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## WINTER SPORTS WORKING GROUP ESTABLISHED - MARCH 2021

The Winter Sports Working Group's (WSWG) purpose was to *activate Winter sports participation* in 10 communities of the eastern Wheatbelt. The group guided and supported communities to help enable families to travel and play together at a one day sports competition.

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## WINTER SPORTS PRINCIPLES DEVELOPED IN 2021

Three sports at one venue on Saturday (juniors and seniors) is a goal to be worked towards | Fostering a physical and emotional sense of community is important | Travel should be reduced for participants (volunteers, players and spectators) and their families | Participants should have a greater choice of Winter sports to engage in | Junior engagement and development in Winter sports is a priority | Each community should experience more than one home game where all three sports are held on the same day (junior and senior) | Game start times will be set to maximise junior and senior participation both on and off the field | We will uphold the integrity of football, hockey and netball

COMMUNITY  
SPORT  
RETURN TO  
PLAY

2021

- Three one day sports rounds (football, netball and hockey)
- DLGSC and SSAs supported the WSWG meetings, provided data for evaluation and the SSAs wrote to each association to encourage flexible fixturing
- 3 Sports Case Studies and 4 'Around the Ground' studies
- Presentations to clubs, associations and local government

2022

- One day sports maximised across 10 communities (At least 50% increase in the number of rounds played as a whole community)
- Collaborative fixturing amongst associations
- Game start times to maximise participation in all three sports
- Addition of new teams to the competitions
- WSWG continues in 2022 with additional Winter sports targets

**1295 PLAYERS**  
**3 STATE SPORTS ASSOC.**  
**7 LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS**  
**32 CLUBS**  
**1 RETURN TO PLAY WORKSHOP**  
**5 WSWG MEETINGS**  
**1 SUPPORT OFFICER**  
**23 PRESENTATIONS / MEETINGS**

## WINTER SPORTS WORKING GROUP 31 MARCH 2022

Andrina Prnich  
Deputy CEO  
Shire of Merredin  
E dceo@merredin.wa.gov.au

Dear Andrina,

Many thanks for your continued collaboration with the Winter Sports Working Group on the Winter sports season for 2022. We appreciate your time to help the Winter sports clubs in Merredin.

The Winter Sports Working Group's (WSWG) purpose was to activate Winter sports participation in the communities of the eastern Wheatbelt and was formed in 2021. The group is made up of volunteers, each representing a community in the area. The Group has provided guidance and support to 10 communities to enable families to travel and play together at a one-day sports competition in season 2022. The Group does not hold any decision making ability however they have worked collaboratively across sports and communities, done a lot of leg work in an effort to present solutions to associations.

Members of the Winter Sports Working Group include:

Tanya Butler (Bruce Rock), Craig Mayfield (Hyden), Allen Smoker (Kondinin), Yvonne Bowey (Kulin), Tash Crees / Brodie Roberts (Southern Cross), Craig Last (Merredin), Kate Crees (Merredin), Tim Cusack (Narembeen), Raymond Griffith (Kellerberrin), Tracy Taylor (Lake Grace/Kukerin), Nicole Connelly (Corrigin), Jaime-Leigh Strickland (Netball WA), Paul Reid (WAFC), Kristen Jerkovich (Hockey WA), Chair – Samantha Cornthwaite (DLGSC Wheatbelt) and WSWG Support – Caroline Robinson (150Square).

The Group is acutely aware of the different needs of each community and has tried hard to accommodate these needs in their work. The clubs/associations in Merredin which have been engaged in the work by the Group includes: Burracoppin Football Club, Burracoppin Hockey Club, Merredin Hockey Club, Nukarni Football Club, Merredin Netball Association and Merredin and Districts Junior Football Association.

When the Group was established in early 2021 they set the following principles, which they have since used to guide their work:

- Three sports at one venue on Saturday (juniors and seniors) is a goal to be worked towards
- Fostering a physical and emotional sense of community is important
- Travel should be reduced for participants (volunteers, players and spectators) and their families
- Participants should have a greater choice of Winter sports to engage in
- Junior engagement and development in Winter sports is a priority
- Each community should experience more than one home game where all three sports are held on the same day (junior and senior)
- Game start times will be set to maximise junior and senior participation both on and off the field
- We will uphold the integrity of football, hockey and netball

To date the Group has undertaken the following activities:

- The WSWG has met in person on four occasions (August, September, October 2021, February 2022) and once online. The group has acknowledged that improving participation in Winter sports is a challenging and delicate process

