



Central Highlands Football  
League

**Club Information  
Handbook**

**2026**



# **Brandt**

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## CHFL Calendar of Events 2026

- Wednesday 4th March 7.30pm - Club Presidents meeting Bungaree Club Rooms
- Sunday 17th May – Under 12 Lightning Premierships- Ballan FNC to host
- Junior Interleague Sunday 14th June (U13/U15/U18) CHFL v Colac DFNC – CHFL to host @ Buninyong
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm - Club Presidents meeting Bungaree Club Rooms
- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August 7.30pm - Club Presidents meeting Bungaree Club Rooms
- Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August – **Senior** Best & Fairest Dinner – North Ballarat Sport Club 6.00pm for a 6.30pm start
- Wednesday 2nd September– **Junior** Best & Fairest Dinner – North Ballarat Sports Club 6.00pm for a 6.30pm start
- Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September CHFL Grand Final- Mars Stadium
- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October- Club Presidents meeting 7.30pm Bungaree Club Rooms
- AGM Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm- Bungaree Club Rooms



## 2026 Match Start Times

### Under 12\*

**Match start 8.55am**

**4 x 10-minute quarters (no time on)**

40

**Breaks between quarters 3 min, 3 min, 3 min**

9

49 min

55 minutes between commencement of Under 12's & Under 15's

### Under 15\*

**Match start 9.50am**

**4 x 15-minute quarters (no time on)**

60

**Breaks between quarters 3 min, 5 min, 3 min**

11

71 min

80 minutes between commencement of Under 15's & Under 18's

### Under 18\*

**Match start 11.10am**

**4 x 18-minute quarters (no time on)**

72

**Breaks between quarters 5 min, 5 min, 5 min**

15

87 min

95 minutes between commencement of Under 18's & Reserves

### Reserves\*

**Match start 12.45pm**

**4 x 20-minute quarters (no time on)**

80

**Breaks between quarters 5 min, 5 min, 5 min**

15

95 min

105 minutes between commencements of Reserves & Seniors



## Seniors

**Match start 2.30pm**

**4 x 20-minute quarters (plus time on)**

**Breaks between quarters 5 min, 15 min, 5 min**

## **2025 Season Premiership Flag Presentations Schedule**

- Seniors Skipton FNC Saturday 11th April prior to the senior match
- Reserves Dunnstow FNC Saturday 11th April prior to reserves match
- Under 18 Learmonth FNC Saturday 18th April prior to U18 match
- Under 15 Skipton FNC Saturday 11th April prior to U15 match

## **CHFL Football Programs and Team Selection Publications**

### ***Club Information Submission***

- Team List and Club Notes Submission deadlines

An electronic program will be prepared for the CHFL by Sovereign Press.

Each club is required to supply **prior** to the start of the season a full number list of all players for each grade of competition including under 12.

This list can be updated as often as required. Updated lists need to be with Sovereign Press by Wednesday midday each week.

**It is important that clubs supply lists for all junior grades for round 1 program.** Clubs which have not bothered to do this in recent years have been doing their junior members a disservice.



All information needs to be emailed to [brad@sovpress.com.au](mailto:brad@sovpress.com.au)

If a club wishes to have physical copies of the program printed it is their own responsibility to arrange this with Sovereign Press and the club will be responsible for the cost of the printing of these programs.

## **Team Selection Publications**

As in past years CHFL senior and reserve selected teams will be published in the Ballarat Courier on a Friday prior to a match.

For this to occur all clubs are required to have their teams selected in PlayHQ by **8.00pm** on the Thursday evening prior to each game, when the selected teams report will be sent to the Courier.

All senior teams are to be selected in position in PlayHQ so that they can be published accordingly.

Reserve teams should also be selected in position; however it is accepted that at times this may not be possible. Where a team is not listed in positions it will show as 'selected from' which reflects poorly on the club.

Junior grades, U18 and U15, will not be published during the home and away rounds but they will be during finals. Clubs need to be aware of the need to prepare for this requirement if their junior teams make finals.

If selections for senior and reserve teams are not made by the time the selected teams report is sent then the Ballarat Courier will contact the club concerned resulting in extra work to be able to email or send the team through another means, so it saves a club volunteer additional work to ensure that this timeline request is met.

All teams selected will also show on the CHFL PlayHQ public site in the positions selected which is an important means of promoting your club to the more than 300,000 viewers of the PlayHQ each month during each season.



## **Junior Competition Age Groupings 2026**

### **Under 18 – Size 5 leather**

**Player must be born on or after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008**

### **Under 15 – Size 5 Synthetic**

**Player must be born on or after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011**

### **Under 12 – Size 3 Synthetic**

**Player must be born on or after January 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 and**

**Must have reached the age of eight years to participate in that grade.**

**Female players participating in the U15 competition.**

AFL Victoria Affiliate Regulations states that female players who reach 14 years of age as at January 1<sup>st</sup> in the year of play will be excluded from playing in any competition that is not a female only competition.



## **Under 12 Competition**

The under 12 competition will be on an informal basis as per previous seasons. Matches are to be played between clubs who indicate on a weekly basis to their next opponent if they do not have a team available for the coming round.

