

Mock AFL Fixtures
For Season 2017
By Timothy Edwards
AFL Fans Association
Representative South Australia

Attention: AFL Fans Association

For the past three weeks I have decided to do a mock AFL fixture for the 2017 season. I have come up with a formula that I believe will work in the future if the AFL is willing. The AFL fixture that I have designed and theorise over covers the following standards.

1. The two Western Australian and Queensland Clubs must not play away from home twice in a row. This is to account for the distances that they travel every second week each season and since Victorian Clubs don't travel to the extent the Western Australia and Queensland clubs do, this should be taken under consideration.
2. Clubs who play in the Northern Territory should not be forced to play in Tasmania and vice-versa. (For example at least Hawthorn, North Melbourne won't play in the Northern Territory due to their home game contract in Tasmania and Melbourne won't play in Tasmania due to their contract in the Northern Territory)

3. All Victorian based sides will play interstate at least 5 times a year. (This is based on grumblings from interstate fans saying Collingwood and Essendon for example only play away 4 times). I have worked it out that all can play a minimum of 5 times away each year.

While some may argue that Victorian based sides should travel even more than this, putting together an 18 club 22 game season with 10 Victorian based sides in the competition makes it difficult for them to travel more times. However the standard should be that they play a minimum 5 games outside Victoria.

Hawthorn, North Melbourne and Melbourne will have extra due to the home games they sell to Northern Territory and Tasmania. I have not factored in a Western Bulldogs home game in Cairns as I am not sure if this will continue.

4. Each club will have a permanent rivalry with another club that they will play each other twice a year in the home and away season. This is because I have ensured that 2 rounds will be rivalry rounds spaced out during the year in Round 6 and Round 18. Please see the following list on page 3 of how I have worked out who is a rival and why.

(PS: sorry Collingwood I know everyone wants to play you but you can only have the one rival).

5. Every AFL club will travel and play at least once in VIC, WA, SA, QLD and NSW/ACT. I have also mandated that each AFL club gets to play on the MCG (the home of the AFL Grand Final) at least 2 times.

This standard will ensure all AFL fans in the mainland states see their favourite team play and also help all AFL clubs promote their club around the mainland states yearly which can only benefit all AFL clubs in general.

AFL CLUB RIVALS (WHO PLAYS WHO EACH YEAR TWICE EVERY SEASON)

- **Fremantle and West Coast** due to being Western Australian based rivals
- **Carlton and Richmond** purely from the rivalry in 70's, 80's and now currently always opening the season.
- **Hawthorn and North Melbourne** is based solely on two things. Both have home games in Tasmania and both joined the VFL/AFL competition in 1925. Add to the 1975, 1976 and 1978 VFL grand finals.
- **Adelaide and Port Adelaide** due to being South Australian based rivals
- **Collingwood and Essendon** due to ANZAC day and they provide well attended blockbuster clashes between the two.
- **Geelong and Western Bulldogs** is pretty much geography so will call this a Western Victorian derby.
- **Brisbane and Gold Coast** due to being Queensland based rivals.
- **Melbourne and St. Kilda** the Heaven and Hell rivalry.
- **GWS Giants and Sydney** due to being New South Wales based rivals.

How I based my fixture list on who plays each other twice in 2017?

I have provided the following table on how I have worked out who plays who twice per year. It is divided into 3 groups of 6 with each column highlighted the group of teams that play each other twice in 2017.

Column A	Column B	Column C
Fremantle	Adelaide	Brisbane
West Coast	Port Adelaide	Gold Coast
Carlton	Collingwood	Melbourne
Richmond	Essendon	St. Kilda
Hawthorn	Geelong	GWS Giants
North Melbourne	Western Bulldogs	Sydney

AFL Mock Fixture 2017

Finally I can now write out the season 2017 how I have desired and the standard I have set. I won't go into details on specific dates and times but will provide the date range. The AFL season will start on Thursday 30th March and go through to Saturday 30th September 2017. It will have 23 rounds of home and away action with each club getting one bye plus a 4 week finals series.

