

ROUND 23

| FRIDAY, AUGUST 29 | VENUE | EST | LOCAL TIME | HOSSTV NETWORK |
|--------------------------|-------|--------|------------|----------------|
| Collingwood vs. Hawthorn | MCG | 7.50pm | 7.50pm | Seven |

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Carlton vs. Essendon | MCG | 1.45pm | 1.45pm | Seven |
| Fremantle vs. Port Adelaide | Patersons Stadium | 3.10pm | 1.10pm | Foxtel |
| Sydney Swans vs. Richmond | ANZ Stadium | 4.40pm | 4.40pm | Foxtel |
| Geelong Cats vs. Brisbane Lions | Simonds Stadium | 7.40pm | 7.40pm | Seven |
| North Melbourne vs. Melbourne | Etihad Stadium | 7.40pm | 7.40pm | Foxtel |

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Gold Coast SUNS vs. West Coast Eagles | Metricon Stadium | 1.10pm | 1.10pm | Foxtel |
| Adelaide Crows vs. St Kilda | Adelaide Oval | 3.20pm | 2.50pm | Seven |
| Western Bulldogs vs. GWS GIANTS | Etihad Stadium | 4.40pm | 4.40pm | Foxtel |

THE ROUND EXPLAINED

- › In a round where eight of the nine matches may involve potential top-eight clubs, the AFL has sought to maximise fixture options for week one of the 2014 Toyota AFL Finals Series by ensuring a majority of sides in the top eight after Round 18 of the home and away season will have played by Saturday, August 30.
- › It was the AFL's view that the Collingwood vs. Hawthorn match should be scheduled on the Friday night as this was the only game in Round 23 whereby a current top-four side was able to be fixtured for that night, and preference needed to be given to higher-ranked sides on the ladder. This will maximise the number of days' break for the currently second-placed Hawthorn before week one of the finals.
- › Each of the other Round 23 matches involving current top-four sides (Sydney Swans vs. Richmond, Geelong Cats vs. Brisbane Lions and Fremantle vs. Port Adelaide) were not able to be scheduled for the Friday night as each match-up involved a team that had played on the Sunday of Round 22, and would have only had a five-day break before playing on Friday, August 29.
- › Rivals Carlton and Essendon meet on a Saturday afternoon at the MCG, in a match Essendon may need to win to assure itself of a top-eight finish.
- › Fremantle and Port Adelaide will play at 3.10pm EST (1.10pm local time) on Saturday afternoon to enable Port Adelaide (as the only current top-eight side travelling in Round 23) to return home by Saturday night, maximising Port's days' break leading into the finals.
- › The Sydney Swans and Richmond will meet in the Saturday twilight slot at ANZ Stadium, to maximise the currently first-placed Sydney's days' break leading into the finals series.
- › Both the Geelong Cats and North Melbourne have been granted the right to play their respective matches on Saturday night given each club sits firmly in the final eight after Round 18 of the home and away season.
- › The Gold Coast Suns and the Adelaide Crows will play in the early Sunday timeslots given that, although both clubs may be playing for a top-eight finish in Round 23, neither is currently cemented in the final eight. Moreover, each will be playing at home, thus providing an adequate break before the finals should they qualify.