

Dear Clubs,

I hope you are all enjoying some downtime after a very busy season.

The number of Women's Masters teams has been slowly declining in recent years and this year, Capital Football was unable to provide the teams with a standalone competition due to low numbers. Following this, we conducted a survey which was sent to all women over the age of 30 who play in our competitions.

Some of the questions which were asked in the survey were:

- Why do you play football?
- If you were age eligible for masters, but didn't play in masters, what influenced your decision to play in a different competition?

Most of the survey participants commented that they play football for three reasons:

- Fun
- Fitness
- Friendship

The responses to why women didn't play in a masters competition were a little more varied, but common themes were still present:

- Women wanted to play, but Club's didn't offer a women's masters team
- The masters competition skill level was significantly varied
- Lower level state league divisions suited the skill level of teams and players better

Capital Football is committed to offering a Women's Masters Competition again next year, and we have been working towards making that happen.

### **2019 Competition**

To be age eligible, a player must turn 35 in the calendar year.

We will be allowing teams to have two underage players play with them throughout the year without an exemption. These players must be aged between 30 and 34. For these players to be considered eligible, Clubs must notify Capital Football of who they intend their underage players to be, along with their details (Name, FFA Number, DOB).

We will be offering a second division in masters, aimed at teams who have newcomers to football. In the event that we don't receive enough nominations for both divisions, the competition structures will be amended to try and accommodate the difference in skill levels.



## Come and Try Day

On December 16<sup>th</sup>, we are hosting a Come and Try at Hawker Football Centre in conjunction with the last round of the Women's Summer 6's competitions. There will be a bbq, football activities and club representatives from existing masters teams present to answer any questions players may have. Capital Football will also have representatives there to assist and answer questions you may have.

A free bbq and drinks will be provided and also activities for children who attend. More details will be announced soon.

## What if our Club has women interested, but not enough for a team?

We are aware of several clubs who have interested players, but not quite enough for a squad. Some of these clubs, tried to collaborate with nearby clubs in similar situations but weren't able to successfully nominate a team.

If you believe this may be case for your club, please get in touch as we can help manage this and sort through the finer details. Our aim is to provide a viable masters competition for women who want to play masters.

## Key Questions for Current Clubs:

- Why don't you have a women's masters team
- What can Capital Football do to help you field a women's masters team?
- Would having two masters divisions help your club attract women to play masters?

Moving forward, Capital Football invites representatives from each club to attend a meeting to give feedback on women's masters. The details of the meeting are:

Where: Capital Football Board Room, 3 Phipps Close, Deakin, 2600

When: 12:30-1:30pm, Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November

Please RSVP by Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November by emailing [cheyanne.girvan@capitalfootball.com.au](mailto:cheyanne.girvan@capitalfootball.com.au)

If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

*C. Girvan*

Cheyanne Girvan

Community Leagues Coordinator

