

# THE FUTURE STARTS NOW



**AFL WOMEN'S DRAFT**  
15 MAY 2013



# FIRST WOMEN'S AFL CLUB MATCH NOW A REALITY

## The Concept

“Create and deliver the first “official” women’s AFL game at the MCG on 29 June 2013 that will showcase the best in female football talent”

Melbourne Football Club (MFC) developed the concept and attained the AFL’s support for a female curtain raiser game on the MCG for the Women’s Week clash between Melbourne V Western Bulldogs. The MFC actively sought this home game for Women’s Round to bring to life the work they have been doing in the last four years in female participation particularly being the major sponsor of the VWFL.

All parties want to ensure that the most talented female footballers in Australia have an opportunity to start living their dreams – that of playing on the MCG and for a recognised AFL Club.

The match will take place on Saturday June 29 at 1.45pm on the MCG as the feature of Women’s Round (Round 14). For the first time teams will represent the AFL clubs and wear club guernseys.

The teams will be formed following the first ever women’s draft. Players aged 17 years and over from All-Australian teams, High Performance Academies and 2013 state teams will be invited to nominate for the draft, together with nominations received from

interested parties via kicksforchicks Facebook and web applications. The Draft will take place May 15 across Australia and will be managed by the AFL.

Former Melbourne chief executive Cameron Schwab said before resigning that the objective was to create a major female participation initiative.

“We wanted to bring to life an idea that will showcase the best female players the game has to offer as well as sending a message to all girls that they may one day be able to play footy for their AFL team of support.

“This game is an important step towards the idea of an elite level female competition. Other sports have successfully developed elite female competitions and our sport should be no different.” said Mr Schwab.

Western Bulldogs chief executive Simon Garlick said the match was fantastic and a practical way of celebrating AFL Women’s Round.

“We are thrilled to be a part of the match and can’t wait to see the Bulldogs’ women’s representative team take to the MCG donning the red, white and blue.

“The Dogs look forward to building on the match to encourage women, especially from our diverse backyard in Melbourne’s West, to play our great sport’.”

AFL General Manager National and International Development Andrew Dillon said the match would involve more than players.

“The game will also foster the involvement female coaches, umpires, trainers and others in female football through their involvement in the game. It will be a feature of Women’s Round,” he said.



# HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The AFL will conduct the match similar to a male AFL game with the addition of filming a documentary to follow the journey of key players participating in the Draft and the game.

Whilst MFC and WBFC will put their teams on the MCG the AFL will conduct the Draft and nomination process so players can be selected from across Australia. The AFL will also financially support several interstate players to attend the match ensuring it is as close to a true display of the best talent in Australia.

Other interstate players are invited to nominate if they are able to get themselves to Melbourne for this historic match and give themselves a few days to meet their team mates leading up to the game.

## AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE DRAFT?

### Invitation

Some players will receive a direct invitation to nominate themselves for the Draft. As long as they are 17 years of age by the date of the match these will include:

- All Australian team members
- State representatives
- AFL High Performance Academy members

### All players and talented athletes

Regardless of whether you are registered to a club all other interested players aged 17 years of age by the date of the match are encouraged to nominate. These include but are not restricted to:

- Women's League players
- Players who have no club in their area but have played for a school team
- Talented athletes from other sports eg if Mathilda's Samantha Kerr was keen to be involved she would have strong prospects to have her nomination accepted because of her schoolgirls football background
- Where there is no AFL competition currently available to a female close to their home but they are athletic and want to follow their dream of playing then they should nominate

### Steps to get into the Draft

All players are to nominate for the Draft via the Nomination Form on:

1. the AFL's kicksforchicks Facebook or
2. request a Nomination Form by emailing [jan.cooper@afl.com.au](mailto:jan.cooper@afl.com.au)
3. Print the form
4. Complete it and sign
5. lodge by mail with the AFL, Jan Cooper PO Box 275 SUBIACO WA 6904 by the date set out in this booklet.

Please note: You must be a minimum 17 years of age by Draft date. If you are under 18 years of age you should ensure a parent/guardian signs the form too.

Once your nomination is accepted you will receive confirmation of the conduct of the Draft. The AFL together with the Clubs, are planning to conduct the Draft via videoconferencing inviting players and their parents to attend in their capital city.

