

**MUSTANGS 'LOYAL SONS' PROGRAM****PURPOSE**

To reward loyal and long-serving unpaid Mustang players by giving them a small monetary benefit on the achievement of significant game milestones. The aim is to provide incentive for players to strive to play league football and encourage them to play out their careers with the Mustangs.

BACKGROUND

Our club has been through more than ten years of financial pain with little to no success on the field. This has led to feelings of frustration and hopelessness amongst the playing group and is compounded by the fact that several well paid players have been through the club, and given next to nothing on and off the field.

Some of our better players feel they have been taken a little for granted, as they have been the ones contributing financially and physically to the club, while others are receiving money and success by going from club to club.

PROPOSAL

We propose that a portion of our yearly paid players budget, be firstly put aside to cover probable milestones by unpaid players for that year. This can be easily done by projecting player's possible games tallies from year to year. To be eligible, a player would need to have played as an unpaid player and achieved significant league games milestones in unbroken service to the club.

For the purpose of this document I have used the following example:

50 Games - \$500 100 Games - \$1000 150 Games - \$1500

I believe these amounts are conservative because, as I will explain later, the projected games tallies used in the attached example are greatly inflated.

We envisage that our captain would be chosen from this group of loyal sons although this is not a compulsory requirement.

A loyal son's player who is selected as League Captain will also receive a club complimentary membership.

CONDITIONS

If a player transfers to another club and then wishes to re-join the Mustangs as an unpaid player, his games tally in the Loyal Sons program will start again at zero. (However, his overall games total for the club may still count towards life membership etc.).

If an unpaid player leaves the club to play WAFL or AFL and then returns as an unpaid player, it would be regarded as unbroken service, and the games tally would carry on from where he left.

RETROSPECTIVE PAYMENTS

As of 2018, any unpaid player who has provided unbroken service to the club would be rewarded for any milestones achieved so far, providing they play at least one more game of league football for each milestone achieved. i.e. 1 game for 50, 2 games for 100 etc.

Players that have been out of football(at the Mustangs) for more than 3 years would not be eligible for the Loyal Son's Program and those players that fill this category will require an Executive Committee decision to be approved.



ATTACHED PROJECTION

I have listed every player who played league football in 2017 and projected games for those who would qualify as Loyal Sons.

These games tallies and the amounts that would be paid out are highly inflated because:

1. It assumes that every player listed would play 18 games of league football each year.
2. 40 players cannot all play 18 league games per year.
3. Probably only a third of this list are capable of achieving such targets.
4. Up and coming Colts players and new players to the club each year would further reduce the chances of these targets being met.

I have used the yearly 18 game projections to show the players what they can achieve if they get fit, are dedicated and remain loyal to the club. The 2017 game tallies I have used are from Sports TG and some of them didn't seem to add up, so Woodsy or someone would need to verify that they are correct.

SUMMARY

This proposal is not intended to alienate or detract from our paid players who are integral to our success and a part of the modern game, nor to players who have broken service with the club. It is merely a way of recognising the efforts of the players who are, and have been, the backbone of the club through extraordinarily hard times.

The program might be advertised for only a six year period, or could run forever if successful.

Again, I think the amounts in the example could be higher, which would create even more incentive to play on and remain loyal. Also, more than likely that money would be put back into the club anyway, unlike much of the paid player money.

Even if we paid, for example, \$500 (50) \$1500 (100) \$3000 (150) and using my inflated projected games, it would mean that by 2023 we would have 25 players with around 100 league games experience or more, costing about \$19500. Money well spent I say.

As the club song says "Oh what loyal sons are we".

In extenuating circumstances the Executive Committee will meet to discuss

Policy review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains relevant to club operations and reflects both community expectations and legal requirements.

Accountability

Registrar, Secretary, Treasurer to liaise with the Executive Committee