



BFNL approve Gisborne FNC transfer

For immediate distribution

The Bendigo Football Netball League (BFNL) Board has formally approved the application of the Gisborne Football Netball Club to transfer to the Ballarat Football Netball League, effective from the 2027 season.

The decision marks the conclusion of a lengthy process and allows both the League and the Club to move forward with certainty following extensive discussions over the past 18 months.

Gisborne has been an integral part of the BFNL since joining the competition in 2000, earning a reputation as one of country Victoria's most respected and professionally run football and netball clubs. Throughout its time in the League, the Bulldogs have consistently set high standards both on and off the field, contributing significantly to the strength and profile of the competition.

The Club's football program has been one of the competition's benchmark programs for more than two decades. Premiership success, sustained finals appearances and the development of countless talented footballers have cemented Gisborne's place as one of the BFNL's powerhouse clubs. Their commitment to excellence has elevated the standard of competition and produced many memorable rivalries and moments throughout their time in the League.

Equally, Gisborne's netball program has been synonymous with success and professionalism. The Bulldogs have consistently fielded highly competitive teams, developed outstanding athletes and played a significant role in strengthening the quality and reputation of BFNL netball. Their contribution has helped shape one of regional Victoria's premier netball competitions and has inspired the continued growth of the game across the League.

BFNL Chair, Brett Fitzpatrick acknowledged the significance of the decision and thanked Gisborne for its outstanding contribution to the League.

"While we are naturally disappointed to see a club of Gisborne's calibre leave our competition, we respect their decision and acknowledge the enormous contribution they have made to the Bendigo Football Netball League over the past 20+ seasons.

"Gisborne has been an outstanding member club whose commitment to excellence, community values and competitive success has left a lasting legacy on our League. Their achievements across all grades but particularly A-Grade netball and Senior football have helped define many of the great moments in modern BFNL history.

"On behalf of the BFNL Board, member clubs and the wider football and netball community, we sincerely thank everyone at Gisborne Football Netball Club for their contribution and wish the Club, its players, members, volunteers and supporters every success as they commence this new chapter."



The BFNL remains committed to continuing the growth and strength of the competition and will work closely with its remaining member clubs as preparations continue for the future of football and netball across the region.

The League again thanks the Gisborne Football Netball Club for its outstanding service to the BFNL and acknowledges the lasting impact the Bulldogs have made on the competition, both on and off the field.

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