



2019 Interleague/NGA Program Overview

Background

In late 2017, the St Kilda Football Club (St Kilda FC) and the South Metro Junior Football League (SMJFL) signed an agreement to partner on a single development and talent pathway program in the SMJFL region.

In 2019, St Kilda FC's Next Generation Academy (NGA) for 11 to 15 years in age will again partner with the SMJFL's Interleague Program. This exciting partnership will see AFL expertise collaborating with the existing interleague program to provide SMJFL players the highest level of coaching and personal development in their journey as a player. The St Kilda FC's NGA will be the sole pathway program for SMJFL players 11 to 15 years of age to participate in, in the region. A transition to the SMJFL TAC Cup club partners – Sandringham Dragons, Oakleigh Chargers and Dandenong Stingrays - will commence at the completion of the U15 Interleague program.

The purpose of St Kilda FC's NGA is to identify and develop talented players – both male and female and will have a focus on players with Indigenous and multicultural heritage from ages 11-18. St Kilda FC's NGA region covers a large area from Port Melbourne to Frankston. SMJFL are within the northern part of the region, known as the 'Northern Hub' with the remaining region known as the 'Southern Hub'. St Kilda FC have been given the responsibility by AFL Victoria to oversee the programs from 11-18 in the region and will work with SMJFL to deliver its Interleague program (ages 11-15), and TAC Cup Clubs (ages 16-18).

Prior to 2018, SMJFL operated the Intraleague Under 12 programs as well as the Interleague program for Under 13 through to Under 15's with great success. TAC Cup clubs have previously operated their own Under 14 and 15 development programs at the completion of Interleague each year. The St Kilda FC NGA collaboration with the SMJFL Interleague replaced the TAC Cup U14 and U15 programs and is the only talent development pathway program in the region.

At the end of the Under 15 program players are recruited to TAC Cup programs based on their residential address, in the SMJFL region this is predominantly the Sandringham Dragons, however a small number of SMJFL players will be in the Oakleigh Chargers or Dandenong Stingrays zones.

The player [Junior Talent Pathway](#) graphic demonstrates the new pathway for SMJFL players dependant on age group. St Kilda FC NGA players in the Under 14 or 15 programs may be selected to represent SMJFL at AFL Victoria's annual Victorian Metro Championships. This selection is a fantastic opportunity to compete against peers from other leagues. A high percentage of SMJFL players competing in interleague have been successful in being selected into TAC Cup club programs as a pathway to being drafted to the AFL and AFLW.

Player Nominations/Invitations

SMJFL player invitations to the joint program will be offered via nomination from their respective clubs. To ensure the very best talent from the region is involved in the program, St Kilda FC may also invite additional players to be involved which may lead to an imbalance in the number of players per club who are part of the NGA component of the program.

However, to protect the integrity of the club nomination process, players available for selection for the SMJFL Interleague teams will be as per the nomination numbers allowed for each club. Players not eligible to be selected for Interleague will received an invitation to the NGA component of the program only.

Talented Indigenous and Multicultural players may be selected outside of the nomination process into the program.



To be involved in the Interleague Program, players are subject to the [Interleague Eligibility Criteria](#). Any requests for an exemption to the eligibility criteria must be submitted via the online form: <http://smjfl.com.au/interleague-exemption-request/>

Program Details

Under 12 Boys & Girls

A free four-week program that offers both girls and boys exposure to additional coaching and skill development.

SMJFL clubs can nominate two players each - boys (2) and girls (2). At the completion of the 4-week program, players will participate in an Intraleague representative match - SMJFL players vs SMJFL players. This match is known as the "Community Cup" and is sponsored by both St Kilda FC and Melbourne FC with opposing teams wearing one of the AFL club's guernseys. The U12 program begins in August and concludes with the "Community Cup" at the beginning of September.

Under 13 Boys & Girls

An 8-week program focused on fundamental skills and off-field development. The program begins in April and concludes in June.

Under 14 Boys

A 14-week program commencing in February providing participants the opportunity to develop their football skills, training ethics and off-field skills as well as providing insight into playing representative football.

After 10 sessions, approximately 50 players will be selected to play in the AFL Victoria Metro Junior Championships played over the Queen's Birthday weekend in June. Players not selected for the AFL Victoria Metro Junior Championships will continue to train in the NGA program working on fundamental skills and off-field development.

Selected players will be invited to participate in further development opportunities in the September school holidays.

