

NIGHTCLIFF MIDDLE SCHOOL OVAL REMEDIATION

Club: Nightcliff Football Club
 Council: City of Darwin
 Venue: Nightcliff Middle School
 Facility Hierarchy: Training Area

Funding Partners	Contribution
AFL (Australian Football Facilities Fund)	\$37,000
TOTAL	\$37,000

OVERVIEW

The exponential growth in Australian Football participation across Australia has highlighted the need to identify innovative green spaces to support greater football utilisation. The Nightcliff Middle School project, in partnership with Nightcliff Middle School, has created an additional green space for Australian Football utilisation, benefitting the Nightcliff Football Club in its effort to locate additional playing spaces.

A Partnership Opportunity Plan (POP) was developed by insidEdge to identify the requirements of this partnership between school and club. This plan determined the feasibility of this partnership which prompted the commencement of works on the school’s green space. Following this POP, the oval surface underwent remediation work to improve the oval surface for training and school use. The school staff, Council, and parent community were involved throughout the consultation journey as well as Nightcliff Football Club who were a key stakeholder and were engaged from day one.

In securing and redeveloping the Nightcliff Middle School oval it has provided a much needed space for club training & junior games, supporting the ongoing participation numbers in Darwin. This space has become a permanent training venue for the club and is utilised by all teams freeing up the club’s main oval, which has lights for senior & junior games to be played in the evenings, not during the daytime under Darwin’s extreme heat, creating a more comfortable playing experience and reducing associated health and safety risks.

Previous hours of use per week	0	Current hours of use per week	25
Male Participation	460	Female Participation	350

AFL NT were the main driver in getting this project underway and completed. A sound working relationship was formed with the Nightcliff Middle School Council & Principal. This partnership evolved over a number of months with all parties aligned in delivering to the school, local community and AFL NT a shared venue.

With an agreement in place for Nightcliff FC to access this ground into the foreseeable future, this new venue will be used to host junior games in early 2025 and beyond. The improved field quality also enhances the school’s facilities, strengthening Nightcliff Middle School’s reputation as a desirable choice for the surrounding community. In a region with many dynamic challenges the AFL NT team have worked tirelessly to ensure beneficial outcomes in the Northern Territory, a region of particular importance and opportunity.





"Having access to Nightcliff Middle School has provided the club with much needed training space for seniors & juniors. Thanks to AFLNT for their forward and innovative thinking."

Mark Dodge
Club President
Nightcliff Football Club

"Thanks to AFLNT the school and local community have a quality asset for use all year round."

Eva Kokkinomaggoulos
Principal
Nightcliff Middle School

"This is our first schools' partnership in the NT and we are extremely grateful to the Nightcliff Middle School, Council and School community for their support and long-term commitment. This partnership, in delivering much needed oval space for AFL will also deliver to the school and local community an all year-round green space for multiple community recreational activists."

Sam Gibson
Head of AFL NT