### **Match Procedures:**

1. Under 12 matches will commence at 8.55am each week when they are played and conclude by 9.40am.
2. All under 12 matches are to be played according to a modified version of the AFL junior match guidelines for 10 and 11 year olds. Rules which differ from the Laws of the Game are;
  - Players are able to tackle but slinging a player to the ground will result in a free kick.
  - The football is not able to be kicked off the ground.
  - A player is not able to bounce the football more than once before it is disposed of by either a kick or handpass.
3. Players and all officials for under 12 teams must be registered with their club to play and according to CHFL bylaws all players must be 8 years of age to participate in the competition. Once a player reaches 8 years of age they are able register with a club and play in the U12 competition.
4. As per AFL Junior Match Guidelines it is recommended that players not participate in a junior competition if they are more than 4 years younger than age of the competition in which they are participating, i.e. younger than 8 years of age in the case of an under 12 competition.
5. Team numbers would be expected to be reduced to no more than 15 per side.



It is recommended that clubs contact each other in the lead up to a match to confirm under 12 numbers. If a club is short of numbers it is expected players are swapped to ensure that the number of players on each side are equal where possible.

Team sheets should be prepared for each team and supplied to the CHFL as part of match day paperwork to ensure that insurance requirements are in order.

**6. All CHFL under 12 matches should be played on reduced sized ovals. Portable goal posts to be located at one end of the ground to decrease oval size. It is recommended that the oval size is reduced to approximately two thirds of full size.**

7. There will be no points awarded, no ladder kept or finals played within this competition. Results of matches, goals and best players, will be able to be entered into the Play HQ system by the home club only and will display on the results section of the CHFL website.

All clubs are requested to ensure their members and their parents are informed of this information in relation to the competition structure.

8. All participating teams in the CHFL under 12 competition are eligible to participate in the Under 12 Lightning Premiership. The rules and competition format for the Under 12 Lightning Premiership will be provided to all competing clubs prior to the competition.
9. AFL Victoria Country will permit the competition to be classed as a Little League competition enabling teams to be registered at a reduced rate.
10. Each club must supply one umpire who is familiar with the junior match policy rules which will be applied for the match.
11. Under 12 team lists will be included within the CHFL Football Program.  
Lists of under 12 players' names and number are to be provided to Sovereign Press at [brad@sovpress.com.au](mailto:brad@sovpress.com.au) by Wednesday 12.00noon of any week of the season. It is expected that lists of names are provided for the round 1 program.



## Timekeepers Instructions 2026

### **Length of Quarters Home and Away Matches**

<u><b>Under 12</b></u>	<b>4 x 10 minutes (no time on) Match start 8.55am Breaks between quarters 3 min, 3 min, 3 min (If required third and fourth quarters to be altered in length to ensure that match is concluded at 9.47am.)</b>
<u><b>Under 15</b></u>	<b>4 x 15 minutes (no time on) Match start 9.50am Breaks between quarters 3 min, 3 min, 3 min (If required third and fourth quarters to be altered in length to ensure that match is concluded at 11.05am.)</b>
<u><b>Under 18</b></u>	<b>4 x 18minutes (no time on) Match start 11.10am Breaks between quarters 5 min, 5 min, 5 min (If required third and fourth quarters to be altered in length to ensure that match is concluded at 12.38pm.)</b>
<u><b>Reserves</b></u>	<b>4 x 20 minutes (no time on) Match starts at 12.45pm Breaks between quarters 5 min, 5 min, 5 min (If required third and fourth quarters to be altered in length to ensure that match is concluded at 2.20pm.)</b>
<u><b>Seniors</b></u>	<b>4 x 20 minutes (plus time on) Match starts at 2.30pm Breaks between quarters 5 min, 15 min, 5 min. <u>Time on is added as per AFL rules</u> <i>Time on is to be added upon the umpires signal, when a bounce in general play is called for, when a goal or behind</i></b>



*is scored and when the ball crosses the boundary line upon the field umpires signal until it is released back into play.*

*If any match is delayed for an extended period; e.g. player injury, the home club is expected to contact the CHFL administration to provide an update and confirm what steps are required to be taken on the progress of the match or its outcome.*

## **CHFL Timekeepers Instructions**

**All clubs are to ensure that timekeepers are provided with this information and that it is displayed prominently in timekeeper's boxes in a prominent position.**

### **Law of the Game 10.4 Bringing Play to an End**

#### **10.4.1 End of Quarter**

**The Timekeepers in any CHFL match shall sound the siren to signal the end of a quarter until a Field Umpire and / or Emergency Umpire acknowledges that the siren has been heard and brings play to an end.**



## **PlayHQ Match Result Entry 2026**

For the 2026 season all clubs will be required to enter the goals and best players for each of their teams each week.

- The home club will enter the match score result, which if live scoring is being conducted will automatically be updated when the score is saved and submitted at the end of the game.
- Each club enters the best & goals for their own teams. They also should update team sheet changes at the same time following the match.
- All matchday paperwork which is used for team best and goals is to be submitted to the League in the match day envelope.

A club can still enter these results in the same manner as in the past with one nominated person entering this data.

There is also the opportunity to enable individual team managers to access PlayHQ at the Admin Scoring Level which will enable them to enter the data relevant to their match and team.

PlayHQ is set up to enable team managers to enter this data from their mobile phone.

