

Changes to the Spirit Fund Guidelines

The Spirit fund has been operated by WARI since its inception in 1990. It is a small private lottery with 600 participants. Its proceeds, after the payment of prize money, provide funding support for participants in the Australia New Zealand Railway Institute (ANZRI) interstate sporting competition.

Traditionally teams from all the states and New Zealand participate in this bi annual sporting carnival, with the systems taking turns hosting the event. There are now only four states that regularly take part in this competition. W.A. is one of them.

There have been many changes since the creation of the Spirit Fund. These include widespread privatization of the rail industry and a general decrease in participation in team sports such as basketball and cricket. The demographics of an aging population have also contributed to low levels of participation.

The situation has evolved to the point where teams are representing WARI at a railway sporting event without any active railway/transport employees participating. The last Indoor Cricket team was made up of 100% Associate Members. The clear intent of the original Spirit Guidelines was to encourage networking amongst rail employees and in doing so represent the local rail industry and WARI.

In response to the decreased interest from the membership the purpose of the Spirit Fund have been adjusted as follows:

“PURPOSE

- 1. The primary purpose of the fund is to encourage participation in the Inter (ANZRI) and Intra state sporting events for West Australian rail employees who are members of WARI.*
- 2. To encourage all members of the Western Australian Railways Institute Inc (WARI) to participate in sporting, recreational and development activities.*

These activities include:

- Participation in the ANZRI interstate sporting competition subject to teams meeting the requirements detailed in Section 4.*
- Participation in Intrastate sporting competitions by recognized affiliated sporting bodies.*
- Participation in junior sports to be supported by the awarding of the annual Junior Sports Scholarships.*
- Any sporting, recreational or development activity deemed by the WARI Council to be in the spirit of this fund.”*

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Therefore teams participating in the ANZRI competition will need to have a minimum of 25% General Member and a maximum of 25% Associate Member participants to receive funding.

The broadening of the use of spirit funds is designed to enable WARI to target the sporting, recreational and development activities of the wider membership. WARI needs to be adaptive to the changing environment and the needs of its members.

These changes are applicable for any event commencing on or after 1 July 2007.

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