

CHANGE OUR GAME



Fair Access Principles for community sport and active recreation clubs

What is the Fair Access Policy Roadmap?

From 1 July 2024, Victorian councils will need to have policies in place that ensure gender equitable access and use of community sport facilities, to remain eligible for Victorian Government community sports infrastructure funding. The Fair Access Policy Roadmap provides guidance on how councils can develop these policies, leading to improved access to community sport facilities for women and girls and greater participation opportunities for everyone.

What are the Fair Access Principles?

The 6 Fair Access Principles guide individuals and organisations seeking direction on how to show a commitment to gender equality. The Principles describe changes you could make to help sport be a fairer place for women and girls.

Are the Principles mandatory?

The Principles are not mandatory, instead providing direction for creating welcoming and safe environments for organisations or individuals looking to progress in their gender equity journey.

Fair Access Principles for community sport and active recreation clubs

FAIR ACCESS PRINCIPLE

WAYS THIS PRINCIPLE MIGHT ACHIEVE GENDER EQUITY

1

Community sports infrastructure and environments are genuinely welcome, safe and inclusive

- Ensure inclusive and non-offensive photos and words are displayed in club rooms
- Demonstrate respectful language on and off the field, and have club appointed officials support this and call out and educate on offensive behaviours
- Ensure outdoor lighting is turned on in carparks after dark and consider how you can increase the safety of participants travelling to and from your venue
- Club committees create access schedules for change rooms that provide a safe environment on game and training days
- Create club awards that are reflective of and achievable for all players

2

Women and girls can fully participate in all aspects of community sport and active recreation, including as a player, coach, administrator, official, volunteer and spectator

- Provide training and mentorship for club members who want to learn to coach, officiate or join a committee
- Consider the other ways that your facility is used – for example, evening walking groups that need lighting, school groups or fitness classes groups that need change rooms, or other sports that could use your court or field
- Provide spectators and visitors with access to all amenities, including bathrooms and baby change facilities

Fair Access Principles for community sport and active recreation clubs

FAIR ACCESS PRINCIPLE

WAYS THIS PRINCIPLE MIGHT ACHIEVE GENDER EQUITY

3

Women and girls will have equitable access to and use of community sport infrastructure:

- Of the highest quality available and most convenient
- At the best and most popular competition and training times and locations
- To support existing and new participation opportunities, and a variety of sports

- Consult with players, coaches and parents to understand the needs of participants before allocating training and game times
- Share a training schedule at the start of a season, fairly distributing facility use between all users
- Consider modified or participation-based programs that may attract new people to your club, such as AFL 9's, 3X3 Hustle, Freestyle Golf or Hockey Sixers (find out more about how you can **deliver sport differently here**)
- Introduce low-commitment options to introduce women and girls to your sport or club

4

Women and girls should be equitably represented in leadership and governance roles

- Set goals within your club around the number of women on a committee, in executive and coaching/officiating roles
- Support women and girls to complete their coach/official accreditation,
- Offer programs for playing leaders to feel supported and encouraged in their roles
- Create a coaching mentor program or pathway to support women in developing their skills and experience within your sport

Fair Access Principles for community sport and active recreation clubs

FAIR ACCESS PRINCIPLE

WAYS THIS PRINCIPLE MIGHT ACHIEVE GENDER EQUITY

5

Encourage and support all user groups who access and use community sport infrastructure to understand, adopt and implement gender equitable access and use policies

- Men and boys are supported with training on how to be an active bystander, ally, or mentor
- Council only allowing professional sporting competitions with equal prize money to take place within their facilities

6

Prioritise use and support to all user groups who demonstrate an ongoing commitment to gender equitable access and use of allocated community sport infrastructure

- Council provides discounted lease charges to clubs that support and encourage the growth of women and girls participation in their sport
- Clubs with women and/or girls teams are prioritised and given first allocation of pavilions, courts and grounds

Note: Principles 5 and 6 are tools that a Local Government Authority may use to support their communities Fair Access journey. Communicate with your LGA regularly to find out about any changes that may impact you.