Under 15 Boys & Girls

A 14-week program, for both boys and girls commencing in February providing participants the opportunity to develop their football skills, training ethics and off-field skills as well as providing insight into playing representative football.

After 10 sessions, approximately 50 players will be selected to play in the AFL Victoria Metro Junior Championships played over the Queen's Birthday weekend in June. Players not selected for the AFL Victoria Metro Junior Championships will continue to train in the NGA program working on fundamental skills and off-field development.

Selected players will be invited to participate in a TAC Cup transition program after their team has finished with SMJFL commitments.

Program Costs

Age Group	Cost	Included
U12	\$0	Training program & Match
U13	\$210	Training program, training top, shorts, drink bottle & cap
U14 & U15	\$310 (+\$220 for those selected for Interleague)	Training program, training top, shorts, drink bottle & cap (+shorts, socks, jumper, hoodie, bag, warm up top)

Program Dates

U12 Boys & Girls

Date	Day	Activity
13/08/2019	Tuesday	Training
20/08/2019	Tuesday	Training
27/08/2019	Tuesday	Training
3/09/2019	Tuesday	Training
8/09/2019	Sunday	Game

U15 Boys

Date	Day	Activity
10/02/2019	Sunday	Testing Day
20/02/2019	Wednesday	Training
27/02/2019	Wednesday	Training
6/03/2019	Wednesday	Training
13/03/2019	Wednesday	Training
20/03/2019	Wednesday	Training
27/03/2019	Wednesday	Training
3/04/2019	Wednesday	Training
24/04/2019	Wednesday	Training
1/05/2019	Wednesday	Training
8/05/2019	Wednesday	Training
15/05/2019	Wednesday	Metro Champs Training
22/05/2019	Wednesday	Metro Champs Training
29/05/2019	Wednesday	Metro Champs Training
30/05/2019	Thursday	Jumper Pres. & Team Meeting
5/06/2019	Wednesday	Metro Champs Training
8/06/2019	Saturday	Metro Champs - Game 1
10/06/2019	Monday	Metro Champs - Game 2
After SMJFL Games	TBC	TAC Cup Transition Program

U13 Boys & Girls

Date	Day	Activity
30/04/2019	Tuesday	Training
7/05/2019	Tuesday	Training
14/05/2019	Tuesday	Training
21/05/2019	Tuesday	Training
28/05/2019	Tuesday	Training
4/06/2019	Tuesday	Training
11/06/2019	Tuesday	Training
18/06/2019	Tuesday	Training

U15 Girls

Date	Day	Activity
10/02/2019	Sunday	Testing Day
18/02/2019	Monday	Training
25/02/2019	Monday	Training
4/03/2019	Monday	Training
11/03/2019	Monday	Training
18/03/2019	Monday	Training
25/03/2019	Monday	Training
1/04/2019	Monday	Training
29/04/2019	Monday	Training
6/05/2019	Monday	Training
13/05/2019	Monday	Metro Champs Training
20/05/2019	Monday	Metro Champs Training
27/05/2019	Monday	Metro Champs Training
30/05/2019	Tuesday	Jumper Pres. & Team Meeting
3/06/2019	Monday	Metro Champs Training
8/06/2019	Saturday	Metro Champs - Game 1
10/06/2019	Monday	Metro Champs - Game 2
After SMJFL Games	TBC	TAC Cup Transition Program

U14 Boys

Date	Day	Activity
10/02/2019	Sunday	Testing Day
20/02/2019	Wednesday	Training
27/02/2019	Wednesday	Training
6/03/2019	Wednesday	Training
13/03/2019	Wednesday	Training
20/03/2019	Wednesday	Training
27/03/2019	Wednesday	Training
3/04/2019	Wednesday	Training
24/04/2019	Wednesday	Training
1/05/2019	Wednesday	Training
8/05/2019	Wednesday	Training
15/05/2019	Wednesday	Metro Champs Training
22/05/2019	Wednesday	Metro Champs Training
29/05/2019	Wednesday	Metro Champs Training
30/05/2019	Thursday	Jumper Pres. & Team Meeting
5/06/2019	Wednesday	Metro Champs Training
8/06/2019	Saturday	Metro Champs - Game 1
10/06/2019	Monday	Metro Champs - Game 2
September Holidays	TBC	Further Training Sessions/NGA Exhibition Game

Junior Talent Pathway



Junior Talent Pathway for SMJFL Players