Round One (Thursday 30th March to Sunday 2nd April)		
<u>HOME TEAM</u>	<u>AWAY TEAM</u>	<u>HOME GROUND</u>
Fremantle	Collingwood	Subiaco
Adelaide	Melbourne	Adelaide Oval
Brisbane	Carlton	Gabba
Sydney	West Coast	SCG
North Melbourne	Port Adelaide	Docklands
Western Bulldogs	Gold Coast	Docklands
Richmond	GWS Giants	MCG
St. Kilda	Geelong	Docklands
Essendon	Hawthorn	MCG

Round Two (Thursday 6th April to Sunday 9th April)		
<u>HOME TEAM</u>	<u>AWAY TEAM</u>	<u>HOME GROUND</u>
Carlton	Fremantle	Docklands
West Coast	North Melbourne	Subiaco
Hawthorn	Richmond	MCG
Collingwood	Adelaide	MCG
Port Adelaide	Western Bulldogs	Adelaide Oval
Gold Coast	Sydney	Carrara
Melbourne	Brisbane	MCG
Geelong	Essendon	Docklands
GWS Giants	St.Kilda	Manuka Oval

Round Three (Thursday 13th April to Monday 17th April) Easter Weekend

<u>HOME TEAM</u>	<u>AWAY TEAM</u>	<u>HOME GROUND</u>
Fremantle	Geelong	Subiaco
Adelaide	GWS Giants	Adelaide Oval
Brisbane	Hawthorn	Gabba
Collingwood	West Coast	MCG
Melbourne	Port Adelaide	Traeger Park – Alice Springs
Carlton	Gold Coast	Docklands
Sydney	Richmond	SCG
Western Bulldogs	St. Kilda	Docklands
North Melbourne	Essendon	Docklands

Round Four (Thursday 20th April to Tuesday 25th April) Anzac Round

<u>HOME TEAM</u>	<u>AWAY TEAM</u>	<u>HOME GROUND</u>
Hawthorn	Fremantle	MCG
West Coast	Carlton	Subiaco
Richmond	North Melbourne	MCG
Geelong	Adelaide	Kardinia Park
Port Adelaide	Collingwood	Adelaide Oval
Essendon	Western Bulldogs	MCG
GWS Giants	Brisbane	Sydney Showgrounds
Gold Coast	Melbourne	Carrara
St. Kilda	Sydney	Docklands

Round Five (Thursday 27th April to Sunday 30th April)

<u>HOME TEAM</u>	<u>AWAY TEAM</u>	<u>HOME GROUND</u>
Fremantle	Gold Coast	Subiaco
Carlton	St. Kilda	Docklands
Sydney	Hawthorn	SCG
Adelaide	West Coast	Adelaide Oval
Collingwood	Richmond	MCG
North Melbourne	Geelong	Docklands
Brisbane	Port Adelaide	Gabba
Melbourne	Essendon	MCG
Western Bulldogs	GWS Giants	Docklands

Round Six (Thursday 4th May to Sunday 7th May) RIVALRY ROUND ONE		
<u>HOME TEAM</u>	<u>AWAY TEAM</u>	<u>HOME GROUND</u>
West Coast	Fremantle	Subiaco
Richmond	Carlton	MCG
Hawthorn	North Melbourne	York Park
Port Adelaide	Adelaide	Adelaide Oval
Essendon	Collingwood	MCG
Geelong	Western Bulldogs	Kardinia Park
Gold Coast	Brisbane	Carrara
St. Kilda	Melbourne	Docklands
GWS Giants	Sydney	Sydney Showgrounds

Round Seven (Thursday 11th May to Sunday 14th May)		
<u>HOME TEAM</u>	<u>AWAY TEAM</u>	<u>HOME GROUND</u>
Fremantle	St. Kilda	Subiaco
Geelong	West Coast	Kardinia Park
Carlton	Sydney	Docklands
Adelaide	Richmond	Adelaide Oval
GWS Giants	Port Adelaide	Sydney Showgrounds
Collingwood	North Melbourne	MCG
Brisbane	Essendon	Gabba
Hawthorn	Gold Coast	York Park
Melbourne	Western Bulldogs	MCG