### ***Club Team Managers***

- a. Have your team managers register on PlayHQ as a Team Manager.



- b. Club PlayHQ manager allocates the team manager to the correct team. They can also be added in the club admins section for Electronic Scoring Admin.

- c. The actions which the Team Manager will now be able to complete are shown in pages 27 – 47 of the AFL COMMUNITY FOOTBALL TEAM MANAGER PLAYHQ USER GUIDE

[Microsoft Word - PLAYHQ COMMUNITY TEAM MANAGER USERGUIDE V1](#)



A video webinar showing how to set up Team managers and what roles a Team manager is able to undertake can be found at;

[PlayHQ - Matchday Training Session for Club Admins-20240319 - Play AFL](#)

This video is able to be used by the club administrations for the set up.

Team Managers would also ideally watch the webinar from the 1:04:00 point.

### ***How to Live Score on PlayHQ***

All clubs must ensure that senior games are live scored through PlayHQ. This will update through to the Game Face app and link with the CHFL Program.

The Live Scoring access can be found at the following link.

[New Session | PlayHQ](#)

The process for team managers or whoever is selected by the club as a volunteer for the role can be found in the webinar below from the 1:13:00 point.

[PlayHQ - Matchday Training Session for Club Admins-20240319 - Play AFL](#)

## **Match Day Result Submission Procedures 2026**

*The following results submission procedures are to be completed by the home teams for each match of the home and away rounds.*



*All Home clubs entering in match result must have all games completed on the Play HQ match results system by 5.45pm on the day of the match.*

*Information for senior grade results will be accessed by media outlets at 5.45pm. Results submitted after this time will not be included in this information service.*

*Each club is responsible for entering their own best players and goal kickers for their club in each game completed.*

*Match results information must include the submission of goal kickers and best players for under 15, under 18, reserves and senior grades.*

*Best players must be recorded in order 1 – 6. Listing best players as ‘team effort’ is not able to be recorded and the media will receive a report indicating no details submitted.*

*If a player has selected private as part of their registration profile they will show in all public reports as private player and not their name. This can be edited in the player’s registration profile.*

*It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that these details are accurate otherwise it is possible that the incorrect players receive the recognition within media reports and the official records of goals scored may be incorrect.*

## **Match Day Envelope Inclusions**

All match day cards are to be submitted in the envelope provided to the senior match umpires for delivery the delivery venue is Saxon House letter box (City Oval)

Ground managers are to ensure that the following information is submitted for each match that is played.

- i) Team lists as supplied to the umpires for each team for each grade (including best players and goal kickers).
- ii) Interchange report (where completed.)
- iii) *Umpires Report Sheets (if there are any reports during the course of the day the completed Notice of Report form is to be included within this envelope)*
- iv) 2 Scorecards from each football match (not under 12)



- v) 2 Timekeepers cards from each match (not under 12)
- vi) Umpires votes cards (except under 12 matches) (Reserve, under 18 and under 15 grades to be signed by both umpires and coaches) In 2025 senior best and fairest votes will be entered on line by the umpires.
- vii) Senior Football –Courier Award votes (x2, one each senior club)

All match day checklists should be completed on the Marsh Insurance Match Day App.

## **Club Procedures For Reported Players (Match Day)**

The following procedures need to be followed by all clubs in all grades at the conclusion of a game to ensure that the correct procedures in respect to reported players are completed.

- Within ten (10) minutes of the conclusion of a match each team manager should attend to the umpires change room to check if there have been any players reported during the course of the match.
- If there are reported players the team manager of the reported player need to arrange a time with the umpires when they will return to finalise and receive the notice of report sheet.
- Each notice of report sheet must be signed by;
  - Umpire who is reporting the charged player.



- Part G of the Notice of Report Form is to be provided to the Team Manager of the club of the reported player.
- Part A to Part F of the Notice of Report Form is to be returned to the CHFL as part of the Match Day Envelope return.
- The only person who is to approach the umpires or umpires rooms should be the nominated team manager of the teams.
- Under no circumstances are players or other officials to approach umpires in respect to player reports.  
If such behaviour occurs the CHFL will take action against these people according to constitution and bylaws.

## **CHFL Procedures for Reported Players**

AFL Victoria has adopted the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook which includes the Disciplinary procedures for players that are charged with a reportable offence.

In 2026 the following notice of report, notice of charge and tribunal processes will occur for the Brandt Central Highlands FL.

An umpire will still lay reports from matches in the same manner at the time of the incident or first break in play as has always occurred. However, the process and form after the match which will be used will differ from that used prior to 2024.

Only the club with the player who has been reported will receive a form from the umpire indicating that there has been a report of one of their players.

There will be no notice of report sheet provided to the club of the offended against player.



The club of the charged player will receive Part G of the Notice of Report Form (below).

PART G		FOR REPORTED PERSON'S CLUB USE ONLY			
REPORT CONFIRMATION	PERSON'S ROLE	PLAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	⇒	JUMPER NO
		UMPIRE	<input type="checkbox"/>	⇒	OFFICIAL ROLE
PERSON'S NAME				PERSON'S CLUB	
MATCH DATE				GRADE	
QTR OF MATCH				TIME OF QTR	
OFFENDED PERSON'S NAME				OFFENDED PERSON'S DETAIL (ROLE / NO. / CLUB)	
WHAT IS THE REPORTABLE OFFENCE (AS PER 22.2.2 OF THE LAWS OF AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL)					

The league will then receive a more detailed overview of what the umpire has reported and how they have graded it on match day.

