

MEMORANDUM

TO: Rural Competition Brigades
District Competition Committees
DATE: December 2025
FROM: State Rural Championships Committee
SUBJECT: Rural Competition Items for Information



For information, below are items of interest from the Rural State Competition Committee for the information of Coaches, Competitors and Judges and Officials for the 2026 Competition season.

a) 2026 State Championship Entries – Stawell

Senior Championship Saturday 28 March 2026
Junior Championship Sunday 29 March 2026

Entries are now open for the 2026 State Championships and will close on Sunday 15th February 2026, entries will once again be collected electronically. The brigade member responsible for completing the respective entry form should use the links below to register your team for the State Championships.

Junior Entry form: tinyurl.com/2026-rural-junior

Senior entry form: tinyurl.com/2026-rural-senior



Please complete the above forms ASAP if your Brigade intends to enter a team in the 2026 State Championships.

Following completion of the above forms a second form will be sent to you early next year which will collect the following information:

- Competitor names and CFA Member numbers (for all competitors)
- Parent/Guardian contact information for members under 18
- The events that each competitor is competing in

Entry fees: VFBV have waived the entry fees for the 2026 State Championships to encourage participation.

b) Member registration

New members: Brigades should commence the new member registration process ASAP to enable them to be registered to compete in both local competitions and the State Championships.

The new member registration process via the Volunteer Recruitment Hub takes longer than the old processes and needs to be started well in advance of the Championships to ensure that members are registered before competing. VFBV has no control over this process and CFA will not authorise competitors who have not completed this to compete at the State Championships.

To register a new member please visit <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/volunteers-careers/volunteer-with-cfa/apply-to-volunteer>

c) 2026 State Championships Track Officials Panel and Recorders

Track Official and Recorder nominations are now open and will close on Sunday 15th February 2026. To nominate as a judge or official for either or both of the 2026 State Championships, please complete the nomination form: tinyurl.com/2026-rural-judge

The State Rural Championships Committee is always on the lookout for new judges and will be willing to train any members without experience to become a judge or official at the State Championships.

First Aid: The Committee are seeking members who would be willing to do dedicated first aid shifts over the two days of competition. If you are first aid qualified and willing to be a dedicated first aid official, please complete the nomination indicating First Aid as your role preference and email a copy of your first aid qualifications to championships@vfbv.com.au

Please note this form does not have to be completed if you are nominating to be part of the Make Up Crews as this information is collected on team entry forms.

Working with Children Clearance: All Judges and Officials for the State Championships are required to have a valid Working with Children Clearance and to have registered VFBV as an organisation that they are working with. Further details on how to apply for a Working with Children Clearance or to update a current Working with Children Clearance can be found on the VFBV website tinyurl.com/rural-champs

d) Updated Rule Book

An updated Rule Book is available for download from the VFBV website tinyurl.com/rural-champs

The updates approved by the Committee include:

- All events at the Senior Championship will now have 4 competitors
- Fixing of the ladder in events 1 and 3 (for Seniors) in line with the change to all events being 4 competitor events
- Inclusion of rules relating to how the Champion Female Team is calculated

Please contact the VFBV office if you would like a printed copy of the rule book posted to you

e) Champion Female Team

The Champion Female Team will be awarded to an all female team competing in the Senior Championship. Entries for the Champion Female Team will be taken as teams line up to compete on the day. If you would like further information about this award please contact the VFBV office on championships@vfbv.com.au

f) Torchlight Procession

Brigades competing in the State Rural Championships are once again invited to take part in the Torchlight Procession to be held on Saturday 28 March 2026 commencing at 2030 hours in Stawell.

Squad Size: the minimum number of marchers is 6 members plus a Commander and the maximum number of marchers is 15 plus a Commander. Any teams with more than the permitted maximum and less than the permitted minimum can enter, but will have points deducted from their scores.

Dress: the preferred dress is CFA Dress Uniform. If brigades are unable to outfit their squad in Dress Uniforms, CFA Workwear, brigade specific uniform with a CFA baseball cap or CFA summer dress uniform can be worn. All members of the squad must wear the same apparel.

LED Torches: LED torches will again be supplied by CFA for the Torchlight Procession. Please ensure that you accurately note the number of members requiring a torch on your entry form.

For further information about the Torchlight Procession please contact the VFBV office on championships@vfbv.com.au

g) 2026 Competition Season

A list of approved local competitions for the 2026 season is attached and can also be downloaded from the VFBV website tinyurl.com/rural-champs

Any updates will be posted on the VFBV website and VFBV's Championships Facebook Page throughout the competition season as required.

h) VFBV Championships Facebook Page

Information related to the Championships will also be posted on VFBV's Championships Facebook page in the lead up to the State Championships www.facebook.com/vfbvchamps

Neil Labbett AFSM

Chair, State Rural Championships Committee

2026 RURAL COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Organisation	Day	Month	Date	Location	Contact person	Contact Number
Maiden Gully Come and Try evening	Fri	Dec	5	Maiden Gully	Aleisha Shay	0468 911 210
District 2 (Twilight)	Fri	Feb	6	Mandurang	Chris Griffin	0422 634 680
District 2 (Twilight)	Fri	Feb	20	Maiden Gully	Chris Griffin	0422 634 680
North West Region	Sun	Feb	22	Donald	Barry Wiseman	0429 998 266
District 7	Sun	Mar	1	Connewarre	Karen Woodhart	0412 536 243
District 24	Sun	Mar	1	Chiltern	Tony Treffers	0438 592 843
Mandurang	Sun	Mar	8	Mandurang	Don Morgan	0476 860 074
District 14	Sat	Mar	14	Plenty	Tim Smith	0438 562 749
District 2	Sun	Mar	15	Maryborough	Chris Griffin	0422 634 680
District 23	Sun	Mar	15	Eldorado	Peter Brick	0417 346 839
West Region	Sun	Mar	22	Lexton	Peter Loader	0417 356 210
District 22	Sun	Mar	22	Strathmerton	Wayne Geisler	0418 176 143

2026 State Championships

State Urban Junior Championship
 State Urban Senior Championship
 State Rural Senior Championship
 State Rural Junior Championship

21st & 22nd March 2026, Stawell
 28th & 29th March 2026, Stawell
 28th March 2026, Stawell
 29th March 2026, Stawell