoyment for all participants.

UMPIRE CARDS - SEND OFF RULES



AFL Masters Vic Metro

Player sent off the ground for 10 minutes of game time.

This player may be replaced.

Second Blue Card in the same match will result in a Yellow Card.

Blue Card



AFL Masters Vic Metro

Player sent off the ground for the duration of the current match and remainder of the current game day.

This player may be replaced.

Yellow Card



AFL Masters Vic Metro

Player sent off the ground for the duration of the current match and remainder of the current game day.

This player CANNOT be replaced.

Incident on report.

Red Card

WOMEN'S NON-CONTACT "FOOTY RUSH"

Delivery of the Competition in 2026

AFL Masters Vic Metro (AFLVM) is proud to partner with AFL Victoria to deliver the Women's Non-Contact competition in 2026, as part of the inaugural Footy Rush pilot program. This initiative represents an exciting step forward in creating more inclusive, accessible and flexible playing opportunities for women across the football landscape.

As part of the pilot, all participants will play an active role in shaping the future of the program, with regular feedback collected throughout the season to inform ongoing development and refinement.

AFL Victoria will support the delivery of the competition through the provision of qualified umpires and all required match-day equipment, ensuring a high-quality and consistent playing experience across the season.

Hosting Club Requirements

Hosting clubs of women's Non-Contact "Footy Rush" matches are required to:

- Allow access to the field and change room facilities 30 mins prior to the match start time, and;
- Supply a key contact to share with AFL Vic staff for game day communication.

[CHECK OUT THE NEW FOOTY RUSH COMPETITION RULES HERE](#)

WOMEN'S NON-CONTACT "FOOTY RUSH"

Team Uniforms:

- Club playing jumpers, training t-shirts, or singlets may be worn. However, all players must be uniform.
- Shorts or leggings of any length may be worn.
- Players may wear football boots or runners.
- Mouthguards are not mandatory but encouraged.

Disciplinary Actions:

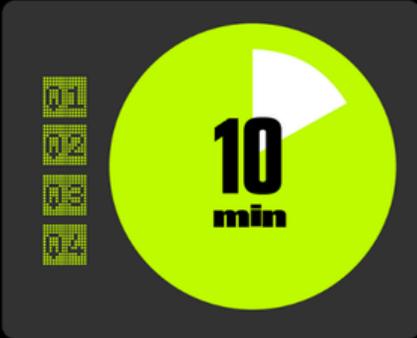
- Any sanctions received in the Women's 35s Competition (Contact) or in Women's 35s Non-Contact "Footy Rush" will be applied across all Women's 35s competitions



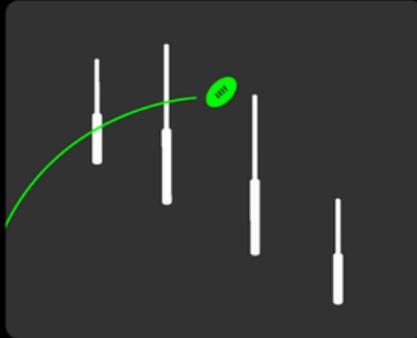


FOOTY RUSH

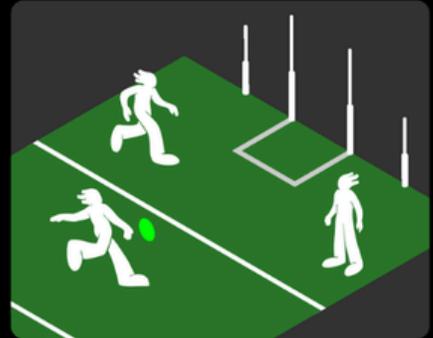
HOW TO PLAY FOOTY RUSH



Played over four quarters



6 points for a goal,
1 for a behind



All players can score from
anywhere on the ground



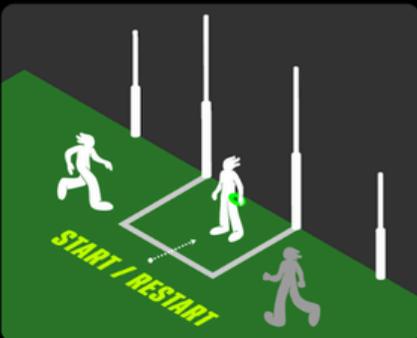
Play on from dropped or
fumbled balls & Spoiling
is allowed



