



COUNTRY CHATTER

April 2019

SEASON 2019

Welcome to the 2019 Season for country football. Teams and competitions should be up and ready to go with any last-minute touches to be done in the coming weeks. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all the clubs goodluck and we hope for another successful year for country footy here in WA.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The WACFL Annual General Meeting was held in Perth on Saturday 16th of February. There was a terrific representation from our affiliates with 22 of our Leagues in attendance, many having travelled large distances. We would also like to welcome and congratulate our newly elected executive member Geoff Davis and thank Terry House for his extensive service to the WACFL.

NEW PARTNERS -HEALTHWAY: THINK MENTAL HEALTH

The WA Country Football League is excited to share the announcement of a new three-year partnership with Healthway to promote the Think Mental Health message throughout Country WA.

The Think Mental Health club program will be rolled-out across the 25 Country Football Leagues from the Kimberley to Esperance engaging around 130,000 West Australians. Our first major promotion of this message is the Think Mental Health round on the 22nd & 23rd of June. More information will be passed on regarding this closer to the date.

The partnership will provide opportunities to build football clubs' capacity to respond to mental health concerns and create environments that support social inclusion and connectedness.

LEAGUE ROADSHOW VISITS

Brent has been on the road the last couple of weeks and will continue into April and May.

Topics for discussion include:

- Online Resources
- Strategic Plan
- Country Club Manual
- WACFL By Laws
- Paid Player by Laws
- Insurance
- Coaching
- Constitutions
- Promotional Rounds
- One Day Sports Model
- Club Development
- Landmark Championships
- State Country Program





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WA FOOTBALL STANDS UNITED AGAINST RACISM

Racism in any form is completely unacceptable at any level of football and the West Australian Football Commission encourages players, umpires, officials and fans to report any occurrence immediately.

WAFC CEO Gavin Taylor said: "There is no place for this kind of behaviour, and it won't be tolerated at any level of football in Western Australia. We must ensure we offer safe, welcoming and inclusive environments for everyone involved in our game. We want to make sure that it is absolutely clear to every club, player and fan in Western Australia that WA Football stands united against racism and will not tolerate it in any form. Last week, the WAFC, the WAFL and WAFLW clubs joined the stand against racism lead by the West Coast Eagles. Following further media reports today regarding racism in country and community football, the WA Country Football League and Perth Football League have emphasised their support for the stand against racism."

WACFL President John Shadbolt said it was crucial to raise awareness about the issue and educate everyone about the significant impact racism can have on the mental health and well-being of individuals and community groups, including country football clubs. "We recognise there are challenges for country football in this area and are committed to working with the WAFC and all of our players, clubs and 25 Leagues to address the issue of racism," he said. "As leaders among our regional communities, we believe football clubs can have a positive impact on the lives of everyone involved and genuinely make a difference. We remain committed as a Board to setting the standard of what is acceptable in our game."

Perth Football League President Sam Birmingham said the Perth Football League also supported the stand against racism and encouraged all players, clubs and members to set a positive example for the community. "Each year we feature Red Armband Round to raise awareness of cultural diversity, and a number of our clubs take part in special games for NAIDOC Week. Players wear spectacular indigenous designed jumpers and take part in educational activities to raise awareness and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and culture. These games are a highlight of our annual football calendar, but it is important that what they represent runs true every day of the year. If anyone involved with football experiences racism in any form, we encourage them to make the umpires, a coach, club or competition official aware immediately so that the appropriate action can be taken," he said. "We don't want this to be part of our game. It simply has to stop."

REGISTRATIONS

Registration links are now open for Clubs to forward via communicator on Footyweb. Please remind all Clubs that players must "self-register" to ensure they are aware of the terms and conditions of registration.

If you have any issues, please contact Zoe Bell – zbell@wafc.com.au





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LANDMARK COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019

Friday 12th – Sunday 14th July

CBH COLTS CARNIVAL 2019

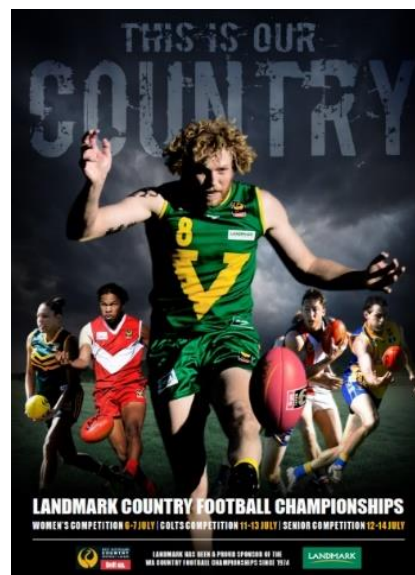
Thursday 11th – Saturday 13th July

FEMALE COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019

Saturday 6th – Sunday 7th July

OPTUS STADIUM SECURED FOR STATE COUNTRY

In 2019 the WA boys will take on South Australia as a curtain raiser to the West Coast Eagles v North Melbourne match at Optus Stadium on Saturday 27th of July. This team will be decided during our championships earlier in July.



PAID PLAYER REQUIREMENTS

A reminder to all clubs to be familiar with the paid player by laws and requirements for 2020. The by laws can be found on the WACFL [website](#) or in the 2019 Club Manual.

CLUB MANUAL

Our 2019 Club Manual is now available for download here – [WACFL Resources](#), with hard copies delivered to leagues ahead of the season.

UMPIRING & LAWS OF OUR GAME UPDATE

For an up to date Handbook for 2019 AFL and a break down of the new rules for 2019 – [click here](#)

HEALTHY SPORTING CLUB PROGRAM

Healthway is offering funding of up to \$4,000 to Western Australian community sporting clubs competing in a recognised competition over the winter 2019 season. For more information – [click here](#) and click on Healthway Healthy Club Program 2019 document.





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COUNTRY CHATTER - NEWSLETTER

As you can see, we would like to welcome back for 2019 the Country Chatter Newsletter. It will be sent at the start of every month. If you would like to add anything to the newsletter, please contact Zoe (zbell@wafc.com.au).

