Information Sheet

The Unity Cup was created by the Essendon Football club and Australian Federal Police in 2008. The Primary objective for the Unity Cup focuses on strengthening ties with the community and culturally and linguistically diverse communities (CALD), through a mutual appreciation of Australian Rules football for 13 – 19 year old boys. The inaugural Unity Cup in 2008 had great success and over the last five years has grown and is now supported by 6 AFL Clubs. AFL Queensland will launch its inaugural Unity Cup in 2013.

**THE UNITY CUP OBJECTIVES ARE**:

* To bring Multicultural communities together and to create relationships between the communities and the police, especially the youth;
* To encourage Individuals in culturally diverse communities to assimilate in the Australian culture via football clubs, community groups and to develop link to the community;
* To provide an opportunity for young kids to learn more about the AFL.

**HOW THE UNITY CUP WORKS**

Each participating state i.e. VIC, NSW, QLD & WA will invite culturally diverse communities in their respective state to take part in the Unity Cup at state level. The following criteria will apply:

* Limited to 13-19 year old participants;
* First Stage: Information/Footy session at football club to explain concept to community;
* Second Stage: Community Gala/Selection day ( Combine, games, community food, club stalls) to select teams;
* Third Stage: Include team training together in the lead up to Unity Cup for 6 weeks
* Fourth Stage: State Unity Cup to be held in November ( Matches, Fan Development from the Gold Coast Suns and Brisbane Lions, Community Club Information, Community Food Stalls, Community Stalls);
* Fifth Stage: Unity Cup winner will head to Melbourne in March 2014.
* Training: Conducted in lead up to National Unity Cup (AFL 9s practice games arranged, potential invite to play in AFL 9s competition).

**GENERAL INFORMATION**:

The program dates will be as below (Guide - TBC):

1. Approx 15th/29th of August 2013 will be first Information session;
2. Approx 5th of September will be the Community Gala/Selection Day;
3. Approx 26th of September 2013: Team training leading up to start of 6 week Unity Cup Training;
   * Oct 3rd (WEEK 1 )
   * Oct 10th (WEEK 2 )
   * Oct 17th (WEEK 3 )
   * Oct 24th (WEEK 4)
   * Oct 31st (WEEK 5)
   * Nov 7th (WEEK 6)
   * **Nov 12TH – Nov 15th (FINALS)**

**Number of Participants**: 15 max (9 on the field recommend up to 6 substitutes)

**Time**: Each game will be 2 x 20 minute halves with a 5 minute break

**Format**: The program will run for 6-8 weeks. This will culminate in the State Unity Cup on the Family day in November (TBC).

**Rules**: AFL 9’s rules - 9 players on field with up to 6 players on the rotation bench. 15 players max per team. Games will be played under AFL 9’s rules and playing conditions. Playing field will be reduced. Please see attached the exact rules which will be used.

**AFL WILL SUPPLY:**

* Match footballs
* Team bibs (if required)
* Goal Flags & portable goalposts
* All other equipment including markers, umpires, scorecards and awards etc.
* Support in establishing and selecting teams

**COMMUNITY TEAMS TO SUPPLY**:

* Minimum 1 adult supervisor / coach per team
* Transportation to and from the venue

**Keith Shangare**

**AFLQ Diversity Development Officer**

**E:** [k.shangare@gmail.com](mailto:k.shangare@gmail.com)

**Brett Fragiacomo**   
**Diversity Manager**  
**AFL Queensland**  
Cansdale St, Yeronga QLD 4104  
PO Box 3132 Yeronga LPO QLD 4104  
**P:** (07) 3033 5446 | Fax: (07) 3846 7381 | Mob: 0415 830 104

**E:** [Brett.Fragiacomo@aflq.com.au](mailto:Brett.Fragiacomo@aflq.com.au)