This information will be received by the league on Saturday evening / early Sunday.

*As a safeguard of this process it is requested that if a player from your club has been reported on match day that a text is sent to the league mobile (0435 737 257) on the day of the report, indicating the players name and grade which they were playing in.*

Umpires will also be requested to send a photo of the report through to the league.

Hopefully across each of these processes there will be no reports missed and action on them able to be started promptly.

To enable tribunal hearings, when required, to still be able to be conducted on a Tuesday night the administration of the league will need to gather information from clubs on the Sunday immediately after the match.

The offended against player's club will be officially informed of the report as soon as it known by the league.

Both clubs will need to be available to provide information on the incident on the Sunday after the match so that the league will be able to complete and provide the 'Notice of Charge' to the club and enable the decision making on whether an early guilty plea will be entered or if the charge will be challenged at tribunal.

The league will have the role of confirming through contacting each of the clubs and what is submitted from the umpire to classify and grade the charge.

Offended against player's clubs will be required to provide information to the league;



- Their belief on what the classification of the incident should be (careless / intentional).
- Where the contact was (body, high / groin, breast (females)).
- The grading of the incident (low, medium, high, severe)
- Offended against players club will be requested to provide information on the outcome of the incident on their player (extent of any injury, treatment required, player return to play, matches which will be missed).

***This information will need to be provided back to the league on the day following the match. Offending players and offended against players need to be made aware of this procedural requirement so that they are contactable by their club to provide the information required for the report to be classified.***

In cases which are for incidents in the low-level offences list there will be limited investigation on most occasions as these offences do not need to be classified with the notice of charge highlighting the sanction and early guilty plea reduction. However, an offence in this category can be sent to tribunal by the league if the investigation which is carried out identifies that the base sanction is deemed to be inappropriate.

This information which will be used to prepare the notice of charge to be provided to the offending players club by 10.00am Monday following the match.

A player will be required to enter an early guilty plea by 6.00pm on the day when the notice of charge is received.

Due to the investigation actions which will be undertaken on the day prior to the notice of charge being provided it will be unlikely to be a surprise for the player and they will be able to make a decision on the early guilty plea during the course of the day when the notice of charge is received.

Those who are part of the tribunal process need to be provided with at least 24 hours to prepare for it, hence the requirement for a decision by the offending player's club by 6.00pm on the Monday following the match.

**The tribunal will sit from 6.30pm on a Tuesday, at the Ballarat South Community Hub, Tuppen Drive, Sebastopol. (behind Phoenix College)**



## **AFL Victoria Player Points Policy Processes 2026**

Central Highlands FL will be participating in the AFL Victoria Player Points Policy.

For the 2026 season AFL Victoria continues to assign the management of the AFL Victoria Community Club Sustainability Program to leagues rather than the management through regions.

Therefore, the following procedures will be implemented by the CHFL to provide for the auditing and allocation of player points for this coming season.

### **1. Club Self-Audits of 2026 Player Point allocations**

Central Highlands FL Clubs are required to submit to the League Administration Manager your “Club’s Self-Audited Team List” outlining – in the view of your club - each Player’s “Player Point allocation” for the 2026 season.

*(Club Self Audit Team List 2026 form accompanying this memo)*



It is a requirement that these Team Lists are submitted by **COB Friday 20th March 2026**.

If you are unsure of player points allocated for your playing list for 2025 these can be found in PlayHQ in the 2025 competition year under the **More Tab – Player Points**.

Each club is responsible for the initial auditing your own players, this includes any player who your club registers for the 2026 season.

If a player was a one-point player in 2025 or has previously been a one-point player for your club, they will remain a one-point player.

A player must have played at least 5 matches in total (seniors & reserves) to be eligible for a one-point reduction if they were more than a one-point player for your club in 2025.

For full details and information on the player points policy and salary cap requirements, please refer to the last page of this document with link to all AFL Victoria policies.

## **Match Venue or Fixture Date Alteration Notification Processes 2026**

From time to time it may be necessary for a match venue or date of match to be changed from that which is published within the fixture.

It is the responsibility of the listed home club President or Secretary to inform the visiting club President or Secretary of the change.

The home club must also inform the CHFL administrator of the changed venue to ensure that umpires and media are made aware of the change.

In normal circumstances it is expected that any likely need for a change in venue will be notified to the opposition club and the CHFL administrator at least 10 days prior to the fixture date.



All emergency changes would be determined in normal circumstances by Tuesday of the week of the fixture at the latest. This allows for adequate time for all parties to be informed of the changed venue.

In the lead up to the season all grounds will be inspected three weeks prior to the season by either the league administrator or Board of Management to confirm the condition of grounds.

In cases of grounds where there is concern regarding the fit condition of a venue for the playing of matches CHFL admin must be informed by either club involved in the fixture by 5.00pm on the Monday prior to the match at the latest.

A meeting will be set between both clubs involved and a member of the CHFL Board of Management on the Tuesday of the week when venue is listed for use.

