



2026 MARSH AFL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - U18 BOYS ALL AUSTRALIAN TEAM

Back Pocket: Archie Spencer

Victoria Metro/Eastern Ranges/Woori Yallock

Date of Birth: 24/09/2008; Height: 180cm

A small defender with good speed and neat disposal, Spencer was outstanding in the opening match against Western Australia, closing down dangerous small forwards and providing great rebound. He captained Victoria Metro in the final match against Victoria Country after being a strong leader throughout the Championships. Averaged 15.2 disposals at 82% efficiency and was rarely beaten one-on-one, as well as being creative in setting up play from the back half. Player ranking points: 68 points (average per game)

Full Back: Mitchell Harris

South Australia/Woodville-West Torrens/Kadina

Date of Birth: 01/07/2008; Height: 196cm

Close-checking and athletic tall defender, Harris intercepted and spoilt superbly throughout the Championships, as well as marking strongly to control his position. Rarely beaten in one-on-one contests, he was amongst his team's best against Western Australia, the Allies and Victoria Country. Averaged 9.2 disposals at 73% efficiency, with 3.5 marks.

Player ranking points: 57 points

Back Pocket: Billy Wigmore

Victoria Metro/Western Jets/Yarraville Seddon Eagles

Date of Birth: 29/03/2008; Height 189cm

Medium defender who read the play superbly to intercept mark. Wigmore also showed great composure and used the ball well by hand and foot on the rebound. Averaged 17 disposals and 5.8 marks and was dominant in Victoria Metro's impressive win over Western Australia and a strong and consistent performer in their title-winning team.

Player ranking points: 85 points

Half Back Flank: Caylen Murray

Allies/Brisbane Lions Academy/Maroochydore

Date of Birth: 03/01/2008; Height: 178cm

Defender with line-breaking speed which he used consistently to break open the play. Murray found the ball inside and outside the contest, as well as using a clever step to change lanes when in traffic. Used the ball exceptionally well by hand and foot and had an ultra-impressive Championships, averaging 24 disposals at 78% efficiency to be among the Allies best players in all four matches to win their MVP award.

Player ranking points: 111 points

Centre Half Back: Tyson Bradley

Victoria Metro/Sandringham Dragons/Old Brighton Grammarians

Date of Birth 16/09/2008; Height: 195cm

A super reliable tall defender, Bradley was assigned to the opposition's most dangerous marking forward and was superb throughout. Rarely beaten in a contest, taking intercept and contested marks and neatly using the ball by hand and foot. Averaged 14.5 disposals at 86% efficiency, with 6.5 marks and five rebound 50s to be among his team's very best against both South Australia and Victoria Country.

Player ranking points: 87 points

Half Back Flank: Heath Mellody

Western Australia/Claremont/Wembley Downs

Date of Birth: 27/07/2008; Height: 184cm

A beautifully balanced and classy defender-midfielder, Mellody had an outstanding Championship. Showcased his high-quality footy smarts and ball use either side of his body, with his elite kicking and decision-making setting up the play from defence and at time through the midfield. Averaged 28 disposals per game to not only win Western Australia's MVP award but also the Larke Medal as the best and fairest player of the Championships. Was also given the honour of being named the captain of the All Australian Team.

Player ranking points: 105 points

Wing: George Gale

Western Australia/Claremont/Swanbourne

Date of Birth: 06/09/2008; Height: 190cm

An athletic midfielder who played on both the inside and outside and showcased his elite running capacity and one-touch hands. Gale led his state superbly with his high level of consistency, averaging 27.5 disposals (nine contested), with five inside 50s to be among his team's best in all four matches. A courageous player who reads the game exceptionally well, he is the son of former St Kilda and Fremantle player Mark Gale, who played 84 AFL games, but doesn't qualify for either club under father-son rules.

Player ranking points: 103 points

Centre: Cody Walker

Victoria Country/Bendigo Pioneers/Echuca

Date of Birth: 26/01/2008; Height: 184cm

A midfielder who is a stoppage star, Walker has a great ability to read the play, extract the footy from congestion and then burst away with elite pace. A powerful athlete, he recovered from a shoulder injury against the Allies in game one, to return with a best on ground performance against South Australia, having 35 disposals. Battled hard to be one of Victoria Country's best in their big loss to Victoria Metro. Averaged 23.7 disposals (10 contested) and 3.7 clearances to round off his outstanding representative underaged career. Set to join Carlton under the father-son rule, with his father Andrew playing more than 200 games for the Blues.

