



WESTERN SYDNEY TO PLAY HOST TO THE BACHAR HOULI CUP

Students from Islamic schools all across Sydney will gather at Progress Park in Auburn next Wednesday 24 May for the AFL's Bachar Houli Cup.

Named after Richmond player and Australia Post AFL Multicultural Ambassador Bachar Houli, the initiative invites Muslim students to participate in an AFL 9's competition. Houli is one of the most well-known devout Muslim AFL players who serves as a role model for younger boys both on and off the field.

First initiated in Victoria in 2012, the Bachar Houli Cup has since expanded to a national annual event, attracting over 5000 players from across New South Wales, Western Australia and Victoria.

The program allows Year 9 and 10 students of Muslim backgrounds to engage in AFL and is designed to promote cultural diversity and social cohesion amongst the community.

"The Bachar Houli Cup is a fantastic initiative that connects our young boys with Muslim backgrounds to AFL as participants" AFL NSW/ACT Multicultural Programs Manager Nickie Flambouras said.

"They get to experience playing our game, learning the rules, and practicing the skills they have acquired at the various school programs we run."

GWS GIANTS Community Engagement Coordinator Emad Elkheir also acknowledges the importance of running these types of events.

"This is a great opportunity for young Muslim boys from diverse schools to participate in a safe and friendly environment and positively express themselves through sport" Elkheir said.

The competition also provides an opportunity for participants to be selected as part of the Bachar Houli Academy, a week long football talent program for aspiring Muslim AFL Players aged between 15-18 years. The Academy will be held in Melbourne during September 2017.

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