

October 15, 1925

Table Talk

WILDEST ENTHUSIASM GREETED GEELONG'S WIN OF LEAGUE PREMIERSHIP.



GRAND FINAL LEAGUE MATCH BETWEEN GEELONG AND COLLINGWOOD.

No football match has ever created such intense excitement as the grand final of the League football season. The Geelong team had twice beaten Collingwood during the season. Geelong, who won by 10 points, had never gained a premiership.

1. Charlie Tyson, captain of Collingwood Football Club. 2. Mr. W. H. Watson, Con Hickey (secretary Australian Football Council), Mr. W. H. Cundry, Messrs. A. Bowden (ex-captain Melbourne Football Club), 3. C. Rankin (Geelong's captain), 4. Messrs. W. Nalaminth (boundary umpire), Wheeler (goal umpire), J. M. Murray (field umpire), C. Lewis (emergency umpire), and G. Lally (boundary umpire). 5. Senator Guthrie and Drum Major C. Ness, of Collingwood Caledonian Pipe Band. 6. Messrs. P. Maher (captain Essendon Football Club) and H. Clover (secretary Carlton Football Club). 7. Messrs. A. Chadwick (captain Melbourne Football Club), C. Streeter and R. Corbett. 8. Messrs. H. and B. Rumbly, Messrs. M. Hutton and J. Clark. 9. Messrs. J. Flannagan, H. Coy and S. Wittman.



# MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET SUPPLEMENT SEPTEMBER 27, 2025

## 2025 AFL GRAND FINAL

### THE ROAD TO VFL/AFL GRAND FINALS – AN OVERVIEW

**1897 and 1924:** The top four teams after the home and away series played each other in a round-robin series, the winner being declared premiers.

**1898 to 1900:** After 14 home and away rounds, the top team was declared to be “minor premiers”. Three rounds of “sectional matches” were then played, the winners of each section playing off in the final. If necessary, the “minor premiers” could challenge the final winners.

**1901:** Although the three sectional rounds were still played, they were included with the home and away games to determine the final four that played off, the winners of each semi final playing in the grand final. There was no right of challenge.

**1902 to 1923 and 1925 to 1930:** This system was known as the “Argus” system. Again, the team that finished on top after the home and away series was declared minor premiers (subject to certain restrictions). The four top teams played off, the winners of the semi finals playing off in the final. The minor premiers, if defeated in their semi final or final, could (subject to the rules) challenge the final winners for the premiership.

**1931 to 1971:** The original Page-McIntyre system. The top four clubs after the home and away games played under the following system: first semi final – third v fourth – loser omitted; second semi final – first v second; preliminary final – loser of second semi final v winner of first semi final – loser omitted; grand final – winner of second semi final v winner of preliminary final.

**1972 to 1990:** The final five system was introduced. The top five clubs played under the following system: elimination final – fourth v fifth – loser omitted; qualifying final – second v third; first semi final – loser of qualifying final v winner of elimination final – loser omitted; second semi final – first v winner of qualifying final; preliminary final – loser of second semi final v winner of first semi final – loser omitted; grand final – winner of second semi final v winner of preliminary final.

**1991:** A final six system was introduced. The top six clubs after the home and away series played under the following system: first elimination final – fifth v sixth – loser omitted; second elimination final – third v fourth – loser omitted; qualifying final – first v second. The four remaining clubs, in order of qualifying final winner, second elimination final winner, qualifying final loser and first elimination final winner, then played out the finals as per the Page-McIntyre final four system, with the first and second semi finals in week two.

**1992 to 1993:** The final six system was revised and operated as follows: first elimination final – fourth v fifth – loser eliminated; second elimination final – third v sixth – loser eliminated; qualifying final – first v second. The winner of the qualifying final played the higher-placed elimination final winner in the second semi final. The loser of the qualifying final played the lower-placed elimination final winner as the finals system reverted to the Page-McIntyre final four system.

**1994 to 1999:** A final eight system was used. All eight teams played in the first round, first v eighth, second v seventh and so on. The two lowest-placed losers were eliminated, the two highest-placed winners proceeded to the preliminary finals with the remaining four clubs playing in semi finals. The semi final winners played in the preliminary finals with the winners of these two matches fighting out the grand final.

