

2026 Junior Football Finals

Participating Club Information Pack

Semi Finals: Saturday & Sunday 22/23 August 2026 – Leopold, North Shore & Bannockburn

Preliminary Finals: Saturday & Sunday 29/30 August 2026 – Leopold & North Shore

Grand Finals: Saturday & Sunday 5/6 September 2026 – St Josephs

Prior to Match Day

Deadline	Enter selected teams in PlayHQ by 6:00pm Thursday.
Team sheets	Check all player and official details before the team sheet is provided to the umpires.
Eligibility	Confirm every selected player meets the applicable finals eligibility requirements.
Uniform clash	The lower-positioned team is the away team and must arrange an alternative strip where required.

Participating clubs must provide

- A timekeeper for its match.
- First-aid, trainer and taping support.
- Appropriately appointed and identifiable team officials, recorded on the team sheet.
- Any club-supplied match-day roles ordinarily required under the competition rules, including a runner, trainers and water carriers.

Host club support: The host club will provide trainer tables in change rooms.

Match-Day Essentials

- AFL Barwon will supply the match footballs and required match-day paperwork.
- Participating clubs to supply the team sheets for each match.
- Clubs are responsible for their own medical and first-aid arrangements as they would be during the home-and-away season.
- Teams must be ready to commence on time.
- Future finals schedules and venue allocations will be released during the week of the applicable finals and displayed in PlayHQ.

Preliminary-Final Fixture – Saturday & Sunday 29/30 August

Please confirm your match time and venue in PlayHQ before match day. Teams should allow sufficient time for parking, entry, warm-up and team-sheet checks.

***Please note we have slightly changed the home and away teams in some instances so clubs with multiple teams can use the same change rooms.*

Leopold Memorial Park 1

Day	Time	Grade	Div.	Home team	Away team
Sunday	8:30am	U14	2	Drysdale Fennell U14	Barwon Heads U14 – Davis
Sunday	10:00am	U14	1	St Marys Rogers U14	Torquay K.Grossman U14
Sunday	11:30am	U16	2	Drysdale U16	Barwon Heads U16 – Philp
Sunday	1.15pm	U16	1	Ocean Grove Neeld U16	St Josephs Podbury U16

Leopold Memorial Park 2

Day	Time	Grade	Div.	Home team	Away team
Sunday	8:30am	U14	3	Newtown & Chilwell Harris U14	Torquay Hayward U14
Sunday	10:00am	U14	7	Newtown & Chilwell Wierzbowski U14	Drysdale Hargreaves U14
Sunday	11:30am	U14	4	Ocean Grove Every U14	Torquay Bruce U14
Sunday	1:00pm	U14	6	North Geelong U14	Surf Coast Suns

Windsor Park, North Shore

Day	Time	Grade	Div.	Home team	Away team
Saturday	8:30am	U14	5	St Josephs Red U14	Geelong Amateur Ramsey U14
Saturday	10:00am	U16	3	St Josephs Hill U16	South Barwon Brebner U16
Saturday	11:45am	U16	6	Anakie Roos/Lara Cook U16	Grovedale/St Albans U16
Saturday	1:30pm	U16	4	Anglesea U16	Modewarre/Inverleigh U16

Match Operations

Online team selection and team sheets

Selected teams must be entered into PlayHQ by 6:00pm Thursday. Clubs must ensure the team sheet is complete and correct before it is provided to the umpires.

Timekeeping

- Participating clubs are responsible for providing timekeepers and scorers for their match.
- Record the starting and finishing time of each quarter on the scorecard.
- Record the time any player is sent from the ground, including the departure and permitted re-entry time.
- Sign the completed timekeeper card and return it for the field umpire's countersignature.
- Ensure the scorecard corresponds with the match clock.

Stop the clock only when the stretcher enters the playing arena, a head count is taking place, the blood rule is being managed, or a player has been sent from the ground.

Results and paperwork

The host club will collect the match-day paperwork and return the original paperwork to AFL Barwon by 10:30am Monday.

Uniform clashes

The lower-positioned team is deemed the away team. The away club is responsible for arranging an alternative playing strip where there is a clash.

