
MEMORANDUM

To:	All South Metro Junior Football League (SMJFL) Presidents
From:	SMJFL Chairman, Lewis Bearman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sarah Loh
Date:	29 April 2020
Re:	SMJFL Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Season dates update

The purpose of this memo is to provide SMJFL clubs with an update regarding the circumstances surrounding Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the commencement of the 2020 SMJFL Season.

The SMJFL has been working closely with club presidents and relevant stakeholders to determine the best approach to the 2020 season.

SMJFL staff have determined a number of possible outcomes and scenarios based on various possible starting dates and government restrictions in which the 2020 season could commence.

It is important that the SMJFL community continues to respect and follow government restrictions and recommendations in order to protect the safety and wellbeing of SMJFL community members.

The league has financially modelled the season based on a probable starting date of 12 July 2020. However, this is a rough working date, and the commencement date of the 2020 season is dependent on government lifting restrictions, advice from the Australian Department of Health, the AFL, and other relevant bodies.

Although it is uncertain when government restrictions will be scaled down and enable community sport to continue, the league has determined it will require a four-week lead-in period to prepare for the season, involving gathering team numbers, information and grading.

The league encourages clubs to maintain compliance requirements through Everproof in preparation for a restart. This includes ensuring that all volunteers hold valid qualifications¹ for the roles that they perform. Please note that any volunteers, 18 years old and above, who are performing a role on game day, at training or who are part of the committee, are required to hold a valid Victorian Working with Children Check. For a full list of required qualifications please refer to the Child Safety Handbook, <http://smjfl.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/CSO-HANDBOOK-v4.3-270220.pdf>.

The SMJFL has been working towards 12 July 2020 as a potential start date. However, if the government indicates that community sport will be permitted prior to that date, the season may

¹ The SMJFL is in the process of engaging with AFL Victoria (coaching) and Colbrow Medics (first aid & CPR) regarding any potential concessions with requirements (e.g less points may be required for coaches) and will provide further information when available.



commence earlier than 12 July on the condition that this date will still allow for a four-week preparation period. However, the starting date remains dependent on government restrictions.

The league can also update club presidents that preliminary discussions have been held and continue to be held between AFL Victoria, Cricket Victoria and the State Government in determining the start of the cricket season. If this date can be negotiated, AFL games may be able to be played into October. This will also be determined with SMJFL Council partners as they will be required to prepare grounds for the cricket season.

The league will continue to work with AFL Victoria to determine what modifications will be necessary in order to run the 2020 season in any given timeframe.

The league also wishes to notify clubs that contact has been made with all six councils and Parks Victoria regarding the fees and charges for the 2020 season. The league can confirm the following of each council:

- Stonnington and Port Phillip City Councils: Fees and charges will be invoiced pro-rata.
- Monash City Council: Has suspended fees and charges for clubs/teams for the 2020 season. The decision will be reassessed at a later date.
- Bayside City Council: Will not charge clubs during the closure. When council is reopened, the charge is yet to be decided, but likely no charge will be incurred.
- Kingston and Glen Eira City Councils: Councils will waive sporting club rents for a period of 12 months. The forthcoming annual fee will be waived or credits will be applied to the club's next invoice and council will waive the seasonal ground allocation fee for the 2020 season.
- Parks Victoria: Apply for the Economic Survival Package to Support Businesses and Jobs – Rent Relief to Parks Victoria's Commercial Tenants.

The league continues to prepare for a possible 2020 season with staff ready to commence when the Government and AFL provide approval that community football can proceed. We thank all club presidents and officials for their ongoing support through these times.

We hope that all club members stay healthy and well. The league will be in contact with clubs as soon as new information becomes available.

