

Asian Championships Detail Peter Habel

This is the tenth time Australian Rules Football teams from around Asia, and the Gulf, have gathered to vie for the title of "Asian Champions".

Malaysia previously hosted the 2004 Championships.

This year as mentioned, the Championships will be played at the Royal Selangor Polo Club.

Three ovals will be constantly used on the day for the senior games and also the U18 and Auskick (8 – 12 year olds) tournaments.

The Opening Ceremony will be at 8.00am and the opening rounds of competition will start at 8.30am.

Each team will play four preliminary games. The top four teams after the preliminaries will contest the semi finals with the Senior Grand Final being the culmination of the day's competition.

Presentations will be made soon after the Grand Final, with the perpetual Asian Champions Trophy going to the winning team.

The twenty best performed players of the Championships will be named as the 2009 Asian All Stars and presented with special medallions and jumpers.

Apart from a feast of Footy, there will be activities for the children and a range of food and drink options for the onlookers.

Entry is free.

The major emphasis of these Championships is to raise the awareness of the game in the wider Malaysian community.

The Warriors mentoring of the first team of Malaysians, the St Johns Warriors U18 side, will attract a lot of attention.

Interestingly, the first acknowledged official game of Australian Rules was played at Richmond Park, Melbourne on 7 August 1858 between Melbourne Grammar School and Scotch College....last Saturday, 8 August 2009, 151 years to the day, marked the first time a Malaysian side played and won a game of Australian Rules. And on this occasion it was also two school teams competing: St Johns Institution and the Australian International School of Malaysia!

The stage is set for the best Championships yet!