

# FIXTURE GUIDE

2024 TOYOTA AFL  
PREMIERSHIP SEASON



# 2024 TOYOTA AFL PREMIERSHIP SEASON

## OPENING ROUND

**Thursday, March 7**  
Sydney Swans vs. Melbourne (SCG) (N)  
**Friday, March 8**  
Brisbane Lions vs. Carlton (G) (N)  
**Saturday, March 9**  
Gold Coast SUNS vs. Richmond (HBS) (T)  
GWS GIANTS vs. Collingwood (GS) (N)  
**Byes:** Adelaide Crows, Essendon, Fremantle, Geelong Cats, Hawthorn, North Melbourne, Port Adelaide, St Kilda, West Coast Eagles, Western Bulldogs

## ROUND 1

**Thursday, March 14**  
Carlton vs. Richmond (MCG) (N)  
**Friday, March 15**  
Collingwood vs. Sydney Swans (MCG) (N)  
**Saturday, March 16**  
Essendon vs. Hawthorn (MCG)  
GWS GIANTS vs. North Melbourne (OS) (T)  
Geelong Cats vs. St Kilda (GMHBA) (N)  
Gold Coast SUNS vs. Adelaide Crows (HBS) (N)  
**Sunday, March 17**  
Melbourne vs. Western Bulldogs (MCG)  
Port Adelaide vs. West Coast Eagles (AD) (T)  
Fremantle vs. Brisbane Lions (OS) (N)

## ROUND 2

**Thursday, March 21**  
St Kilda vs. Collingwood (MCG) (N)  
**Friday, March 22**  
Adelaide Crows vs. Geelong Cats (AD) (N)  
**Saturday, March 23**  
North Melbourne vs. Fremantle (MRVL)  
Hawthorn vs. Melbourne (MCG) (T)  
Sydney Swans vs. Essendon (SCG) (N)  
**Sunday, March 24**  
Western Bulldogs vs. Gold Coast SUNS (MARS)  
Richmond vs. Port Adelaide (MCG) (T)  
West Coast Eagles vs. GWS GIANTS (OS) (N)  
**Byes:** Brisbane Lions, Carlton

## ROUND 3

**Thursday, March 28**  
Brisbane Lions vs. Collingwood (G) (N)  
**Friday, March 29**  
North Melbourne vs. Carlton (MRVL) (T)  
Fremantle vs. Adelaide Crows (OS) (N)  
**Saturday, March 30**  
Essendon vs. St Kilda (MRVL) (T)  
Port Adelaide vs. Melbourne (AD) (N)  
**Sunday, March 31**  
Western Bulldogs vs. West Coast Eagles (MRVL)  
Richmond vs. Sydney Swans (MCG) (T)  
**Monday, April 1**  
Hawthorn vs. Geelong Cats (MCG)  
**Byes:** Gold Coast SUNS, GWS GIANTS

## ROUND 4

**Thursday, April 4**  
Adelaide Crows vs. Melbourne (AD) (N)  
**Friday, April 5**  
Brisbane Lions vs. North Melbourne (ND) (T)  
Port Adelaide vs. Essendon (AD) (N)  
**Saturday, April 6**  
West Coast Eagles vs. Sydney Swans (MB)  
Fremantle vs. Carlton (AD) (T)  
Western Bulldogs vs. Geelong Cats (AD) (N)  
**Sunday, April 7**  
Gold Coast SUNS vs. GWS GIANTS (MB)  
Richmond vs. St Kilda (ND)  
Collingwood vs. Hawthorn (AD) (T)

## ROUND 5

**Thursday, April 11**  
Melbourne vs. Brisbane Lions (MCG) (N)  
**Friday, April 12**  
Western Bulldogs vs. Essendon (MRVL) (N)  
**Saturday, April 13**  
GWS GIANTS vs. St Kilda (MD)  
Carlton vs. Adelaide Crows (MRVL) (T)  
Port Adelaide vs. Fremantle (AD) (N)  
Gold Coast SUNS vs. Hawthorn (HBS) (N)  
**Sunday, April 14**  
Geelong Cats vs. North Melbourne (EMHBA)  
West Coast Eagles vs. Richmond (OS) (T)  
**Byes:** Collingwood, Sydney Swans