- The WSWG has gathered information from each community on the number of teams, grades and venue details in order to prepare two fixture options that deliver upon a set of guiding principles, that they have developed for season 2022
- The three Winter State Sporting Associations (WAFC, WACFL, Netball WA and Hockey WA) have supported the group throughout the process by providing funding to support the work done so far. Additionally, each SSA has provided data for evaluation and have written to each association in the catchment area to encourage where possible, flexible fixturing in 2022. Their commitment is to be commended.
- A set of fixtures for three Winter sports has been developed in consultation with multiple associations and clubs to maximise one day sports (One day sports maximised across 10 communities with at least 50% increase in the number of rounds played as a whole community)
- Collaborative fixturing amongst associations
- Revised game start times to maximise participation in all three sports
- Addition of new teams to the competitions
- WSWG continues to meet in 2022 with additional Winter sports targets

Across the one day sports competition there are 1295 players, 7 associations and 32 clubs. With the new one day sports approach and new game times, both seniors and juniors in each of the 10 communities (including Merredin) can play more than one sport on the day and as a result new teams have entered into the netball competition (under Corrigin and Districts Netball Association). We have also observed stronger numbers emerging during registrations for both junior and seniors in the outlying communities of Merredin.

In season 2022, new senior netball sides from Burracoppin (1), Nukarni (1) and Southern Cross (2) will follow their respective hockey and football sides and communities. These teams will be managed under their respective Football Clubs (they will not be separate incorporated netball clubs). Additionally these clubs have used internal funds and sought external funds / sponsorship to help set up the netball teams (equipment, uniforms etc) for season 2022. The Winter Sports Working Group is also seeking sponsorship towards CDNA affiliation and joining fees to ensure that the costs of bringing the teams into CDNA does not inhibit or stop participation.

A Saturday netball competition at the MRCLC has also been fixtured on the following dates:

- Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April (Burracoppin netball, footy and hockey at home)
- Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May (Nukarni football, netball and Merredin hockey at home)
- Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May (Burracoppin football, netball, hockey and Merredin hockey at home)
- Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May (Nukarni football and netball at home)
- Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June (Burracoppin football, netball and hockey at home)
- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June (Burracoppin football and netball at home)
- Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July (Burracoppin and Nukarni football, netball, hockey and Merredin hockey at home)
- Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July (Nukarni football, netball and Merredin hockey at home)
- Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July (Burracoppin football, netball and hockey at home)
- Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July (Nukarni football, netball and Merredin hockey and Burracoppin hockey at home)
- Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August (Burracoppin football, netball and hockey at home)
- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August (Nukarni football and netball at home)

Saturday Game times:

FOOTBALL	NETBALL	HOCKEY
Reserves 11am	B Grade 11am	Juniors 11am
Juniors 1pm	A Grade 12.30pm	B Grade 12.15pm
League 2.15pm	Juniors and Netta 2pm	A Grade 2pm
		Mens 3.30pm

As can be seen above, because communities are fixtured together there will be an increase in numbers and patrons accessing the MRCLC on a Saturday. This will obviously have an impact on facility hire, use, canteens and the bar. It is unlikely the Burracoppin and Nukarni netball teams will require training sessions at the MRCLC as many already play in the Friday night MNA competition.

The Winter Sports Working Group would like the Shire of Merredin and Belgravia Leisure to consider waiving or reducing the venue hire fees for the indoor netball courts on a Saturday on the above dates or include them in the current annual fee that the Burracoppin and Nukarni Football Clubs pay under their MoU.

Season 2022 is a step towards one day sport in the communities of the eastern district and has been a priority over a number of years for clubs, associations and local governments. The focus is on participation for juniors, seniors, volunteers, spectators and the wider community. It is also about travelling together as a community and family to play and participate in sport. We understand that our request is close to the start of the season however the Group has been doing considerable consultation on bringing this together, which does take time.

Additionally, if this request can be considered for season 2022, it would be gratefully appreciated and it will not impede participation. It will also give the Burracoppin and Nukarni Football Clubs time to consider venue fees and requirements for season 2023 and include them in their forward budgets.

The WSWG thanks you for the opportunity to submit this request and your time to date on discussing the needs of the Merredin Winter sports clubs for season 2022.

