

Cost of participation is not a new issue for sport – but it remains a big challenge. And there is not necessarily just one way to address this important issue.

Cricket has funding from the international game:

- that funds 3 interstate competitions that all lose money (yet a player can earn up to \$200k p.a.)
- the interstate under age competitions (male and female) are funded by the States
- but intrastate representative cricket is another issue for the various age groups
- these occur necessarily over school holidays and that is peak time for accommodation and travel rates
- this becomes user pays across the age groups - \$1k per head
- the next level is grassroots – club land
- Queensland Cricket has 20 voting affiliates and 6 associates – they are charged a token affiliation fee
- 484 clubs and associations across the State are affiliated through those 20 bodies
- Queensland Cricket does not impose levies on these clubs/associations/players/volunteers
- Queensland Cricket policy is that membership \$ generated at a local level remain at that local level
- obviously this policy is workable for cricket but not across all sports.

These costs must be met. At a cost of \$4m per year, Queensland Cricket provides:

- Public Liability and Personal Accident insurance for all Clubs/Associations/players and volunteers
- loan fund
- grant scheme
- umpires fees
- premier club coaches
- Regional Cricket Managers
- Grants Assistance staff
- Wicket Consultant
- Umpires Development
- Coach accreditation (pay for level 1 to Cricket Australia)
- computer and printer each affiliate
- volunteers can register with "Kaspa's Crew"
- own page on Queensland Cricket web site.

Clubs:

Set fees

Meet equipment costs

Members expectations of facilities

- competition v other recreation v other sports

But Cricket Australia is expecting a 6% p.a. increase in playing numbers over next 4 years

- what does that mean (with no losses)
- I assume other sports have similar targets
- 1032 new teams
- 50 extra fields
- 800 – 1000 volunteers annually.

So what can be done?

What forms of incentive or assistance can be provided?

- Sports Federation led a push federally for a tax deduction incentive for involvement by people – compensation for the basic cost of participation
- Centrelink / Job Start for over 55s + means tested
- GST on sporting goods
- PRT on development officers and coaches wages
- Largely parents will make the decision and invariably are the decision makers at our clubs
- Sport is in a competitive environment
- Water and power costs as participants demand quality facilities
- Demand on facilities and no daylight saving means lighting is essential now as well as to meet projected growth.