



AFL OPEN

EVENT PROGRAM

2026

TOYOTA AFL OPEN

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY, BUNDOORA



The AFL acknowledges that the AFL Open is being held in Narm on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri People. We acknowledge that we play our great game on this land and respect the cultures of all First Peoples, their contribution to our nation and their contribution to the game of Australian Rules Football.

WELCOME FROM HEAD OF AFL VICTORIA: GREG MADIGAN

On behalf of the AFL, it is my pleasure, as Head of AFL Victoria, to welcome all players, coaches, umpires, officials, volunteers, families and supporters to Melbourne for the 2026 Toyota AFL Open.

As we gather for the third edition of this remarkable event, and our second year here in Victoria, it is inspiring to reflect on how far the Toyota AFL Open has come in such a short time. What began as a bold vision to bring together the best of inclusive football from across Australia has quickly become one of the most important and celebrated events on the AFL calendar.

From 12–14 October, we will once again see athletes from every state and territory come together to showcase their talent, determination and passion for our game. Once again RSL will be proudly represented through a Wheelchair team in the competition. More importantly, we will celebrate the power of football to create opportunities, break down barriers and bring communities together.

This year's Toyota AFL Open marks another significant step forward in that journey.

After two successful years of Women & Girls Inclusion Exhibition matches, we are incredibly proud to stage, for the first time, a full Women & Girls Inclusion Competition. With teams representing every state and territory, this milestone reflects the extraordinary growth of women and girls' participation across disability football and demonstrates our commitment to providing meaningful pathways for athletes at every level.

We are also excited to welcome back the Blind and Low Vision Exhibition Match. Following the success of its debut in 2025, this year's contest expands beyond Victoria, bringing together players from Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria in another important showcase of the growth of blind football nationally.

These moments are more than football matches. They represent progress, opportunity and the collective efforts of countless people who believe everyone should have the chance to play and belong in our game.

None of this would be possible without the continued support of our partners. We sincerely thank Toyota for their ongoing commitment as our major partner and acknowledge the invaluable contribution of Disability Sports Australia, the Australian Defence Force, Variety and Melrose, who once again stand alongside us in making this event possible.

As you take to the field over the coming days, remember that you are helping shape the future of our game. Whether you are playing, coaching, officiating, volunteering or cheering from the sidelines, you are part of something much bigger than football.

Thank you for being here, thank you for your contribution to inclusive football, and welcome to the 2026 Toyota AFL Open.

Enjoy the footy.



Greg Madigan
Head of AFL Victoria



AFL OPEN



Building an inclusive
future in footy from
grassroots to elite.

That's Good for Footy.

OH WHAT A FEELING



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MONDAY 12TH OCTOBER

Time	Activity	Location
8:30am – 10am	Welcome Coffee & Bagels	Front of Basketball stadium
9am – 9:30am	Official Welcome	Basketball Stadium
10:30am	Wheelchair & Inclusion Competitions begin	Basketball Stadium & Outside Ovals
12:40pm	Wheelchair Auskick Exhibition Game	Basketball Stadium
1:30pm – 2:30pm	Training for Blind/Low Vision Participants	Hockey Field
1:30pm – 5:30pm	Wheelchair & Inclusion Competitions continue	Basketball Stadium & Outside Ovals

TUESDAY 13TH OCTOBER

Time	Activity	Location
9:30am – 12:30pm	Wheelchair & Inclusion Competitions begin	Front of Basketball stadium
11:30am	Special School Engagement	Outside Ovals
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Blind/Low Vision Exhibition Game	Basketball Stadium & Outside Ovals
1:00pm – 5:30pm	Wheelchair & Inclusion Competitions continue	Basketball Stadium & Outside Ovals

WEDNESDAY 14TH OCTOBER

Time	Activity	Location
9:00am – 10:30am	Women & Girls 3,4 & 5 Playoff & Men's Inclusion third place play offs	Outside Ovals
9:30am – 10:30am	Wheelchair third place play off Competitions	Basketball Stadiums
10:45am – 11:45am	Division 2: Wheelchair Grand Final	Basketball Stadiums
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Division 1 : Wheelchair Grand Final	Basketball Stadiums
1:15pm – 2:30pm	Women & Girls Inclusion Competition Grand Final	Outside Oval 1
2:30pm – 3:30pm	Division 2: Men's Inclusion Grand Final	Outside Oval 1
3:45pm – 4:45pm	Division 1: Men's Inclusion Grand Final	Outside Oval 1
5:00pm – 6:00pm	Closing Awards Ceremony	Basketball Stadium
6:00pm – 8:00pm	Closing event function including food, drinks and entertainment	Front of Basketball Stadium

