

FISTBALL FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA

The Victorian Fistball League (VFL)

The VFL 2016 Season will consist of seven tournaments (or rounds) held through the year, with points allocated to teams based on placings at each tournament. The team with the most total points at the conclusion of the sixth tournament will be crowned VFL Champions for 2016.

2016 Schedule

Season Launch

Saturday, January 26th, 2016

Round 1 - Fisticus XVI

Date – Saturday, February 27th, 2016

Host – *Fist Club*

Round 2 - Fisticus XVII

Date – Saturday, April 2nd, 2016

Host – *The Fist & The Furious*

Round 3 - Fisticus XVIII

Date – Saturday, May 7th, 2016

Host – *Westside Wombats*

Round 4 - Fisticus XX

Date – Saturday, July 2nd, 2016

Host – *Fistroy Lions*

Round 5 - Fisticus XX

Date – Saturday, August 6th, 2016

Host – *Bay City Fisters*

Round 6 - Fisticus XXI

Date – Saturday, September 17th, 2016

Host – *Das Fist*

Round 7 - Fisticus XXII

Date – Saturday, November 5th, 2016

Host – *FiFA Board*

Host Team

The club designated with 'Host' duties will be predominantly responsible for booking the venue, organising the equipment and setting up the courts and shade on the day, prior to commencement of the tournament.

Points System – Season

Teams will be awarded points for each tournament in which they compete, based on their final placing for the day.

Given the inconsistent nature of participation, points are awarded in reverse order, with the last placing team always receiving 4 points, irrespective of the number of teams competing. Points allocated will then ascend in order of placing, with 1st place receiving 4 more points than 2nd, 2nd place receiving 3 more points than 3rd, 3rd receiving 2 more points than 4th, and then each placing thereafter receiving one more point than the next placing.

For example, in the case of four teams competing on the day, 4th place will receive 4 points (the minimum for competing), 3rd will receive 6 points (2 more than 4th), 2nd will receive 9 points (3 more than 3rd) and 1st will receive 13 points (4 more than 2nd).

This system has been developed to ensure that teams winning in 4 team tournaments are not allocated the same number of points as teams winning in 12 team tournaments, given the added difficulty of defeating more teams to claim first place.

The table below illustrates the point structures for tournaments of 4 to 12 teams. Please note that tournaments can only go ahead if the minimum number of 4 teams is met.

Point increase	Position	Number of teams competing								
		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
4	1st place	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
3	2nd place	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
2	3rd place	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	4th place	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	5th place	-	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	6th place	-	-	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	7th place	-	-	-	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	8th place	-	-	-	-	4	5	6	7	8
1	9th place	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	6	7
1	10th place	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	6
1	11th place	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	5
1	12th place	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4

Special point considerations

Sometimes teams cannot attend tournaments where they cannot commit the minimum of four players required to form a team, forfeiting their team's entry. In order to encourage individual team members to still attend tournaments in these situations, points can be earned by the forfeiting team if up to three players attend and subsequently join other teams for the tournament.

If an individual player joins and plays with another team with the minimum four players, the individual's forfeiting team will receive 1 point. Up to three players from the forfeiting team can add points in that manner, resulting in up to 3 points for the forfeiting team. Players may join different teams or the same team.

If players from two forfeiting teams join together to form a team, they can compete together for maximum points, but will share the points by percentage, based on the number of players competing for each team. For example, where three players from one team joins with two players from another team to form a standalone team, the points will be shared 60/40% respectively. If this does not result in a whole number, the number is rounded down to the next whole number.

These special point consideration structures are set once the team sheet is handed to organisers and the tournament has commenced. If additional players arrive after this has occurred, this will have no effect on the awarding of points, whether positively or negatively.

Procedures to Determine Placings after Regular Season

At the completion of the season, the final positions of each team will be determined by the following criteria:

- Highest number of points accumulated during the Regular Season;

If two or more teams are level on points accumulated, the following criteria shall be applied, in order, until one of the teams can be determined as the higher ranked team in respect of:

- a) Highest points difference (non-playoffs);
- b) Highest sets difference (non-playoffs);
- c) Highest finishing position at final tournament.

