



THIS IS *US*

GUIDE TO COMMUNITY FOOTBALL
THEMED EVENTS



INDIGENOUS ROUND – SIR DOUG NICHOLLS ROUND

The Sir Doug Nicholls Round (Indigenous Round) celebrates and highlights the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to the game of football and to our country. The round celebrates the relationship between the game and Indigenous Australia by connecting AFL fans to Indigenous culture.

Traditionally, Indigenous Round is held in mid to late May (approximately Round 10 of the AFL competition).

IMPORTANT THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE PLANNING INDIGENOUS ROUND

IS YOUR CLUB CULTURALLY INCLUSIVE?

Before you begin with implementing new programs or initiatives to increase Indigenous participation it is important that you assess how culturally inclusive your club is.

- » Do Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people feel comfortable, connected and valued at your club?
- » Is your club welcoming to the Indigenous community?
- » Most importantly, does your club have a zero tolerance approach to racial discrimination?

Please read 'Making your club culturally inclusive for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people' to ensure that you are taking appropriate steps to be culturally inclusive. You can also read the specific Community Football Indigenous Round guide [here](#).

ENGAGING THE LOCAL ABORIGINAL OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITY

It is important to engage the local community in planning your Indigenous round.

- » Identify and invite any local Aboriginal organisations or community groups to be involved in planning and running activities on the day. If you cannot identify any local Aboriginal organisations or community groups, reach out to your local council as they may be able to provide you a contact to assist in this process.
- » Request input and seek advice on cultural activities and ceremonies from relevant

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people/organisations.

START SIMPLE

When considering what your club may like to do for Indigenous Round it is a good idea to consider what your club has the resources to deliver, what your club can afford and what will be sustainable. It is best to ensure that your club participates respectfully and builds a base to complete more activities in the future. It doesn't need to be overly complicated or cost a lot for your club to hold an Indigenous Round.

PROMOTE YOUR INDIGENOUS ROUND

- » Link to other NAIDOC/Reconciliation Week events to help promote game and build a week of celebration within the community
- » Invites to Elders and any Aboriginal community members and groups as guests

FUNDING YOUR INDIGENOUS ROUND

Grants may be listed under sport sections, NAIDOC activities, reconciliation activities or Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander grants.

IDEAS FOR HOSTING INDIGENOUS ROUND

NAMING YOUR CLUB'S INDIGENOUS ROUND

Naming your club's Indigenous round after someone or something culturally significant is a great opportunity to localise the Round. You may consider naming the round after a past Indigenous player, or with consultation of the local Indigenous people you may name the round in the local language. You may also like to play for a perpetual shield or cup named after the local traditional custodians.

FLAG RAISING

Starting off your Indigenous round with raising the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander flag is a great way to show respect to Indigenous people. You may like to ask an Indigenous player/past player to raise the flag or even engage a local Aboriginal Elder or community member.

MINUTE OF SILENCE

Holding a minute of silence is a respectful way to pay homage to the history of Aboriginal people, especially those that have passed away. This is something that you could introduce and ask the playing group, officials and spectators all participate in.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Anyone can do an Acknowledgement of Country. This is an opportunity for your club to acknowledge the traditional owners of the country which your football club is on. This may be spoken over a public address system, or spoken in front of the playing group.

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

A Welcome to Country can only be performed by an Aboriginal person who is a traditional owner of the area where the Welcome to Country will be performed.

SMOKING CEREMONY

A smoking ceremony is a cultural cleansing ceremony that involves burning of specific leaves to create smoke. Aboriginal people have been performing this ceremony for thousands of years. This is something that you may be able to plan when you organise a Welcome to Country.

CULTURAL DANCERS

You may ask cultural dancers to attend and dance at the event to display and celebrate their culture. You may be able to access cultural dancers or contacts for cultural dancers through your local Indigenous organisation.

MUSICIANS

Indigenous round is a great opportunity to showcase local Indigenous musicians and talent. You may be able to seek out expressions of interest for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performers who would like to perform or reach out to your local Indigenous community for contacts.

GROUND MARKINGS

Marking the oval with ground paint is a great visual inclusion for Indigenous round. Some options include painting an aboriginal flag in the centre circle or painting the 50-metre arcs in red, black and yellow.

HALFTIME EVENT

Hosting a halftime event with past Indigenous players/coaches and inviting local Indigenous community members is a fantastic relationship building opportunity and a great way to acknowledge the contribution of past Indigenous players and coaches. You may ask a current or past player if they would like to speak at this event also.

