



**Essendon District Football
League
Fixture Generation & Grading
Policy**

March 2019

Essendon District Football League

Fixture Generation & Junior Grading Policy

This document has been created by the Essendon District Football League (EDFL) to outline the processes and principles of fixture generation and junior grading to all affiliated clubs for the home and away season and finals series. The aim is to provide transparency, whilst seeking to create balanced and fair competitions across all age groups and divisions.

Senior Fixtures

Process

A Memo will be circulated by the Football Operations Manager in October inviting Affiliated Clubs to submit fixture requests for the following season through JotForm. Such requests will have two weeks to be lodged from the date of invitation.

The EDFL will give full consideration to all requests received prior to the stated deadline.

The EDFL will release the fixture at the yearly Annual General Meeting.

Principles

No club will play more than two home or two away matches in a row during any season.

In competitions involving Bye's, all clubs will play a home match the week before or after the scheduled Bye.

No matches shall be fixtured outside of the competitions standard day and starting times unless both clubs have agreed, and the request submitted in accordance with the above Senior Fixture process.

Finals

As far as practicable, all finals matches will be played at a neutral venue

All finals are scheduled according to division, ladder position and subsequent finals results

Junior Fixtures

Process

Final team submissions into the Junior competition for the upcoming season, are due 4 weeks before the scheduled start date along with fixture requests.

The fixture for the first 2 rounds will be released two weeks before the scheduled start date, however this is subject to change.

Clubs may submit a request for review of particular team's fixtures preceding Round 7.

Principles

The first four rounds are grading rounds.

The EDFL will endeavour to balance the number of home and away games for each team

Every effort will be made to have venue's host at least 3 matches every given round fixtured for use, where possible.

Finals

As far as practicable, all finals matches will be played at a neutral venue

Where a club is hosting finals matches and has teams playing finals matches, the EDFL will endeavour to fixture those teams as close to their home ground as possible.

No guarantees will be given that teams from within the same club will be fixtured at the same location during any week.

All finals are scheduled according to final, ladder position and subsequent results

Changes to Published Fixture (applies to both Senior & Junior)

Except in the case of extreme weather or an emergency, any club that is looking to change the timing, day or location of a Senior, Reserve, under 19 or junior grade match once the fixture has been published, must complete the following process to have the change approved in 2019.

1. 14 days' notice is provided to EDFL Operations through written agreement of both opposing clubs outlining the specific alteration required

Grading Policy

Introduction

This policy contains guiding principles for the grading of U11 – U19 teams within the Essendon District Football League to ensure teams are best graded based on both past and present performance. It endeavours to bring about consistency and ensure teams have the best opportunity to play competitive football.

Principles

1. Each Division of an age group shall contain 10 teams.
2. The number of teams in the lowest one or two Divisions in each age group will be determined based on the number of teams available.
3. Byes shall be avoided where possible. If not possible, byes will be placed in the lowest Division of the age group.
4. U19s will be initially graded to match the Senior Division structure where practicable.
5. The grading process may result in two teams playing in the same division.
6. Four premiership points are awarded for a win in the course of the grading rounds.
7. Results shall be monitored after each round of grading.
8. Teams may be regraded following Round 2, 3 or 4.
9. Grading shall be in the absolute discretion of the Chief Executive Officer, and so far, as is practicable will be in accordance with this policy.

Pre-Season

1. The initial grading of teams will be based on this Policy.
2. Consideration may be given to results of the previous two seasons.
3. Information provided by clubs may also be taken into consideration and applications for consideration must be received 4 weeks prior to season commencement or a date determined by the League.
4. All teams that have played off in a Grand Final the prior year **may** be graded into a higher Division.
5. All teams that finish in the bottom two positions on the ladder the previous year **may** be relegated to a lower Division.
6. All teams that finish on top of the ladder in their Division at the end of the Home and Away season, but do not play off in the Grand Final, will be considered for grading into a higher Division.

Regrading

1. The first four rounds of the season are grading rounds.
2. Teams **may** be moved within Divisions until the completion of Round four.
3. Any team winning games by a considerable margin **may** be regraded to a higher Division.
4. Any team losing games by a considerable margin **may** be regraded to a lower Division.
5. All regrading of teams will be finalised following round four.
6. Further regrading following round five will only occur where the EDFL believes that a team has underperformed during the grading period.
7. Any team which is regraded during the course of the season will retain its points but percentage will be capped at an upper (200) or lower limit (50) depending on whether the team is regraded up or down divisions.
8. Teams in the Division from which a regraded team has been removed, will retain both their points and percentage for all games played in that division except any matches played against the regraded team where they will retain their points whilst their percentage will be capped at an upper (200) or lower limit (50) depending on whether the team is regraded up or down divisions .
9. The first four rounds matches will be included in the calculations for individual player's finals qualification for the regraded team.
10. Best & Fairest voting will always remain with the player regardless of which competition the matches were played in whilst playing for that team (e.g. if the team plays the first 4 games in Division 3 then is regraded to Division 4, all votes the player receives will count for the Division 4 best and fairest award calculation). Note that this is only the case for regraded teams.
11. Should the player play in multiple teams within an age group any best and fairest votes received remain with that team (e.g. if Team #2 play in Division 3 and team #3 play in Division 4, the player's votes would be calculated separately for each team)