Round Eight (Thursday 18th May to Sunday 21st May)		
<u>HOME TEAM</u>	<u>AWAY TEAM</u>	<u>HOME GROUND</u>
Richmond	Fremantle	MCG
West Coast	Hawthorn	Subiaco
North Melbourne	Carlton	Docklands
Essendon	Adelaide	MCG
Port Adelaide	Geelong	Adelaide Oval
Western Bulldogs	Collingwood	Docklands
St. Kilda	Brisbane	Docklands
Gold Coast	GWS Giants	Carrara
Sydney	Melbourne	SCG

Round Nine (Thursday 25th May to Sunday 28th May)		
<u>HOME TEAM</u>	<u>AWAY TEAM</u>	<u>HOME GROUND</u>
Fremantle	Sydney	Subiaco
St. Kilda	West Coast	Docklands
GWS Giants	Carlton	Manuka Oval
Adelaide	North Melbourne	Adelaide Oval
Richmond	Port Adelaide	MCG
Hawthorn	Collingwood	MCG
Brisbane	Western Bulldogs	Gabba
Essendon	Gold Coast	MCG
Geelong	Melbourne	Kardinia Park

Round Ten (Thursday 1st June to Sunday 4th June)		
<u>HOME TEAM</u>	<u>AWAY TEAM</u>	<u>HOME GROUND</u>
North Melbourne	Fremantle	Docklands
West Coast	Richmond	Subiaco
Carlton	Hawthorn	Docklands
Western Bulldogs	Adelaide	Docklands
Port Adelaide	Essendon	Adelaide Oval
Collingwood	Geelong	MCG
Sydney	Brisbane	SCG
Gold Coast	St. Kilda	Carrara
Melbourne	GWS Giants	MCG

Round Eleven (Thursday 8th June to Monday 12th June) SPLIT ROUND		
<u>HOME TEAM</u>	<u>AWAY TEAM</u>	<u>HOME GROUND</u>
Fremantle	Adelaide	Subiaco
Gold Coast	West Coast	Carrara
Collingwood	Melbourne	MCG
Richmond	Essendon	MCG
Hawthorn	GWS Giants	York Park
Sydney	Western Bulldogs	SCG
BYE AND WEEKEND OFF		
Brisbane	Port Adelaide	Carlton
St. Kilda	Geelong	North Melbourne

Round Twelve (Thursday 15th June to Sunday 18th June) SPLIT ROUND		
<u>HOME TEAM</u>	<u>AWAY TEAM</u>	<u>HOME GROUND</u>
Brisbane	Fremantle	Gabba
Port Adelaide	Gold Coast	Adelaide Oval
Carlton	Collingwood	MCG
St. Kilda	Richmond	Docklands
GWS Giants	Geelong	Manuka Oval
Western Bulldogs	North Melbourne	Docklands
BYE AND WEEKEND OFF		
Adelaide	West Coast	Melbourne
Essendon	Hawthorn	Sydney

Round Thirteen (Thursday 22nd June to Sunday 25th June) SPLIT ROUND		
<u>HOME TEAM</u>	<u>AWAY TEAM</u>	<u>HOME GROUND</u>
Adelaide	Brisbane	Adelaide Oval
West Coast	Port Adelaide	Subiaco
Melbourne	Carlton	MCG
Essendon	St. Kilda	MCG
Geelong	Hawthorn	Docklands
North Melbourne	Sydney	Hobart Oval
BYE AND WEEKEND OFF		
Fremantle	Gold Coast	Collingwood
Richmond	GWS Giants	Western Bulldogs

Round Fourteen (Thursday 29th June to Sunday 2nd July)		
<u>HOME TEAM</u>	<u>AWAY TEAM</u>	<u>HOME GROUND</u>
Fremantle	Carlton	Subiaco
North Melbourne	West Coast	Docklands
Richmond	Hawthorn	MCG
Adelaide	Collingwood	Adelaide Oval
Western Bulldogs	Port Adelaide	Docklands
Essendon	Geelong	MCG
Brisbane	Melbourne	Gabba
Sydney	Gold Coast	SCG
St. Kilda	GWS Giants	Docklands

Round Fifteen (Thursday 6th July to Sunday 9th July)		
<u>HOME TEAM</u>	<u>AWAY TEAM</u>	<u>HOME GROUND</u>
Melbourne	Fremantle	Darwin – NT
Port Adelaide	Sydney	Adelaide Oval
Geelong	Richmond	Docklands
Carlton	Adelaide	Docklands
Gold Coast	North Melbourne	Carrara
Hawthorn	St. Kilda	MCG
Collingwood	Brisbane	MCG
West Coast	Western Bulldogs	Subiaco
GWS Giants	Essendon	Sydney Showgrounds