**2000 to today:** A revision was made to the final eight system. It is a complicated but fair system. The qualifying and elimination finals (week 1), the semi finals (week 2) and the preliminary finals (week 3) have been explained in previous MCC Library Fact Sheets. Today’s grand final is played between the winner of the first preliminary final (Sydney Swans) and the winner of the second preliminary final (Brisbane Lions).



Year					Venue	Att.	Norm Smith Medal
1897	<i>No Grand Final</i>	<i>Essendon Premiers</i>		<i>Geelong Runners-up</i>		-	-
1898	Grand Final	Fitzroy	5.8 (38)	Essendon	3.5 (23)	Junction Oval	16,538
1899	Grand Final	Fitzroy	3.9 (27)	South Melbourne	3.8 (26)	Junction Oval	4,823
1900	Grand Final	Melbourne	4.10 (34)	Fitzroy	3.12 (30)	East Melb. CG	20,181
1901	Grand Final	Essendon	6.7 (43)	Collingwood	2.4 (16)	Lake Oval	30,031
1902	Grand Final	Collingwood	9.6 (60)	Essendon	3.9 (27)	MCG	35,202
1903	Grand Final	Collingwood	4.7 (31)	Fitzroy	3.11 (29)	MCG	32,263
1904	Grand Final	Fitzroy	9.7 (61)	Carlton	5.7 (37)	MCG	32,688
1905	Grand Final	Fitzroy	4.6 (30)	Collingwood	2.5 (17)	MCG	30,000
1906	Grand Final	Carlton	15.4 (94)	Fitzroy	6.9 (45)	MCG	44,437
1907	Grand Final	Carlton	6.14 (50)	South Melbourne	6.9 (45)	MCG	45,477
1908	Grand Final	Carlton	5.5 (35)	Essendon	3.8 (26)	MCG	53,400
1909	Grand Final	South Melbourne	4.14 (38)	Carlton	4.12 (36)	MCG	37,759
1910	Grand Final	Collingwood	9.7 (61)	Carlton	6.11 (47)	MCG	42,790
1911	Grand Final	Essendon	5.11 (41)	Collingwood	4.11 (35)	MCG	43,905
1912	Grand Final	Essendon	5.17 (47)	South Melbourne	4.9 (33)	MCG	54,536
1913	Grand Final	Fitzroy	7.14 (56)	St Kilda	5.13 (43)	MCG	59,556
1914	Grand Final	Carlton	6.9 (45)	South Melbourne	4.15 (39)	MCG	30,495
1915	Grand Final	Carlton	11.12 (78)	Collingwood	6.9 (45)	MCG	39,343
1916	Grand Final	Fitzroy	12.13 (85)	Carlton	8.8 (56)	MCG	21,130
1917	Grand Final	Collingwood	9.20 (74)	Fitzroy	5.9 (39)	MCG	28,512
1918	Grand Final	South Melbourne	9.8 (62)	Collingwood	7.15 (57)	MCG	39,262
1919	Grand Final	Collingwood	11.12 (78)	Richmond	7.11 (53)	MCG	45,413
1920	Grand Final	Richmond	7.10 (52)	Collingwood	5.5 (35)	MCG	53,908
1921	Grand Final	Richmond	5.6 (36)	Carlton	4.8 (32)	MCG	43,122
1922	Grand Final	Fitzroy	11.13 (79)	Collingwood	9.14 (68)	MCG	50,064
1923	Grand Final	Essendon	8.15 (63)	Fitzroy	6.10 (46)	MCG	46,566
1924	<i>No Grand Final</i>	<i>Essendon Premiers</i>		<i>Richmond Runners-Up</i>		-	-
1925	Grand Final	Geelong	10.19 (79)	Collingwood	9.15 (69)	MCG	64,288
1926	Grand Final	Melbourne	17.17 (119)	Collingwood	9.8 (62)	MCG	59,632
1927	Grand Final	Collingwood	2.13 (25)	Richmond	1.7 (13)	MCG	34,551