Kind regards,

Caroline Robinson on behalf of the Winter Sports Working Group members  
WSWG Project Officer  
M 0403 225 900  
E caroline@150square.com.au

## WINTER SPORTS WORKING GROUP UPDATE 28 FEBRUARY 2022

### TO: Football, Netball and Hockey Associations, Clubs and Members

Feedback from associations, clubs and community leaders continues to support the desire to see sport played as a whole of community, at one venue on one day in the eastern district of the Wheatbelt. To support clear development pathways for juniors and increased participation both on and off the field, without increasing volunteer workloads, there needed to be a collaborative approach between 11 community leaders (Winter Sports Working Group) and the WAFC, WA Country Football League, Netball WA, Hockey WA and the Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC).

In 2021 and 2022 the Winter Sports Working Group, three State Sports Associations and DLGSC met in person and online to **activate Winter sports participation** in the communities of the identified district. The group guided and supported their communities to plan for season 2022 that would enable families to travel and play together at a one day sports competition. The group was guided by the following principles, which they established:

*Three sports at one venue on Saturday (juniors and seniors) is a goal to be worked towards*

*Fostering a physical and emotional sense of community is important*

*Travel should be reduced for participants (volunteers, players and spectators) and their families*

*Participants should have a greater choice of Winter sports to engage in*

*Junior engagement and development in Winter sports is a priority*

*Each community should experience more than one home game where all three sports are held on the same day (junior and senior)*

*Game start times will be set to maximise junior and senior participation both on and off the field*

*We will uphold the integrity of football, hockey and netball*

The collective approach has since seen a set of 2022 Winter Sports Fixtures and Game Times developed at a COMMUNITY LEVEL that will enhance whole of community involvement in Winter sports, increased player numbers, support volunteer participation, venue activation, junior development and spectator enjoyment.

Due to the nature of one day competitions, the Winter Sports Working Group is seeking association and club support during the upcoming season, specifically to:

**Consider venue implications** (changeroom use, canteens, playing fields etc) when multiple sports are being played at one venue with new game times

**Consider flexible 2022 finals fixtures** (times and venues), communicating and working with other Winter sports to maximise engagement, viewing and support for clubs and their communities involved in finals

The Winter Sports Working Group is **also seeking financial support to cover junior playing fees** for season 2022. New game times this season will enable juniors to play 1,2 or all 3 Winter sports on offer. The Winter Sports Working Group hopes that by securing financial assistance to waive junior playing fees, junior participation will grow. This is a work in progress and any interested sponsors can contact the Winter Sports Working Group Project Officer Caroline Robinson.

The Winter Sports Working Group will continue to meet in 2022 to progress additional strategies. Feedback on any of the initiatives to date can be directed to [caroline@150square.com.au](mailto:caroline@150square.com.au)