Round Sixteen (Thursday 13th July to Sunday 16th July)		
<u>HOME TEAM</u>	<u>AWAY TEAM</u>	<u>HOME GROUND</u>
Fremantle	Hawthorn	Subiaco
Carlton	West Coast	Docklands
North Melbourne	Richmond	Docklands
Adelaide	Geelong	Adelaide Oval
Collingwood	Port Adelaide	MCG
Western Bulldogs	Essendon	Docklands
Brisbane	GWS Giants	Gabba
Melbourne	Gold Coast	MCG
Sydney	St. Kilda	SCG

Round Seventeen (Thursday 20th July to Sunday 23rd July)		
<u>HOME TEAM</u>	<u>AWAY TEAM</u>	<u>HOME GROUND</u>
GWS Giants	Fremantle	Sydney Showgrounds
Gold Coast	Collingwood	Carrara
Essendon	Sydney	MCG
Hawthorn	Adelaide	York Park
West Coast	Melbourne	Subiaco
Richmond	Western Bulldogs	MCG
Geelong	Brisbane	Kardinia Park
Port Adelaide	Carlton	Adelaide Oval
St. Kilda	North Melbourne	Docklands

Round Eighteen (Thursday 27th July to Sunday 30th July) RIVALRY ROUND TWO		
<u>HOME TEAM</u>	<u>AWAY TEAM</u>	<u>HOME GROUND</u>
Fremantle	West Coast	Subiaco
Carlton	Richmond	MCG
North Melbourne	Hawthorn	Docklands
Adelaide	Port Adelaide	Adelaide Oval
Collingwood	Essendon	MCG
Western Bulldogs	Geelong	Docklands
Brisbane	Gold Coast	Gabba
Melbourne	St. Kilda	MCG
Sydney	GWS Giants	SCG

Round Nineteen (Thursday 3rd August to Sunday 6th August)		
<u>HOME TEAM</u>	<u>AWAY TEAM</u>	<u>HOME GROUND</u>
Port Adelaide	Fremantle	Adelaide Oval
Essendon	Carlton	MCG
Geelong	Sydney	Kardinia Park
Gold Coast	Adelaide	Carrara
Richmond	Melbourne	MCG
St. Kilda	Collingwood	Docklands
GWS Giants	North Melbourne	Sydney Showgrounds
West Coast	Brisbane	Subiaco
Hawthorn	Western Bulldogs	MCG

Round Twenty (Thursday 10th August to Sunday 13th August)		
<u>HOME TEAM</u>	<u>AWAY TEAM</u>	<u>HOME GROUND</u>
Fremantle	Richmond	Subiaco
Hawthorn	West Coast	York Park
Carlton	North Melbourne	Docklands
Adelaide	Essendon	Adelaide Oval
Geelong	Port Adelaide	Kardinia Park
Collingwood	Western Bulldogs	MCG
Brisbane	St. Kilda	Gabba
GWS Giants	Gold Coast	Sydney Showgrounds
Melbourne	Sydney	MCG

Round Twenty One (Thursday 17th August to Sunday 20th August)		
<u>HOME TEAM</u>	<u>AWAY TEAM</u>	<u>HOME GROUND</u>
Essendon	Fremantle	MCG
West Coast	GWS Giants	Subiaco
Western Bulldogs	Carlton	Docklands
Richmond	Brisbane	MCG
Port Adelaide	Hawthorn	Adelaide Oval
Sydney	Collingwood	SCG
Gold Coast	Geelong	Carrara
North Melbourne	Melbourne	Docklands
St. Kilda	Adelaide	Docklands

Round Twenty Two (Thursday 24th August to Sunday 27th August)		
<u>HOME TEAM</u>	<u>AWAY TEAM</u>	<u>HOME GROUND</u>
Fremantle	North Melbourne	Subiaco
Richmond	West Coast	MCG
Hawthorn	Carlton	MCG
Adelaide	Western Bulldogs	Adelaide Oval
Essendon	Port Adelaide	MCG
Geelong	Collingwood	Docklands
Brisbane	Sydney	Gabba
St. Kilda	Gold Coast	Docklands
GWS Giants	Melbourne	Sydney Showgrounds