All three parties need to be satisfied that the ground is fit for use or can be made so at this meeting for the match to go ahead at the venue.

The Board of Management reserves the right to make the final decision.

If the venue cannot be made fit for play an alternate venue will need to be sourced. The home club will be responsible for sourcing an alternate venue with approval from the CHFL Board of Management.

If clubs wish to make alterations to fixtures by swapping of home fixtures from one season to another this must be confirmed in writing by both clubs with CHFL administration before the change in the home and away fixture will be approved.

## **MERV & MARY HOWARD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP AWARD**

### **2026 Points allocation:**

Points awarded for each win in football or netball grade.

<b><u>Football</u></b>	<b><u>Points</u></b>
<b>Seniors</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Reserves</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Under 18</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Under 15</b>	<b>1</b>



<b><u>Netball</u></b>	<b><u>Points</u></b>
<b>A Grade</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>B Grade</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>C Grade</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>D Grade</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>17 &amp; Under</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>15 &amp; Under</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>13 &amp; Under</b>	<b>1</b>

## **Safeguarding Children and Young People**

### **Introduction**

On July 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 there was the introduction of upgraded child safe standards which all groups that are providing activities for children and young people.

The AFL has established significant resources to enable all clubs to be able to meet the requirements of Child Safety and Wellbeing.

Each club within the Central Highlands FL as with all organisations is required to have current Child Safety and Wellbeing policy and processes in place.



## **AFL Victoria Child Safe Standards**

### **Priority Steps for all Affiliates**

All clubs are directed to go to AFL Victoria website safeguarding children link;  
<https://www.aflvic.com.au/safeguarding-children>

At this link policy templates, webinars and a wide range of resources for clubs to use are available and provides the minimum levels that all clubs should have in place to protect their members and their organisation.

## **Commitment to Safeguarding Children & Young People**

The Central Highlands Football League is committed to promoting and protecting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in our care who access activities, programs, services or facilities for which the Central Highlands Football League is responsible for.

The Central Highlands Football League Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy and Procedures seek to promote and protect the rights of all children in our care and prevent abuse from occurring by fostering a child safe culture.



In the event a concern or allegation is raised in relation to child abuse that has occurred under the Central Highlands Football League’s care, the Central Highlands Football League will ensure it is treated seriously, in a culturally sensitive manner and fully investigated in accordance with relevant legislation and the Central Highlands Football League’s Policy and Procedures.

The Central Highlands Football League will actively promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people, recognising the need for community football clubs to take direct responsibility for providing a safe physical and online environment for children and young people in their care.

## Finals Format

### Final 8 – 2026

Team identified by ladder finishing position for games one to four.

<b>Day 1 – Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August</b>				
<b>Game 1 First Qualifying Final</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>vs</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>Winner into First Preliminary Final Loser into Second semi Final</b>
<b>Game 2 First Elimination Final</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>vs</b>	<b>8th</b>	<b>Winner into Second semi final. Loser is eliminated</b>
<b>Day 2 – Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August</b>				



<b>Game 3 Second Qualifying Final</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>vs</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>Winner into Second Preliminary Final. Loser into First Semi Final</b>
<b>Game 4 Second Elimination Final</b>	<b>6th</b>	<b>vs</b>	<b>7th</b>	<b>Winner into First Semi Final. Loser is eliminated</b>
<b>Day 3 – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August</b>				
<b>Game 5 Second Semi Final</b>	<b>Loser of Game 1</b>	<b>vs</b>	<b>Winner of Game 2</b>	<b>Winner into second Preliminary final. Loser is eliminated</b>
<b>Day 4 – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August</b>				
<b>Game 6 First Semi Final</b>	<b>Loser of Game 3</b>	<b>vs</b>	<b>Winner of Game 4</b>	<b>Winner into first Preliminary Final. Loser is eliminated.</b>
<b><u>Preliminary Finals –</u></b> <i>The higher ranked winner from Game 1 First Qualifying Final and Game 3 Second Qualifying Final will play in the first preliminary final on Day 5, the lower ranked winner will play in the second preliminary final on Day 6.</i>				
<b>Day 5 – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September &amp; Day 6 – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September</b>				
<b>Game 7 - First Preliminary Final</b>	<b>Winner Game 1</b>	<b>vs</b>	<b>Winner Game 6</b>	<b>Winner into Grand Final. Loser is eliminated</b>
<b>Game 8 – Second Preliminary Final</b>	<b>Winner Game 3</b>		<b>Winner Game 5</b>	<b>Winner into Grand Final. Loser is eliminated</b>
<b>Day 7 – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September</b>				
<b>Game 9 – Grand Final</b>	<b>Winner Game 7</b>	<b>vs</b>	<b>Winner Game 8</b>	

# Central Highlands F.L.

## Timekeepers Instructions



Length of Quarters - Finals  
**Qualifying, Elimination, Semi and  
Preliminary Finals**

**Under 15**      **4 x 15 minutes (no time on)**

**Under 18**      **4 x 20 minutes (no time on)**

**Reserves**      **4 x 20 minutes (no time on)**

**Seniors**      **4 x 20 minutes (plus time on)**

**End of Quarter Breaks**

U15, U18, Reserves – 5 minutes all breaks

Seniors –  $\frac{1}{4}$  time 5 minutes,  $\frac{1}{2}$  time 15 minutes,  $\frac{3}{4}$  time 5 minutes

