

Marketing and Promoting Your Club



A guide for sport and recreation clubs and associations in Western Australia.



Department of Sport and Recreation
Government of Western Australia

What is Marketing?

Marketing can be defined as a process by which individuals and groups obtain what they want through creating, offering and exchanging products of value with others.

All sport and recreation organisations undertake marketing, although they are often unaware that they are actually doing so. Listing your club in the yellow pages telephone directory, placing information about membership registrations in the local newspaper, offering a discount on court hire prices to induce greater use of the courts or redecorating the club facilities are all examples of formal marketing activities.

An example of informal marketing involves a person enquiring about joining a surf life saving club and the secretary being particularly helpful with providing the membership information over the phone. A mother of a prospective junior tennis club member watching a coach conduct a lesson with the children looking bored and not enjoying the session is a less positive example of informal marketing.

Who does marketing?

These examples of marketing indicate that different individuals within your sport and recreation club or group conduct marketing activities. It is particularly useful to appoint an individual or small team as marketing officers to oversee the development and implementation of your organisation's marketing strategies.

Marketing tools

The "marketing mix" or marketing tools an organisation can use can be classified into four categories:

Product – includes the quality and accessibility of the services the club or group provides, for example, competitions and social functions;

Price – includes the cost of membership fees and discounts offered;

Place – includes the clubrooms or the facilities where competitions are conducted; and

Promotion – includes advertising of the club or group, a promotion at the local shopping centre or an article in the local community newspaper.

Developing a simple marketing plan

A marketing plan does not need to be particularly difficult to develop or the strategies costly to implement. There are many different ways to develop a marketing plan. A simple plan for a small club would contain some basic elements including:

Objectives: Marketing objectives should be specific, measurable and achievable. An example would be recruiting an additional 20 junior members by the start of competition.

Strategies: These can be developed around the marketing mix and must be targeted towards the specific target markets. Target marketing is the practice of designing and directing specific services at specific individuals or groups of customers. For example, if your club or group was trying to attract new junior members you would need to develop strategies to specifically attract juniors.

Budget: A realistic marketing budget within the club's/group's capabilities and focussing on low-cost or no-cost strategies would be recommended.

Evaluation: Make sure strategies are put in place to see if you have met your objectives. Some activities are easy to monitor, such as a membership drive, others will not be able to be evaluated until after the event. Collect copies of press clippings or media coverage, records of attendances at functions or competitions and any feedback your group receives whether it's positive or negative.

Ways to market your club

- electronic e.g. electronic newsletters, website.
- newsletters
- competitions
- advertising
- functions
- sponsorships

Example Marketing Plan for a Junior Club Open Day

Marketing objective: To recruit 20 junior members by 10 December.

Marketing Strategies	Cost of Strategies
Arrange date and time of Free Junior Club Open Day	-
Arrange activities/games at Open Day	
– free coaching	
– games/activities	
– information desk (need welcoming volunteer and forms to record names/phone numbers of those attended)	
– sausage sizzle (need volunteer)	sausages \$25, buns \$10, sauce \$5
– competition to collect names and contacts to follow up	
Develop a flyer advertising Open Day	coloured paper \$5, photocopying costs \$10
Place flyer on local community notice boards including local shopping centres, library, swimming pool, etc	-
Contact principals of local primary schools to place information in the school newsletter	-
Place information in the club newspaper offering a free soft drink for those who bring a friend who is not a member to the open day.	soft drinks \$25
Write an article and provide a photo for the local newspaper focussing on local junior who joined up at an open day and is now representing the state	-
Consider signage – banner to be placed on the club signage company fence on main street	signage company donated banner and \$70 for sign writing
Conduct Free Junior Club Open Day	-
Follow up those who attended but did not join up on the day	\$2.50
	Total cost = \$152.50

Actual memberships gained:
 22 new members each @ \$50 recruited = \$1,100
 Net profit for club \$1,100 – \$152.50 = \$947.50

Developing a detailed marketing plan

A detailed marketing plan for a larger club or association would need to include further information such as a:

Situational analysis – This contains information on the organisation, an analysis of the customers, a description of the services currently being offered, an analysis of the competition and the external environment.

Opportunity analysis – This section utilises the information from the situation analysis and identifies opportunities that need to be addressed.

The Australian Sports Commission *Marketing and Promoting Sport and Recreation* booklet provides further information on developing a detailed marketing plan.

Working with the media to promote your club

Focussing on the marketing tool of promotion and one aspect that many people lack confidence in is working with the media.

How to write a media release

Your club or group can communicate with the media through an invitation alerting the media to a forthcoming event, such as the opening of new clubrooms or a media release about an event, which is to take place or has taken place, such as a family day.

When producing a media release:

- Make a point of finding out first names. As a general rule, give the person's title first, followed by the name (e.g. the President, Joe Smith). Otherwise, follow the style of the newspaper or magazine for which you are writing. Check the spelling. Don't feel embarrassed about asking a person to spell his or her name.
- Use simple language.
- Check the media deadlines – it's useless if it arrives late.
- Ensure that the release is typed or word processed – double spaced, with wide margins. Use only one side of the paper.
- Provide photographs, or present opportunities for photographs.
- Put the name of your club at the top to the release. The wording "media release" should be prominently displayed.
- Supply name, address and telephone number of a club person to contact for further information. If the contact number is a place of work, it is common courtesy to inform the company that there could be calls from the media.

A good media release will answer six questions concerning the event.

Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

Remember!

