

**CHANGE
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GAME**

Fair Access Policy Roadmap

Policy Criteria Guidance for Local Government Authorities





From 1 July 2024, Victorian councils are required to have a **gender equitable access and use policy (or equivalent) (Policy)** in place to remain eligible for Victorian Government funding for community sports infrastructure.

The following four criteria aim to provide your council with guidance in developing an acceptable Policy to meet this funding eligibility requirement.

You are strongly encouraged to:

- 1.** Review the following criteria and compare it against your draft Policy and address any gaps you may identify.
- 2.** Submit your draft Policy to the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation (OWSR) for review prior to council adoption. This can be done by emailing fairaccess@sport.vic.gov.au.

Criteria

1

The Policy will be adopted by council

Your Policy must be formally adopted by your council to ensure the governance, management, and integrity of its implementation. From 1 July 2024, any council without an adopted Policy will be considered ineligible for Victorian Government community sports Infrastructure funding.

The Policy aligns with the intent of the Fair Access Policy Roadmap

The Fair Access Policy Roadmap aims to ensure community sporting environments are welcoming, accessible, and inclusive for everyone. How women and girls can access and use community sports infrastructure impacts their ability to fully participate and have a positive experience in community sport.

A Policy must demonstrate how council will effectively drive gender equitable access and use of community sports infrastructure in your municipality to improve the outcomes for women and girls.

The Fair Access Principles contained in the Roadmap (p.17-21) provide examples on how women and girls can be included, welcomed and treated fairly in community sport. While the Fair Access Principles are not mandatory, they are available for extra guidance should your council require it.

A Fair Access Policy Template was also made available alongside the Fair Access Policy Roadmap, and can be found here changeourgame.vic.gov.au/leadership-centre/fair-access.



TIP: If your council is adjusting multiple existing policies to reflect the intent of the Fair Access Policy Roadmap, it may be helpful to develop a clear summary that details which key council documents have Fair Access Policy Roadmap-linked requirements included.

TIP: You may want to use the Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) Participation Planning template as a helpful starting point to demonstrate your prioritisation of women and girls. Please contact your SRV representative for a copy of the template.

Whether you are creating a standalone policy, adjusting an existing one or incorporating gender equitable access and use into other strategic documents, your Policy must demonstrate how council will effectively drive gender equitable access and use of community sports infrastructure in your municipality.

Criteria

3

The Policy is measurable

The Fair Access Policy Roadmap includes a target that by 1 July 2027, more women and girls report gender equitable access to community sports infrastructure, and improved experiences when participating in community sport.

Articulating specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound (S.M.A.R.T.) goals or targets as part of the implementation of the Policy, and then measuring progress towards those goals or targets identified, is critical to direct prioritisation efforts, and to understand your Policy's impact and effectiveness.

TIP: If uncertain, you may choose to measure success against the Fair Access Principles, or consider the following questions when thinking about how your policy will be measured:

- Did the policy contribute to a change in participation rates of women and girls? Are there more women's or girls' teams now participating within your LGA? Is there a reduction in the number of clubs without playing opportunities for women and girls? Participation can refer to on and off-field/court roles (e.g. coach, team manager, committee member).
- Has your council seen a change in attitudes and behaviours at community sporting clubs since the introduction of your policy?
- What were the other outcomes of the policy that may help you in a future review? (e.g. environmental or economic consequences).

TIP: Think about how to make your measures locally relevant. What success looks like will be different in each council, so focus on measures that align to your policy and broader community it impacts.

TIP: Any data you collect now will help you to demonstrate progress and impact when reporting in future. You may also want to refer to any completed Gender Impact Assessments that have been completed within your council to identify gaps that you can measure progress against.



Criteria

4

The policy will be reviewed at regular intervals, and amended (if required)

It is expected the Policy will be reviewed and amended (if required) on a regular basis (for example, every two years). This is to ensure the Policy will continue to achieve the best outcomes for your community, and future generations.

It is expected that any amendments or reviews made to your Policy are approved in the same manner as the initial Policy was approved, including sharing with the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation for review.

If this document has raised any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation:
fairaccess@sport.vic.gov.au.



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