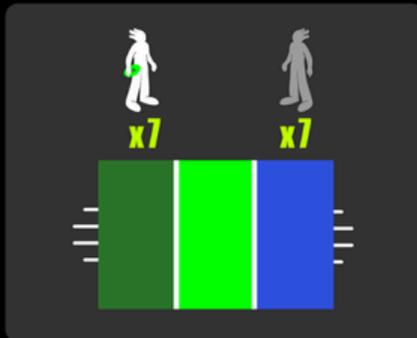
Bouncing is allowed but only
once after 15m



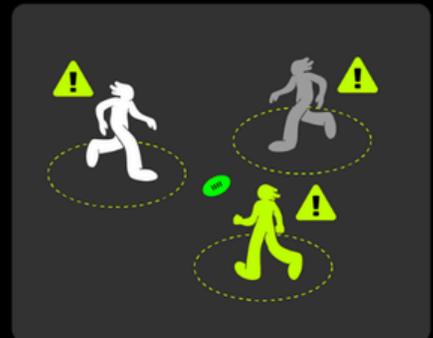
Tackle Free: touch only with
prior opportunity rules



No ball-ups. No rucks.
Just quick starts & restarts from
the goal square



7-a-side footy over 3 zones



Responsible Play holds
everyone accountable to act
with a duty of care and
respect to everyone on field



MASTERS



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2026 CLUB TOOL KIT

AFLVM POLICIES

BY-LAWS

Alongside the Laws of the Game and the AFLVM Adopted Rules, the By Laws govern and regulate the AFL Masters Vic Metro League.

CODE OF CONDUCT

AFL Masters Vic Metro (AFLVM) is a values-driven League built on safety, inclusion, respect and enjoyment. The purpose of this Code is to clearly set out behavioural standards expected of everyone involved – players, coaches, umpires, club officials and spectators – to ensure the spirit of AFL Masters is always upheld in accordance with AFLVM values and behaviours.

[DOWNLOAD 2026 BY-LAWS & CODE OF CONDUCT HERE](#)





AFLVM POLICIES

AFLVM also adhere to the following policies:

- Privacy Policy
- Social Media Policy
- Gender Diversity Policy

[DOWNLOAD AFLVM POLICIES HERE](#)



2026 CLUB TOOL KIT

MATCH DAY RESOURCES

CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

Required Match Day Paperwork

The following documents must be submitted to the league post-match.

- Home Club Team Sheet*
- Away Club Team Sheet*
- Timekeepers Report
- Score Cards
- Umpire Match Day Checklist
- Match Day Paperwork & Umpires Report (Online form for umpires to complete)

**From PlayHQ only, no handwritten sheets will be accepted.*

[DOWNLOAD MATCH DAY PAPERWORK HERE](#)



CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

AFLVM Match Day Procedure

TIMELINE	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY
Before Match	Complete the Match Day Checklist by AFL Matchday Checklist Marsh	Home Team Delegate
	Print PlayHQ Team Sheets, Time Keepers Report & Score Cards	Home Team Delegate
	Home and Away Team Sheets to be signed by all present players to be credited with the game	Team Delegates
During Match	Home and Away team Sheets to be handed to Umpires in the Umpires Room at half time	Team Delegates
After Match	Report concussions or suspected concussions via PlayHQ (NEW to 2026)	Team Delegates / Trainers
	Match Day report and paperwork to be uploaded through form by 7pm Sunday (NEW to 2026)	Umpires
	Team Sheets, Time Keepers Report and Scorecards to be handed to Home Team Delegate for record keeping	Umpires / Home Team Delegate
	Team sheets, scores & goal kickers to be updated in PlayHQ by 12pm Monday	Team Delegates

MATCH DAY RESPONSIBILITIES

Host Team Responsibilities

Match Operations:

- Provide timekeeper & scoreboard operator
- Supply match footballs
- Assign two goal umpires per match
- Supply Match Day paperwork (scorecards, timekeepers report, umpire checklist)

Game Day Management

- Complete Marsh Match Day Checklist
- Introduction to facilities for new visiting teams & officials
- Appoint Game Day Manager
- Emergency procedures

Home Team Responsibilities

- Manage home team sheet
- Goal umpire payments
- Update PlayHQ information (scores, team sheet, goal kickers)