## ROUND 6

**Thursday, April 18**  
St Kilda vs. Western Bulldogs (MRVL) (N)  
**Friday, April 19**  
Adelaide Crows vs. Essendon (AD) (N)  
**Saturday, April 20**  
Collingwood vs. Port Adelaide (MCG)  
Carlton vs. GWS GIANTS (MRVL) (T)  
Brisbane Lions vs. Geelong Cats (G) (N)  
West Coast Eagles vs. Fremantle (OS) (N)  
**Sunday, April 21**  
Sydney Swans vs. Gold Coast SUNS (SCG)  
North Melbourne vs. Hawthorn (MRVL) (T)  
**Byes:** Melbourne, Richmond

## ROUND 7

**Wednesday, April 24**  
Richmond vs. Melbourne (MCG) (N)  
**Thursday, April 25**  
Essendon vs. Collingwood (MCG)  
GWS GIANTS vs. Brisbane Lions (MD) (N)  
**Friday, April 26**  
Port Adelaide vs. St Kilda (AD) (N)  
**Saturday, April 27**  
North Melbourne vs. Adelaide Crows (BA)  
Geelong Cats vs. Carlton (MCG) (T)  
Fremantle vs. Western Bulldogs (OS) (N)  
**Sunday, April 28**  
Gold Coast SUNS vs. West Coast Eagles (HBS)  
Hawthorn vs. Sydney Swans (MCG) (T)

## ROUND 8

**Thursday, May 2**  
Adelaide Crows vs. Port Adelaide (AD) (N)  
**Friday, May 3**  
Carlton vs. Collingwood (MCG) (N)  
**Saturday, May 4**  
Sydney Swans vs. GWS GIANTS (SCG)  
St Kilda vs. North Melbourne (MRVL) (T)  
Melbourne vs. Geelong Cats (MCG) (N)  
West Coast Eagles vs. Essendon (OS) (N)  
**Sunday, May 5**  
Richmond vs. Fremantle (MCG)  
Western Bulldogs vs. Hawthorn (MRVL) (T)  
Brisbane Lions vs. Gold Coast SUNS (G) (N)

## ROUND 9

**Thursday, May 9**  
Carlton vs. Melbourne (MCG) (N)  
**Friday, May 10**  
Geelong Cats vs. Port Adelaide (GMHBA) (N)  
Fremantle vs. Sydney Swans (OS) (N)  
**Saturday, May 11**  
Hawthorn vs. St Kilda (UTAS)  
Essendon vs. GWS GIANTS (MRVL) (T)  
Richmond vs. Western Bulldogs (MCG) (N)  
Gold Coast SUNS vs. North Melbourne (TIO) (N)  
**Sunday, May 12**  
Collingwood vs. West Coast Eagles (MRVL)  
Adelaide Crows vs. Brisbane Lions (AD) (T)

## ROUND 10

**Thursday, May 16**  
Gold Coast SUNS vs. Geelong Cats (TIO) (N)  
**Friday, May 17**  
Sydney Swans vs. Carlton (SCG) (N)  
**Saturday, May 18**  
Collingwood vs. Adelaide Crows (MCG)  
GWS GIANTS vs. Western Bulldogs (GS) (T)  
St Kilda vs. Fremantle (MRVL) (N)  
Brisbane Lions vs. Richmond (G) (N)  
**Sunday, May 19**  
Essendon vs. North Melbourne (MRVL)  
Port Adelaide vs. Hawthorn (AD)  
West Coast Eagles vs. Melbourne (OS) (N)

## ROUND 11

**Thursday, May 23**  
Western Bulldogs vs. Sydney Swans (MRVL) (N)  
**Friday, May 24**  
Fremantle vs. Collingwood (OS) (N)  
**Saturday, May 25**  
North Melbourne vs. Port Adelaide (BA)  
Carlton vs. Gold Coast SUNS (MRVL)  
Geelong Cats vs. GWS GIANTS (GMHBA) (T)  
Richmond vs. Essendon (MCG) (N)  
**Sunday, May 26**  
Hawthorn vs. Brisbane Lions (MRVL)  
Melbourne vs. St Kilda (MCG)  
Adelaide Crows vs. West Coast Eagles (AD) (T)