**Central Highlands F.L.**

**Timekeepers Instructions**



## Length of Quarters Grand Finals

**Under 15**      **4 x 12 minutes (plus time on)**

**Under 18**      **4 x 16 minutes (plus time on)**

**Reserves**      **4 x 16 minutes (plus time on)**

**Seniors**      **4 x 20 minutes (plus time on)**

### End of Quarter Breaks

U15, U18, Reserves – 5 minutes all breaks

Seniors –  $\frac{1}{4}$  time 5 minutes,  $\frac{1}{2}$  time 20 minutes,  $\frac{3}{4}$  time 5 minutes

If due to weather conditions match quarters are extending more than five minutes beyond the normal length of quarter for that grade, the length of quarters may be adjusted at the direction of CHFL Administration.

## **Central Highlands F.L.**

### **Timekeepers / Finals Teams**



## Finals Draw Procedures (All Finals)

In the case of a draw in the finals in the CHFL during all finals the following procedures will be enacted;

- All Grades – weeks 1 – 3 of finals

If at the conclusion of the fourth quarter scores are level and this is confirmed by goal umpires, teams will change ends and commence the first of two periods of 5 minutes of extra time (without time on).

Teams change ends after the first period of extra time.

Coaches are not able to enter the playing area to address teams after three quarter time.

If at the end of the second period of extra time and scores are confirmed as remaining level there will be a further period of extra time where the clock will remain running until the next score at which time the siren will sound to conclude the match.

- All Grades – Grand Final

If at the conclusion of the fourth quarter scores are level and this is confirmed by the goal umpires, teams will change ends and commence the first of two periods of extra time (with time on).

U15, U18, Reserves – 3 minutes (plus time on)

Seniors – 4 minutes (plus time on)

Teams change ends after the first period of extra time.

Coaches are not able to enter the playing area to address teams after three quarter time.

If at the end of the second period of extra time and scores are confirmed as remaining there will be a further period of extra time where the clock remains running until the next score at which time the siren will sound to conclude the match.

## Central Highlands Football League

### 2026 Finals Catering and Booth Roster

2026	Catering	Booth



Day 1	Buninyong	Hepburn
Day 1	Gordon	Ballan
Day 2	Bungaree	Springbank
Day 2	Dunnstown	Newlyn
Day 3	Creswick	Carngham Linton
Day 4	Learmonth	Skipton
Day 5	Daylesford	Waubra
Day 6	Rokewood	Bungaree
Day 7 GF	Gordon (swap)	Clunes

## Grand Final Ground Raffle Roster

2013 Daylesford  
 2014 Bungaree  
 2015 Creswick  
 2016 Gordon  
 2017 Newlyn  
 2018 Springbank  
 2019 Clunes  
 2020 & 2021 N/A  
 2022 Waubra  
 2023 Beaufort  
 2024 Buninyong  
 2025 Carngham Linton  
 2026 Hepburn  
 2027 Rokewood Corindhap  
 2028 Skipton  
 2029 Ballan  
 2030 Learmonth  
 2031 Dunnstown  
 2032 Daylesford  
 2033 Bungaree  
 2034 Creswick

## Match Venue Entry Prices - H&A + Finals

### 2026 Finals Entry Prices

#### All Weeks



The entry prices for the 2026 finals series will be determined by the CHFL Board after the finals and grand final venue arrangements have been put in place.

### **2026 Home and Away Entry Prices**

Adults 18 and above \$12.00

Old Age Pension \$6.00

U18 Free

### **Rookie of the Year 2026**

Club:

Players name:

Details of Player's Season: (Provide reasons why the player should be selected as the Rookie of the Year. Attach additional sheets if extra space is required.)



## Criteria for nomination –

1. A club can nominate any player from your club that has played a minimum of 9 games in open age footy (senior or reserve) provided they are still 18 on the 1<sup>st</sup> January in the year of nomination
2. A player is only able to be nominated for this award on one occasion.
3. One nomination per club.
4. Final decision will be made by the CHFL Board of Management.
5. Rookie of the year will be invited to the senior best and fairest dinner to receive his award.
6. Nomination to be forwarded to Matt Newton by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2025

## **Umpire and Spectator related matters:**

All clubs must supply an umpire escort for all matches where there is an association appointed umpire. This includes junior grade matches during the season where an association appointed umpire officiates the match.

It is essential that all clubs ensure that the following information is noted and the umpire escort clearly understands the role which they are undertaking. They need to be aware that they are in an official role representing the club.

Clubs must be confident that anyone appointed to an umpire escort role is a suitable person for the requirements of the role. It is not a role which should be appointed as an afterthought.



## ***Umpire Escorts***

The umpire escort must accompany the umpires on and off the ground before the match, at the half time break and at the conclusion of the match.

At all breaks the umpire escort should be present with the umpires and accompany them on and off the ground. This also includes the goal umpires who are exiting after the rest of the umpiring panel.

Umpire escorts are expected to move out to the umpires quickly at the end of each quarter.

All clubs must record the name of their nominated umpire escort on their team sheet for each match. As team sheets are not necessarily set up to accommodate this presently the names must be handwritten on all copies of the team sheet which are prepared.

