

CENTRAL MURRAY & GOLDEN RIVERS FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUES



Tuesday 8 July 2025

MEDIA RELEASE

Central Rivers Board Confirms Key Governance and Competition Updates

For immediate distribution

The Central Rivers Board has today confirmed several key updates as part of its commitment to building a stronger and more sustainable future for football and netball in the region.

Effective immediately, **By-Law 7.2: Application for Club Transfer between CMFNL & GRFNL has been removed.** This change aligns with the AFL Victoria Community Affiliate Regulations, which override local by-laws and provide a clear, state-wide framework for club transfers. The former 75% club vote requirement is no longer valid under these regulations, and its removal eliminates unnecessary delays to 2026 planning.

Importantly, clubs will continue to be consulted on matters of competition structure and integrity. The removal of this by-law is not a removal of club voice, but a step toward greater consistency and fairness.

The Board has also endorsed Ultima Football Netball Club's application to transfer to the Central Murray FNL from 2026, in line with the club's strategic direction and commitment to fielding football and netball teams across all Central Murray FNL grades. This endorsement will now proceed through the AFL Central Victoria Region Council process.

Looking ahead, the Board remains committed to delivering a minimum four-club Golden Rivers competition in 2026, subject to club participation. However, it is important to note that there is currently no appetite from clubs for a five-club competition. A separate communication has been issued to GRFNL clubs requesting a time to meet and discuss their intentions for 2026, with plans to be advised no later than the 31st of July. Support is also being offered to Golden Rivers FNL clubs considering a move to Central Murray FNL.

Further strategic initiatives include:

- A full review of the Constitution and By-Laws in 2026.
- A mid-season competition structure review in 2026 to guide planning for 2027.
- Continued work on brand identity under the Central Rivers name, with club consultation to come.

These decisions represent proactive planning and alignment with best-practice governance and community sport principles. The Central Rivers Board remains focused on supporting strong, vibrant clubs and competitions across the region.

*** Ends ***

Please Contact: Jessie Chester (Leagues' Manager)
Email: jessie.chester@aflcentralvic.com.au