Victorian Churches Football Association

Representative Team

Selection Process & Criteria

2026

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Team Selection Timeline

This timeline applies to all VCFA Representative Team Selections for the CFFA National Tournament.

Month	Information
February	Operations Manager to officially open applications for Representative Team positions, including Coaches and Team Managers for all age groups via email & social media. Applications for tournament Team Leaders and Chaplain also open. Applications close 15th March 2026
March	VCFA informs Clubs of upcoming CFFA Nationals Titles at Season Launch – encourage Clubs to notify potential players, coaches and assistant coaches/managers.
April	VCFA Operations Team reviews applications and references for all positions and make appointments. Any unfilled positions will be advertised during trials, with all appointments made by the Operations Team.
May	Player nominations open (club endorsed)
May	1st trial night held - May 18th from 6-9pm Venue(s): Bayswater Strikers, Waverley City, Narre Warren South P-12 College
May	2nd trial night held - May 25th from 6-9pm Venue(s): Bayswater Strikers, Waverley City, Berwick Churches
June	3rd night held - June 1st from 6-9pm Venue(s): Bayswater Strikers, Waverley City, Berwick Churches
June	Final Representative teams selected by Coaches (and endorsed by Clubs). VCFA confirms team selections and contacts selected players.
July	Coaches to nominate preferred training dates, times and locations with the Operations Manager to liaise with Clubs to facilitate.
August	Team training starts with weekly sessions.
September	Shirt presentation: Location and details TBC
September	Tournament: Location: Casey Fields, Cranbourne, Melbourne Dates: Monday 28th of September until Wednesday 30th September 2026 (Opening Ceremony Sunday 27th September)

Team Selection Process

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

Club Involvement

- Clubs will be asked to provide their venues to host the trials (as per the dates identified above).
- Clubs will be asked to identify players from the relevant age groups in their clubs who would be suitable to trial for the representative team. This should be the top 3-5 players in each age group.
- Clubs are responsible for sharing registration details and information with potential trialists.
- Clubs will be invited to join the selection panel on trial evenings, providing support to coaches in identifying players

Registration

- Players are required to register for representative trials online, via a VCFA online form. The VCFA will ensure a minimum of 3 trial dates have been planned and announced to clubs prior to the registration cut-off date.
- Players must complete the registration form and process, prior to attending the trials, and provide key contact and playing information, including name, club, date of birth, playing position and club endorsement (meet minimum selection criteria and financially fit to participate).
- Players are recommended to attend all trials to maximise the potential to be selected in a representative team. Coaches will be given the opportunity after each trial to decide to not welcome back certain players based on their suitability to be selected as part of the representative final team.

Team Selection Criteria

Eligibility

- Players wishing to trial for representative teams must have played in a minimum of **five (5) games** within the VCFA, in the current season.

- Players must be endorsed by their club to be eligible to be selected.
  Club endorsement includes:
  - **Character reference**: the Club believes the player behaves in an appropriate manner on and off the field.
  - **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 a selection panel at each night of the trials with the final decision made by the coaching team. The coach is responsible for submitting team lists to the VCFA Operations Team for approval who will make the announcement of successful applicants.

- Exemptions to selection criteria should be applied and submitted to the VCFA General Manager for review and authority. Notification as to the outcome of the exemption application will be given in writing by the VCFA General Manager and/or Operations Manager within a reasonable timeframe.

Trials

- Coaches, managers and representative team officials will be introduced by VCFA Operations Team members at each trial location prior to the beginning of each trial night.

- A registration process will be in place at each trial location and on each night of the trial process. Each player will be given a number to be identifiable to selectors during each trial session.

- The trial session will be a structured selection process of small groups running through specific drills and skills stations where selectors will 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 to a manageable level to best assess and select a representative team.

- Goalkeepers should be graded separately for appropriate skill sets required. This may be done by goalkeeper coaches, separately from other trialists.

Selection

- Each representative team will consist of:
    - Seniors: 18 players (incl. Goalkeepers)
    - Juniors: 16 players (incl. Goalkeepers)

- At the end of the 3-week trial sessions, 20-22 players will be short-listed by coaches.
  If required, coaches may choose to host one more trial to finalise their list and provide opportunity for trialists to present for one final session.

- A maximum of 22 players will be chosen to train with the team up to the Nationals Tournament, composed of the 16 selected squad players (18 for Senior teams) and up to **six clearly identified and informed** emergency players.

- Any emergency player who is asked to train with a representative team must be notified that they are an emergency player before they continue with the team. This is to ensure every player understands their position in the representative team selection process, and to avoid misunderstandings when the final selection needs to be made prior to the tournament. Emergency players should only expect to be selected in case of an injury, or the withdrawal of a selected representative team player prior to the tournament.