

WFA Newsletter July 2023

Tournaments

Master Games Adelaide 12-14th Oct

We have 7 teams for the Masters Games. Great effort! This is made up of a mixed team, two 50+, two 60+ and three 65+ teams. (We did consider an over 70's team in the 65+ category but decided to spread the 'oldies' around!) We are bolstered by several interstate players looking for games and three from Mount Barker. If you have not got your name down and want to play it's not too late – let Derek know if you want to be included and we will do our best - derek.i.finch@gmail.com

National Teams

The Australian teams for the IWFF Winter Nations Tournament in Wales have been selected following trials. Unfortunately availability for the December tournament was not as good as hoped and only a 50+ and 70+ teams are going. Roger Collini was selected but unable to travel but Steve Trickey in the 50+ team and Derek Finch in the 70+ team are selected. The squads play warm up games in London against Chelsea, Fulham and Barnet before heading to Cardiff.

2024

It's never too early to start thinking about next year. There should be the annual QUT tournament in April in Brisbane. The Pan Pacific Masters is slated for early November on the Gold Coast (what a great time we had last year so start planning for that one!). There are a couple of other possible competitions in the wind but let's not get too far ahead. However it would be great if more held their hand up for these tournaments where we acquit ourselves very well – and have a really great time as well!

Website kit and Merchandise

Big thanks to Bob Daly who has organised new kits and merchandise. You can now buy hats, kit bags and training tops all WFA branded. It's all on

the website. Remember all new information is posted on the website so please remember to visit regularly and <https://www.wfadelaide.com/>



Membership Fees

As mentioned last month the committee has introduced a \$25 yearly membership fee. This will go towards the Play Football Insurance so everyone is covered automatically. You should have received a letter from our new Membership Officer (thank you Jon Light!) with details of how to pay.

The John Walker Father's Day competition

John Walker Father's Day Fundraiser, Sunday 3rd September

We have 10 teams in this years' competition, split into 2 Divisions.

Division 1 has 6 teams for the more energetic and dynamic teams.

Division 2 has 4 teams for social games.

As usual \$10.00 playing fee plus \$5.00 per goal scored will be donated to charity which this year is Beyond Blue – recognising the benefits Walking Football makes to mental health.

The John Walker Shield will be presented to the Highest Fundraiser on the day, essentially the Top Goal scorer

John's partner Meredith will also present the 2023 Most Improved Award on the day.

We are providing our own referees this year from our playing ranks Remember to respect the referees' decision!

If you would like to play but haven't nominated yet, just let Sav know and he will allocate you a team.

Development of the Game

The National Federation has launched a fundraising campaign. The objective is to raise funds for trails across Australia, promote the game and to go to subsidising travel for internationals for those elite players that are unable to self-fund. Please feel free to share the campaign page with your network which can be accessed from the ASF website



New Venues

We are growing with new players at both Lights and Noarlunga. It's getting tight with numbers these days and therefore we are constantly looking for new venues in different locations at times suitable to play – very difficult in the evenings and weekends as most suitable venues in realistic locations are booked solid.

However we are negotiating on venues in Clearview and Unley which, with any luck, will increase our hubs to 6. Not bad considering that 6 months ago we only had 2! If we can get these up and running we will need people to help run them. Look out for more details coming soon.

POLICY UNDER 16 PLAYERS

Although the contribution of Under 16 players has been welcome in the past, Walking Football Adelaide has continued to grow to the stage where we have outgrown venues and are struggling to find alternatives.

WFA is finding it increasingly difficult to accommodate Under 16 players at the expense of Members.

To return to the primary focus of Walking Football, namely players 50 years plus, WFA need to focus on our core group.

The safety of Under 16 players has also been considered as part of the new policy, as playing with adults might end in injury and they are not insured.

Therefore, it's with regret we need to impose a restriction on Under 16 players who will not be permitted to play in our regular sessions

As stated, the contribution of Sons, Daughters, Grandsons and Granddaughters has been invaluable in the past. To this end, WFA will be initiating Quarterly Family Days where no restrictions apply and all ages are welcome to participate in the Family Day social football event.