



## Bendigo FNL 2024 Fixture announcement

*\*For immediate distribution\**

Bendigo Football Netball League (BFNL) 2024 season will commence on Good Friday showcasing a season opener at Camp Reserve Castlemaine, with BFNL Grand Final day scheduled for Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2024.

Some key features of the highly anticipated 2024 BFNL fixture include:

- A blockbuster Round 1 set across 2 huge weekends:
  - The season kicks off with a Good Friday battle on March 29 between arch-rivals Castlemaine v Maryborough to officially open the 2024 season.
  - The remainder of Round 1 will occur on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April, including a Twilight encounter with Kangaroo Flat hosting Sandhurst, and blockbusters between Eaglehawk v Golden Square, and Strathfieldsaye v South Bendigo.
- The return of Pat Cronin Foundation Round on May 4<sup>th</sup>, Eaglehawk hosting Castlemaine in the feature match.
- Sandhurst will host South Bendigo at the QEO for the annual Graeme Wright Memorial Cup in round 5.
- The split round returns between May 18 – 25, featuring Golden Square & Sandhurst who will go head-to-head in a standalone blockbuster on May 25 for the Ron Best Memorial Cup at Wade St in Round 6
- In partnership with traditional owners of djandak (Country) in Central Victoria, Djaara (Dja Dja Wurrung People), BFNL Indigenous Round returns in round 7, with the annual feature match headed to Dower Park showcasing Kangaroo Flat & Castlemaine.
- A return of King's Birthday football & netball action during Round 8
- Whilst the regular league general bye remains on July 6<sup>th</sup> (providing volunteers a well-earned rest in line with a break for the Bendigo Junior FL), the BFNL are delighted to confirm a much-anticipated return to Interleague football against a handpicked VAFA (Victoria Amateur Football Association) representative team.
- A much-anticipated Final's Series, launching on Saturday August 31<sup>st</sup>.
- BFNL Grand Final day on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> of September

As is regular process, clubs can continue to negotiate changes to start times into the new year, with any further changes to be announced and captured online. The BFNL maintain the right to amend any fixtures.

Further match details & statements regarding a return to Interleague football will follow in due course, however the BFNL are excited that one selected open-age representative football team will head to Elsternwick Park Brighton in July to play against a suitably selected VAFA representative team. The BFNL value representative programs highly, so are thrilled to confirm the return to a football program in 2024 providing opportunities for players to play at the highest standard possible.

Whilst separate to Interleague, the BFNL can also confirm the participation of 17 & Under and Open representative netball teams who will both compete in the 2024 Netball Victoria Association Championships, to build on the success of our 2022 & 2023 representative netball programs. Further announcements regarding coaching appointments and selection trials will occur early in 2024.

All 2024 fixtures will be uploaded to the relevant football/netball databases, PlayHQ and Netball Connect, in due course.

- Ends -

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