Tournament Structure

The structure of each tournament will be based on the number of teams available on the day, and will be decided by a FiFA official on the day based on time available and overall fairness.

Generally, tournaments with an even number of teams (six or more) will play in a “pool” format, while tournaments with an odd number of teams will play in a “round robin” format, however this is up to the discretion of the organising FiFA official, and will be formalised prior to commencement of the tournament.

The number of sets required to win each match, or the number of points required to win each set may be altered to allow for time constraints.

Any changes to the structure prior to commencement of the tournament (including cancellation of matches or restructure of the playoff format) require the unanimous approval of all team captains present.

Procedures to Determine Placings at Tournament

Placings at tournaments are determined by the following criteria:

- Results of tournament playoff match to determine placing

If, due to tournament structure, this has not occurred, the following criteria applies, in order, until placings can be determined

- a) Highest number of wins in regular play* (non-playoffs);
- b) Highest points difference (non-playoffs);
- c) Highest sets difference (non-playoffs)
- d) Regular place (non-playoff) result against tied team(s)
- e) Winner of “Rock, paper, scissors”.

*If, for whatever reason, a scheduled tournament match is not played, and this effects determination (a); then determination (b) is used instead.

Venue Selection

Venues for tournaments will be chosen and booked by ‘Host Club’, with guidance from FiFA, and teams will be informed of the venue with sufficient notice. Host Clubs will endeavour to book locations to ensure acceptable playing surface quality, facilities (eg bathrooms) for players and spectators, convenience for teams and guarantee of availability. Host Clubs are allocated prior to commencement of the season.

International Fistball Players

We always welcome visiting international fistball players (IFP) to join a team and participate in VFL tournaments.

An 'international fistball player' is defined as "a non-Australian fistballer who has participated extensively in organised fistball competition in another country, and is in Melbourne for a temporary period".

The team for which the player can participate is determined by the following criteria:

- The team that holds the lowest number of league points for the season at the time of participation has first priority to selecting the IFP
- If that team has a full roster, and does not require an extra player, then the next team under that criteria may select the IFP
- This criterion will continue until the IFP is selected for a team.

If the season has not yet begun, the same criteria is applied to the final standings from the previous season.

Alternatively, if the team with first priority already has an IFP continuing to play from a previous tournament, then the next team under the criteria has the option to select that player. This is to discourage teams from fielding multiple IFPs and gaining an unfair advantage in the tournament. If two IFPs participate for the first time at the same tournament, they should be allocated to separate teams following the above criteria, unless they specifically state their preference otherwise.

IFPs that return for multiple tournaments may remain in the original team for which they were selected, unless they indicate a different preference.

If the IFP generally plays as an attacker in their overseas competition, they should either be encouraged to play in defence. If they would prefer to play as an attacker, then they must avoid performing consecutive serves during matches, so as not to unfairly influence match results.

As a new and emerging fistball nation, FiFA encourages international fistballers to participate in our tournaments and attend our training sessions, as the ongoing learning and development is invaluable!

Memberships

To be eligible for playing in two or more tournaments during the year, players must be 2016 FiFA members. Players found to be attempting to play their second tournament for the year without first becoming a member will be asked to sit out the tournament until membership has been finalised.

Awards

To be eligible for VFL Season individual and team awards, players must be 2016 FiFA members.

Tournament Awards:

- Individuals – Best & Fittest Award
 - Voted for by team captains on day of tournament using ranked five player voting system (i.e. 5-4-3-2-1 votes)
 - Will receive official FiFA glass and photo with official trophy (no longer perpetual)
- Team – Peter Norman Trophy (PNT)
 - Winning team for the tournament
 - Will hold onto PNT until next tournament

VFL Season Awards:

- Individuals – Klemens Kronsteiner ('Fistols') Medal
 - Voted for by team captains over course of season via amalgamated and re-scaled Best & Fittest Award voting for each tournament.
 - Player that receives most total votes from all tournaments will be crowned winner
 - Will receive Klemens Kronsteiner ('Fistols') Medal and become Australian fistball legend.
- Team – Roger Willen Shield
 - Highest placed team at conclusion of season
 - Each player will receive award (TBD) to keep
 - Team will be engraved on plaque and placed on shield, thereby engraving their place in Australian fistball folklore.