1928	Grand Final	Collingwood	13.18 (96)	Richmond	9.9 (63)	MCG	50,026
1929	Grand Final	Collingwood	11.13 (79)	Richmond	7.8 (50)	MCG	63,336
1930	Grand Final	Collingwood	14.16 (100)	Geelong	9.16 (70)	MCG	45,022
1931	Grand Final	Geelong	9.14 (68)	Richmond	7.6 (48)	MCG	60,712
1932	Grand Final	Richmond	13.14 (92)	Carlton	12.11 (83)	MCG	69,724
1933	Grand Final	South Melbourne	9.17 (71)	Richmond	4.5 (29)	MCG	75,754
1934	Grand Final	Richmond	19.14 (128)	South Melbourne	12.17 (89)	MCG	65,335
1935	Grand Final	Collingwood	11.12 (78)	South Melbourne	7.16 (58)	MCG	54,154
1936	Grand Final	Collingwood	11.23 (89)	South Melbourne	10.18 (78)	MCG	74,019
1937	Grand Final	Geelong	18.14 (122)	Collingwood	12.18 (90)	MCG	88,540
1938	Grand Final	Carlton	15.10 (100)	Collingwood	13.7 (85)	MCG	96,486
1939	Grand Final	Melbourne	21.22 (148)	Collingwood	14.11 (95)	MCG	78,110
1940	Grand Final	Melbourne	15.17 (107)	Richmond	10.8 (68)	MCG	70,330
1941	Grand Final	Melbourne	19.13 (127)	Essendon	13.20 (98)	MCG	79,687
1942	Grand Final	Essendon	19.18 (132)	Richmond	11.13 (79)	Princes Park	49,000
1943	Grand Final	Richmond	12.14 (86)	Essendon	11.15 (81)	Princes Park	42,100
1944	Grand Final	Fitzroy	9.12 (66)	Richmond	7.9 (51)	Junction Oval	43,000
1945	Grand Final	Carlton	15.13 (103)	South Melbourne	10.15 (75)	Princes Park	62,986
1946	Grand Final	Essendon	22.18 (150)	Melbourne	13.9 (87)	MCG	73,743
1947	Grand Final	Carlton	13.8 (86)	Essendon	11.19 (85)	MCG	85,793
1948	Grand Final	Essendon	7.27 (69)	Melbourne	10.9 (69)	MCG	86,198
1948	Grand Final Replay	Melbourne	13.11 (89)	Essendon	7.8 (50)	MCG	52,226
1949	Grand Final	Essendon	18.17 (125)	Carlton	6.16 (52)	MCG	88,718
1950	Grand Final	Essendon	13.14 (92)	North Melbourne	7.12 (54)	MCG	85,869
1951	Grand Final	Geelong	11.15 (81)	Essendon	10.10 (70)	MCG	84,109
1952	Grand Final	Geelong	13.8 (86)	Collingwood	5.10 (40)	MCG	81,204
1953	Grand Final	Collingwood	11.11 (77)	Geelong	8.17 (65)	MCG	89,149
1954	Grand Final	Footscray	15.12 (102)	Melbourne	7.9 (51)	MCG	80,897
1955	Grand Final	Melbourne	8.16 (64)	Collingwood	5.6 (36)	MCG	88,053
1956	Grand Final	Melbourne	17.19 (121)	Collingwood	6.12 (48)	MCG	115,902
1957	Grand Final	Melbourne	17.14 (116)	Essendon	7.13 (55)	MCG	100,324
1958	Grand Final	Collingwood	12.10 (82)	Melbourne	9.10 (64)	MCG	97,956
1959	Grand Final	Melbourne	17.13 (115)	Essendon	11.12 (78)	MCG	103,506
1960	Grand Final	Melbourne	8.14 (62)	Collingwood	2.2 (14)	MCG	97,457
1961	Grand Final	Hawthorn	13.16 (94)	Footscray	7.9 (51)	MCG	107,935
1962	Grand Final	Essendon	13.12 (90)	Carlton	8.10 (58)	MCG	98,385
1963	Grand Final	Geelong	15.19 (109)	Hawthorn	8.12 (60)	MCG	101,452
1964	Grand Final	Melbourne	8.16 (64)	Collingwood	8.12 (60)	MCG	102,471