Round Twenty Three (Thursday 31st August to Sunday 3rd September)		
<u>HOME TEAM</u>	<u>AWAY TEAM</u>	<u>HOME GROUND</u>
Western Bulldogs	Fremantle	Docklands
Port Adelaide	St. Kilda	Adelaide Oval
Collingwood	GWS Giants	MCG
Sydney	Adelaide	SCG
Gold Coast	Richmond	Carrara
Melbourne	Hawthorn	MCG
North Melbourne	Brisbane	Hobart Oval
West Coast	Essendon	Subiaco
Carlton	Geelong	Docklands

**BREAKDOWN SUMMARY OF GROUNDS EACH AFL CLUB
WILL PLAY AT**

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>Grounds</u>
<i>Fremantle</i>	Western Australia – 12 Games
	Victoria – 6 Games (3 MCG, 3 Docklands)
	Queensland – 1 Game Brisbane
	New South Wales/ACT – 1 Game Showgrounds
	South Australia – 1 Game
	Northern Territory – 1 Game Darwin
<i>West Coast</i>	Western Australia – 12 Games
	Victoria – 6 Games (3 Docklands, 2 MCG & 1 Geelong)
	Queensland – 1 Game Gold Coast
	New South Wales/ACT – 1 game SCG
	South Australia – 1 Game
	Tasmania – 1 Game Launceston
<i>Carlton</i>	Victoria – 17 Games (11 Docklands & 6 MCG)
	Western Australia – 2 Games
	Queensland – 1 Game Brisbane
	New South Wales/ACT – 1 Game Canberra
	South Australia – 1 Game
<i>Richmond</i>	Victoria – 17 Games (14 MCG & 3 Docklands)
	Western Australia – 2 Games
	Queensland – 1 Game Gold Coast
	New South Wales/ACT – 1 Game Sydney
	South Australia – 1 Game
<i>Hawthorn</i>	Victoria – 12 Games (10 MCG & 2 Docklands)
	Tasmania – 5 Games Launceston
	Western Australia – 2 Games
	New South Wales/ACT – 1 Game – Sydney
	Queensland – 1 Game – Brisbane
	South Australia – 1 Game

North Melbourne	Victoria – 14 Games (12 Docklands & 2 MCG)
	Tasmania – 3 Games 1 in Launceston and 2 in Hobart
	Western Australia – 2 Games
	New South Wales/ACT – 1 Game – Sydney
	Queensland – 1 Game Gold Coast
	South Australia – 1 Game
Adelaide	South Australia – 12 Games
	Victoria – 6 Games (3 Docklands, 2 MCG & 1 Geelong)
	Western Australia – 1 Game
	Queensland – 1 Game Gold Coast
	New South Wales/ACT – 1 Game Sydney
	Tasmania – 1 Game Launceston
Port Adelaide	South Australia – 12 Games
	Victoria – 6 Games (3 MCG, 2 Docklands & 1 Geelong)
	Western Australia – 1 Game
	Queensland – 1 Game Brisbane
	New South Wales/ACT – 1 Game Sydney
	Northern Territory – 1 Game Alice Springs
Collingwood	Victoria – 17 Games (14 MCG & 3 Docklands)
	South Australia – 2 Games
	Western Australia – 1 Game
	Queensland – 1 Game Gold Coast
	New South Wales/ACT – 1 Game Sydney
Essendon	Victoria – 17 Games (14 MCG & 3 Docklands)
	South Australia – 2 Games
	Western Australia – 1 Game
	Queensland – 1 Game Brisbane
	New South Wales/ACT – 1 Game Sydney
Geelong	Victoria – 17 Games (7 Geelong, 8 Docklands, 2 MCG)
	South Australia – 2 Games
	Western Australia – 1 Game
	Queensland – 1 Game Gold Coast
	New South Wales/ACT – 1 Game Canberra

