



If the word around the traps are anything to go by then this will be the most 1 sided 1 White in many years. PL sides coming down have lost some quality players, will they go sliding into 1 Blue with such exodus of quality players?! Are the sides coming up genuine 1 White material? I'm on the fence of this one as 7th & 8th last season both won against the 1 Blue sides looking to come up for the playoff spots. Can't pick a clear winner like the last few years which should make for horrendously entertaining predictions.

### **1st - Cockburn**

The Titans lost the Prelim Final on the last end to a heart breaking season. They came so close & with Kardy already in the GF they only need to win that 1 game. Safety Bay won & they got the last ticket to the big dance. Could this be Cockburns year?! I've been accused of saying that before & they're still in 1 White but I think they can go up on 12 wins & a draw, 8 from home & 3 on the road. It will be close as I can't see any runaway winner this season.

### **2nd - North Beach**

I think North Beach will do ok this season. I don't think they can win it & go straight back up & they've lost some top quality. I would have them 50/50 for mid table except for their massive home ground advantage. PL sides will handle it better than 1 White so it's fair to assume (like Cockburn) they'll get 7-8 wins at home, maybe 2 on the road. 10 wins gets them Finals for the majority of seasons in 1 White. Add 1 extra win to that conservative prediction & it elevates them to 2nd or 3rd. It'll be interesting to see the first few games as their 2nd & 3rd sides also struggled but there's still enough on paper here to think they'll have a look at PL next April.

### **3rd - Mosman Park**

Narrowly lost out to Cockburn in Finals after a strong home run in the 2nd half of the season. They did well to get Finals but probably lacked those 2-3 players at Finals level. Can't see much recruiting over Winter but they feel more settled after the last few years of player movements. The core group still know what it takes to play PL so I expect a few strong away wins will set them up for a crack at Finals again.

### **4th - Joonadalup**

Coming down with a bang from an eventful few years of consecutive promotions. They were doing so well & then the usual mass exodus with the club left holding the baby. Still a solid side who performed strongly in 1 White even when they were missing some top skippers. They have a taste of the big dance & will be itching to get back.

### **5th - Vic Pk Carlisle**

On the fence with Vic Pk. Strong recruiting over the last few years has set them up for a run back to their 1 Red days but they're probably missing a few yet to be considering genuine comparisons. Solid 4 rinks last year across the board with 1 standout. Last years 1 Blue South felt soft-ish all season so I'm reluctant to push Vic Pk higher but they could only beat what's in front of them & they trashed a few sides finishing on 14 wins so it's impressive enough with the talent to think they've a huge chance for Finals.

### **6th - Manning**

Another ex.1Blue that came up last year & performed well in stages. Had some good scalps along the way but dropped a few they could have won to make Finals. The Eagles were never really thumped last season & you'd think that solid defence will hold tight again this season. Few gaps to final in their PL side which won't help but they've a few who can step up.

### **7th - Leeming**

Came out of the blocks last season like a greyhound but spiralled into a series of losses & just survived playoffs by the last bowl of the season by 3 shots against a good Kalamunda side looking to get back to 1 White. Only escaped auto demotion by 1.5pts so they'll need to tidy up that home form this season to stay alive. In saying that they had some super impressive wins.

I feel Leeming learned a lot from last season as they ran out of puff big time in the 2nd half so expect some big close games & they just need to convert a few of those closer games & they'll be pushing for Finals.

### **8th - Osborne Park**

Came up with 1pt to spare over Yokine & they've added some good bowlers in the off-season but still have gaps in their PL side that only got bigger this season so you'd imagine they'll draw another 1 or 2 from this side. The Saints could very easily finish mid table & have a strong history in 1 White but I just feel if it they didn't win that last game of the season in 1 Blue by a single shot against a weak North Beach & it's was Yokine on the ladder, and no disrespect to the Doggies but I'd probably struggle to get them higher than 9th. Happy to get this one totally wrong so let's see what happens to the Saints early.

### **9th - Bassendean**

Stayed safe by a single point in a fairly miraculous come back last season. They'll need plenty more of the same this time around. The Lions are a real mixed bag this year, still solid backend but with a few missing again from the top side & another few walking, it'll leave gaps which means Finals are probably out of the question. They'll need to lock away the home wins & setup a fortress so they can nab 1-2 on the road to survive.

### **10th - Gosnells**

Stayed up by 0.5pt, then barely got over the line in the playoffs against a North Perth side that recently came from Division 2. Yes they survived but they'll need a lot more this season to finish mid table. Can't see much recruiting over Winter, which leaves them in a similar position to last year after losing some good talent. They'll have plenty of chances to survive, they'll just need to take them early.