Year						Venue	Att.	Norm Smith Medal
1965	Grand Final	Essendon	14.21 (105)	St Kilda	9.16 (70)	MCG	104,846	-
1966	Grand Final	St Kilda	10.14 (74)	Collingwood	10.13 (73)	MCG	102,055	-
1967	Grand Final	Richmond	16.18 (114)	Geelong	15.15 (105)	MCG	109,396	-
1968	Grand Final	Carlton	7.14 (56)	Essendon	8.5 (53)	MCG	116,828	-
1969	Grand Final	Richmond	12.13 (85)	Carlton	8.12 (60)	MCG	119,165	-
1970	Grand Final	Carlton	17.9 (111)	Collingwood	14.17 (101)	MCG	121,696	-
1971	Grand Final	Hawthorn	12.10 (82)	St Kilda	11.9 (75)	MCG	118,192	-
1972	Grand Final	Carlton	28.9 (177)	Richmond	22.18 (150)	MCG	112,393	-
1973	Grand Final	Richmond	16.20 (116)	Carlton	12.14 (86)	MCG	116,956	-
1974	Grand Final	Richmond	18.20 (128)	North Melbourne	13.9 (87)	MCG	113,839	-
1975	Grand Final	North Melbourne	19.8 (122)	Hawthorn	9.13 (67)	MCG	110,551	-
1976	Grand Final	Hawthorn	13.22 (100)	North Melbourne	10.10 (70)	MCG	110,143	-
1977	Grand Final	Collingwood	10.16 (76)	North Melbourne	9.22 (76)	MCG	108,224	-
1977	Grand Final Replay	North Melbourne	21.25 (151)	Collingwood	19.10 (124)	MCG	98,491	-
1978	Grand Final	Hawthorn	18.13 (121)	North Melbourne	15.13 (103)	MCG	101,704	-
1979	Grand Final	Carlton	11.16 (82)	Collingwood	11.11 (77)	MCG	113,545	W. Harmes (Carl)
1980	Grand Final	Richmond	23.21 (159)	Collingwood	9.24 (78)	MCG	113,461	K. Bartlett (Rich)
1981	Grand Final	Carlton	12.20 (92)	Collingwood	10.12 (72)	MCG	112,964	B. Doull (Carl)
1982	Grand Final	Carlton	14.19 (103)	Richmond	12.13 (85)	MCG	107,537	M. Rioli (Rich)
1983	Grand Final	Hawthorn	20.20 (140)	Essendon	8.9 (57)	MCG	110,332	C. Robertson (Haw)
1984	Grand Final	Essendon	14.21 (105)	Hawthorn	12.9 (81)	MCG	92,685	B. Duckworth (Ess)
1985	Grand Final	Essendon	26.14 (170)	Hawthorn	14.8 (92)	MCG	100,042	S. Madden (Ess)
1986	Grand Final	Hawthorn	16.14 (110)	Carlton	9.14 (68)	MCG	101,861	G. Ayres (Haw)
1987	Grand Final	Carlton	15.14 (104)	Hawthorn	9.17 (71)	MCG	92,754	D. Rhys-Jones (Carl)
1988	Grand Final	Hawthorn	22.20 (152)	Melbourne	6.20 (56)	MCG	93,754	G. Ayres (Haw)
1989	Grand Final	Hawthorn	21.18 (144)	Geelong	21.12 (138)	MCG	94,796	G. Ablett Snr (Geel)
1990	Grand Final	Collingwood	13.11 (89)	Essendon	5.11 (41)	MCG	98,944	T. Shaw (Coll)
1991	Grand Final	Hawthorn	20.19 (139)	West Coast	13.8 (86)	Waverley Park	75,230	P. Dear (Haw)
1992	Grand Final	West Coast	16.17 (113)	Geelong	12.13 (85)	MCG	95,007	P. Matera (WCst)
1993	Grand Final	Essendon	20.13 (133)	Carlton	13.11 (89)	MCG	96,862	M. Long (Ess)
1994	Grand Final	West Coast	20.23 (143)	Geelong	8.15 (63)	MCG	93,860	D. Kemp (WCst)
1995	Grand Final	Carlton	21.15 (141)	Geelong	11.14 (80)	MCG	93,670	G. Williams (Carl)