Many organisations make the mistake of spending a lot of time and money on conducting promotions to recruit new members and forget about retaining current members. Developing marketing strategies to improve the basic product or services the club or group provides, the attitudes of volunteers or staff towards members or customers and the standard of facilities may be less expensive and more effective in the long term.

Other Resources

This resource is part of the Club Development Scheme, which provides assistance to Western Australian sport and recreation clubs and organisations to become better managed, more sustainable and to provide good quality services to members and participants.

Other resources in the series include:

Clubhouse CD-ROM

- 1 Step by step... to starting a new club
- 2 Planning for your club – the future is in your hands
- 3 Taking the lead! A guide for Club Presidents
- 4 The key to efficiency – the Club Secretary
- 5 Show me the money – a guide for the Treasurer
- 6 Take the 'in' out of ineffective – ten steps to running successful meetings
- 7 Effective club meetings – a guide for the chairperson
- 8 Lighten the load and delegate – help for the overworked committee member
- 9 You have the answers – solving club problems
- 10 Marketing and promoting your club
- 11 Sponsorship – seeking and servicing a sponsor
- 12 Establishing your club constitution and becoming incorporated
- 13 Risky business – a club guide to risk management
- 14 Clubs' guide to volunteer management
- 15 Member protection for clubs
- 16 How to be more inclusive of people from diverse backgrounds
- 17 Passport into schools – linking sports with schools
- 18 Youth sport – junior sport policy
- 19 Long-term involvement – junior sport policy
- 20 Getting young people involved – junior sport policy
- 21 Physical growth and maturation – junior sport policy
- 22 Sport pathways – junior sport policy
- 23 Forming links – junior sport policy
- 24 People making it happen – junior sport policy
- 25 Quality coaching – junior sport policy
- 26 Making sport safe – junior sport policy
- 27 The law and sport – junior sport policy
- 28 Top 20 tips for officials
- 29 Top 20 tips for successful coaching

Find a Club

Find a Club is where you can register or update your club's details in our Find a Club database. It is an exciting new initiative designed to increase participation in sport and recreation and help your club recruit more members and volunteers.

Located within the Department of Sport and Recreation's website, Find a Club will be a comprehensive database of sporting and recreational clubs within Western Australia.

Visitors to the website can search for clubs in their local area and are provided with activities, contact details, venue details and even a street map showing them how to get there.

By registering or updating your club details you receive:

- Free listing of your club contact details and activities.
- Up-to-date industry news and funding opportunities for your club.

To register as a new club

Visit www.dsr.wa.gov.au and click on Find a Club.

To update your club information

If your club has previously registered your contact details with DSR, your nominated contact person will receive a login and password to enter and update your club information.



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www.dsr.wa.gov.au

METROPOLITAN

246 Vincent Street, Leederville WA 6007
PO Box 329, Leederville WA 6903
Telephone (08) 9492 9700
Facsimile (08) 9492 9711
Email info@dsr.wa.gov.au

GASCOYNE

4 Francis Street, Carnarvon
PO Box 140, Carnarvon WA 6701
Telephone (08) 9941 0900
Facsimile (08) 9941 0999
Email gascoyne@dsr.wa.gov.au

GOLDFIELDS

106 Hannan Street, Kalgoorlie
PO Box 1036, Kalgoorlie WA 6430
Telephone (08) 9022 5800
Facsimile (08) 9022 5899
Email goldfields@dsr.wa.gov.au

GREAT SOUTHERN

22 Collie Street
Albany WA 6330
Telephone (08) 9892 0100
Facsimile (08) 9892 0199
Email greatsouthern@dsr.wa.gov.au

KIMBERLEY

Broome

Unit 2, 23 Coghlan Street, Broome
PO Box 1476 Broome WA 6725
Telephone (08) 9492 9650
Facsimile (08) 9192 2436
Email kimberley@dsr.wa.gov.au

Kununurra

Government Offices
Cnr Konkerberry Drive
and Messmate Way, Kununurra
PO Box 1127, Kununurra WA 6743
Telephone (08) 9166 4900
Facsimile (08) 9166 4999
Email kimberley@dsr.wa.gov.au

MID WEST

Mid West Sports House
77 Marine Terrace, Geraldton
PO Box 135, Geraldton WA 6531
Telephone (08) 9956 2100
Facsimile (08) 9956 2199
Email midwest@dsr.wa.gov.au

PEEL

Suite 3, The Endeavour Centre
94 Mandurah Terrace, Mandurah
PO Box 1445, Mandurah WA 6210
Telephone (08) 9550 3100
Facsimile (08) 9550 3199
Email peel@dsr.wa.gov.au

PILBARA

2/3813 Balmoral Road, Karratha
PO Box 941, Karratha WA 6714
Telephone (08) 9182 2100
Facsimile (08) 9182 2199
Email pilbara@dsr.wa.gov.au

SOUTH WEST

80A Blair Street, Bunbury
PO Box 2662, Bunbury WA 6231
Telephone (08) 9792 6900
Facsimile (08) 9792 6999
Email southwest@dsr.wa.gov.au

WHEATBELT

Northam

Mclver House
297 Fitzgerald Street, Northam
PO Box 55, Northam WA 6401
Telephone (08) 9690 2400
Facsimile (08) 9690 2499
Email wheatbelt@dsr.wa.gov.au

Narrogin

John Higgins Centre
Clayton Road, Narrogin
PO Box 54, Narrogin WA 6312
Telephone (08) 9890 0464
Facsimile (08) 9890 0499
Email wheatbelt@dsr.wa.gov.au