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Cardiac support at Moorabool footy

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LIFESAVING defibrillators have been installed at three Moorabool sports ovals as a teenage Bacchus Marsh footballer fights for his life.

Moorabool Council has acted quickly to ensure local sporting venues were equipped with the potentially lifesaving equipment after Bacchus Marsh footballer Nathan Prince was hospitalised.

Mr Prince, 17, collapsed and suffered cardiac arrest during a game at Ballarat's Eastern Oval on August 20 when his team, Bacchus Marsh Cobras, was playing North Ballarat City.

It is understood there was no malice in the incident.

Club president Chris Kearney confirmed yesterday that Mr Prince was taken off life support on Friday night and his condition had deteriorated.

He said everyone at the club was "absolutely gutted," saying it was the worst thing to happen at the club in living memory.

"Nathan's one of the most popular kids around the club, he had the world at his feet, his peers looked up to him and senior players were in awe of his ability," Mr Kearney said.

Moorabool Mayor Pat Griffin responded by ensuring the council subsidised the purchase of defibrillators for Wallace Recreation Reserve, Darley Park and Maddingley Park, Bacchus Marsh in time for finals.

Ballarat Football League Operations Manager Aaron Nunn said the BFL hoped all grounds in the league would have defibrillators by the start of the 2012 season.

"This is a not a direct result of what happened on the weekend, but having a defibrillator at the ground would have made a huge difference for Nathan (Prince)," Mr Nunn said.

Mr Nunn said the BFL predicted 14 defibrillators would be needed to cover the 11 senior and 10 junior football clubs within the league.

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