

## **An Open Statement to the Football Community**

Over recent days, members of the Northern Beaches football community may have seen statements published regarding the future of Summer Football and the use of Cromer Park.

As the governing body for football across the Manly Warringah region since 1947, Manly Warringah Football Association (MWFA) believes it is important that our community hears directly from us.

Firstly, the MWFA Summer Football competition is on.

MWFA recognises and respects the significant contribution that volunteers, players, coaches, clubs and administrators have made to summer football across the Northern Beaches.

However, it is important to clarify several matters that have recently been presented publicly.

MWFA has not sought to diminish the role of any club, volunteer or community member in the development of summer football. Nor has MWFA's objective been to remove football opportunities from the community. Our responsibility has always been to provide a fair and equitable model for all 16 of our member clubs and provide more summer football opportunities in a consistent manner across the Northern Beaches.

The MWFA's Summer Football programs net proceeds will be reinvested back into the Association, our Clubs and their members, directly supporting initiatives such as:

- Coaching and player developments programs
- Grassroots participation initiatives
- Club support and capacity-building initiatives
- Facility upgrades and improvements

Recent public statements suggest that MWFA has "taken away" summer football or prevented community participation in the sport. This does not accurately reflect the situation.

Summer football competitions will be running from this September at the following venues:

- Cromer Park
- Forest High School
- Narrabeen High School
- Lionel Watts
- Melwood Oval
- Georges Heights



Having multiple venues provides opportunities across the region for everyone to enjoy the fun and social aspect of summer football.

We also note there have been comments regarding the facility at Cromer Park being a community facility. We 100% agree with that statement. As the governing body for community football on the Northern Beaches, we manage all field allocations for the sport. This is to ensure a fair and equitable usage of all Council fields that are allocated to the MWFA including Cromer Park for the broader community and our 20,000 plus members.

MWFA's focus remains on ensuring that football participants across the Northern Beaches continue to have opportunities to play the game they love.

We understand that change can raise questions, particularly when competitions may be run differently from previous years.

MWFA remains committed to engaging constructively with clubs, participants, local council and all relevant stakeholders to ensure the future of football on the Northern Beaches is positive, inclusive and sustainable.

Football has always been bigger than any one organisation or one club. It is here for the players, families, volunteers and supporters who participate every season.

The MWFA's commitment is to provide the best footballing opportunities and experiences to our region and growing the game for future generations.

**Yours sincerely**

**Manly Warringah Football Association**