2025 WINNERS

NATIONAL WHEELCHAIR CHAMPIONSHIPS



Division 1: VIC (87) defeated SA (76)



Division 2: NSW/ACT (52) defeated QLD (45)

NATIONAL INCLUSION LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS



Division 1: TAS (47) defeated SA (22)



Division 2: NT (46) defeated WA (45)

THE ESSENTIALS

FIXTURE

[CLICK HERE](#)

TEAM LISTS

Refer to PLAYHQ for team lists

ABOUT THE VENUE

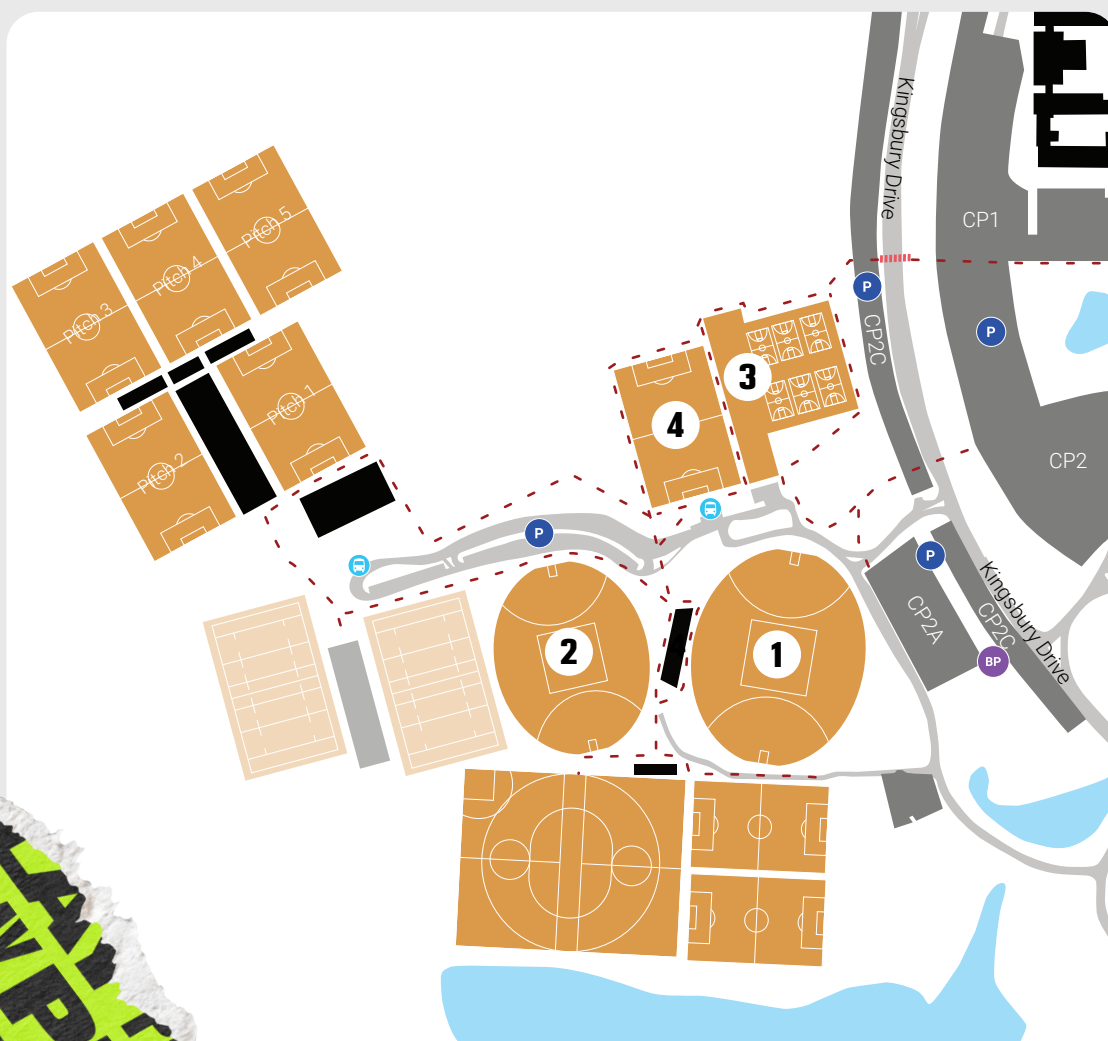
The 2026 Toyota AFL Open is held at La Trobe University Sports Park

