



22nd October, 2013

WRFL MEDIA RELEASE

2014 DIVISION STRUCTURE

A three division competition will be a reality in the Western Region Football League's senior competition for 2014, after the WRFL Board confirmed the new structure last night.

Following on from the August Special General Meeting where the Werribee Districts confirmed their transfer from the VAFA to the WRFL and the clubs voted to accept Tarneit as a new club for season 2014, the WRFL Board and Senior Management felt 24 senior teams allowed for a third division to be formed.

With the aim of improving the imbalance of the current competition, WRFL Senior Management met with key committee members of many clubs that will ultimately be affected by any change to the competition structures in season 2014.

As a result, WRFL Senior Management recommended that the 2014 competitions would be structured as follows:-

Division One – 10 teams played over 18 rounds consisting of the following teams:-

Deer Park
Spotswood
Sunshine
Altona
St Albans
Hoppers Crossing
Port Melbourne Colts
Albion
Yarraville Seddon
Werribee Districts*

**The WRFL Board endorsed Senior Management's recommendation for Werribee Districts to enter the WRFL in Division One in favour of promoting the Division 2 Premier Glen Orden.*

Division Two/Three – 14 teams played over an initial 13 round season playing every team once before splitting into two separate divisions of 8 teams (Division Two – top 8 at end of round 13) and 6 teams (Division Three – bottom 6 at end of round 13).

Both divisions would then play a remaining five rounds against teams in their own division vying for a spot in separate final four finals series. There will be no promotion/relegation between Division Two and Division Three at the conclusion of the 2014 finals series.

The structure of the final five rounds would be as follows:-

Division Two – with eight teams and only five rounds to be played a random draw would be completed to ensure the fairest possible outcome for all teams. Teams would be drawn from a hat and placed in the fixture key that represented the number in which they were drawn. Each club would play five of the remaining seven teams. All points and percentage would remain after the first 13 rounds and be combined with the last five rounds.

Division Three- with six teams and five rounds remaining each team will play each other once. All points and percentage would remain after the first 13 rounds and be combined with the last five rounds.

The 14 teams that will commence the 2014 season in Division two are outlined below:-

North Footscray
Glen Orden
Parkside
Manor Lakes
Wyndhamvale
Sunshine Heights
Caroline Springs
Albanvale
Braybrook
Sanctuary Lakes
West Footscray
Laverton
North Sunshine
Tarneit

WRFL CEO Bob Tregear said that the new structure is a great step forward for the growing future of the league.

“With the successful debut seasons of our two new clubs in Manor Lakes and Sanctuary Lakes this year, as well as the inclusion of Tarneit next season, the third division allows the league to expand and cater for new club development in the future.

Football Operations Manager David Newton agreed, saying that the third division would also allow clubs and players to participate at a level which caters for their skill level.

“As part of the 2010-13 Strategic Plan one of the six key issues raised was the evenness of competition.

“By moving to three divisions it is anticipated that the imbalance that has been evident in recent years will be reduced significantly,” Newton said.

“When analysing the 2013 Division Two competition, the average losing margin of the bottom five teams against those in the top seven was around 20 goals. When the bottom five teams played each other it averaged only seven goals, so therefore it will benefit all clubs in that there will be closer games more often.

“All clubs will receive an email in the coming days detailing the draft round dates for season 2014 and the process in which fixture requests can be made,” Newton said.

It is anticipated that the draft fixtures for Division One and Division Two will be completed by Friday 15th of November

For all media enquiries, please contact Kirstie Fitzgerald on 9315 5400.