1996	Grand Final	North Melbourne	19.17 (131)	Sydney	13.10 (88)	MCG	93,102	G. Archer (NMel)
1997	Grand Final	Adelaide	19.11 (125)	St Kilda	13.16 (94)	MCG	98,828	A. McLeod (Adel)
1998	Grand Final	Adelaide	15.15 (105)	North Melbourne	8.22 (70)	MCG	94,431	A. McLeod (Adel)
1999	Grand Final	Kangaroos	19.10 (124)	Carlton	12.17 (89)	MCG	94,228	S. Grant (Kang)
2000	Grand Final	Essendon	19.21 (135)	Melbourne	11.9 (75)	MCG	96,249	J. Hird (Ess)
2001	Grand Final	Brisbane Lions	15.18 (108)	Essendon	12.10 (82)	MCG	91,482	S. Hart (Bris)
2002	Grand Final	Brisbane Lions	10.15 (75)	Collingwood	9.12 (66)	MCG	91,817	N. Buckley (Coll)
2003	Grand Final	Brisbane Lions	20.14 (134)	Collingwood	12.12 (84)	MCG	79,451	S. Black (Bris)
2004	Grand Final	Port Adelaide	17.11 (113)	Brisbane Lions	10.13 (73)	MCG	77,671	B. Pickett (PAde)
2005	Grand Final	Sydney	8.10 (58)	West Coast	7.12 (54)	MCG	91,828	C. Judd (WCst)
2006	Grand Final	West Coast	12.13 (85)	Sydney	12.12 (84)	MCG	97,431	A. Embley (WCst)
2007	Grand Final	Geelong	24.19 (163)	Port Adelaide	6.8 (44)	MCG	97,302	S. Johnson (Geel)
2008	Grand Final	Hawthorn	18.7 (115)	Geelong	11.23 (89)	MCG	100,012	L. Hodge (Haw)
2009	Grand Final	Geelong	12.8 (80)	St Kilda	9.14 (68)	MCG	99,251	P. Chapman (Geel)
2010	Grand Final	Collingwood	9.14 (68)	St Kilda	10.8 (68)	MCG	100,016	L. Hayes (StK)
2010	Grand Final Replay	Collingwood	16.12 (108)	St Kilda	7.10 (52)	MCG	93,853	S. Pendlebury (Coll)
2011	Grand Final	Geelong	18.11 (119)	Collingwood	12.9 (81)	MCG	99,537	J. Bartel (Geel)
2012	Grand Final	Sydney	14.7 (91)	Hawthorn	11.15 (81)	MCG	99,683	R. O'Keefe (Syd)
2013	Grand Final	Hawthorn	11.11 (77)	Fremantle	8.14 (62)	MCG	100,007	B. Lake (Haw)
2014	Grand Final	Hawthorn	21.11 (137)	Sydney	11.8 (74)	MCG	99,460	L. Hodge (Haw)
2015	Grand Final	Hawthorn	16.11 (107)	West Coast	8.13 (61)	MCG	98,632	C. Rioli (Haw)
2016	Grand Final	Western Bulldogs	13.11 (89)	Sydney	10.7 (67)	MCG	99,981	J. Johannisen (WB)
2017	Grand Final	Richmond	16.12 (108)	Adelaide	8.12 (60)	MCG	100,021	D. Martin (Rich)
2018	Grand Final	West Coast	11.13 (79)	Collingwood	11.8 (74)	MCG	100,022	L. Shuey (WCst)
2019	Grand Final	Richmond	17.12 (114)	GWS Giants	3.7 (25)	MCG	100,014	D. Martin (Rich)
2020	Grand Final	Richmond	12.9 (81)	Geelong	7.8 (50)	Gabba	29,707	D. Martin (Rich)
2021	Grand Final	Melbourne	21.14 (140)	Western Bulldogs	10.6 (66)	Perth Stadium	61,118	C. Petracca (Melb)
2022	Grand Final	Geelong	20.13 (133)	Sydney	8.4 (52)	MCG	100,024	I. Smith (Geel)
2023	Grand Final	Collingwood	12.18 (90)	Brisbane Lions	13.8 (86)	MCG	100,024	I. "Bobby" Hill (Coll)
2024	Grand Final	Brisbane Lions	18.12 (120)	Sydney	9.6 (60)	MCG	100,013	Will Ashcroft