The Wheelchair games will be played indoor on courts (labelled 3 on map)

The Inclusion games will be played outdoors on the AFL fields (labelled 1 & 2 on map)

KEY

1. OVAL 1
2. OVAL 2
3. INDOOR BASKETBALL STADIUM
4. HOCKEY PITCH



HOW TO FOLLOW ALONG

BROADCAST

We will be broadcasting the final two days of the event, on the 13th & 14th October

We are partnering with Sportscast for all broadcasting at the 2026 Toyota AFL Open.

You can access the live broadcast via [AFL.com.au](https://afl.com.au), Kayo Sports and Kayo Freebies

FIXTURES & RESULTS

Visit [Play HQ](#) for up to date fixtures and live scoring

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow AFL Play on Instagram and Facebook Use the hashtag #ToyotaAFLOpen #AFLPLAY



AFL WHEELCHAIR

ABOUT AFL WHEELCHAIR

2026 marks the 10th anniversary of the National Wheelchair competition.

Players are assigned to the position of either a defender, midfielder or forward.

Each player will wear coloured wristbands to identify their playing positions.

Red: Defender (Can only move in centre and back zones).

Yellow: Centre (Can move in all zones).

Blue: Forward (Can move within the forward and centre zones).

Forwards are the only players allowed to score.

There is no kicking of the ball- a handball is equivalent to a kick and an underarm throw is equivalent to a handball.

There is no traditional tackling, instead a tackle occurs by touching a player in possession either on their body or wheelchair.

All players are classified and are attributed a number of 'classification points', teams are allowed to have 17 points on the court at any time (RSL Active can have 20 points).

For more information on the rules, please review the [by-laws](#).

PARTICIPATING TEAMS

New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory

Northern Territory

Queensland

South Australia

Tasmania

Victoria

Western Australia

Returned and Services League Australia (RSL)



AFL INCLUSION

ABOUT AFL INCLUSION

The elite level game for AFL players with an intellectual disability. All players are classified by Sports Inclusion Australia to ensure they meet eligibility.

For the first time ever there will be two AFL Inclusion Divisions with both a Men's Division and Women's Division running alongside each other.

MENS

RULE ADAPTATIONS

Each team will have 12 players on the field.

The team who last disposes of the football before it goes over the boundary line will have a free kick paid against them.

A player in possession of the football can bounce the ball a maximum of two times before they dispose of the football.

For more information on the rules, please review the [by-laws](#).

PARTICIPATING TEAMS

New South Wales/Australian
Capital Territory
Northern Territory
Queensland
South Australia
Tasmania
Victoria
Western Australia



AFL INCLUSION

WOMEN & GIRLS

RULE ADAPTATIONS

The by-laws will mirror the Men's Inclusion by-laws with these two minor updates:

- Each team will have 10 players on the field
- The Women & Girls Inclusion Division will adopt standing tackling to support the integration and enhance the skill level of new players.

For more information on the rules, please review the [by-laws](#).

PARTICIPATING TEAMS

New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory

South Australia

Victoria

Western Australia

Northern Territory, Queensland & Tasmania
will combine for one team



EXHIBITION GAMES

AFL BLIND/LOW VISION EXHIBITION

After a successful Blind/Low vision exhibition game at the Toyota AFL Open in 2025 we are excited that there will be a return of an AFL Blind/Low Vision Exhibition Game. After last year's inclusion of Blind/Low Vision AFL players from Victoria we are thrilled to have players coming from South Australia and Western Australia to include into this exhibition game.

NAB AFL WHEELCHAIR AUSKICK/SUPERKICK EXHIBITION

NAB AFL Auskick and Superkick players from across Victoria will be involved in exhibition activity at the event.

