



MEMORANDUM

To: **State Community Development Managers**

Cc: **Josh Vanderloo, Tony Costanzo**

From: **Andrew Hughes**

Date: **22 May 2015**

Re: **2015 State Volunteer of the Year & Merit Awards**

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to provide information on two programs to recognise outstanding contributions to Australian Football:

1. 2015 State Volunteer of the Year Program
2. 2015 Merit Awards Program

2015 State Volunteer of the Year Program

The AFL State Volunteer of the Year Program is a volunteer recognition program that is part of the legacy of the 150 year celebrations in 2008. The program which commenced as part of the Australian Football 150 years celebration rewards seven outstanding volunteers with a trip of lifetime for them and a partner.

Each club, league or association is invited to nominate an outstanding volunteer as an AFL State Volunteer of the Year. The volunteer may have contributed to the completion of a major or significant project throughout the year or they may be someone who has contributed in a number of roles over a long period.

Each state and territory will be responsible for evaluating the nominations and ultimately will determine their State Volunteer of the Year.

Selection criteria

1. Must have given notable voluntary service to Australian Football.
2. Must be a willing, voluntary contributor, having received no income from football (NB honoraria excepted).
3. Must be an ambassador for the game of football who acts and works for the best interest of the game, never bringing the game into disrepute.
4. Those making nominations should make no more than one nomination.

Clubs can complete an online nomination for a volunteer from their club via the AFL Community website:

<http://aflcommunity.com.au/index.php?id=293>

You may also wish to accept nominations directly to regional or state managers. A nomination form is attached should you wish to use it.

State Volunteer of the Year winner prize

- 2 x tickets and an AFL Grand Final Experience at the Toyota AFL Grand Final
- 2 x return flights & accommodation for 3 nights (Thurs – Sat) in Melbourne for Grand Final weekend (except Victoria)
- The opportunity to walk in the Toyota AFL Grand Final Parade

Nomination process:

- Nominations must be received by COB Friday 28th August, 2015
- Late submissions will not be considered
- Nomination form is attached

When completing the online nomination form, the person nominating the volunteer should use the general information field to provide a full and comprehensive history of the volunteer's service. Past involvement with clubs, other than the nominating club should be detailed. All details should be provided via the nomination form. Attachments cannot be included.

For examples of previous State Volunteers of the Year please visit the AFL Community website:

<http://aflcommunity.com.au/index.php?id=60>

2015 AFL Merit Awards

The AFL Merit Awards are a long standing initiative to recognise outstanding service to Australian Football.

You are invited to nominate two people for an AFL Merit Award that has contributed outstanding service to Australian Football in your State/Territory.

Selection criteria

1. Two nominations per state/territory each year
 - a. One of the nominations should be for services to junior football.
2. Ten years is the minimum period of service for which a nomination will receive consideration.

AFL Merit Award winners receive:

- An AFL Merit Award Certificate personally signed by the AFL Chief Executive Officer and the Chairman of the AFL Commission.
- Added to the honour board of less than 600 Merit Award winners dating back to 1931.

Nomination process:

- Nominations must be submitted in electronic format by COB Friday 31st July, 2015
- Late submissions will not be considered
- Nomination form is attached
- Nominations need to be signed for and approved by your State/Territory CEO/General Manager.

For the list of previous Merit Award winners please visit the AFL Community website ([click here](#)).

Timelines

May 22	Memo circulated to State Managers with information relating to 2015 State Volunteer of the Year Program and the 2015 Merit Awards.
July 31	AFL Merit Award nominations close
August 28	State Volunteer of the Year nominations close
Oct 1 – 4	State Volunteer of the Year winners come to Melbourne for Grand Final week experience

If you have any questions or would like clarification on any aspect of this please do not hesitate to contact.

Regards,



Andrew Hughes
Community Programs Manager
Australian Football League