Player ranking points: 80 points

Wing: Jordan Knapp

Victoria Metro/Eastern Ranges/North Ringwood

Date of Birth: 05/01/2008; Height: 179cm

A clean and composed wing, Knapp showcased his excellent ball-winning ability and football smarts, averaging 23.6 disposals (10 contested) at 70% efficiency with 3.7 clearances to be one of Victoria Metro's most consistent players in their title-winning team. A player with a high work rate, he also showed he can adjust and play a run-with role to minimise the effectiveness of the

opposition's highly-regarded players, adding another string to his bow.
Player ranking points: 88 points

Ruck: Benji van Rooyen

Western Australia/Claremont/Wembley Downs

Date of Birth: 17/09/2008; Height: 203cm

A mobile ruck who is aggressive and productive at stoppages, van Rooyen imposed himself on the Championships, providing consistent supply to his midfield group. He averaged 14 disposals at 75% efficiency (9.5 contested) with 4.2 clearances, 2.5 tackles and 20.5 hitouts. Also followed up his aerial work with a strong attack on the ball at ground level. Is the younger brother of Melbourne forward Jacob, who was a first-round draft pick in 2021.

Player ranking points: 109 points

Ruck Rover: Ethan Drever

Victoria Country/GWV Rebels/Ballarat

Date of Birth: 10/07/2008; Height: 188cm

An exciting midfielder who bursts from the centre of the ground, Drever has clean hands, makes good decisions with the footy and is generally very neat and penetrating with his disposal. Averaged 20 disposals at 78.8% efficiency with 4.2 tackles and 4.5 inside 50s. He was an outstanding player for Victoria Country being among their best against the Allies, South Australia and Victoria Metro, winning their team MVP award for his performances.

Player ranking points: 101 points

Rover: Leo Steed

Western Australia/Swan Districts/South Perth

Date of Birth: 07/03/2008; Height: 176cm

A small midfielder who hunts the footy and is a one touch player, Steed consistently drove the ball forward for Western Australia through his contested ball wins and his precise ball use. Averaged 23.5 disposals (10.2 contested) 4.5 clearances and 4 tackles being outstanding in Western Australia's impressive win over South Australia in a best on ground performance before also starring against Victoria Metro in game two on his way to being runner up in the Larke Medal to teammate Heath Mellody.

Player ranking points: 105 points

Half Forward Flank: Harvie Cooke

Victoria Metro/Northern Knights/Eltham

Date of Birth: 14/04/2008; Height: 176cm

Powerful small forward-midfielder who used his natural spring and strong hands overhead as one of his weapons. Cooke averaged 17.5 disposals at 69% efficiency, with 3.2 tackles and a goal a game to be a dangerous player. Worked hard up and down as a high forward, excelling with a best on ground performance against South Australia at Marvel Stadium where he kicked three goals from 18 disposals and took seven marks (two contested), as well as being among Victoria Metro's best against the Allies.

Player ranking points: 99 points

Centre Half Forward: Jake Miller

Victoria Metro/Western Jets/Yarraville Seddon Eagles

Date of Birth: 07/05/2009; Height: 197cm

A bottom-aged tall forward with strong hands, Miller presented well as a mobile marking target and then used his relaxed and accurate kicking technique on his preferred left foot to convert.

Averaged 13 disposals at 77% efficiency, with nine marks (three contested) and two goals. Starred against both Western Australia and the Allies was one of the best performed bottom-aged prospects in the Championships.
Player ranking points: 92 points

Half Forward Flank: Gus Teixeira

Victoria Metro/Sandringham Dragons/East Malvern

Date of Birth: 29/03/2008; Height: 181cm

Powerful medium forward-midfielder who is quick and a long penetrating kick. Teixeira averaged 17 disposals (six contested), with 4.2 tackles and always looked dangerous when he went forward. A strong mark for his size, he showed he was a one-touch player with good vision and game sense. Played a prominent role in Victoria Metro's impressive title win, with his best performance coming in the big victory against the Allies
Player ranking points: 114 points

Forward Pocket: Harry van Hattum

Victoria Metro/Northern Knights/St Mary's

Date of Birth: 01/07/2008; Height: 205cm

An athletic ruckman with an awesome natural leap, van Hattum showed exceptional speed for a player of his size, often bursting from stoppages more like a midfielder. He grew in confidence as the Championships unfolded, averaging 10.8 disposals, with 2.5 marks and 22 hitouts. Was among Victoria Metro's best against both the Allies and South Australia, before playing his best game in the big win over Victoria Country in the final match.
Player ranking points: 93 points