## ROUND 12

**Thursday, May 30**  
Port Adelaide vs. Carlton (AD) (N)  
**Friday, May 31**  
Collingwood vs. Western Bulldogs (MRVL) (N)  
**Saturday, June 1**  
Hawthorn vs. Adelaide Crows (MCG)  
West Coast Eagles vs. St Kilda (OS) (T)  
Geelong Cats vs. Richmond (GMHBA) (N)  
**Sunday, June 2**  
Melbourne vs. Fremantle (TP)  
Gold Coast SUNS vs. Essendon (HBS) (T)  
**Byes:** Brisbane Lions, GWS GIANTS, North Melbourne, Sydney Swans

## ROUND 13

**Thursday, June 6**  
Adelaide Crows vs. Richmond (AD) (N)  
**Friday, June 7**  
Western Bulldogs vs. Brisbane Lions (MRVL) (N)  
**Saturday, June 8**  
Hawthorn vs. GWS GIANTS (UTAS)  
West Coast Eagles vs. North Melbourne (OS) (T)  
St Kilda vs. Gold Coast SUNS (MRVL) (N)  
**Sunday, June 9**  
Sydney Swans vs. Geelong Cats (SCG)  
Essendon vs. Carlton (MCG) (N)  
**Monday, June 10**  
Collingwood vs. Melbourne (MCG)  
**Byes:** Fremantle, Port Adelaide

## ROUND 14

**Friday, June 14**  
Brisbane Lions vs. St Kilda (G) (N)  
**Saturday, June 15**  
Western Bulldogs vs. Fremantle (MRVL)  
Richmond vs. Hawthorn (MCG) (T)  
Adelaide Crows vs. Sydney Swans (AD) (N)  
**Sunday, June 16**  
North Melbourne vs. Collingwood (MRVL)  
GWS GIANTS vs. Port Adelaide (OS) (T)  
**Byes:** Carlton, Essendon, Geelong Cats, Gold Coast SUNS, Melbourne, West Coast Eagles

## ROUND 15

**Friday, June 21**  
Carlton vs. Geelong Cats (MCG) (N)  
**Saturday, June 22**  
Port Adelaide vs. Brisbane Lions (AD)  
GWS GIANTS vs. Sydney Swans (OS) (T)  
Melbourne vs. North Melbourne (MCG) (N)  
**Sunday, June 23**  
Essendon vs. West Coast Eagles (MRVL)  
Fremantle vs. Gold Coast SUNS (OS) (T)  
**Byes:** Adelaide Crows, Collingwood, Hawthorn, Richmond, St Kilda, Western Bulldogs

## ROUND 16

**Friday, June 28 - Sunday, June 30**  
Adelaide Crows vs. GWS GIANTS (AD)  
Brisbane Lions vs. Melbourne (G)  
Geelong Cats vs. Essendon (MCG)  
Gold Coast SUNS vs. Collingwood (HBS)  
North Melbourne vs. Western Bulldogs (MRVL)  
Richmond vs. Carlton (MCG)  
St Kilda vs. Port Adelaide (MRVL)  
Sydney Swans vs. Fremantle (SCG)  
West Coast Eagles vs. Hawthorn (OS)

## ROUND 17

**Friday, July 5 - Sunday, July 7**  
Brisbane Lions vs. Adelaide Crows (G)  
Collingwood vs. Essendon (MCG)  
Fremantle vs. Richmond (OS)  
Geelong Cats vs. Hawthorn (GMHBA)  
GWS GIANTS vs. Carlton (GS)  
Melbourne vs. West Coast Eagles (MCG)  
North Melbourne vs. Gold Coast SUNS (MRVL)  
Port Adelaide vs. Western Bulldogs (AD)  
St Kilda vs. Sydney Swans (MRVL)

## ROUND 18

**Friday, July 12 - Sunday, July 14**  
Adelaide Crows vs. St Kilda (AD)  
Collingwood vs. Geelong Cats (MCG)  
Gold Coast SUNS vs. Port Adelaide (HBS)  
Hawthorn vs. Fremantle (UTAS)  
Melbourne vs. Essendon (MCG)  
Richmond vs. GWS GIANTS (MCG)  
Sydney Swans vs. North Melbourne (SCG)  
West Coast Eagles vs. Brisbane Lions (OS)  
Western Bulldogs vs. Carlton (MRVL)

