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MEDIA RELEASE

NEW SEASON INNOVATIONS FOR GOLDFIELDS ROOBALL AND LEAGUE

Clubs around the Goldfields are warming up for an exciting season of football. Preparations for the new season have included a change to the 16 and under competition.

The age limit has been increased to allow for the continued participation of those players born in 1990 with the competition changing to 17 and Under.

In the past keen players entered their seventeenth year and had to finish with the style of football competition they had experienced since the age of five, parting company with the mates they had enjoyed competing with and against over the years.

"Extension of the competition to a 17 and under league allows players who have formed strong relationships to their sport and their team mates to continue that alliance and mentor younger players for one more year" Karen Crouch Goldfields Soccer Association (GSA) Vice President.

"Additionally we surveyed our players last year and there was an overwhelming support for a shift from Sunday morning to Friday night competition for the 17's with the first games commencing on 27 April" she added.

Other changes for the new season include the registration of players by birth year rather than school year in order to bring all players back into line with the remainder of the state. Junior Football Clubs in the Goldfields are all community based organisations.

"Goldfields Rooball and League players will, once again, register by age group. This is the standard for Western Australia" said Ann-Maree Ford, President and registrar of the GSA. Additionally new Football Federation Australia (FFA) registration forms will be completed for all registrations to allow a new nationally recognised ID system for all players.

"The introduction of this initiative by the FFA will be work intensive in the first year but will be far more effective, simple and easier for a player to transfer between teams within the state and across Australia" said Ann-Maree. The GSA registration system with photo ID, for all Goldfields players, will still be in place.

The GSA competition season starts on 27 of April 2007 with our 17 and Under Division and 28 April 2007 for all other age divisions. Look for your club registration day in the sporting notices or visit the GSA website for club contact information at <http://www.goldfieldssoccer.com/contacts.htm>.