



Let the games begin!

After a very long and busy pre-season, we are finally about to get into the 2025 season and I cannot wait to see all of our teams putting into practice the learnings from their extensive training over the last few months and our supporters turning up in droves to cheer them on.

Our coaches and players have been training hard all pre-season to give themselves the best opportunity for success this year. It has been pleasing to see huge numbers of players attending training in all grades of football and netball and witnessing some good signs in practice matches and tournaments over the last few weeks against a variety of opponents. Our club, and most importantly our players, are most fortunate to have such skilled and experienced coaches for all grades of football and netball and their dedication, enthusiasm and capabilities are to be commended and applauded.

Similarly, we have many skilled and dedicated players in both our junior and senior programs and they have been working extremely hard since the last season concluded to maintain and improve their fitness and work on the implementation of game plans to compete against the other teams in the Gippsland League competition.

I extend a warm welcome to all new players, families, friends and supporters on behalf of our club. I sincerely hope that this season is enjoyable for you and that you consider our club as your club and that you are a part of our organisation for many years to come.

A Season Launch event was held for the players and coaches last Sunday to announce leadership groups, hear from both the Senior and A Grade coaches their plans, visions and expectations and to communicate the vision of the club for 2025. Our theme for 2025 is "Stronger Together" which is a theme that not only involves our competing teams but embraces a one club philosophy that no matter your role within the club, our best chance of a successful season is if we are aligned and working together.

We will be challenged many times this season and there will be wins and losses along the way. A strong club will be there to support, show our colours and stand-up with pride when the going gets tough as well as celebrate the wins and good times together. My hope is that all involved with the club buy into the "Stronger Together" theme and support our club by being united and remaining positive through both the good and the challenging times. I have attached our Respect, Behaviour and Child Safety Policy to this letter. This policy underpins the "Stronger Together" theme and reinforces the club standards for appropriate behaviours when representing our club and supporting our teams.

We are privileged to have many skilled and dedicated people on our Board and we have been working hard off the field over the off season to develop and implement plans so that we can be a financially viable and successful club for not only the coming season but for many years to come. Our club is not immune to the financial stresses that are being experienced in the broader community and increasing costs of supply of goods (including purchasing costs, bank charges, service fees and provision of paid employees in some service areas) has meant that we have had to review our point of sale charges for food and beverages, which have increased marginally in some areas. The club has been diligent over many years to utilise alternative revenue streams to offset our costs and maintain the charges that we pass on to those who are purchasing goods from the club and we are still maintaining this practice however, the increased charges for purchasing some items at the club this season is regrettably unavoidable and analysis of costs at other clubs sees us comparable and, in most instances, lower in cost for most items.

I am happy to discuss this in more detail with individuals who would like more information.

A massive thank-you to our volunteers who provide many hours of their time to our club. We can always use more help, specifically in the following areas:

- Canteen and game day food preparation and service
- Thursday night meal preparation and service
- Facilities cleaning and pre-game set-up
- MND Round planning

If you have an interest, some time and are able to assist our club as a volunteer, please let me know and I can arrange to get you in touch with the appropriate person to provide more details. In keeping with the "Stronger Together" theme, our club will benefit greatly by having more people assisting as volunteers to lighten the load for those who are already taking on roles.

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Thanks must go to the many businesses and individuals who sponsor our club. We will continue to promote their services and encourage all involved with our club to support those who support us and utilise the services of our sponsors whenever possible.

A huge welcome back to the club to all of our members and supporters for the 2025 season. Thursday night will see the club buzzing with the final training sessions for all teams prior to the big road trip to Bairnsdale on Saturday, the traditional Centurians pre-season function at the Can Bar, the first Thursday Night Meals upstairs, along with the first Lions Lotto draw for 2025.

Finally, it would be great to see our members and supporters at the first game in Bairnsdale this week before we host Traralgon at the home of football in Round 2 for the Mental Health round and competition for the Riley "Choppy" Pearce Cup. Details about fundraising and initiatives for this day will be provided in the week leading up to this round.

Go Lions!

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Moe Football Netball Club

Respect, Behaviour and Child Safety Policy

The Moe Football Netball Club(MFNC) is committed to maintaining a safe, fair and inclusive environment where all people feel respected. This policy seeks to provide guidance on accepted behaviours and actions in relation to respect and safety for all players, administrators, members, supporters and volunteers.

Any individual or group who identifies that this policy has been breached should report their grievance to the Club President or their delegate to initiate an investigation for determination of appropriate actions.

Respect

All people who are involved in the club have the basic human right to have their values, opinions, religion, national or ethnic origin, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity respected. To achieve this, the MFNC commits to:

- Promote an environment of respectful behaviour, communication and interaction between people
- Educate players, administrators, members, supporters and volunteers in the standards of respectful behaviour in line with community and club expectations

Appropriate Behaviours

Abuse (including on-line abuse), violence or criminal behaviour will not be tolerated by the Moe Football Netball Club and all reported instances will be investigated and actioned appropriately. Players, administrators, members, supporters and volunteers shall not:

- Commit a serious criminal offence
- Directly or indirectly harass or bully (including cyber bully) any person
- Make or post inappropriate, offensive or discriminatory comments in public (including via social media) about another person or controlling body
- Victimise another person
- Verbally or physically abuse, threaten, assault or engage in violence with another person, intimidate another person or create a hostile environment

Child Safety

MFNC is committed to providing an environment where all children and young people feel safe, supported and respected.

Adults who are interacting and working with children and young people must:

- Treat all children and young people with respect
- Wherever possible ensure that another adult is present when working or interacting near or with children or young people
- Use disciplinary strategies that are fair, respectful and appropriate
- Wherever possible ensure that all written communication sent to a child or young person is copied to their parent / guardian
- Ensure that approval has been obtained from a child or young person and their parent/guardian prior to taking of photograph or film of a child or young person
- Limit all interactions with children and young people to the confines of official duties
- Use best endeavours to complete a risk assessment for any program that involves children or young people
- Obtain permission from a parent/guardian prior to transporting children or young people
- Immediately report any concern for the safety or well being of a child or young person to the Club President or their delegate, or directly to Victoria Police (call 000) if it is believed that a child or young person is in imminent risk of harm or immediate danger

Adults who are interacting with children and young people must **not**:

- Initiate unnecessary physical contact with a child or young person
- Consume alcohol, drugs or tobacco when working with children or young people

References:

- Netball Australia Child Safeguarding Policy (1 January 2023)
- Netball Australia Code of Conduct (26 March 2022)
- AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook (March 2023)
- WorkSafe AFL Victoria Country Rules and Regulations (2023)