Team officials and coaching area

- All team officials must be clearly identified on the team sheet.
- Senior team managers from both clubs must complete the PlayHQ Match Day Ground Safety Checklist (only the first game of the day)
- Only personnel named on the team sheet may be on the playing side of the fence while the match is in progress.
- Other than runners, trainers and water carriers, authorised personnel must remain in the coaches' box or within the perimeter lines surrounding the 12-metre interchange box.
- Only one runner is permitted. Junior runners must wear an approved AFL Barwon Runner vest with black shorts or track pants; senior runners must wear the approved Runner uniform.
- Junior teams may appoint a maximum of two trainers and three water carriers. Water carriers must be over 12 and wear numbered AFL Barwon light-blue bibs (eg. 5, 6 or 7).
- Team officials working with children must hold the applicable Working with Children Check.

The officiating umpires may pause the match until any unauthorised personnel leave the restricted area.

Match Length and Team Size

Under 14	4 x 15-minute quarters; breaks of 3, 10 and 3 minutes. 18-a-side; maximum 23 selected and minimum 14 to commence.
Under 16	4 x 18-minute quarters; breaks of 5, 10 and 5 minutes. 18-a-side; maximum 23 selected and minimum 14 to commence.

Finals Match-Rules

Extra time

There are no drawn finals. If scores are level at the end of scheduled time:

1. Two five-minute periods of extra time will be played. Teams recommence kicking to the same end as in the final scheduled quarter and change ends immediately after the first extra-time period.
2. Coaches may address players after the fourth quarter. Players must be ready to recommence before the goal umpires return to position.
3. If scores remain level after both extra-time periods, play recommences without a change of ends. The first team to score wins.

Order-off rules

Junior matches: A player shown a yellow card cannot be replaced and remains off for 15 minutes of playing time. A player shown a red card remains off for the match and may be replaced after 20 minutes of playing time.

Timekeepers must record the order-off time and work with the interchange steward to ensure a player does not return early.

Last disposal

The last-disposal rule applies in all female football matches. Between the two 50-metre arcs, an untouched kick or handball that crosses the boundary line results in a free kick to the opposition. This includes a disposal crossing at the intersection of the 50-metre and boundary lines.

Junior Finals Eligibility - Under 14 and Under 16

1. A player must play at least three (3) AFL Barwon Junior Football games in a particular age group with their club to play in a finals game in that age group.
2. For the purpose of eligibility to play with a particular team in AFL Barwon Junior Football Finals, a player who has played in a higher grade/division must play at least six (6) games in lower grades/age groups to be eligible to play in finals with a lower graded team.
3. Furthermore, any player who has played more than half the season with a higher grade or division is ineligible to play in the lesser grade of AFL Barwon Junior Football finals.
4. Should a player qualify to represent more than one team, AFL Barwon Junior Football has clarified that players may only play in one final on the same weekend, regardless of division, gender of competition and/or age group.
5. To be eligible to play in a particular team during the finals series a player must meet the requirements of 26.1, 26.2 and 26.3. Regardless of the participation in finals of any other teams from their club on that weekend.
6. For further clarification, eligibility for finals is determined by the number of games played during the home & away season, inclusive of grading games.

Higher grade/division definition: Any match played in a higher graded division or older age group or a representative competition will be deemed as a higher grade/division match and the player will need to meet the eligibility criteria outlined in the above Eligibility for Season/Finals to be eligible for the lower grade/division during finals. Penalty: \$100 and loss of match points.

Safe and respectful finals

Parents and spectators

Clubs are strongly encouraged to recirculate the AFL Barwon Parents and Spectators Code of Conduct to their members before finals.

Parents and Spectators Code of Conduct: [View the policy](#)

Behaviour expectations

- Treat umpires, players, volunteers, officials and spectators with respect.
- Follow reasonable directions from the host club, umpires and AFL Barwon staff.
- Report urgent safety issues, hazards or serious incidents promptly.
- Support a child-safe environment and ensure all appointed officials meet the applicable requirements.

Zero tolerance: Abuse of umpires, players, volunteers, officials or AFL Barwon staff will not be accepted.

AFL Barwon Match-Day Contacts – Semi-Final Weekend

Contact	Sarah Naylor - Head of Football (Saturday/Sunday)
Mobile	0473 913 011
Use for	Urgent finals-day operational or safety matters

Contact	Ayden Gras – Football Operations Coordinator (Saturday/Sunday)
Mobile	0427 696 347
Use for	Urgent finals-day operational or safety matters

Final reminder

Please circulate this pack to your coaches, team managers and relevant match-day officials. Confirm your fixture in PlayHQ and raise any eligibility or operational questions with AFL Barwon before match day.