## ROUND 19

**Friday, July 19 - Sunday, July 21**  
Brisbane Lions vs. Sydney Swans (G)  
Carlton vs. North Melbourne (MRVL)  
Essendon vs. Adelaide Crows (MRVL)  
Fremantle vs. Melbourne (OS)  
Geelong Cats vs. Western Bulldogs (GMHBA)  
GWS GIANTS vs. Gold Coast SUNS (GS)  
Hawthorn vs. Collingwood (MCG)  
Port Adelaide vs. Richmond (AD)  
St Kilda vs. West Coast Eagles (MRVL)

## ROUND 20

**Friday, July 26 - Sunday, July 28**  
Adelaide Crows vs. Hawthorn (AD)  
Carlton vs. Port Adelaide (MRVL)  
Collingwood vs. Richmond (MCG)  
Fremantle vs. West Coast Eagles (OS)  
Gold Coast SUNS vs. Brisbane Lions (HBS)  
Melbourne vs. GWS GIANTS (MCG)  
North Melbourne vs. Geelong Cats (BA)  
St Kilda vs. Essendon (MRVL)  
Sydney Swans vs. Western Bulldogs (SCG)

## ROUND 21

**Friday, August 2 - Sunday, August 4**  
Collingwood vs. Carlton (MCG)  
Essendon vs. Fremantle (MCG)  
Geelong Cats vs. Adelaide Crows (GMHBA)  
GWS GIANTS vs. Hawthorn (MD)  
North Melbourne vs. Richmond (MRVL)  
Port Adelaide vs. Sydney Swans (AD)  
St Kilda vs. Brisbane Lions (MRVL)  
West Coast Eagles vs. Gold Coast SUNS (OS)  
Western Bulldogs vs. Melbourne (MRVL)

## ROUND 22

**Friday, August 9 - Sunday, August 11**  
Adelaide Crows vs. Western Bulldogs (AD)  
Brisbane Lions vs. GWS GIANTS (G)  
Carlton vs. Hawthorn (MCG)  
Essendon vs. Gold Coast SUNS (MRVL)  
Fremantle vs. Geelong Cats (OS)  
Melbourne vs. Port Adelaide (MCG)  
North Melbourne vs. West Coast Eagles (BA)  
Richmond vs. St Kilda (MRVL)  
Sydney Swans vs. Collingwood (SCG)

## ROUND 23

**Friday, August 16 - Sunday, August 18**  
Collingwood vs. Brisbane Lions (MCG)  
Essendon vs. Sydney Swans (MRVL)  
Gold Coast SUNS vs. Melbourne (HBS)  
GWS GIANTS vs. Fremantle (GS)  
Hawthorn vs. Richmond (MCG)  
Port Adelaide vs. Adelaide Crows (AD)  
St Kilda vs. Geelong Cats (MRVL)  
West Coast Eagles vs. Carlton (OS)  
Western Bulldogs vs. North Melbourne (MRVL)

## ROUND 24

**Friday, August 23 - Sunday, August 25**  
Brisbane Lions vs. Essendon (G)  
Carlton vs. St Kilda (MRVL)  
Fremantle vs. Port Adelaide (OS)  
Geelong Cats vs. West Coast Eagles (GMHBA)  
Hawthorn vs. North Melbourne (UTAS)  
Melbourne vs. Collingwood (MCG)  
Richmond vs. Gold Coast SUNS (SCG)  
Sydney Swans vs. Adelaide Crows (SCG)  
Western Bulldogs vs. GWS GIANTS (MARS)

(T) Twilight match; (N) Night match; (MB) Adelaide Hills - Bill Barker (Peramangk and Ngarrindjeri); Adelaide; (AD) Adelaide Oval (Kaura); Adelaide; (BA) Blundstone Arena (Palawa); Hobart; (G) The Gabba (Yuggera-Turrbal); Brisbane; (GMHBA) GMHBA Stadium (Wadawurrang); Geelong; (GS) Giants Stadium (Wangajal); Sydney; (MD) Manika Oval (Ngunawal); Canberra; (MARS) Mars Stadium (Wadawurrang); Ballarat; (MRVL) Marvel Stadium (Wurundjeri); Melbourne; (MCG) Melbourne Cricket Ground (Wurundjeri); Melbourne; (HBS) Heritage Bank Stadium (Yugambal); Gold Coast; (ND) Norwood Oval (Kaurna); Adelaide; (OS) Optus Stadium (Wadjigal); Perth; (SCG) Sydney Cricket Ground (Bidjigal & Gadigal); Sydney; (TIO) TIO Stadium (Larrakia); Darwin; (TP) TIO Traragon Park (Arernte); Alice Springs; (UTAS) University of Tasmania Stadium (Palawa); Launceston

