

Welcome everyone to One Blue South for the 2025/26 Pennant season

Forget the premier League this is where the real action will be over the coming season

Some absolute stars and personalities of our sport will be on board during this season

Unfortunately we will be without the King from last season – King Billy Brandsma with Kalamunda off to One White this season

I was about to anoint a new king - Armadale's star from last season and former PL star Daniel Brown but a quick look at the teams this week suggests that Brown maybe fishing this week. I will need to find someone else – possibly his Armadale teammate and current state skipper Kevin McKay could be our new number 1

And what a season it should with some significant changes to come into force around the structure of Pennants for the following season

The bottom line is that we are all playing for the following outcomes:

- Finish in top position and you will play of in the One Blue GF against the winner of one blue North. You will also earn promotion to the new One White division for the following season
- Teams finishing in 2nd and 3rd positions will also earn automatic promotion the re-structured One White for 2026/27
- Teams that finish in 4th thru to 6th place will retain all playing rights to One Blue for the following season
- Finish in 7th and 8th positions and you are heading into the challenge play offs against a 2nd division side and must win to retain One Blue status
- Finish in 9th and 10th and you are back to Division 2 and it's along way back from there!

Now let's have a look at some suggested finishing positions for all teams (guesswork really) at this stage of the season

Firstly who are the likely top 3 sides for this season

1. Armadale
2. Rockingham
3. Willetton

The Armadale team looks a standout with a Premier League quality back end (maybe now not as strong if Brown and Davis are missing). They will be hard to hold out this season. Rockingham looks to have recruited well and were unlucky to miss finals action last season. With a strong home ground advantage I expect them to be Armadale's toughest test throughout the season. In for the final promotion spot is Willetton who made a strong start to life in One Blue last season. They also have a strong home ground advantage and are always about the place in any match.

Who will be safe in One Blue

4 Cockburn

5 Kardinya

6 Dalkeith

I probably would have had Cockburn in my top 3 but there seems to be a lot of chatter that a recent change to the playing surface will take away a significant home ground advantage. Cockburn were undefeated at home in season 2024/25 and will be looking to repeat this performance again. On paper the side does not look quite as strong as last season but I still expect them to be about the place again. Not sure just yet what to make of Kardinya. They also have a major advantage at home and this should take them a long way. Finally I have thrown in Dalkeith for the final place to automatically maintain one Blue. Dalkeith have scraped into 6th position over the past 2 seasons and there is no reason that they cannot do the same again this season.

Who is heading to the play offs

7 South Perth

8 Gosnells

South Perth finished above Armadale last season on the ladder in 2nd division. But the loss of some players from their PL side may weaken the One Blue team. Regardless they will be very competitive and I may have this one wrong as it would not surprise me to see them pushing well up the table given last season's performances. Gosnells back from One White and this should mean they will perform well but on paper they seem to have lost some playing depth when compared with last season. That said no match at Gosnells will be easy during the coming season.

Who is heading to 2nd division

9 Rossmoyne

10 Safety Bay

Both Rossmoyne and Safety Bay should be pleased that I have put them in the bottom 2 as I no doubt will be proven to be incorrect. I see Armadale and Rockingham as the standouts with the remaining 8 sides all capable of winning on any given day. I expect Rossmoyne stalwart Mayor Rawley Lang will place this prediction on the club notice board to help motivate his players for the coming season. No one tries harder than the Mayor so a higher finish for Rossmoyne would not surprise. At this point Safety Bay are a close watch – not sure what to make of them just yet but they have an experienced team on paper and I am sure will perform well.