Full Forward: Jack Slattery

South Australia/Woodville-West Torrens/South Clare

Date of Birth: 27/09/2007; Height: 192cm

Tall forward who was the surprise packet of the Championships. Slattery kicked 16 goals, which included a bag of six against the Allies, before booting five majors against Victoria Metro in a beaten team. An approved overaged player who turns 19 in September, he's a late developer who hadn't been exposed to representative football previously. Excelled with his marking and goal sense, averaging 11.2 disposals, 4.2 marks and four goals across the Championships.
Player ranking points: 100 points

Forward Pocket: Anthony Long

South Australia/West Adelaide/Jervois

Date of Birth: 23/03/2008; Height: 184cm

A medium forward who is both strong in the air and can turn his opponent inside out with his change of direction, Long looked dangerous throughout the Championships. Was a little inaccurate but still averaged two goals per game. Hailing from Raukkan, a small indigenous community on Lake Alexandrina about 80 km from Adelaide, he is part of the Adelaide Crows NGA program and looks a likely prospect. Averaged 9.8 disposals and kicking eight goals, giving a glimpse of his obvious potential.
Player ranking points: 66 points

Interchange: Arki Butler

Victoria Metro/Sandringham Dragons/Beaumaris

Date of Birth: 23/04/2008; Height: 182cm

An exciting, skilled and classy forward-midfielder, Butler showed his undoubted ability to read

the cues early to get to the ball first when in attack, then used his clean hands to take marks overhead or gather the footy at ground level. He was a dangerous presence inside forward, creating numerous opportunities as well as kicking five goals (and six behinds) before being injured in his third game against South Australia at Marvel Stadium. His grandfather Allan Davis played over 250 games at AFL level with four teams and Arki shows elements of that talent.
Player ranking points: 101 points

Interchange: Kodah Edwards

South Australia/South Adelaide/Willunga

Date of Birth: 25/07/2008; Height: 182cm

A midfielder-forward who excels at stoppages as a contested ball winner, Edwards possesses clean hands, has great vision and creates play with his strong game sense and precise kicking. He captained South Australia, showing the way on field by averaging 21.8 disposals (8.8 contested), with 3.8 clearances and 3.2 tackles. Produced a dominant performance against the Allies.

Player ranking points: 104 points

Interchange: Jake Eime

South Australia/Central District/Golden Grove

Date of Birth: 29/07/2008; Height: 183cm

Dashing medium defender who uses his line-breaking speed, Eime took the game on and penetrated with his precision kicking to be a real rebounding asset for South Australia across the Championships. He averaged 20.2 disposals at an excellent efficiency rate of 76.5 % often as the preferred exit kicker to set up many forward moves for his team.

Player ranking points: 82 points

Interchange: Albert Macgowan

Victoria Metro/Sandringham Dragons/Caulfield Bears

Date of Birth: 27/07/2008; Height: 187cm

A relentless running wingman whose repeat efforts and work rate up and down the ground were a real feature throughout the Championships. Macgowan capped off his carnival with a 29-disposal, best on ground game against Victoria Country to stamp himself as a real prospect. Averaged 22.8 disposals at 75.8 % efficiency and 3.8 inside 50s, proving a great connector for the Championships-winning team.

Player ranking points: 103 points

Interchange: Clancy Snell

Victoria Country/Gippsland Power/Mirboo North

Date of Birth: 21/08/2008; Height: 196cm

A versatile tall who knows how to defend first and be strong overhead when opportunity presents. Snell's kicking from defence has continued to be a real feature of his game. Was a consistent player for Victoria Country, featuring among his team's best in its matches against the Allies, South Australia and Victoria Metro. He averaged 13 disposals at 73% efficiency and seven marks.

Player ranking points: 71 points

Coach: Lauren Morecroft

Victoria Metro

SELECTORS

Kevin Sheehan (AFL Talent Ambassador – Chair), **Paul Hamilton** (AFL National Talent Development & Competitions Manager), **Tarkyn Lockyer** (Talent Pathways National Coaching and Performance Manager) and AFL club representatives **Jacob Fuller** (Hawthorn), **Matt Lannan** (Melbourne), **Liam Shiels** (North Melbourne) and **Geoff Parker** (Port Adelaide).