



COUNTRY CHATTER

May & June 2019

2019 LAWS OF THE GAME

The 2019 Laws of the Game have finally been developed and are now available if you [click here](#)

BELT UP ROUND

This year marked the 21st year of partnership between the WACFL and the Insurance Commission promoting the Belt up road safety message on WA roads.

A major component of the partnership is the Belt up Round, which will take place across the state this weekend (18-19 May). The round has a special significance for our 12,500 country football players, as many will know someone affected by a road crash. Players will hold a minute's silence to remember those injured or killed as a reminder of the importance of safety on country roads. All league footballs and player uniforms carried the Belt up logo for this round.

WACFL Acting General Manager Brent Sheridan was hopeful that the weekend's fixtures would help make a change to driving behaviour on country roads. "The Insurance Commission is one of our largest supporters, as young men in country areas continue to be over-represented in crashes and its motor injury insurance claims. Every year we hear of players who are injured or lose their lives on country roads and the devastation this causes to their mates, our clubs and the community is significant."

Kane Blackman, Commission Secretary at the Insurance Commission, said the Belt up Round was an excellent opportunity to promote awareness in country areas of the importance of wearing a seat belt. In 2017 alone, 71 people who were not wearing a seat belt were killed or seriously injured on WA roads.

"It is frustrating that our claims numbers continue to be made up of so many young men in regional areas. A seat belt is the first line of defence for drivers and passengers in a crash, dramatically reducing the likelihood of death and serious injury," he said.

"It's also in the Insurance Commission's interest for people to 'Belt up'. Our organisation spent almost \$400 million on injury claims from crashes in WA last year, which can put upward pressure on insurance premiums. If people have to talk to us they have generally been hurt in an accident but we'd much rather see them playing footy."

To ensure extra promotion of the Belt up message to our Leagues and Clubs this year, the WACFL will celebrate the 21st anniversary of the partnership with several competitions, including a chance to win tickets to AFL games. The winner of this competition was Justine Lane and the photo can be seen on our social media.





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STATE GAME – WA COUNTRY VS PERTH AMATEURS LEAGUE

The CBH Group Country Colts came up against The West Coast Eagles State Colts Amateur Team first in the double header on Friday 31st of May.

The West Coast Eagles State Colts Amateur Team dominated the play from the outset with several inside fifty's early on setting the tone. Whilst the CBH Group Colts struggled to impact the scoreboard, that wasn't a reflection of their standard of play with the players committed to the final siren, despite being down a couple of players early on.

"It's always hard to expect a group of boys to just click who have never played with each other before," Coach Tony Micale stated after the game. "I am really proud of how they played. They were tough for all four quarters."

The West Coast Eagles State Colts Amateur Team took out the Neil Judge Shield with #14 Nicolas Godsell getting best on ground for the winning side.

For the CBH Group Colts, Denmark-Walpole's Kalin Lane was awarded best on ground honours.

Final Score

Perth Football League:	1.4	5.9	8.12	15.17 (106)
WA Country Football:	0.3	1.3	1.4	1.6 (12)

Goals:

Perth Football League: H Knight 4, S Fowler 2, C Kirwen 2, A Sereda, J Bancroft, N Fox, Z Sarich, L Smith, C McVee, J Phillis

WA Country Football: F Softley

Scores were closer in the Seniors match as the West Coast Eagles State Amateur Team defeated the New Holland State Country Team by nine points.

A dislocated knee to the Country Football League's Toby Gianatti just minutes into the match left the Country side a rotation down from the outset. After a slow start the Country side found themselves trailing by 3 goals at the first break.

The match evened up from that point on with the margin reduced to only 7 pts at the main break.

A three goal to one third term swung the game back in the PFL's favour and despite being held goalless in the final term the PFL ran out 9pt victors.

Hulking Narrogin forward Mason Hill proved hard to stop with three majors whilst Kalgoorlie City ruck/forward Cameron Symonds was Country's other multiple goal scorer with two goals.

Best on Ground honours for the country side were awarded to Halls Head's Rob Falkstrom.

Final Score

Perth Football League:	4.0	5.3	8.6	8.8 (56)
WA Country Football:	1.2	4.2	5.3	7.5 (47)

Goals:

Perth Football League: D Ross 3, R Ekert, K Pescod, M Furmark, C Maxwell, B Furmark

WA Country Football: M Hill 3, C Symonds 2, J Humphries, R Taylor

Best on Ground:

Perth Football League: #13 Josh Hall

WA Country Football: #14 Rob Falkstrom

FINALISED FIXTURES FOR WOMENS, COLTS & LANDMARK CARNIVAL

The 2019 Female Championships, CBH Group Colts and Landmark Country Football Championships fixtures have finally been released. Follow the results here.

On the 6th & 7th of July the inaugural Female Country Football Championships will be taken place at Anning Park. Five sides will be attending from the different Leagues in the state.



