



Newcastle 2026 National Carnival

AFL MASTERS
NATIONAL CARNIVAL
2026
NEWCASTLE, NSW
27 September - 3 October 2026
70+ TEAMS

PACK YOUR FAMILY FOR ONE UNFORGETTABLE WEEK
FOLLOW FOR UPDATES | REGISTRATIONS OPENING SOON

AFL MASTERS **NEWCASTLE NATIONAL CARNIVAL** **NEWCASTLE SEEK OFF BEAT** **SUPPORTED BY LAKE MACQUARIE CITY** **FOR CARNIVAL INFO SCAN ME**

South Australia Player Information

Introduction

South Australian AFL Masters President

Welcome.

It is with great pleasure that we confirm Newcastle, NSW has won the rights to hold the 2026 AFL Masters National Carnival. This is the first National Carnival to be held in Newcastle.

The AFL Masters Carnivals are an enjoyable experience, where you will develop lifelong friendships with people from not only your state but Nationally.

It is our goal, as a committee, to make sure the Carnival is enjoyable as possible, and we encourage new players and past carnival players to get involved and make it a family experience and a carnival to remember like no other.

Please provide all the requested information and make sure you keep in contact with your club delegate, AFL Masters SA Facebook page, AFL Masters National Carnival Facebook page and emails for updates on the Newcastle National Carnival.

@ AFLMastersSA

@ AFLMasters

<https://aflmasterssa.com.au>

Tim Heath President

AFL Masters SA

Welcome

This information pack has been prepared to inform you of important dates, registration information and commitments regarding the National Carnival to be held in Newcastle.

The Newcastle Carnival will be held from Sunday 27th of September to Saturday 3rd October 2026.

The games will be played primarily on the No 1 Sportsground with the only venue offering Night Games.

Other games shall be scheduled at Hawkins Oval (Wickham), Harker Oval (New Lambton), Feighan Oval (Warners Bay) & Pasterfield Sporting Complex (Cameron Park).

Games are confirmed to be played over 3 rounds on Sunday 27th September, Wednesday 30th October and finals either on Friday 2nd or Saturday 3rd October.

NSW Masters & Newcastle Tourism are very keen on seeing all States participate in tours and sightseeing that Newcastle has to offer. During scheduled days off, we encourage SA to get out & explore as much of the region as possible.

There are important dates and information in this pack that you need to be aware of. The Executive Committee will be hosting two State based events during the week, as part of the Registration payment & also the Gala Ball Function.

This year it will be a Sit down dinner service hosted by the Newcastle Entertainment Centre. This is an event for registered players build into Registration Fees from the National Body, encouraging attendance from all. Additional tickets are available for purchase for family members.

Worklocker as part of our Major Sponsor will be our merchandise supplier for the purchase of all items required to participate in the National Carnival. Some items are compulsory but other items are available as optional.

As always, please remember you are representing your local club, AFL Masters and your State. There is plenty of fun to be had on and off the field, and each year SA looks to walk away with a good reputation of being competitive & fair on the field, whilst enjoying themselves off the field.

Contact Details

If you need to contact any of the Executive or Committee members, details are below:

President

Tim Heath president@aflmasterssa.com.au 0422 411 780

Football Operations

Matt Gale footballoperations@aflmasterssa.com.au 0431 669 019

Carnival Coordinator

Rob McNeil carnivalcoordinator@aflmasterssa.com.au 0420 993 733

Women's representative

Meagan Fowler samasterwomensfootball@gmail.com 0402 644 980

Vice President

Jase Hall vicepresident@aflmasterssa.com.au 0449 173 225

Treasurer

Chris Hanley treasurer@aflmasterssa.com.au 0480 349 921

Marketing

Dan Wilson marketing@aflmasterssa.com.au 0407 504 650

Carnival Head Trainer

Coaches:

Carnival Registration and Timetable

AFL Masters National are open for registrations. This is done via PlayHQ, so it is important that you are firstly registered with you Club before June 30th to avoid issues surrounding National registrations.