BROADCAST PARTNERS



FOXTEL



Kayo



TOYOTA  
PREMIERSHIP 2024

# FIXTURE AT A GLANCE

## OPENING ROUND

### 2024 OPENING ROUND



Sydney Swans host Melbourne to start the season in 2024 as part of Opening Round. Three other matches will feature, including rematches of both 2023 Preliminary Finals.

## THURSDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL



Thursday night football in each of the first 14 weeks of the season.

## EASTER THURSDAY

### ROUND 3



Thursday March 29, 6.30pm  
The Gabba - Yuggera-Turrbal

## GOOD FRIDAY

### ROUND 3



Friday March 29, 4.20pm  
Marvel Stadium - Wundjuri



4.20pm Optus Stadium - Whadjuk

## EASTER MONDAY

### ROUND 3



Monday April 1, 3.20pm  
MCG - Wundjuri

## GATHER ROUND

### ROUND 4

### GATHER ROUND

### A FESTIVAL OF FOOTY

### ROUND 4 | APRIL 4-7



SA to again host all 18-clubs at once with nine matches played across three venues in the one weekend.

## SA SHOWDOWNS



### ROUNDS 8 & 23



SA Showdown between Adelaide Crows and Port Adelaide in Rounds 8 and 23, Adelaide Oval - Kaurna

## SYDNEY DERBY



### ROUNDS 8 & 15



Round 8 at SCG - Bidjigal and Round 15 at GIANTS Stadium - Wangal

## WA DERBIES



### ROUNDS 6 & 20



Western Derby between Fremantle and West Coast Eagles in Rounds 6 and 20, Optus Stadium - Whadjuk

## Q CLASH



### ROUNDS 8 & 20



Round 8 at The Gabba - Yuggera-Turrbal and Round 20 at Heritage Bank Stadium - Yugambeh

## ANZAC DAY EVE

### ROUND 7



Richmond v Melbourne  
Wednesday April 24, 7.25pm  
MCG - Wundjuri

## ANZAC DAY



### ROUND 7



Thursday April 25, 3.20pm  
MCG - Wundjuri



Thursday April 25, 7.30pm  
Manuka Oval - Ngunnawal

## GRAND FINAL REMATCH

### ROUND 3 & 23



On a Thursday night in Round 3 at the Gabba - Yuggera-Tootabul and in Round 23 at the MCG - Wundjuri.

## SIR DOUG NICHOLLS ROUND



### ROUNDS 10 & 11

Played across Rounds 10 and 11 with all clubs to host a match. Featuring the Sydney Swans hosting Carlton in the Marn Grook match on Friday night May 17 in Round 10 and, the Dreamtime at the 'G match in Round 11 between Essendon and Richmond on Saturday May 25.

## KING'S BIRTHDAY EVE

### ROUND 13



Sunday June 9, 7.20pm  
MCG - Wundjuri

## KING'S BIRTHDAY

### ROUND 13



Monday June 10, 3.20pm  
MCG - Wundjuri

## MID-SEASON BYES

Spread over Rounds 12-15

## NT



Three matches being played in the Northern Territory in Rounds 9, 10 and 12 with the **Gold Coast SUNS** and **Melbourne** playing home games in the territory.

## TASMANIA



Eight matches to be played in Tasmania with **Hawthorn** hosting in Rounds 9, 13, 18 and 24, and **North Melbourne** hosting in Rounds 7, 11, 20 and 22.

## CANBERRA



**GWS GIANTS** hosting three matches in the nation's capital in Rounds 5, 7 and 21.

## BALLARAT



**Western Bulldogs** hosting two matches in their home away from home in Ballarat in Rounds 2 and 24.

## ROUNDS 16-24 FLOATING

and to be confirmed as the season progresses

# THE AFL FIXTURE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The AFL has sought to develop a consistent and equitable schedule of matches which connects with the community, assists in growing the game and continues to build the financial stability of the AFL competition.

## IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THIS, OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES ARE:

1

To develop, as close as is possible, a fixture which gives all clubs equal opportunities.

2

To maximise attendances at AFL matches in all markets, ensuring the best possible accessibility for fans.

3

To maximise audiences across our television, digital and radio broadcast partners, ensuring national exposure for the game.

4

To take into account the specific requests of AFL clubs, players and other key competition stakeholders, particularly venues and broadcasters.

5

To continue developing the game nationally by scheduling matches across all states and territories throughout the season.

6

To ensure the welfare of players by providing a maximum of three five-day breaks, but otherwise minimum six-day breaks between matches for regularly scheduled rounds.

# THE 'WEIGHTED RULE' - DOUBLE MATCH-UPS

	TOP 6	MIDDLE	BOTTOM 6
TOP 6	<b>TOP 6 v TOP 6</b> Minimum 2 return meetings Maximum 3 return meetings	<b>MIDDLE 6 v TOP 6</b> Minimum 1 return meeting Maximum 2 return meetings	<b>BOTTOM 6 v TOP 6</b> Minimum 1 return meeting Maximum 2 return meetings
MIDDLE	<b>TOP 6 v MIDDLE 6</b> Minimum 1 return meeting Maximum 2 return meetings	<b>MIDDLE 6 v MIDDLE 6</b> Minimum 2 return meetings Maximum 3 return meetings	<b>BOTTOM 6 v MIDDLE 6</b> Minimum 1 return meeting Maximum 2 return meetings
BOTTOM 6	<b>TOP 6 v BOTTOM 6</b> Minimum 1 return meeting Maximum 2 return meetings	<b>MIDDLE 6 v BOTTOM 6</b> Minimum 1 return meeting Maximum 2 return meetings	<b>BOTTOM 6 v BOTTOM 6</b> Minimum 2 return meetings Maximum 3 return meetings

With the expansion to 24-rounds for the 2023 Toyota AFL Premiership Season, an adjustment was made to the 'Weighted Rule' to accommodate for a sixth double match-up. Top Six v Bottom Six matches now have a maximum of two return matches. Bottom Six v Top Six now have a maximum of two return matches.



# FIXTURE PROCESS

The key factors in determining the 2024 Toyota AFL Premiership Season Fixture include:

## SEASON STRUCTURE

In 2024, the AFL's standard fixture timeslots for the home and away season will consist of the below, with matches broadcast by our partners the Seven Network, Foxtel and Kayo.

### BROADCASTERS

Thursday	Seven	Foxtel	Kayo
Friday	Seven	Foxtel	Kayo
Saturday Early		Foxtel	Kayo
Saturday Afternoon		Foxtel	Kayo
Saturday Twilight		Foxtel	Kayo
Saturday Night	Seven	Foxtel	Kayo
Saturday Night		Foxtel	Kayo
Sunday Night		Foxtel	Kayo
Sunday Afternoon	Seven	Foxtel	Kayo
Sunday Twilight		Foxtel	Kayo

This spread of matches facilitates the widest possible coverage of the game via the outstanding support of our broadcast partners and works to provide fans with alternatives to attend and watch games, taking into account competing demands for supporters' time, such as work, home, junior and community-level sport and other forms of recreation and entertainment.

## ON-FIELD EQUITY

On-field equity is a key component of the AFL's philosophy. As such, providing all clubs with the opportunity to be successful and contest the Toyota AFL Finals Series is a crucial element of the AFL fixture.

Given the AFL competition comprises a 25-week season involving 18 clubs playing 23 matches, it is not possible to achieve complete equity with all teams playing each opponent both home and away.

