SPACES TO SHARE

AFL RACECOURSE FACILITIES

OVERVIEW

Participation growth in Australian Football has been significant in recent years. The AFL is actively seeking new and innovative ways of providing spaces to accommodate and support this strong growth to ensure all Australians can participate in our great game year-round.

Sharing spaces with other sports and organisations is common practice for the AFL. The AFL continually explores ways to maximise the use and value of community sporting infrastructure with a range of stakeholders.

A unique approach has been the integration of AFL facilities at racecourse precincts throughout Australia. This is predominately based on the development and use of a racecourse infield open space area to provide for AFL training and competition at both a senior and junior level.

The shared use of racecourse precincts has increased the community activation of these assets, maximised the use of available infrastructure and amenities at the precinct, and addressed local AFL participation needs.

The following venues demonstrate how racecourse precincts have supported and serviced the integration of AFL facilities to support their local community.

STONY CREEK RACECOURSE

Stony Creek is a small town in the South Gippsland region of Victoria with approximately 281 residents. The Stony Creek Racecourse and Recreation Reserve includes facilities for racing, equestrian and the Stony Creek Football Netball Club. Stony Creek races five times a year with the feature event, the Stony Creek Cup, held on the Sunday of the long weekend in March.

The Stony Creek Football Netball Club has a full-size AFL football oval and netball court with lighting, and amenities in the infield of the racecourse. The site services all training and competition needs of the club with cars permitted within the site on game days.

The Stony Creek Racecourse precinct enables the local community to utilise significant sporting infrastructure in a rural community. The Racing Club and Football Netball Club operations share the change rooms and function areas for the benefit of both user groups and the wider community.



WODONGA RACECOURSE

Wodonga is a regional city in North East Victoria. The Wodonga Racecourse is located on Crown land which is managed by the Council. Wodonga Turf Club is the main tenant of the facility operating horse training and regular racing events.

The infield of the racecourse includes a large open space area which is made up of seven AFL junior ovals and a pavilion with a kiosk and toilets.

Wodonga Auskick operates from the venue on Sundays throughout the winter AFL season catering for around 350 participants annually. The multiple ovals provides the ability to run various programs and age groups concurrently at the site providing the club with significant scheduling flexibility. The site has also played host to various primary and secondary school competitions.

Due to the limited availability of sports grounds across Wodonga, the use of the racecourse has been and will continue to be critical in servicing the mass of Auskick participants for Wodonga's growing population.



MOE RACECOURSE

Joe Tabuteau Reserve is a Crown land sporting reserve managed by the Council. The precinct is the home of the Moe Racecourse and a range of structured and unstructured recreational and sporting facilities including two AFL/cricket ovals with an accessible small clubroom.

The Moe Racing Club races approximately 14 times a year with its premier race day being the Moe Cup which is held in October annually. Whilst there is no dedicated football community club based at the venue, the Joe Tabateau Reserve supports a variety of school competitions, AFL events and local junior football club overflow needs when required. The site has been used for Schools Sports Victoria primary and secondary school matches and hosted an AFL nines tournament in 2025.

This facility supports the growth of AFL programming and participation opportunities for the Moe community.



AFL Racecourse Facility Considerations

Racecourse precincts provide an opportunity for addressing AFL programming needs. Key early planning considerations for AFL use of racecourse facilities includes:

- Determine the landowner and site manager for the racecourse and what interest exists in exploring AFL access
- Identify all site users and availability to access the venue with particular consideration of the onsite trainers operating times if applicable
- Consider the condition of facilities and what available infrastructure would be required to support AFL use
- Seek to understand any restrictions which may limit the potential site use such as vehicle and pedestrian access points, sports lighting, and parking.
- Review all duty of care and occupational health and safety issues which relate to the racing industry and the specific site
- Carefully consider the local community football needs and the ability of the site to address those needs