Any questions should be directed to Jan Cooper at the AFL via email and headed AFL Women's Draft. [jan.cooper@afl.com.au](mailto:jan.cooper@afl.com.au)



# KEY QUESTIONS

Important information you need to know

## How do I nominate for the AFL Women's Draft?

All interested players are to nominate for the Draft via the Nomination Form on:

1. the AFL's kicksforchicks Facebook or
2. request a Nomination Form by emailing [jan.cooper@afl.com.au](mailto:jan.cooper@afl.com.au)
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5. lodge by mail with the AFL, Jan Cooper PO Box 275 SUBIACO WA 6904 by the date set out in this booklet.

You must be a minimum 17 years of age by Draft date. If you are under 18 years of age you should ensure a parent/guardian signs the form too.

Once the Form is received and the AFL has approved the Nomination, a confirmation will be sent to the player via email response with details of how to attend the Draft.

## If I am selected at the AFL Women's Draft am I bound to play for the Club that selects me?

Yes. You will not have a choice of which Club you can play for once selected in the Draft. You cannot offer a swap with another player for example.

## If my father played with Melbourne FC or Western Bulldogs can I play for the same Club?

There is a father-son rule in AFL so we will adhere to a father-daughter rule.

## I am a member of Melbourne FC or Western Bulldogs or I support one of the Clubs. Can I play for the Club I barrack for or are a member of?

Yes! If you already have a passion for one of the Clubs we will ensure if selected you play for that Club.

## What if I am accepted for the Draft but find I cannot play in the match?

You must let the AFL know **immediately** so they can source a replacement player.

## I live in a remote part of Australia or don't have a local Club to play for. How do I nominate?

If there is no female competition close to your home then you may be asked to seek the approval of your local Regional Development Manager (RDM) before proceeding with your nomination. This match is for the most talented players in Australia. The AFL appreciates that those living in some regions may not have access to a player pathway but may be talented athletes. To provide the highest level of player welfare the AFL may seek you being sighted by an RDM to make sure you are of the high standard required to participate in the match.

## I've never played AFL for a Club but I'm very athletic so can I nominate?

Yes! Nominations are welcome especially if you have played State level in another sport. AFL may seek you being sighted by an Regional Development Manager (RDM) to make sure you are of the high standard required to participate in the match. This is to ensure no nominee is placed at risk should you not prove skilful enough to participate in the game.

## What is the minimum age for the Draft?

You must be a minimum 17 years of age by Draft date. If you are under 18 years of age you should ensure a parent/guardian signs the form too.

**Jan Cooper**

AFL Manager Female Football Development

## AFL DRAFT NOMINATION PROCESS

**STEP 1.** Go to [kicksforchicks](http://kicksforchicks.com) to nominate for the Draft

**STEP 3.** Complete and sign the form

**STEP 2.** Print the Draft form

**STEP 4.** Post the form to Jan Cooper PO Box 275 Subiaco WA 6904

# NOMINATION FOR DRAFT



All players wishing to be drafted by Melbourne FC or Western Bulldogs FC must complete this form and sign.

I \_\_\_\_\_

of (address) \_\_\_\_\_ Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

am currently a registered player of the \_\_\_\_\_ Football Club

in the \_\_\_\_\_ Football League

I played for this Junior Club \_\_\_\_\_ or School \_\_\_\_\_

My preferred position is (eg midfield, forward etc) \_\_\_\_\_

I am a member or fan of  Melbourne FC  Western Bulldogs FC  Neither Club

**HEREBY NOMINATE** and declare that I am available for selection and consent to selection by either AFL Club at Draft meeting.

### I HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE, DECLARE AND AGREE with the AFL

1. I was born in \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_  
(country of birth)

2. That I shall at all times abide by the Rules and Regulation of the AFL governing an AFL Women's Exhibition Game during Women's Round that I may be selected in.

3. Should I be selected I will abide by the rules of the AFL Club for which I am selected to play for

### EACH NOMINEE MUST SIGN THIS SECTION

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Nominating player) Date \_\_\_\_\_

If you will be 17 years of age as at June 29 2013 this nomination must be countersigned by a parent/guardian.

Parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_ (full name)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (parent/guardian) Date \_\_\_\_\_

### DO NOT COMPLETE BELOW THIS LINE

Date lodged with the AFL \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Accepted \_\_\_\_\_