<https://www.playhq.com/afl/register/97e90c>

The Male age groups are:	Women's team
35	35
40	40
45	45
50	
55	
60	
Over 65	

It is always the intention for SA to nominate a team in each age group, with each player representing SA. Due to attendance numbers (especially away carnivals) this is not always possible. Please note that your registration may result in playing for a merged state team, or perhaps playing down in a younger age division.

These exceptions are well discussed & team allocations are made in the best interest of Carnival balance. Selection in a merged team, or younger division is not grounds for a registration refund request.

Selection process for teams:

- Players who attended the previous year's Carnival in Darwin will be given preference if they confirm their intention to attend by 31st May 2026, otherwise, they will be considered the same as all other players. There will be 24 players maximum per team.
- Preference for Women's players will be given to those that have played a minimum of 2 Women's Masters games during the current season.
- Players will be placed in the appropriate team based on their age. However, coaches may negotiate with other coaches to have a player change teams but players are only allowed to play down in grades.
- Players are considered registered for a team once the Carnival Coordinator has received the players registration form and full payment has been received (not one or the other)
- Regarding age groups, a player who turns the required age by the end of December in the year of the Carnival, may be eligible to play in that age group.
- The Carnival Coordinator will confirm inclusion in a team and Guernsey number.

The cost of the Carnival to you will be

The Carnival is run at break-even cost to the AFL Masters SA Association, all players are required to pay in full when they submit their registrations forms.

What is included in your fees	Do I need it	Cost
<p>Final Night Event per person (this fee is set by the National Board) The final night event is for all players, trainers, umpires etc from all states and usually over 1200 people attend the final night event.</p> <p>All Australian Teams are announced during the night for each age group and it's a great night to mingle with other players, families and States.</p>	Included	<p>Extra adult Gala night ticket \$TBA</p> <p>Purchased via Stack App</p>
Team photo, registration, insurance, and umpires	Included	
<p>Saturday AFL Grand Final Meet & Greet Function, TBA</p> <p>Friday Pyscho Night, TBA</p>	Included for Players, Trainers & Immediate family members	
SA Trainers Equipment, taping, bandages etc	Included	
Total cost for registration	Compulsory	\$500

Associated Costs:

- Players must have the latest South Australian AFL Masters merchandise including the compulsory items.
- All merchandise orders to be placed through our supplier Worklocker and payment required at time of ordering. Payment to be made to Worklocker direct.
- Participants to arrange own transport to and from ovals.

Registration refunds:

If you register and pay a fee, but subsequently cannot play at the carnival, or are not selected, refund requests are submitted through the National Body for approval.

Please ensure supporting documentation relating to injury or financial hardship are supported when presented to the Carnival Coordinator.

Important Dates

Date	Event	Comments
By 30 th June 2026 Past Carnival Player Preference Period	Players who attended the previous year's National Carnival in Darwin must register by this date and make a deposit of fees	After this date, previous year carnival players are treated equally with all other players.
1 st July 2026	Registration period opens for all players	24 players in each age group
30 th April 2026	Applications for coaching positions close – Coaching appointments will be announced in May	Amount of teams will determine the number of coaches, after a selection process the successful candidates will be notified.
TBA	State training will commence	Location TBC
TBA	Merchandise orders	All merchandise orders need to be placed
Newcastle National Carnival		
Friday 25 th September	Carnival Media Launch Team Managers & Umpires Meeting	TBA
Saturday 26 th September	Captains Run SA Meet n Greet (AFL Grand Final)	TBA TBA
Sunday 27 th September	Games commencing at 8.30am Team Photos March On	No.1 Oval, 5pm
Tuesday 29 th September	Golf day <i>Breakfast, 18 holes golf with cart, lunch & prizes - Reservations & ticket purchases.</i>	Rydges Resort Hunter Valley 7.30am – 4.00pm <i>Estimate \$130 pp</i>
Tuesday 29 th September	Ladies day 1 hour drinks package & 3 hour food	Rydges Newcastle 2pm – 5pm <i>(Est \$120 pp)</i>
Wednesday 30 th September	Games commencing at 8.30am	
Friday 2 nd October	Games commencing at 8.30am Twilight Fixtures: Forces Game, Mens & Womens Indigenous Matches	
Friday 2 nd October	SA Psycho Night	TBA
Saturday 3 rd October	Games commencing at 8.00am	
Saturday 3 rd October	Hall of Fame function Carnival Gala Ball	Newcastle Entertainment Centre

