

Statement from YJFL Board about the 2020 YJFL season

The Board of the YJFL would like to make the following statement.

In response to the Victorian Government's most recent Stage 4 announcements, and the anticipated timing of the restrictions being lifted, it is with great sadness that we announce that the Board has resolved that the League will not offer its traditional, fixtured football season in 2020.

The Board is meeting with our Clubs next Tuesday to finalise the nature & extent of the YJFL reimbursement process. It is important to note there will be a continuing approach for families experiencing hardship.

We understand the importance of football and activity to young people, and are committed to supporting Clubs who have an interest in running other types of football activity, later in the year, should that be possible. This may include club training sessions, practice matches against local teams, AFL 9's type games and perhaps even training or matches during the school holidays. The League will maintain its insurance coverage for our players, and we know Clubs are maintaining their ground tenancies to enable some activity, should it be permitted by the government.

We know that this is a difficult time for young people and families in our community. We understand that being part of a football team & club brings so much to our players, and this announcement is made with great disappointment.

The Board thanks all our member clubs, officials, players, volunteers and sponsors for their hard work and support. It has been the most challenging of years for our club officials, requiring hard work, flexibility, resilience and commitment. Thank you again.

The YJFL will continue to explore options to play junior football later in the year, and then eventually the 2021 season. We look forward to bringing football back to our community.

We hope you all stay safe and well, during these uncertain times.

Jeff Hooper
YJFL President on behalf of the YJFL Board