To best manage on-field equity for all clubs under the current competition model, the 2024 fixture has again been constructed around the 'weighted rule', whereby the final ladder from the previous season is grouped into the top six teams, middle six teams and bottom six teams, with double match-ups for all clubs managed as follows:

- **TOP SIX:** Clubs ranked 1-6 on the 2023 ladder will have a minimum of two and maximum of three return meetings with other top six clubs. They will have a minimum of one and maximum of two return meetings with clubs ranked 7-12. They will have a minimum of one and a maximum of two return meetings with clubs ranked 13-18.
  - **MIDDLE SIX:** Clubs ranked 7-12 on the 2023 ladder will have a minimum of one and maximum of two return meetings with clubs ranked 1-6 on the ladder. They will have a minimum of two and maximum of three return meetings with other middle six clubs. They will have a minimum of one and maximum of two return meetings with clubs ranked 13-18.
  - **BOTTOM SIX:** Clubs ranked 13-18 on the 2023 ladder will have a minimum of one and a maximum of two return meetings with clubs ranked 1-6. They will have a minimum of one or a maximum of two return meetings with clubs ranked 7-12. They will have a minimum of two and a maximum of three return meetings with other bottom six clubs.
- While this process cannot take into account form fluctuations between seasons, and a significant performance increase or decrease by any club may impact the fixture for others, the results of the application of the weighted rule to previous season's fixtures demonstrated a relative parity of double match-ups for all sides in the competition.

## PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Easter coincides with Round Three of the 2024 season, which will kick off on Easter Thursday with the Brisbane Lions hosting Collingwood at the Gabba. AFL football will then be played on Good Friday for the seventh time, with North Melbourne hosting Carlton in a twilight encounter at Marvel Stadium, before Fremantle host the Adelaide Crows that evening at Optus Stadium in Perth. Hawthorn and Geelong Cats will then clash in the traditional Easter Monday holiday match to close out the Easter weekend.

The ANZAC Round will be held in Round 7. The round commences with Richmond hosting Melbourne on ANZAC Day Eve before Essendon host Collingwood at the MCG in the annual ANZAC Day match, with the GWS GIANTS then hosting the Brisbane Lions at Manuka Oval that evening.

Port Adelaide host St Kilda in their annual ANZAC match commemorating Peter Badcoe VC on the Friday night at Adelaide Oval, with Fremantle playing the Western Bulldogs in their annual Len Hall Tribute game on the Saturday night.

Collingwood will host Melbourne in the King's Birthday Monday holiday match to be played at the MCG in Round 13, with Essendon playing Carlton the night prior in the King's Birthday Eve match.

## PLAYER WELFARE AND TRAVEL LOAD

The AFL competition is extremely demanding on its players. From the start of the pre-season, through to the 2024 Toyota AFL Grand Final on September 28, 2024, teams will play week in, week out across the nation. Therefore, player welfare and travel loads are primary considerations in the preparation of the fixture each year.

In 2024 Clubs may receive a maximum of three five-day breaks between matches but are otherwise ensured a minimum six-day break between matches in regularly scheduled rounds.

A five-day break may be used under the following parameters (excl. ANZAC Round):

1. A maximum of three five-day breaks per Club (inclusive of matches scheduled around public holidays e.g. ANZAC Day / Eve)
2. A minimum six-day break on either side of a five-day break (i.e. minimum 6-5-7 or 7-5-6)

3. A maximum six-day break for the opposition team
4. The provision of two consecutive days off for all players over the week following a five-day break (or other time in that week where agreed by player and Club)
5. In relation to travel:
  - a. No five-day break as part of a double travel
  - b. No five-day break travelling out of Perth
  - c. Travel into a five-day break subject to players having a minimum five nights in their home city (where a team has travelled the week before)
  - d. Travel acceptable out of a five-day break (noting this would be into a minimum seven-day break)
  - e. The AFL also determines that as the clubs with the heaviest travel load in the competition, the West Coast Eagles and Fremantle, will always alternate home and away matches so that they do not travel in consecutive weeks at any stage. In doing this, all other clubs will have to travel at least once to Western Australia, to play either the West Coast Eagles or Fremantle. No other team in the competition travels interstate more than two weeks in a row and where possible, any successive travels are accommodated with a trip to the closest state (for instance, Sydney to Victoria or Queensland).

In 2024, the AFL has again elected to schedule a second bye round at the conclusion of the home and away season. This week's break gives the top eight clubs extra time to prepare for the 2024 Toyota AFL Finals Series.

## CLUB REQUESTS

Our clubs make annual submissions relating to the fixture, typically centred on travel, commercial, venue, event and membership-driven requests. The AFL endeavours to accommodate as many of these as possible, on the basis that they help promote the game and maximise attendances and television audiences.

