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## GIPPSLAND LEAGUE UPDATE

### Finals Series 2021

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Gippsland League has called time on the 2021 senior and junior competitions after there was no update to the COVID 19 restrictions allowing the return to play for community sport by the Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> of September deadline set by the League and the member clubs.

The member clubs met with the League last Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September after the State Government released an easing of restrictions for regional Victoria. The restrictions saw regional Victoria move out of lockdown and included an ability to train in restricted groups but did not allow a return to play for community sport.

The League and member clubs agreed that if the State Government had not announced by Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September a return to play date that would allow a finals series to commence by 25<sup>th</sup> September, the 2021 finals series would be abandoned. The League surveyed the clubs prior to the meeting and from the 8 member clubs to complete the survey the majority, as has been indicated throughout the 2021 season, wanted to keep the senior and junior competitions aligned in the decision making.

If the finals series was to be abandoned, the team at the top of the ladder will be classed as minor premiers for the 2021 season. As teams were being classed as minor premiers for 2021 there would be no medals, cups or premiership flags awarded. The League gave the clubs the opportunity to give feedback on this recommendation and 7 clubs were in favour of awarding minor premierships (one club requested to award full premierships with medals, cups and flags) and three clubs requested that the seasons be classed as abandoned.

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