

Junior State Touch Cup carnival ready to kick off in Wagga Wagga

Wagga Wagga City Council and the NSW Touch Association (NSWTA) will once again host the Junior State Cup Southern Conference carnival at the Jubilee Park precinct this weekend (16-18 February).

It is the sixth consecutive year the Junior State Cup Southern Conference will be held in the city.

NSWTA General Manager Dean Russell is excited to be bringing the event back to Wagga Wagga.

“We once again find ourselves being hosted by the Wagga community and we cannot be more excited by the prospect,” Mr Russell said. “We have 197 teams making their way to the region to battle it out for the honour of being the Southern Champions.

“With the new developments at Jubilee Oval, the facilities continue to provide an excellent venue for this prestigious event.

“It will also be the first event under new Broadcast partners, KAYO and Sky Sport, ensuring coverage for the event worldwide.”

When asked about possible heat issues Russell stated that “we have demonstrated in the past that our policies in placing the wellbeing of our participants first is always of our utmost concern.

“Should we get extreme heat issues we will, as we did last year, look to alter playing conditions to give greater rest and water intake opportunities and if needed, suspend play and come back in the evening.”

In June last year (2023), NSWTA named Wagga Wagga as the winner to host the 2024, 2025 and 2026 carnivals after an extensive tender process.

Russell believes that the quality of the venue, centralised location with ease of travel, and the strengthening relationship with Council are all elements that have worked in the region’s favour in attracting this event.

Deputy Mayor of the City of Wagga Wagga Councillor Amelia Parkins said the city is looking forward to welcoming all the players, families, supporters, organisers and volunteers back to the Jubilee Park precinct.

“The carnival has been successful for both the NSW Touch Association and our local community over the past five years, and we expect that positive trend to continue again this year,” Cr Parkins said.

“I think everyone, from players, families, and supporters to organisers and volunteers, will be impressed with the standard of the venue.

“Our staff have been working alongside NSW Touch to prepare the precinct for the carnival, highlighting the strong relationship we’ve forged over the past five years, a relationship we hope will continue to grow and prosper into the future.

“I wish all participants and officials the very best for another successful carnival.”

Dean Russell has also spoken about the logistics required in pulling the event together which have been enormous, and he welcomed the continuing support of Council.

“We can’t run these size events without the tremendous support of Council and businesses within the community,” Mr Russell said.

“When you consider that we will bring 10,000 participants, officials, and parents from 27 affiliates to the region, it does take a village to accommodate staging the event.”

There will be around 670 games to be played by 3000 players and referees over the three days of competition.

Games start at 8am on Friday and progress through to the finals from 11.30am on Sunday, with the prestigious Girls 18s and Boys 18s to be played at 2:30pm and 3pm respectively.

During the carnival, there will be changed traffic conditions including some road and lane closures around Jubilee Park, which will be under traffic management control. These include:

- Red Hill Road will be closed to east-bound traffic between the Bourke Street and Glenfield Road roundabouts, with detours via Bruce Street.
- Bourke Street between Bourkelands Drive and Red Hill Road roundabout will be closed to non-event traffic, with detours via Berembee Road, Bourkelands Drive and Holbrook Road.
- Road closures will be in place from 6am to 7pm on Friday and Saturday, and from 6am to 5pm on Sunday. Detours will be signposted.

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MEDIA OPPORTUNITY

What: NSW Touch Association Junior State Cup carnival preview

Who: NSWTA General Manager Dean Russell and Deputy Mayor of Wagga Wagga Cr Amelia Parkins.

When: Thursday 15 February 2024 at **10am**.

Where: Jubilee Park clubrooms

Contact 6926 9190 or media@wagga.nsw.gov.au

About Wagga Wagga City Council

Wagga Wagga City Council serves more than 68,000 residents across an area of 4825 square kilometres with an overall budget of more than \$236M.

The organisation manages more than \$2.48 billion in assets, including a 2300km road network, Wagga Wagga Airport, Livestock Marketing Centre and the Oasis Aquatic Centre.

Council also provides important community facilities such as Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, Wagga Wagga City Library, Museum of the Riverina and Civic Theatre, as well as maintaining countless parks, playgrounds and sporting facilities to ensure Wagga maintains its reputation as 'the City of Good Sports'.

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