INDIGENOUS DESIGN JUMPERS

Having an Indigenous designed guernsey is a great way to engage a local Indigenous artist, this may be someone within the local community or a current or past player/coach.

Payment should be discussed prior to the artwork being produced so that everyone is clear as to whether this is an in-kind artwork or a paid job. The artist needs to provide a letter (or similar) that grants permission to the club to reproduce the artwork on uniforms and this will need to be provided to the League when seeking approval for the uniform design.

Once the club has the artwork it can contact an approved uniform supplier and they can assist with the process to have the jumpers produced. This can be a lengthy process so ensure that you allow adequate time for the process to be completed prior to your desired Indigenous round date, including gaining League approval for the design.

You may like to keep the jumpers to utilise for following years Indigenous games or you may like to auction the match worn jumpers after the game to raise money for the club.

MERCHANDISE

Having Indigenous designed merchandise is a great way to engage a local Indigenous artist and include the entire football club and supporters within Indigenous round. Similar to Indigenous design jumpers, see above for considerations such as engaging an artist, payments and permissions, and artwork design.

Merchandise can be sold to players, officials and community/supporters to raise money for the club. Some great ideas for merchandise are scarfs, beanies, hats or even incorporating an Indigenous design into your whole club polo or training top.

AUCTION/RAFFLE ARTWORK

Purchasing artwork from a local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander artist or utilising the artwork you may have used for the Indigenous round design to raffle or auction is a great fundraising option and a great way to engage the community/supporters in the activities of Indigenous round.

GAME BALL

Having a game ball designed with Indigenous art is a statement and a great way to engage a local Indigenous artist, this may be someone within the local community or a current or past player/coach. Payment should be discussed prior to the artwork being produced so that everyone is clear as to whether this is an in-kind artwork or a paid job.

The League will have to approve the design and match balls will need to be produced by Sherrin.

DECORATIONS

Decorating the clubrooms or common areas is a nice way to visually celebrate Indigenous round. Use red, black and yellow colours to represent the Aboriginal flag and blue, green, white and black colours to represent the Torres Strait Islander flag. Clubs may like to decorate with balloons, streamers, pictures of past Indigenous players, or having a cake/cupcakes made displaying the Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander flags to be cut at halftime or sold at the canteen.

ARMBANDS

Wearing black tape or red, black, and yellow tape as armbands is a way of showing respect to those who have passed away. It is a sign of mourning to wear armband tape. This is a way to acknowledge the history of Aboriginal people.

ACTIVITIES

Additional activities for Indigenous round may include having face painters painting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags.

RELATIONSHIPS

Clubs may like to ask Indigenous organisations if they would like to bring banners to display or if they have a marquee they would like to set up at the event.

INCLUDING YOUR JUNIORS AND AUSKICKERS IN INDIGENOUS ROUND

COLOURING IN ACTIVITY

Utilising colouring in sheets and resources for competitions instructing children to only use the colours of the Aboriginal flag (red, black, yellow) and/or the Torres Strait Islander flag (Green, white, blue, black).

CHILDRENS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Ask junior teams and/or Auskick participants to participate in a pregame acknowledgement.

A player/ small group of players may want to deliver an acknowledgement on behalf of the team such as: I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of this country (*Insert name of traditional owners if known*), on which we play our great game, and pay our respects to them, their culture and Elders past and present. Alternatively you may want to do a group acknowledgement where you ask the children to repeat each line as follows:

*Here is the land, here is the sky
Here are my friends and here am i.
We stand together, hand in hand
To respect and acknowledge the traditional owners of this land*

BANNER CREATION

You may like to create a club banner with red, black and yellow handprints on it. This may be something that your juniors and Auskickers can place their handprints on or even something that you can get some senior players involved in.

INDIGENOUS GAMES

You may like to include some traditional Indigenous games into your junior training sessions in the lead up to Indigenous round. You can find information on how to play these games through Sport Australia Yulunga resource.

THE LITTLE LONG WALK

Your club may like to host a Little Long Walk in honour of Michael Long's historic 'Walk' to Canberra in 2003 to elevate the voices of Indigenous Australians and get the lives and struggles of Indigenous Australian's back on the National Agenda. This could be a lap or 2 around your oval or it may be at a local park or street. You could then follow this with information about your club's commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander inclusion. You could also use this an opportunity to raise funds for The Long Walk Foundation www.thelongwalk.com.au. All funds raised support the delivery of The Long Walk's schools' programs.

THIS IS *US*

