

## FACT SHEET: FAIR ACCESS POLICY

This Fact Sheet has been crafted to provide information to clubs, committees, community groups and residents about the Fair Access Policy which comes into effect on 1 July 2024. Within this fact sheet, discover the reasons behind its implementation and gain insight into its impact on future State Government funding. Council will also be hosting community information sessions, offering a platform for insightful discussions and interactive Q&A sessions on the following dates:

- **Monday 15 April, 6:00pm to 7:30pm**  
The Well, Smythesdale
- **Monday 22 April, 6:00pm to 7:30pm**  
Bannockburn Cultural Centre

### References

The Fair Access Policy Roadmap and further details can be found on the Change Our Game website: [changeourgame.vic.gov.au/leadership-centre/fair-access](https://changeourgame.vic.gov.au/leadership-centre/fair-access)



## WHAT IS THE FAIR ACCESS POLICY ROADMAP?

The Victorian Government have introduced a Fair Access Policy Roadmap, which seeks to address known barriers experienced by women and girls in accessing and using community sports infrastructure. The Roadmap acts as an implementation guide for councils, land management groups, and sport and recreation organisations, to work together to progress gender equitable access and use of community sports infrastructure.

### Why is Golden Plains Shire Council implementing the Fair Access Policy?

Golden Plains Shire Council are required to develop and adopt a Fair Access Policy before 1 July 2024, to qualify for Victorian Government Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Funding. This policy is designed to tackle and eliminate gender related obstacles to using community sports facilities.

The Policy outlines Council's requirements, roles, responsibilities, and expectations to promote equality in sports and active recreation. Its goal is to ensure that everyone, from early participants to those in leadership roles, can fully engage in and enjoy the benefits of community sports.

Additionally, Council has developed a Draft Action Plan to support this Policy. This plan details the steps and strategies Council will implement to promote the inclusion of women, girls, and diverse groups in accessing and utilising community sports infrastructure.

# WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR LOCAL SPORTING CLUBS?

The Fair Access Policy requires community sporting facilities to be made available for everyone. Ultimately, this means that women and girls, as well as men and boys, should have fair and reasonable access to the 'best' training and game times as well as to social and change room facilities.

Everyone has the right to fully participate and reach their full potential. Without this change, women and girls will continue to face unfair circumstances and experience more barriers to sport than men and boys. This creates an unequal playing field.

Individual clubs and committees are not required to create their own policy, however they will need to implement actions that deliver on the principles of fair access.

## These principles include:

- Creating inclusive environments
- Prioritising the participation of women and girls
- Ensuring equitable access to facilities
- Equal representation in leadership and governance roles
- Encourage and support user groups to adopt and implement gender equitable access and use practices, and
- Prioritising user groups committed to equality

The Fair Access Policy applies to all community sports infrastructure, regardless of the land management arrangement.

## WHERE TO FROM HERE?

Council will host two in-person community information sessions to assist local sporting clubs, committees of management and peak bodies understanding fair access and what it means for them.



### Smythesdale

Monday 15 April,  
6:00pm to 7:30pm  
The Well, Smythesdale  
19 Heales Street, Smythesdale



### Bannockburn

Monday 22 April,  
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm  
Bannockburn Cultural Centre  
27 High Street, Bannockburn

## Register Now

To register, scan the above QR codes or visit Council's website [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events)

Following the information sessions, a copy of the draft Policy will be available to view online from Thursday 25 April at [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations) or at Council's Customer Hubs at 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn and 19 Heales Street, Smythesdale

## HAVE YOUR SAY

Community members will be invited to provide comment on the Draft policy from **Thursday 25 April to Thursday 23 May 2024** before it is presented for adoption at the June Council meeting.

Feedback is invited in writing and needs to be received by Thursday 23 May; online at [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations), by email to [enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au) or mailed to Golden Plains Shire Council, PO Box 111, Bannockburn, VIC 3331.

Council and community sporting entities will be required to submit evidence of progress towards gender equity and fair access in future sport and recreation funding applications from 1 July 2024.

## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

For further information, contact Council's Manager Recreation and Community Infrastructure on [enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au) or call 5220 7111.

## More information

The Fair Access Policy Roadmap and further details can be found on the Change Our Game website: [changeourgame.vic.gov.au/leadership-centre/fair-access](https://changeourgame.vic.gov.au/leadership-centre/fair-access)