

Significant AFL Events Factsheet

DATE	KEY EVENTS FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES
1982	The Krakouer brothers, Jim and Phil, and Maurice Rioli were the first cohort of Aboriginal players to be recruited to play a specific role in their respective teams. This was the start of recruiters looking to bring Indigenous players from all over Australia to Melbourne to play football.
1987	The West Coast Eagles joined the AFL with several inaugural players being Aboriginal. At that time, it was uncommon for teams to have multiple Indigenous players playing each week.
1993	Nicky Winmar responded to racial taunts from opposition supporters by lifting his playing jumper and pointing to the colour of his skin. He reportedly said, "I'm black and I'm proud." This occurred in the International Year of Indigenous People and was a time when important social, cultural and political conversations about Australia's national identity were being had.
1995	Michael Long made a formal complaint about the racial abuse he received from a Collingwood player. This sparked change within the AFL and led to the introduction of a Racial and Religious Vilification Policy, the first code to do so.
2005	The Indigenous Team of the Century was announced to recognise the contribution Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples had made to Australian Rules Football since the first senior level game was played by an Aboriginal player, Fitzroy's Joe Johnson in 1905.
2005	Dreamtime at the 'G was first held to help promote and recognise the contribution of all Indigenous AFL players, past and present. The game is now played each year between Essendon and Richmond.
2007	Due to the success of Dreamtime at the 'G, the AFL created an Indigenous Round to encourage all clubs to celebrate and create awareness of Indigenous histories, players and cultures.
2016	The AFL's Indigenous Round was renamed the Sir Douglas Nicholls Round to celebrate his contribution to Australian Rules football and Australian society.
2019	Before the release of the feature documentary, <i>The Final Quarter</i> , the AFL issued a formal apology to Adam Goodes for their "failure to call out racism and not standing up for one of our own."