



BFNL to trial Club-Hosted Finals in 2026

For immediate distribution

The Bendigo Football Netball League is pleased to announce that the League will be conducting a trial of club-hosted finals during the 2026 finals series.

Under this trial, two clubs will have the opportunity to host Week 1 of our BFNL Finals Series on 29 & 30 August with host clubs selected using a set of minimum requirements that make them a viable host for an event such as a BFNL Final.

The final schedule of Week 1 of our BFNL Finals Series will be determined as early as possible with hosts selected using the Senior Football standings in alignment with the A-Grade Netball standings. A club is unable to host a home Senior Football Final.

The trial aims to:

- Provide BFNL clubs with an opportunity to generate additional revenue through hosting rights.
- Enhance the finals experience for participants and supporters.
- Increase community engagement and attendance at finals matches.
- Showcase the quality of facilities and volunteers across the BFNL.
- Strengthen the connection between finals football and netball and the broader BFNL community.

The Queen Elizabeth Oval remains as the premier ground in the region and it will continue to host weeks two, three & four of the 2026 BFNL Finals Series.

This trial will allow the League to assess the operational, financial and spectator benefits of a rotational system for club-hosted finals and gather feedback from participating clubs, supporters, officials and stakeholders before considering any future long-term implementation.

We look forward to working collaboratively with our clubs as we explore opportunities to further enhance the BFNL finals experience for all participants and supporters.

Ends

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