COUNCIL POLICY

Fair Access	**Adopted By Council:**	26/06/24	
	Date/s Revised:	28/10/2026	
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	Document No:	CP055	
	Directorate:	**Chief Executive Officer**	
	Responsible Officer:	**HR & Governance Coordinator**	

PURPOSE

The Fair Access Policy seeks to address access barriers experienced by women and girls in our community sports infrastructure and provide fair access to community sports for all.

This Policy sets objectives to progressively build capabilities within the Borough of Queenscliffe and its municipal sporting organisations to ensure that women and girls have the same opportunities as men and boys with community sports.

This policy incorporates an Action Plan outlining the Borough of Queenscliffe's commitment to breaking down access barriers experienced by women and girls in accessing our community sports infrastructure.

CONTEXT

The Victorian state government has developed Fair Access Principles as well as the Fair Access Policy Roadmap to support gender equitable access to and use of community sports infrastructure throughout Victoria.

From 1 July 2024 it has been a requirement to have gender equitable access and use policies (or equivalent) to be in place in order for councils and other bodies to receive Victorian Government funding for community sports infrastructure.

By 1 July 2027, councils and other bodies will be required to show demonstrable progress towards achieving gender equitable access and use policies for community sports infrastructure.

FAIR ACCESS PRINCIPLES

Underpinning this Fair Access policy and incorporated Action Plan are the Fair Access Principles.

The six Fair Access Principles are:

1. Community sports infrastructure and environments are genuinely welcoming, safe and inclusive.

2. Women and girls can fully participate in all aspects of community sport and active recreation, including as a player, coach, administrator, official, volunteer and spectator.

3. Women and girls will have equitable access to and use of community sport infrastructure:
   a) of the highest quality available and most convenient

b) at the best and most popular competition and training times and locations
c) to support existing and new participation opportunities, and a variety of sports

4. Women and girls should be equitably represented in leadership and governance roles.

5. Encourage and support all user groups who access and use community sport infrastructure to understand, adopt and implement gender equitable access and use practices.

6. Prioritise access, use and support to all user groups who demonstrate an ongoing commitment to gender equitable access and use of allocated community sports infrastructure.

POLICY STATEMENT

Council supports women and girls having the same opportunities and access to community sports as men and boys. This policy establishes the requirement that access for women and girls is considered and prioritised in all current and future Borough of Queenscliffe's planning, policy, service delivery and practice as they relate to community sports infrastructure.

In actively seeking equal opportunities for women and girls within community sports, our community will be fairer and healthier; our resources and opportunities will be shared more fairly; and our community sporting governance structures will be more reflective of our community.

ACTION PLAN

The Borough of Queenscliffe commits to the following:

- Council will include Fair Access considerations in assessing and planning for all new sporting infrastructure projects.
- Council will require community sports organisations to maintain a Fair Access contact person or representative. The Fair Access contact person will receive communications from Council officers including information regarding available training opportunities on relevant topics such as gender equity, respectful behaviour and inclusive participation.
- Council will offer support, as far as reasonably practicable, to all sporting organisations in our municipality to undertake actions that support the Fair Access Principles.

Sporting organisations can demonstrate they are committed and actively progressing Fair Access within their organisation by any or all of the following:

- completion of an equality audit and progress towards implementation of an equality action plan;
- active implementation of an equality action plan;
- completion of equality training programs by committee members and club members;
- other actions that align with the Fair Access Principles.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

This policy will be reviewed as a minimum every four years, and as required.

DEFINITIONS

Committees of Management
For the purposes of this document, refers to committees appointed by the Department of Land, Water, Environment and Planning (now Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action) under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* to manage recreation reserves where community sport training and games are held.

Community Sports Infrastructure
Publicly owned local, rural, regional, or state level sport and recreation infrastructure operated and maintained primarily for the purpose of facilitating community sport activities, including sporting grounds, surfaces, facilities, and pavilions.

Public land management groups
For the purposes of this document, are the Committees of Management appointed under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* and responsible for the management of recreation reserves where community sport training and games are held.

OTHER REFERENCES

Gender Equality Act 2020 (Vic)
Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)
Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic)

END