Your Guernsey and Number

If you played in the previous year's national carnival, you may be able to use your existing number except if you are changing grades (divisions) or age groups and the number is already allocated in the grade/age group you are moving to. In this instance it is your responsibility to agree to a new number with the Carnival Coordinator

For the Women's players the women's representative will provide Guernsey numbers to players.

Orders placed with Worklocker will give the option for preferred selections. This shall be confirmed prior to printing.

If a previous carnival player already has been allocated a guernsey number in the same age group, the player who was assigned the number at previous carnivals will have priority to use that number if in the same age group.

e.g If a player attended a National Carnival 3 years ago in the 35's but did not attend the previous carnival, this player has the first option to their Guernsey number if in the same age group.

All merchandise orders will be made direct to Worklocker at time of ordering via their website, the following link will take you to the website.

uniformshopsa.com.au/collections/afl-masters

Worklocker

MOUNT BARKER

AFL Masters SA player kit

Compolsury:

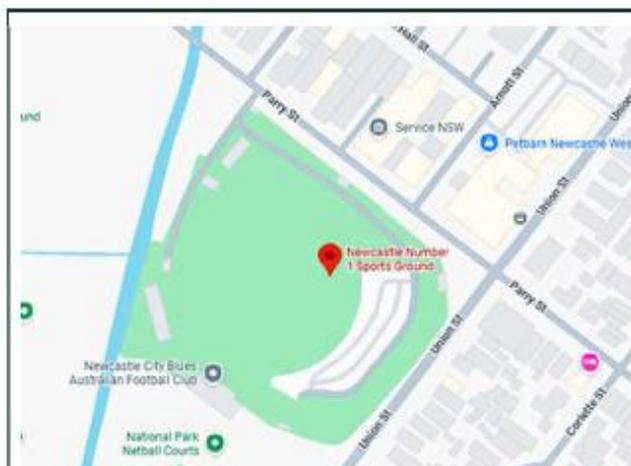
Optional extras

State Guernsey (Short or Long Sleeve)	Navy Blue State Casual Shorts
State Playing Shorts	State Bag (Number/Name Optional)
State Red Polo Shirt	State Backpack
State Red Socks	State Soft Shell Jacket
State Warm up/Training Top	State Blue Polo Top
	State Hoodie



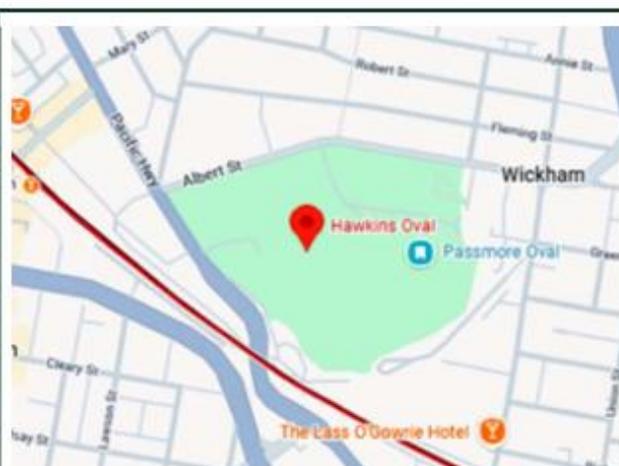
Allow for a time frame before the stock is supplied. ETA 3 weeks prior to Carnival