## ATTENDANCES

Maximising attendances is a key objective of scheduling and the AFL, thanks to the outstanding work of our clubs and players and with the passionate support of our members and fans, saw a record 7,475,146 fans attended the 2023 Toyota AFL Premiership Season. The AFL has also scheduled showpiece Thursday and Friday night matches in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, Canberra, Geelong and Darwin, giving as many supporters as possible across Australia the opportunity to take part in the blockbuster match-day experience.

## BROADCAST AGREEMENTS

Providing comprehensive coverage of AFL matches on television is a fundamental component of the fixture process, as is ensuring that matches are scheduled in accordance with the AFL's contractual obligations to our broadcast partners in the Seven Network, Foxtel and Kayo.

Some of the factors that must be taken into account from a broadcast perspective include:

- Where possible, the best match in each round to be scheduled on Friday night.
- Matches scheduled in timeslots that enable television coverage of all matches across each round, on the Seven Network and/or Foxtel.
- Fremantle/West Coast Eagles, Brisbane Lions/ Gold Coast SUNS, GWS GIANTS/Sydney Swans and Adelaide Crows/Port Adelaide cannot be scheduled to play in the same or overlapping timeslots, so that matches featuring local sides may be broadcast in full on free-to-air television in the relevant states (regardless of whether the match is produced by the Seven Network or Foxtel).

## GAME PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT

In line with the AFL's strategic imperatives, matches have again been scheduled in all states and territories of Australia.

The matches to be played include:

- **Tasmania** - Hawthorn will play four home matches at Launceston's University of Tasmania Stadium, while North Melbourne will host four matches at Blundstone Arena in Hobart.
- **Ballarat** - The Western Bulldogs will host two matches for premiership points in Ballarat.
- **Northern Territory** - The Gold Coast SUNS will host two matches at TIO Stadium, while Melbourne will host one match at TIO Traeger Park.
- **Australian Capital Territory** - The GWS GIANTS will play three home matches at Manuka Oval.
- **South Australia** - all Round 4 matches to be played in South Australia across three venues - Adelaide Oval, Norwood Oval and, Adelaide Hills - Mt Barker

## VENUE AGREEMENTS

The AFL has various venue obligations which must be fulfilled each year, while many of its clubs also have contractual obligations to play minimum numbers of matches at certain venues around Australia. All of these obligations must be taken into consideration when planning each round of matches, ensuring an even spread across the country throughout the season wherever possible, to best accommodate player welfare, club travel loads, broadcast programming, attendances and promotion of the game.





# A FAIR AND EQUITABLE DRAW

**18**  
CLUBS

**23**  
MATCHES PER CLUB

**24**  
ROUNDS

## PRIMARY FACTORS

<b>CLUB REQUESTS</b>	Accommodating, where possible, the requirements and requests of the clubs.
<b>OPPONENT DISTRIBUTION</b>	All teams to play each other once and six teams twice, with double match-ups determined by 'weighted rule.'
<b>PLAYER WELFARE</b>	Clubs may receive a maximum of three five-day breaks between matches, but are otherwise ensured a minimum six-day break between matches in regularly scheduled rounds.
<b>TRAVEL</b>	Travel load to be spread as evenly as possible between all clubs.
<b>FANS</b>	All matches scheduled with fans in mind to maximise attendances and television audiences.
<b>GAME DEVELOPMENT</b>	Clubs playing home matches in developing regional markets.
<b>BROADCASTING AGREEMENTS</b>	All matches scheduled in line with the AFL's contractual obligations to its broadcast partners.
<b>VENUE AGREEMENTS</b>	Various contracts require a minimum number of matches to be played at certain venues.

**DOUBLE CHANCE: FINAL 8 SYSTEM PROVIDES DOUBLE CHANCES TO TOP 4 TEAMS**

## 2024 TOYOTA AFL FINALS SERIES

**SEPTEMBER 5-8:** Week One - Qualifying & Elimination Finals (4)

**SEPTEMBER 13 & 14:** Week Two - Semi-Finals (2)

**SEPTEMBER 20 & 21:** Week Three - Preliminary Finals (2)

**SEPTEMBER 28:** Week Four - Toyota AFL Grand Final

## THE FINAL EIGHT: HOW IT WORKS

### QUALIFYING AND ELIMINATION FINALS