On behalf of the Winter Sports Working Group regards,

Samantha Cornthwaite  
DLGSC

Jaime-Leigh Strickland  
Netball WA

Kristen Jerkovich  
Hockey WA

Paul Reid  
WAFC

Winter Sports Community Sport Fixtures 2022

Saturday Game Times		Saturday Game Times		Saturday Game Times		Saturday Game Times	
Reserves 11am		B Grade 11am		Juniors 11am		Juniors 11am	
Juniors 1pm		A Grade 12.30pm		B Grade 12.15pm		B Grade 12.15pm	
League 2.15pm		Juniors and Netta 2pm		A Grade 2pm		A Grade 2pm	
				Mens 3.30pm		Mens 3.30pm	
EDFL		CDNA		EDHA		RDHA	
A GRADE		B GRADE		JUNIORS			
Saturday 9th April							
<b>ROUND 1</b>							
Kulin Kondinin FC		Burracoppin FC @KULIN					
Nukarni FC		Southern Cross FC					
Narebeeen FC		Hyden Karlgarin FC					
Corrigin FC		Bruce Rock FC					
<b>EASTER WEEKEND BYE - Saturday 16th April</b>							
Saturday 23rd April							
<b>ROUND 2</b>				Saturday 23 April		Saturday 23 April	
Bruce Rock FC		Southern Cross FC		Bruce Rock v Narebeeen		Corrigin v Souths	
Nukarni FC		Burracoppin FC		Merredin v Burracoppin		KHATS v KK Vipers	
Corrigin FC		Narebeeen FC		Merredin v Kellerberrin (Thursday 6.30pm)		Corrigin v Souths	
Hyden Karlgarin FC		Kulin Kondinin FC				KHATS v KK Vipers	
Saturday 30th April							
<b>ROUND 3</b>				Saturday 30th April		Saturday 30th April	
Kulin Kondinin FC		Corrigin FC @KULIN		KU1 v C v K		Kellerberrin v Narebeeen (Thursday) @BK	
Burracoppin FC		Hyden Karlgarin FC		BU1 v HY1		Burracoppin v Narebeeen	
Narebeeen FC		Southern Cross FC		NB1 v SX1		NB2 v SX2	
Bruce Rock FC		Nukarni FC		BK1 v N1		BK2 Bye	
Saturday 7th May							
<b>ROUND 2 - GALA DAY</b>				Saturday 7th May		Saturday 7th May	
KU1 v BU1		KU2 v K2		KU v K		Burracoppin v Bruce Rock	
N1 v SX1		SX2 Bye		NB v HY		Bruce Rock v Kellerberrin (Thursday)	
NB1 v HY1		NB2 v HY2		C v BK		Narebeeen v Merredin	
C1 v BK1						Corrigin v Souths	
Saturday 14th May							
<b>ROUND 4</b>				Saturday 14th May		Saturday 14th May	
Bruce Rock FC		Burracoppin FC		BK1 v BU1		BK2 Bye	
Corrigin FC		Hyden Karlgarin FC		C1 v HY1		C2 v HY2	
Nukarni FC		Narebeeen FC		N1 v NB1		NB2 Bye	
Southern Cross FC		Kulin Kondinin FC		SX1 v KU1		SX2 v KU2 / SX2 v K2	
Saturday 21st May							
<b>ROUND 5</b>				Saturday 21st May		Saturday 21st May	
Hyden Karlgarin FC		Southern Cross FC		HY1 v SX1		HY2 v SX2	
Kulin Kondinin FC		Nukarni FC @KULIN		KU1 v N1@KU		KU2 and K2 Bye	
Burracoppin FC		Corrigin FC		BU1 v C1		C2 Bye	
Narebeeen FC		Bruce Rock FC		NB1 v BK1		NB2 v BK2	
Saturday 28th May							
<b>ROUND 6</b>				Saturday 28th May		Saturday 28th May	
Bruce Rock FC		Kulin Kondinin FC		BK1 v KU1		BK2 v KU2 / BK2 v K2	
Nukarni FC		Hyden Karlgarin FC		N1 v HY1		HY2 Bye	
Narebeeen FC		Burracoppin FC		NB1 v BU1		NB2 Bye	
Southern Cross FC		Corrigin FC		SX1 v C1		SX2 v C2	
<b>GENERAL BYE - 6th June</b>							
<b>NETBALL ASSOC CHAMPS 4 – 6th JUNE (Long Weekend)</b>							
Saturday 11th June							
<b>ROUND 7</b>				Saturday 11th June		Saturday 11th June	
Corrigin FC		Nukarni FC		C1 v N1		C2 Bye	
Hyden Karlgarin FC		Bruce Rock FC		HY1 v BK1		HY2 v BK2	
Kulin Kondinin FC		Narebeeen FC @KONDININ		KU1 v NB1 @KN		KU2 v NB2 / K2 v NB2	
Burracoppin FC		Southern Cross FC		BU1 v SX1		SX2 Bye	
<b>GENERAL BYE 18th JUNE</b>							
<b>GREAT SOUTHERN COLTS 18th June (TBC)</b>							
Saturday 25th June							
<b>ROUND 8</b>				Saturday 25th June		Saturday 25th June	
Burracoppin FC		Kulin Kondinin FC		BU1 v KU1		KU2 and K2 Bye	
Southern Cross FC		Nukarni FC		SX1 v N1		SX2 Bye	