Away Team Responsibilities

- Manage away team sheet
- Update PlayHQ information (team sheet, goal kickers)

[CHECK OUT FULL REQUIREMENTS HERE](#)

MATCH DAY RESPONSIBILITIES

Women's 35s & Men's 55's Competitions

When hosting the “carnival style rounds” (multiple games from the same division on the same day and venue), responsibilities are allocated as follows:

Host Clubs:

- Provide match balls
- Complete the Marsh Insurance Game Day Checklist
- Supply Matchday Paperwork (Timekeepers Sheet, Score Cards, Umpires Checklist)
- Supply goal umpires and time keepers*

**For Women's competitions, when all games are scheduled at the one venue (e.g. Gather Round), then each team is responsible to provide one goal umpire for their match*

Home & Away Clubs:

- Supply their own Team Sheets**

***From PlayHQ only, no handwritten sheets will be accepted.*





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CLUB OPERATIONS

PRE-SEASON CHECKLIST

Forms to Complete

- Submit new club contacts
- Submit football orders
- Submit team confirmations
- Submit ground availability

Play HQ

- Set up PlayHQ registration link to share with players (only once AFLVM has allocated teams to divisions)
- View the PlayHQ Season Checklist [here](#)

Coaches

- Ensure club coaches are registered and accredited for the season (applies to new and returning coaches)
<https://afl.androgogic.com.au/>

Collect from AFLVM at League Meetings

- Footballs
- Scorecards

USE OF AFLVM LOGO

Use of the AFL Masters and AFLVM logos on any assets, print collateral or club apparel is to be approved by the AFLVM Staff.

Approved Logos For Club Use:



Dark Background



Light Background

[DOWNLOAD AFLVM STYLE GUIDE](#)



AFL MASTERS BRANDING GUIDELINES

When designing Club Apparel, please share the below Branding Guides with the designers to ensure correct AFL Masters logos, placement, colours and fonts are used.

Use of the AFL Masters logo on apparel must be approved by AFLVM Staff.



- AFL Masters logo must be positioned on the right side
- Playing guernsey logo size 9.8cm x 6cm

Refer to the style guides below for further instructions

[DOWNLOAD AFL MASTERS BRAND GUIDE](#)

[DOWNLOAD AFL MASTERS STYLE GUIDE](#)

[DOWNLOAD AFL MASTERS LOGOS](#)

TRIBUNAL & APPEAL BOARD PROCEDURE

An affiliated club is entitled to appeal a decision made by a tribunal or board.

Please refer to **By-Law 36: APPEALING A DECISION OF THE LEAGUE OR TRIBUNAL** for more information regarding the procedure.

[DOWNLOAD TRIBUNAL & APPEAL BOARD PROCEDURE FORM](#)

MEMBER COMPLAINTS & APPEALS

A person associated with an affiliated club (player, coach, official, spectator or umpire) may submit a complaint to the league for review by completing the online form via the link below.

[ONLINE FORM HERE](#)



AFLVM INSURANCE

Marsh Insurance Cover Protections:

All affiliated clubs are issued with insurance to provide cover for personal injury.

Clubs can download their CoC from [AFL Club | Marsh](#)

If you don't have your AFL ID, please email sport@marsh.com to request it for your club.

[DOWNLOAD MARSH INSURANCE INFORMATION HERE](#)

Other Insurance Cover:

It is strongly encouraged for all players to investigate their own insurance needs, such as

- Private Health Insurance
- Life Insurance
- Loss of Income (particularly for self-employed players)
- Ambulance Subscription





2026 CLUB TOOL KIT

COMPETITION SEASON

SEASON FIXTURE

Over 35s

WOMEN'S FIXTURE

- RD 1 | SATURDAY 11TH APRIL
- RD 2 | SATURDAY 25TH APRIL
- RD 3 | SATURDAY 2ND MAY
- RD 4 | SATURDAY 16TH MAY
- RD 5 | SATURDAY 30TH MAY
- RD 6 | SATURDAY 13TH JUNE
- RD 7 | SATURDAY 27TH JUNE
- RD 8 | SATURDAY 18TH JULY
- RD 9 | SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST
- RD 10 | SATURDAY 15TH AUGUST
- SEMI FINALS | 29TH AUGUST
- GRAND FINALS | 12TH SEPTEMBER

