

Walking Football Update for the 70s Community

Time is flying by, and as a 70s player, we want to keep you updated!

In November, Australia will host its very first competitive tournament specifically for Over 70s walking football at the Pan Pacs. Initially, we learned that four teams were needed to form a separate division, so we aimed to create three Walkeroos teams. With Derek Finch's Adelaide team, that would meet the requirement. However, we only managed to gather enough interest for two Walkeroos teams. Then, Robbie Glover stepped in to form a Central Coast team, bringing us to the needed four teams. After more inquiries, we collaborated with Ian Stewart to establish a fifth team, the East Coast Mavericks. We're excited to announce that there are now five teams competing, making our vision of a dedicated 70s competition a reality! We look forward to reconnecting with everyone in November.

On **November 23rd, Victoria will host a walking football tournament featuring an Over 70s division.** The Walkeroos have assembled a team of Victorian players for this event, and we're looking for additional players to form extra team(s). If you're interested in participating, please reach out at admin@walkeroos.org

Several players have expressed their interest in joining the Australian Over 70s team for the **FIWFA tournament in Alicante, Spain, happening from October 21st to 24th 2025.** We will send details about the tournament and selection processes to those interested

players. If you haven't registered yet, it's not too late! **Contact info@walkeroos.org** to express your interest. Players who have previously represented Australia or participated in assessments (like the Victorian trial last April) only need to register their interest for Spain - no need to go for further assessment. AWFS selectors and scouts will attend Alan Templeton's IWFF selection trials at Perry Park, Brisbane, on September 8th, and at Soccer5s Tuggerah on September 28th, due to several players applying for selection in both international events. Please note that the FIWFA tournament in Spain has different selection processes, and slightly different rules compared to Alan Templeton's IWFF tournament in Malmö, Sweden. AWFS has no input into selections for the Malmö 70s team. The Pan Pacs in November will be an excellent opportunity for AWFS selectors to take one more look at prospective 70s players when 70s players from all over Australia compete in the Over 70s and Over 65s divisions. AWFS selectors will also be present at the Victorian WF tournament on November 23rd. **For further information and/or to discuss further, feel free to call Siggys at 0413 620 743.**

IMPORTANT NOTE: Players are eligible for the tournament in Spain 2025 if they turn 70 by the start date of the Spain tournament (21st Oct). Many players becoming a septuagenarian next year will therefore become eligible.

We've received inquiries about AWFS talent scouts and selectors. We currently have a selector and up to three talent scouts in most states, all focused on identifying 70s players

including quality 70s to go into the “core playing pool.” From this pool, national teams are formed, including those for the FIWFA tournament in Spain. The core playing pool consists of around 20-25 players, as not everyone is available for tournaments due to budget, injury, health issues, or family commitments. Our 70s community is expanding, now approaching 100 members, and it's crucial for all of us to help identify and recruit new players. Encourage anyone playing walking football who turns 70 next year to register their contact details via www.walkeroos.org. The AWFS aims to keep all registered members informed about both social and competitive matters relating to the 70s walking football community.

Looking ahead, **several state and regional tournaments are scheduled for 2025**: the Central Coast Walking Football tournament at Tuggerah on March 15-16; the QUT Cup on April 19; and a National vs. Club tournament the following day (April 20) at QUT. Mark these dates on your calendar—we will be inviting 70s players to form teams in these tournaments to ensure organisers are pressured into offering a separate 70s division, similar to what we'll have at the Pan Pacs.

Lastly, the committee would like to discuss a **potential future direction**. The AWFS was set up 2 years ago with three primary goals: to identify Over 70s walking football players across Australia and keep them informed; to advocate for 70s-only divisions in tournaments; and to scout talented players for national representation. However, we're now considering whether we should also serve as a hub for players wishing to compete socially in 70s teams across various tournaments in Australia because a

number of members have expressed a desire to play with their peers but in a less competitive setting. We value your feedback on this matter, as many players have reported hesitancy to join younger club teams and have found themselves sidelined to social teams, despite their desire for more competitive play. Do you think the AWFS should facilitate connections for players keen to join Over 70s teams lacking players, similar to the recently formed East Coast Mavericks, who were brought together through our outreach.

And on a similar note - the AWFS is seeking to liaise more closely with sporting organisations that supply 70s players for **running football tournaments** such as the Pan Pacs in November and European and Asia Pacific Masters tournaments next year. If you are interested please contact us - admin@walkeroos.org We may be able to fit you into a team.

Thank you for your attention. Please direct any 70s players to www.walkeroos.org to register their contact details.



Australian Walking Football Seventies Committee