2019 FEMALE COUNTRY FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS FIXTURES

SATURDAY 6 JULY

Pilbara v Peel	12:00pm	Anning Park (Cockburn)
Goldfields Female FL v South West	12:45pm	Anning Park (Cockburn)
Peel v Great Northern	1:30pm	Anning Park (Cockburn)
Pilbara v Goldfields Female FL	2:15pm	Anning Park (Cockburn)
South West v Great Northern	3:00pm	Anning Park (Cockburn)

SUNDAY 7 JULY

Great Northern v Goldfields Female FL	9.30am	Anning Park (Cockburn)
South West v Pilbara	10.15am	Anning Park (Cockburn)
Goldfields Female FL v Peel	11.00am	Anning Park (Cockburn)
Pilbara v Great Northern	11.45am	Anning Park (Cockburn)
South West v Peel	12.30pm	Anning Park (Cockburn)

Logos: West Australian Country Football League, LANDMARK, think MENTAL HEALTH

The CBH Group Colts will play over three days from Thursday 11th July – Saturday 13th July. Again, five sides will take the field at Rushton Park, Mandurah.

The Landmark Country Football Championships will be held from Friday 12th – Sunday 14th July. Matches will be played all over Perth; Joondalup Arena, Richard Guelfi (Balcatta), Bassendean Oval and the three finals being held at Claremont Oval. 13 teams will play over 3 Divisions.



LANDMARK COUNTRY FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS FIXTURES 2019

THURSDAY 11 JULY

Colts	Regional Districts v Northern Suns	11.00 am	Rushton Park, Mandurah
Colts	South West v Peel	11.50 am	Rushton Park, Mandurah
Colts	Regional Districts v Great Southern	12.40 pm	Rushton Park, Mandurah
Colts	Northern Suns v Great Southern	1.30 pm	Rushton Park, Mandurah
Colts	Great Southern v South West	2.20 pm	Rushton Park, Mandurah

FRIDAY 12 JULY

Colts	South West v Northern Suns	10.30 am	Rushton Park, Mandurah
Colts	Great Southern v Peel	11.20 am	Rushton Park, Mandurah
Colts	Regional Districts v South West	12.10 pm	Rushton Park, Mandurah
Colts	Northern Suns v Great Southern	1.00 pm	Rushton Park, Mandurah
Colts	Peel v Regional Districts	1.50 pm	Rushton Park, Mandurah

THURSDAY 11 JULY

Division 1	Avon v South West	12.30 pm	Joondalup Arena
Division 1	Goldfields v Upper Great Southern	1.20 pm	Joondalup Arena
Division 1	South West v Peel	2.10 pm	Joondalup Arena
Division 1	Upper Great Southern v Avon	3.00 pm	Joondalup Arena
Division 1	Peel v Goldfields	3.50 pm	Joondalup Arena

SATURDAY 13 JULY

Division 2	Mortlock v Ongerup	11.40 am	Richard Guelfi, Balcatta
Division 2	Great Northern v Eastern Districts	12.55 pm	Richard Guelfi, Balcatta
Division 2	Ongerup v Great Northern	2.15 pm	Richard Guelfi, Balcatta
Division 2	Mortlock v Eastern Districts	3.25 pm	Richard Guelfi, Balcatta

SATURDAY 13 JULY

Colts	3 v 4 Playoff	9.00 am	Rushton Park, Mandurah
Colts	1 v 2 Playoff	10.30 am	Rushton Park, Mandurah

SATURDAY 13 JULY

Division 3	Regional Allstars v North Midlands	12.10 pm	Rushton Park, Mandurah
Division 3	Great Southern v Central Wheatbelt	1:20 pm	Rushton Park, Mandurah

SATURDAY 13 JULY

Division 2	Great Northern v Mortlock	2.10 pm	Rushton Park, Mandurah
Division 2	Eastern Districts v Ongerup	3.30 pm	Rushton Park, Mandurah

SATURDAY 13 JULY

Division 1	Upper Great Southern v Peel	12.30 pm	Bassendean Oval
Division 1	Goldfields v South West	1.20 pm	Bassendean Oval
Division 1	Peel v Avon	2.10 pm	Bassendean Oval
Division 1	South West v Upper Great Southern	3.00 pm	Bassendean Oval
Division 1	Avon v Goldfields	3.50 pm	Bassendean Oval

SUNDAY 14 JULY

Division 3	Division 3 Grand Final	10.00 am	Claremont Oval
Division 2	Division 2 Grand Final	12.00 pm	Claremont Oval
Division 1	Division 1 Grand Final	2.00 pm	Claremont Oval

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Logos: West Australian Country Football League, LANDMARK, think MENTAL HEALTH



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2019 COLTS CARNIVALS

The Colts Carnivals are back for the WA Country Football League. Saturday and Sunday (15th & 16th June), teams from North and South of Perth played off for the championships of the annual Colts Carnivals.

The Northern Regions Colts Carnival was held at Moora. There were five teams competing in the carnival:

- Avon
- Great Northern
- North Midlands
- Central Midlands Coastal
- Mortlock

Out of this competition the Northern Suns All-Star team will be selected comprising the most talented players throughout the carnival. This team will compete in the CBH Country Colts Championships in July 2019.