This will assist in providing the escort with a greater level of protection and also put them on the same standing as other listed officials.

## ***Spectator Behaviour***

All clubs are reminded that they have a level of responsibility to communicate to their members and supporters through whatever means that they have available that it is a condition of entry to Brandt CHFL matches including finals that behaviour is of a standard which is accepted in the general community and that failure to abide by this may result in removal from the venue by security and / or police.

### **1. Approaches to Umpires**

The following procedures are to be applied in relation to approaches to umpires in relation to all grades of competition;

- i) When clarification relating to umpiring from a round of matches is required this should be done through the Director of Umpiring of the Ballarat FUA on the Monday after the match.
- ii) During a match the only member from a club who is permitted to approach an umpire is the captain of the club. He is able to ask for clarification of particular aspects which may be of concern at the conclusion of any quarter.
- iii) At no stage is an umpire to be approached by a club official, nominated club member or club representative in respect to a report after a match where a report has been laid. If further information relating to the report is required contact is to be made with the Ballarat FUA Administrator on the Monday following the report.

These procedures are to be followed at all times and the role being undertaken by the umpires and their representatives is to be respected.

*In relation to these matters it is highlighted to all clubs that the constitution of the CHFL indicates the processes which are available to the league in respect to clubs which bring the*



*league into disrepute. This can include fines, suspension of clubs or expulsion from the league. If there is a requirement for action the League Board of Management will be apply these rules consistently.*



## PARENTS AND SPECTATORS OF JUNIOR FOOTBALL CODES OF CONDUCT

1. Encourage children to participate if they are interested. However, if a child is not willing do not force them.
2. Focus upon the child's efforts and performance rather than the overall outcome of the event. This assists the child in setting realistic goals related to their ability by reducing the emphasis on winning.
3. Teach your child that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
4. Encourage your child always to play by the rules.
5. Never ridicule or yell at your child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
6. Remember your child should be involved in football for their enjoyment, not yours.
7. Remember your child learns best by example. Applaud good play by both your team and by members of the opposing team.
8. If you disagree with an official or umpire raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official's judgment and honesty in public. Remember, most officials give their time and effort for your child's involvement.
9. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from junior sporting activities.
10. Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches. They give of their time and resources to provide recreational activities for your child and deserve your support.
11. Support your club officials in maintaining the highest standard of behaviour both on and off the field for the betterment of the league and your family. Offer your assistance to the team that your child is playing in so that every opportunity is being provided for the very best supervision and support. Your involvement will give both yourself and your child far more satisfaction.
12. Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender or race.



## Communication Policy – Club Template

[Insert Date or date of last update]

{This communication policy is available for any club to adopt and use.}

### Purpose

- To protect the ....[Insert Club Name].... From unwarranted and unauthorised public comment that may harm the club in any way or bring the club into disrepute.
- To clearly define outward communication authorisation levels.

### Scope

To ensure all Board Members, Club Members, Players & Coaches are aware of and agree to be bound by the direction as laid out in this document, regarding communication with Media and other Stakeholders. Including; print, radio, television and social (see appendix 1) by method of written, verbal and electronic communication.

For the purpose of clarity, unless stated within this document all outward correspondence will need to be authorised by the Club President (or by club executive in his/her absence).

### Authority Levels

The following table outlines areas of communication performed within the club and defines the appropriate person/s authority to communicate on behalf of the club. In areas where authority is not given under NO circumstances should that individual or group communicate on the matters concerning the club;

Communication Type	President	Coach	Committee	Members
<b>Board &amp; Club</b>				
Board Decisions	✓	X	X	X
Board Direction	✓	X	X	X
Club Policy	✓	X	✓	X
Club Finances	✓	X	X	X
<b>Rules/Regs/Policy</b>				
AFL VIC Country Rule breaches	✓	X	X	X
Reports & Tribunal Decisions	✓	X	X	X
Vilification & Discrimination	✓	X	X	X
Cyber Safety	✓	X	X	X
Appeals	✓	X	X	X
<b>Other Stakeholders</b>				
Sponsors	✓	✓	✓	X
Other Clubs	✓	X	X	X
AFL Vic Country	✓	X	X	X
Governing League	✓	X	✓	X
Umpires	✓	X	X	X
<b>Footy Operations</b>				
Recruiting	✓	✓	X	X
Match Previews	✓	✓	X	X



Match Reporting	✓	✓	X	X

Please Note;

1. If unclear of any authorisation levels above ask the Club President prior to any communication.
2. The President may delegate responsibility to others within the club to communicate on the clubs behalf.
3. Committee members or those delegated by the President may from time to time need to communicate with certain stakeholders within the requirements of their individual responsibilities/portfolios. This communication needs to be contained to that required to complete their responsibilities only.
4. This policy forms part of the rules of the .....[Insert Club Name]....therefore by extension forms part of any contract of any contracted player or coach.

**Breaches of this Policy**

The Board will have the final decision and disciplinary action on any Committee Member, Club Member, Player and/or Coach deemed to have transgressed this policy both stated and implied, as per club constitution. Any Appeal will need to be directed by the clubs constitutional appeal process.

Appendix 1;

Social Media includes Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat and Instagram or any other medium used to electronically post comment and/or pictures. New forms of social media appear regularly and will fall under this policy regardless of being named in the policy.