ALL-AUSTRALIAN TEAM SELECTION

Every year the AFL selects an All-Australian team made up of 16 Players and 1 Head Coach for the Inclusion League and 10 Players and 1 Head Coach for the Wheelchair League. These players will receive a certificate and an All-Australian guernsey to recognise their achievement. The All-Australian team is a representative team that is selected from all participants in the AFL Open, it is the highest honour available in the AFL Disability Inclusion Pathways, and it represents a massive achievement.

CLOSING CEREMONY & AWARDS

After the last game on the 14th of October there will be a Closing Ceremony along with an awards presentation. This event will be held at the indoor courts at La Trobe Sports Park. We will have special guests to present the awards and premiership medals to the athletes. After the awards all players, coaches, support staff and invited individuals will be invited to have some food, mocktails and enjoy some DJ entertainment to celebrate the conclusion of the 2026 Toyota AFL Open.





**Disability
Sports
Australia**

Changing Lives Through Sport



At Disability Sports Australia, we're committed to making sport accessible for everyone.

We built our history in wheelchair sport, pioneering Wheelchair AFL with our members and the Australian Defense Force.

Today, we support people with disability across all sports, with a strong focus on grassroots participation.

We are proud to be a partner of the AFL Open.

Our goal is simple: a future where every Australian can find their place in sport.



**Scan the QR code to find
out more, or visit**

www.sports.org.au

Sport Inclusion Australia

For 40 years, Sport Inclusion Australia has worked to create pathways for people with an intellectual impairment – including intellectual disability and autism – to participate, compete and belong in sport.

Our work in football began in 1989 with the Victorian Football League (now AFL), and helping establish the Football Integration Development Association (FIDA) to create early club and interstate opportunities. These foundational inclusion practices contributed to the pathway that today leads to the AFL Open.

Today, Sport Inclusion Australia provides national eligibility for football players with an intellectual disability and builds the capacity of sport to strengthen inclusive practices, supporting sport to own and deliver sport for all Australians.

To learn more, scan the QR code to visit the website: sportinclusionaustralia.org.au



**Sport Inclusion
AUSTRALIA**



SCAN HERE



AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE

This year marks the 10th anniversary of Wheelchair Aussie Rules. The ADF is extremely proud to have been involved in the establishment of wheelchair footy, kicking off the first championships at Lakeside in South Melbourne, formulation of its rules and ongoing support through our umpires in officiating matches.

The ADF remains committed to supporting this important event and continuing to work with the AFL and associated partners; the continued development of this event under the stewardship of the AFL has been exciting to see.

Wheelchair Aussie Rules reflects ADF's commitment to inclusiveness, veterans support and the idea that sport, in all of its forms, gives everyone an opportunity to participate.

We look forward to supporting the 2026 event and also supporting its continued growth into the future.

**Message from Brigadier Cam Purdey CSC,
Chair of ADF Aussie Rules**



Ron Barassi tosses the coin at the first Wheelchair carnival at Lakeside South Melbourne, watched by Major General Matt Hall, then Chair of ADF Aussie Rules and team competitors.



THE VARIETY SENSORY FRIENDLY SPACE

Proudly made possible by Variety - the Children's Charity, this dedicated space will be available throughout the AFL Open tournament for anyone who may need a calmer environment.

Facilitated by The Inclusion Project, the Sensory Friendly Space is designed to support individuals with hidden disabilities by providing access to sensory equipment, quiet zones, and inclusive experiences at major events.

Friendly Occupational Therapists and Inclusion Project Officers will be on hand to welcome you, offer support, and help ensure everyone has the chance to enjoy the tournament in comfort. Look out for the Variety Sensory Friendly Space and let others know it's here for them, too.



MELROSE WHEELCHAIRS

Melrose Wheelchairs will be hosting a wheelchair maintenance booth for players who need tyre changes and minor wheelchair repairs throughout the Toyota AFL Open.



Free to **Move**

Genuinely made, genuinely
useful assisted mobility
solutions from Toyota

OH WHAT A FEELING

RACISM DOESN'T BELONG IN OUR GAME.



SCAN AND WATCH
NABIL'S STORY

Learn more and take action:
SPORT.VIC.GOV.AU/ANTI-RACISM



Image credit: Carmen Zammit



AFL OPEN