Hyden Karlgarin FC		Narebeeen FC		HY1 v NB1		HY2 v NB2	
Bruce Rock FC		Corrigin FC		BK1 v C1		BK2 v C2	
<b>NeuTech Junior Footy Cup (TBC)</b>							
Saturday 2nd July <b>SOCK ROUND</b>							
<b>ROUND 9</b>				Saturday 2nd July <b>SOCK ROUND</b>		Saturday 2nd July <b>SOCK ROUND</b>	
Southern Cross FC		Bruce Rock FC		SX1 v BK1		SX2 v BK2	
Burracoppin FC		Nukarni FC		BU1 v N1		BK Bye	
Narebeeen FC		Corrigin FC		NB1 v C1		NB2 v C2	
Kulin Kondinin FC		Hyden Karlgarin FC @KULIN		KU1 v HY1 @KU		KU2 v HY2 / K2 v HY2	
<b>GENERAL BYE 9th July</b>							
<b>FOOTBALL COUNTRY CHAMPS 2nd – 10th July JUNIOR HOCKEY CHAMPS 11TH – 15TH (TBC)</b>							
Saturday 16th July							
<b>ROUND 10</b>				Saturday 16th July		Saturday 16th July	
Corrigin FC		Kulin Kondinin FC		C1 v KU1		C2 v KU2 / C2 v K2	
Hyden Karlgarin FC		Burracoppin FC		HY1 v BU1		HY2 Bye	
Southern Cross FC		Narebeeen FC		SX1 v NB1		SX2 v NB2	
Nukarni FC		Bruce Rock FC		N1 v BK1		BK2 Bye	
Saturday 23rd July							
<b>ROUND 11</b>				Saturday 23rd July		Saturday 23rd July	
Burracoppin FC		Bruce Rock FC		BU1 v BK1		BK2 Bye	
Hyden Karlgarin FC		Corrigin FC		HY1 v C1		HY2 v C2	
Narebeeen FC		Nukarni FC		NB1 v N1		NB2 Bye	
Kulin Kondinin FC		Southern Cross FC @KONDININ		KU1 v SX1 @KN		KU2 v SX2 / K2 v SX2	
Saturday 30th July							
<b>ROUND 12</b>				Saturday 30th July		Saturday 30th July	
Southern Cross FC		Hyden Karlgarin FC		SX1 v HY1		SX2 v HY2	
Nukarni FC		Kulin Kondinin FC		N1 v KU1		K2 v KU2	
Corrigin FC		Burracoppin FC		C1 v BU1		C2 v BU2	
Bruce Rock FC		Narebeeen FC		BK1 v NB1		BK2 v NB2	
Saturday 6th August							
<b>ROUND 13</b>				Saturday 6th August		Saturday 6th August	
Kulin Kondinin FC		Bruce Rock FC @KONDININ		KU1 v BK1 @KONDININ		KU2 v BK2 / K2 v BK2	
Hyden Karlgarin FC		Nukarni FC		HY1 v N1		HY2 Bye	
Burracoppin FC		Narebeeen FC		BU1 v NB1		NB2 Bye	
Corrigin FC		Southern Cross FC		C1 v SX1		C2 v SX2	
Saturday 13th August							
<b>ROUND 14</b>				Saturday 13th August		Saturday 13th August	
Nukarni FC		Corrigin FC		N1 v C1		C2 Bye	
Bruce Rock FC		Hyden Karlgarin FC		BK1 v HY1		BK2 v HY2	
Narebeeen FC		Kulin Kondinin FC		NB1 v KU1		NB2 v KU2 / NB2 v K2	
Southern Cross FC		Burracoppin FC		SX1 v BU1		SX2 Bye	
Saturday 20th August							
<b>SEMI FINALS</b>				Saturday 20th August		Saturday 20th August	
Burracoppin FC		Narebeeen FC		Burracoppin v Narebeeen		Corrigin v KHATS	
Kulin Kondinin FC		Southern Cross FC		Kulin Kondinin v Southern Cross		Kulin Kondinin v Southern Cross	
Saturday 27th August							
<b>PRE LIM FINALS</b>				Saturday 27th August		Saturday 27th August	
Burracoppin FC		Narebeeen FC		Burracoppin v Narebeeen		Corrigin v KHATS	
Kulin Kondinin FC		Southern Cross FC		Kulin Kondinin v Southern Cross		Kulin Kondinin v Southern Cross	
<b>GF – 3 September</b>							
<b>SEMI FINALS</b>				Saturday 20th August		Saturday 20th August	
Burracoppin FC		Narebeeen FC		Burracoppin v Narebeeen		Corrigin v KHATS	
Kulin Kondinin FC		Southern Cross FC		Kulin Kondinin v Southern Cross		Kulin Kondinin v Southern Cross	
<b>PRE LIM FINALS</b>							
Burracoppin FC		Narebeeen FC		Burracoppin v Narebeeen		Corrigin v KHATS	
Kulin Kondinin FC		Southern Cross FC		Kulin Kondinin v Southern Cross		Kulin Kondinin v Southern Cross	
<b>GRAND FINAL</b>							
Burracoppin FC		Narebeeen FC		Burracoppin v Narebeeen		Corrigin v KHATS	
Kulin Kondinin FC		Southern Cross FC		Kulin Kondinin v Southern Cross		Kulin Kondinin v Southern Cross	