Results can be found [here](#).

The Grand Final was between Mortlock & Avon.

Mortlock 2.7 (19) d Avon 2.3 (15)

The Great Southern Colts Carnival was held at Lake Grace with bouncedown for the first games at 9AM Saturday morning. There were eight teams competing in the carnival:

- Eastern Districts
- Ongerup
- Esperance
- Peel
- Goldfields
- Upper Great Southern
- Great Southern Storm
- Lower South West

Results can be found [here](#).

The Grand Final was between Lower South West & Great Southern Storm

Lower South West 7.10 (52) d Great Southern Storm 8.3 (51)

NEW APPOINTMENT - EXECUTIVE MANAGER – COUNTRY FOOTBALL & FACILITIES

The West Australian Football Commission has appointed a new Executive Manager - Country Football and Facilities to increase support to regional football and planning for community facilities.

Tom Bottrell, who played 200 WAFL games for South Fremantle and has been the club’s CEO since January 2017, will commence in the role at the end of July. Mr Bottrell has also served as CEO of the Stephen Michael Foundation since 2017 and was CEO at Swan Districts Football Club for five years prior to that. He said he was looking forward to applying his skills and experience to the new WAFC role, which will encompass football competitions and facilities right across the State.

“This is a great opportunity for me that also demonstrates a pathway for administrators, just as there is for players, coaches and umpires,” he said. “The responsibility of overseeing 25 football leagues and aligning the player pathway across country WA, as well as the WAFC Strategic Facilities Plan is really exciting.”

“Country football is such an important part of the game and I’m looking forward to getting out and meeting everyone I will be working with.”





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“There is also a lot of work required to ensure we continue developing community football facilities to cater for WA’s impressive participation growth, particularly with female football, so I am also looking forward to the opportunity this presents.”

W AFC CEO Gavin Taylor said he was excited to welcome Mr Bottrell to the W AFC’s Executive management team and looking forward to working closely on strategies to enhance football across WA.

“Tom is a high-quality appointment, that brings a good mix of football and business administration experience and I am really looking forward to working with him in this new role,” Mr Taylor said. “This position forms part of the W AFC’s new Executive structure that was announced at the beginning of the year to align with the key priorities of our business and the broader football industry.” “It will provide increased support for regional football with a particular focus on strengthening country competitions and boosting participation from junior through to senior football.” “Country football provides so many benefits to local communities and we want to ensure that we can keep football prospering across our great State.” “As we grow our numbers in the game we also need to ensure we are effectively planning for football facilities with both our clubs plus Local and State Governments. Tom will play an important part in leading the long-term planning, funding and development opportunities for facilities across WA.”

WA Country Football League President John Shadbolt said the Executive Manager role was an exciting development for country football in WA that demonstrated the W AFC’s commitment to growing the game across regional communities.

“We are excited to have Tom coming into this role and believe he will be a great leader and manager of country football,” Mr Shadbolt said.

THINK MENTAL HEALTH ROUND (21ST – 23RD JUNE)

The partnership between the W ACFL and Healthway centres around the Think Mental Health campaign and the important messages that it promotes.

Alarmingly one person dies in Western Australia each day by suicide and nearly 3 out of 4 of these deaths by suicide are male. These statistics are even higher in regional Western Australia and it highlights the importance of building resilience and improving the overall mental health and wellbeing of all West Australians.

As a country football network, we have clubs as far north as Kununurra and as far south as Esperance which provides us with a great opportunity to play an active role in promoting the importance of improving the health and wellbeing of our communities.

The Think Mental Health Round provides you, your club members and community with the opportunity to get together and support each other to improve mental health and wellbeing. There are many resources





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available and tips on how to start these conversations as well as things you can do to improve your mental health and wellbeing.

Ways to check in on your mate

- How are you going? What's been happening in your life lately?
- You don't seem yourself, is something bothering you?
- You seem upset or worried, what's going on? Can I help with something?
- I've noticed you're not going out much lately, anything going on?

More information on what to look out for and how to help visit the Think Mental Health website:
Thinkmentalhealthwa.com.au

WEST COAST POLY PLAYER'S OF THE WEEK

Round 1 - Lower South West Football League – Tigers Football Club – Tim Ioannou

Round 2 – Avon Football Association – Keller/Tammin Football Club – Frazer Perry

Round 3 – Central Midlands Coastal – Cervantes Football Club – Tom Parker

Round 4 – Peel Netball & Football League – Pinjarra Football & Netball Club – Brett Milward

Round 5 – East Kimberley Football League – Wyndham Crocs – Fred Johnson

Round 6 – Goldfields Football League – Kalgoorlie City FC – Cameron Symonds

Round 7 – Esperance Districts Football Associations – Gibson FC- Callum McFarlane

Round 8 – Central Wheatbelt Football League – Bencubbin FC – James Lindroth

Round 9 – WACFL v PFL – Rob Falkstrom

Round 10 – Hills Football League – Mt Helena FC – Jack Holley

Round 11 – Northern Regions Councils Colts Carnival – Thomas Moore