Appendix 2;

Boards when adopting this policy can add Communication types and alter the level of authorisation as they see fit to accommodate individual club structure. However it is wise to keep the more delicate areas within the authority of the President or in the case where a President is unskilled in this area a nominated Board Member with the appropriate skill level.



## Senior Umpires Match Report 2026

In 2026 the Senior Umpire Match Report will be completed online by the appointed umpires.

This report will then be able to be downloaded by the CHFL each week. If there are any identified issues raised that need follow up the relevant club will be contacted by the league.

Items which the report will include have some items specific to what the BFUA need to know and others that will assist the CHFL which have been on the previous version of the report.

The report contents are shown below.

### Appointments



**Tom Porter**  
Officials 1



**Seamus Gaines**  
Officials 2



**Hugh Kemp**  
Officials 3



**Ernest Cresswell**  
Officials 4

Were each of these umpires in attendance? \*

- Yes  
 No

If NO, please state changes to appointments or umpires not in attendance.

Tom Porter absent, Hugh Kemp replaced by John Smith

Was a ground manager / umpire escorts present at EVERY break?

- Yes  
 No

If NO, please provide the detail on the issue.

Please tick if any of the following issues required.

- Playing arena issue  
 Late start to any Quarter (identify club(s) below)  
 Player / Official incorrect attire  
 Umpire Rooms / facility issues  
 Delay or abnormality (e.g. ambulance / lightning)  
 Other incident

If ticked above, please provide details on the issue.

Details on who/ when/where and if the match was effected!



Were there any melees in this match?

- Yes
- No

How many reports were laid from the involvement in melees?

Please identify any players reported in this match.

The reported player's club must be provided with the Notice of Report documentation after the match.

Team

Player

Charge

Home Teams Behaviour Rating



If FOUR stars or below, please give reason for rating.

Away Teams Behaviour Rating



If FOUR stars or below, please give reason for rating

Match Day Environment Rating



If FOUR stars or below, please give reason for rating.

If there is any other matter or incident to be raised, please detail. Include as much information which you have e.g. quarter, player, where it occurred, what you saw, what was the outcome.

## WorkSafe AFL Victoria Country Licensees

### AFL Victoria Country Regulation 21.0

#### Regulation 21.0 Licensing states that:

**21.1** Each player in each team of each Club shall wear a uniform (including without limitation guernseys and shorts) that:

- (a) complies with the minimum standards of quality and appearance and layout for uniforms as determined by AFL Victoria Country from time to time; and
- (b) features the official AFL Victoria Country logo (as determined by AFL Victoria Country from time to time), in a manner and on a location on each item of the uniform as specified by AFL Victoria Country from time to time.

**21.2** Each Umpire of each match shall wear a uniform (including without limitation shirts and shorts) that:

- (a) complies with the minimum standards of quality and appearance and layout for uniforms as determined by AFL Victoria Country from time to time; and
- (b) features the official AFL Victoria Country logo (as determined by AFL Victoria Country from time to time), in a manner and on a location on each item of the uniform as specified by AFL Victoria Country from time to time.



**21.3** Each Club and League shall ensure that the football used in any match:

(a) complies with the minimum standards of quality for footballs as determined by AFL Victoria Country from time to time; and

(b) features the official AFL Victoria Country Logo (as determined by AFL Victoria Country from time to time) in a manner and on a location on the match football as is specified by AFL Victoria Country from time to time.

**21.4** Each Club shall ensure that its players comply with this regulation.

**21.5** Each League shall ensure that any affiliated Clubs comply with this regulation.

**21.6 Sanction:**

A sanction of up to \$50 for a player wearing an incorrect uniform in each senior grade match, up to a maximum of \$500 per team per match.

A sanction of up to \$50 for any Umpire wearing an incorrect uniform in any match.

A sanction of up to \$50 where an incorrect football is used in a senior grade match.

A sanction for non-compliance with this regulation by any other teams (including junior teams), Clubs or Leagues as determined by the AFL Victoria Country on a case by case basis, upon the recommendation by the AFL Victoria Country Region Manager.

Any sanction shall be payable to "AFL Victoria Country."

As a result of this rule, AFL Victoria Country grants licenses to suppliers to manufacture the licensed products. It is then the affiliate's responsibility to ensure that they receive goods manufactured by the suppliers listed in Appendix 1 of this memo in order to avoid any sanctions being handed down by WorkSafe AFL Victoria Country.



## **AFL VICTORIA KEY POLICIES & LINKS**

### ***National Community Football Policy Handbook***

[National Community Football Policy Handbook - Play AFL](#)

### ***Laws of the game***

[Laws of the Game - Play AFL](#)

### ***Member Protection Policy, Vilification, Safeguarding Children, Social Media, Gambling and Anti-doping policies:***

[National Community Football Policy Handbook - Play AFL](#)

\*Please note click the corresponding link within the page for the above policies.

### ***Codes of Conduct – Templates for Clubs***

<https://play.afl/clubhelp/resources/afl-standards-engagement#article-2>

### ***CCSP – Player Points System***

[Community Club Sustainability Program - Player Points System - Play AFL](#)

[Community Club Sustainability Program - Player Payment Framework - Play AFL](#)