Western Bulldogs	Victoria – 17 Games (11 Docklands, 5 MCG 1 Geelong)
	South Australia – 2 Games
	Western Australia – 1 Game
	Queensland – 1 Game Brisbane
	New South Wales/ACT – 1 Game Sydney
Brisbane	Queensland – 12 Games (11 Brisbane, 1 Gold Coast)
	Victoria – 5 Games (3 MCG, 1 Docklands, 1 Geelong)
	New South Wales/ACT – 2 Games Sydney
	South Australia – 1 Game
	Western Australia – 1 Game
	Tasmania – 1 Game Hobart
Gold Coast	Queensland – 12 Games (11 Gold Coast 1 Brisbane)
	Victoria – 5 Games (3 Docklands, 2 MCG)
	New South Wales/ACT – 2 Games Sydney
	South Australia – 1 Game
	Western Australia – 1 Game
	Tasmania – 1 Game Launceston
Melbourne	Victoria – 14 Games (11 MCG, 2 Docklands, 1 Geelong)
	Northern Territory – 2 Games (1 Darwin, 1 Alice Springs)
	New South Wales/ACT – 2 Games Sydney
	Queensland – 2 Games (1 Brisbane 1 Gold Coast)
	South Australia – 1 Game
	Western Australia – 1 Game
St. Kilda	Victoria – 16 Games (13 Docklands, 3 MCG)
	New South Wales/ACT – 2 Games (Sydney, Canberra)
	Queensland – 2 Games (Brisbane, Gold Coast)
	South Australia – 1 Game
	Western Australia – 1 Game
GWS Giants	New South Wales/ACT 12 Games (9 Sydney, 3 Canberra)
	Victoria – 5 Games (3 MCG & 2 Docklands,)
	Queensland – 2 Games (Brisbane, Gold Coast)
	South Australia – 1 Game
	Western Australia – 1 Game
	Tasmania – 1 Game Launceston

Sydney	New South Wales/ACT 12 Games (12 Sydney)
	Victoria – 5 Games (2 Docklands, 2 MCG, 1 Geelong)
	Queensland – 2 Games (Brisbane, Gold Coast)
	South Australia – 1 Game
	Western Australia – 1 Game
	Tasmania – 1 Game Hobart

Number of Games played on each home ground for 2017

<u>Australian State/Territory</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Number of games</u>
<i>Victoria</i>	MCG	50 Games
	Docklands	44 Games
	Kardinia Park	7 Games
<i>South Australia</i>	Adelaide Oval	22 Games
<i>Western Australia</i>	Subiaco	22 Games
<i>Queensland</i>	Gabba	11 Games
	Carrara	11 Games
<i>New South Wales</i>	SCG	11 Games
	Sydney Showgrounds	8 Games
<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>	Manuka Oval	3 Games
<i>Tasmania</i>	York Park	5 Games
	Hobart Oval	2 Games
<i>Northern Territory</i>	Darwin Oval	1 Game
	Traeger Park Alice Springs	1 Game
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>14 Venues</u>	<u>198 Games</u>

SUMMARY

This has taken me three weeks to do but it is something that has been on my mind for a while to do and now that I am a representative for the AFL fans association I thought my first issue that I would like to get across is in regards to the unevenness of the draw.

The big issue that I have found through the current draw is that demanding certain marquee fixtures played at certain times (e.g. ANZAC DAY clash, Richmond/Carlton season opener, etc.) messes with the integrity of the draw.

Every AFL season that I can remember when the fixtures come out fans have complained in great numbers about a range of things wrong with the draw from: Victorian Clubs don't travel? Why do we have to play in WA twice? Why do we have to play in both Northern Territory and Tasmania? Why do we only get one game at the MCG each season?

Well after much thought I thought you know maybe I should come up with a fixture and lay it out for everyone to see and see if I can come up with a better draw for everyone.

After several redrafts I feel I have come up with a fixture list that I am certain will be fair for all fans and clubs of the AFL as a whole.

I hope that the AFL Fans Association Committee will take a look at my suggestion of a fairer draw that maybe could be passed on to the AFL executives to have a look at.

I also hope the fans and media of the AFL can look at my proposal so that people can get an understanding of how I broke down the draw to be fair for all.

I look forward to hearing from you and the fans for potential feedback and recommendations.

Kind regards

Timothy Edwards

AFL Fans Association Representative – South Australia