Ground Locations



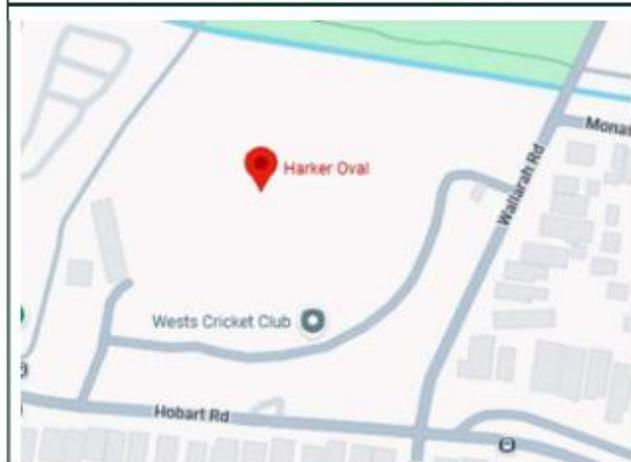
Newcastle Nbr 1

Cnr Parry and Union Sts Newcastle West 2302
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/XavBNFuZgDzhoy5S7>



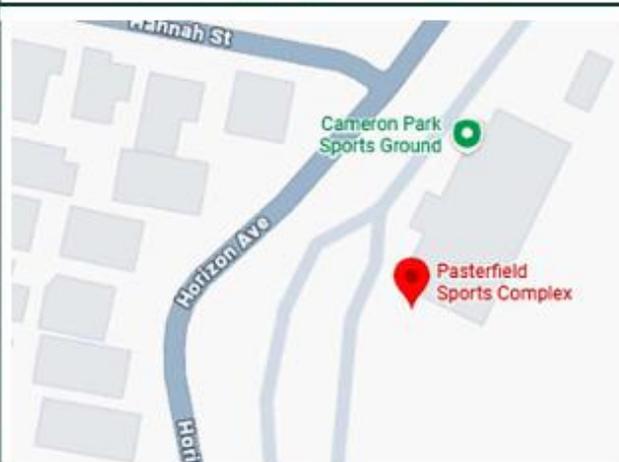
Hawkins Oval

Albert St, Wickham NSW 2293
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/XavBNFuZgDzhoy5S7>



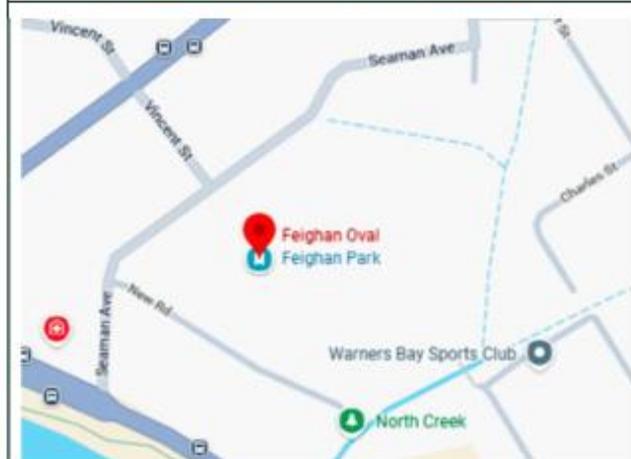
Harker Oval & Ford Oval

69 Hobart Rd, New Lambton 2305
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/3Qu99LQNqvVxv4a1A>



Pasterfield Sports Complex

Horizon Ave, Cameron Park 2285
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/3Qu99LQNqvVxv4a1A>



Feighan Oval (2 x Grounds)

Seaman Ave, Warners Bay 2282
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/FcFoz7eqVdfhHh967>

Ground hints & tips:

- Allow plenty of time to arrive at ground. Newcastle city traffic can be congested
- Check parking conditions, especially around CBD areas
- AFL National is unlikely to provide buses, historically not utilised, difficult to suit all
- Buddy up with a team-mates who have vehicles. Plan previous day at least
- Accommodation close to grounds may be difficult to secure. Plan ahead and be prepared to be flexible.
- Grounds subject to change at any time due to unexpected unavailability