Over 35s, 45s, 50s

MEN'S FIXTURE

- RD 1 | SUNDAY 12TH APRIL
- RD 2 | SUNDAY 26TH APRIL
- RD 3 | SUNDAY 3RD MAY
- RD 4 | SUNDAY 17TH MAY
- RD 5 | SUNDAY 31ST MAY
- RD 6 | SUNDAY 14TH JUNE
- RD 7 | SUNDAY 28TH JUNE
- RD 8 | SUNDAY 19TH JULY
- RD 9 | SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST
- RD 10 | SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST
- SEMI FINALS | 30TH AUGUST
- GRAND FINALS | 13TH SEPTEMBER

Over 55s

MEN'S FIXTURE

- RD 1 | SUNDAY 29TH MARCH
- RD 2 | SUNDAY 19TH APRIL
- RD 3 | SUNDAY 10TH MAY
- RD 4 | SUNDAY 24TH MAY
- RD 5 | SUNDAY 7TH JUNE
- RD 6 | SUNDAY 21ST JUNE
- RD 7 | SUNDAY 5TH JULY
- RD 8 | SUNDAY 26TH JULY
- RD 9 | SUNDAY 9TH AUGUST
- RD 10 | SUNDAY 23RD AUGUST

Over 60s

MEN'S FIXTURE

- RD 1 | SPLIT 12TH & 26TH APRIL
- RD 2 | SUNDAY 17TH MAY
- RD 3 | SUNDAY 14TH JUNE
- RD 4 | SPLIT 19TH JULY & 2ND AUGUST
- RD 5 | SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST

Men's & Women's

AFLVM CUP 2026

SUNDAY 12TH JULY



[LINK TO 2026 AFLVM COMPETITION FIXTURES](#)

AFLVM SPECIAL EVENTS

Women's Competition:

- ANZAC Round - Round 2
- Indigenous Round - Round 4
- Pride Round - Round 7
- Gather Round - Round 10

Men's Competition:

- Anzac Round - Round 2
- Pat Cronin Round - Round 3
- Men's Health Round - Round 6
- Inclusivity Round - Round 9

[DOWNLOAD AFL PLAY GUIDE TO LOCAL THEMED ROUNDS](#)

ANZAC, Indigenous and Pride Rounds

Clubs are responsible for determining how they wish to acknowledge and celebrate Indigenous Round, Pride Round and ANZAC Round, including meaningful engagement with their First Nations, LGBTQI+ communities, and recognition of the ANZAC spirit.

To support planning and delivery, we recommend referring to the AFL Themed Rounds Guide.

Pat Cronin Foundation Round (PCF)

The Pat Cronin Foundation (PCF) works to end the coward punch through education and awareness. PCF Round promotes respect, safety and positive behaviour across the football community. AFLVM Men's Clubs will receive PCF Round kits to support activation in Round 3 and are encouraged to book a PCF education session to further engage players, coaches and members. For more information, visit <https://www.patcroninfoundation.org.au/>.

KEY DATES

Key events, meetings and activities happening during the 2026 AFLVM season.

January	February	March
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team confirmations due • Ground availability due 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fixtures finalised • Apparel orders due (runners and water carriers) • Football orders expected to arrive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder Meeting #1 • Round 1 - Men's 55s (29th)
April	May	June
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round 1 - 35s, 45s, 50s, 60s (11th) • Grand final hosting applications open 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder Meeting #2
July	August	September
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFLVM Cup (12th) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi Finals • Presentation Night (28th) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grand Finals • National Carnival (27th Sep - 3rd Oct)
October	November	December
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder Meeting #3 • Football Orders due for following season 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder Meeting #4 • AGM

NATIONAL CARNIVAL 2026

Newcastle, NSW - 27th September to 3rd October



The AFL Masters National Carnival is held each year in new location in Australia, where teams from each state compete in Over 35s to Over 65s age groups. The week-long carnival is designed for the whole family to join, with plenty of time for football, tourism and team events throughout the week.

Registrations

Registrations with the Vic Metro team will open in **April**.

Vic Metro Team Trainings

The Vic Metro team will train a number off times together in the lead up. training dates, venues, and times TBC.

Inclusions

Your registration fee includes:

- Entry into National Carnival
- Entry to Vic Metro team event
- Playing apparel (jumper, shorts, socks)
- Team polo



THANK YOU TO OUR VALUED PARTNERS



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