



2023 Football Writers Festival
Emerging Women Writers Program
Guidelines and Terms & Conditions

Introduction

The Football Writers Festival is being held for the fourth time in Tar-Ra, the cultural precinct of Sydney also known as Walsh Bay from 15th-17th July 2023, days ahead of the opening of the 2023 Women's World Cup. The Football Writers Festival is an initiative of Fair Play Publishing, supported by the Johnny Warren Football Foundation.

For the first time, the Football Writers Festival is offering an Emerging Women Writers program.

The Emerging Women Writers program is an opportunity for women writers who are not established as writers to have an original, previously unpublished work to be published as part of an anthology of stories to be available at the 2023 Football Writers Festival.

Up to three leading emerging writers will also be invited to Australia to attend, and speak at, the 2023 Football Writers Festival. This is also an opportunity to meet other professional writers, journalists, and broadcasters, as well as readers and fans, perhaps opening door to other opportunities.

What is involved?

We are inviting people interested in the Emerging Women Writers program to submit a long-form story (or essay) of between 3,000 and 5,000 words on any topic relevant to their interest in football.

It may be an interview or profile of an individual or individuals, a club story, a short history of a club or an event, a dive into a football politics issue, a work of fiction, commentary, analysis, an investigative piece, a poem, or a first-person story.

Up to 20 entries will be included in a publication entitled *Hear Us Roar – Stories from Women of Football*, a book to be launched at the Football Writers Festival. All entries selected for publication in the anthology will receive a payment of AUD\$200.

From amongst the published entries, we will invite up to three writers to attend the Festival, as recommended by the judging panel. The Festival will cover the costs of a return economy air fare, attendance at the Festival, and up to five nights accommodation in Sydney.



The writers selected to attend the Festival will also appear on a panel at the Festival alongside existing authors and journalists to talk about their story.

Who is eligible?

The Emerging Women Writers program is open to anyone who aspires to be, or is, a journalist, writer, author, broadcaster, or podcaster who is not established as such.

What is required?

Entrants are required to submit an original previously unpublished long-form story of between 3,000 and 5,000 words on any topic related to football.

As noted above, it may be an interview or profile of an individual or individuals, a club story, a short history of a club or an event, a dive into a football politics issue, a work of fiction, commentary, analysis, an investigative piece, a poem, or a first-person story.

If possible, the entry should be submitted in English. However, if the entrant is not proficient in English, the entry may be submitted in the entrant's first language with a Google English translation.

Entries should include a title, first stand and headings if required.

It should be submitted in a Word document, 1.5 line spacing, with pages numbered and the title and writer's name in the header of each page.

In addition to the entry, entrants should provide in the covering email:

- a) your name, address and contact details (email and telephone)
- b) the title of the entry
- c) the reason for the entry (e.g. what interested you in the subject)
- d) where you would be travelling from to attend the Festival
- e) a 100-word (maximum) bio
- f) your social media handles (if relevant)
- g) a high-resolution (at least 1Mb) photograph of the writer.

This information is not made available to the judging panel but for administrative purposes, and for publication in the anthology in respect of (e) and (g) if selected.

After receipt of your entry, it will be numbered and all identifying information extracted before being provided to the judging panel.



Your entry should:

- be uploaded via the website www.footballwritersfestival.com.au/emerging-women-writers
- be received by no later than midnight Australian Eastern Daylight Savings Time (AEDT) on Friday 27th January 2023.

What will happen with my entry?

By entering the Emerging Women Writers program, entrants agree:

- that the entry may be published in the anthology *Hear Us Roar – Stories from Women of Football* to be published by Fair Play Publishing;
- that the entry may be published in *The Athletic*;
- that they may be invited to attend and present at the Football Writers Festival in Sydney from 15th-17th July 2023.

If my entry is published, how do I get paid the AUD\$200?

We will ask you for PayPal details so we can pay you via PayPal. If this is not available in your country, we will arrange for an international bank transfer.

What is the total prize value?

The minimum total prize value is AUD\$4,000 comprised of payments to 20 writers of \$200 each.

In addition, travel and accommodation will be provided for up to three entrants selected by the judging panel, comprising a return economy air fare to Sydney and five nights accommodation.

What is the timeline?

28 September 2022	Emerging Women Writers program announced
27 January 2023	Entry deadline
15 May 2023	Shortlisted entries to be announced Final entries for travel to the Festival announced
15-17 July 2023	2023 Football Writers Festival



Who is the judging panel?

The judging panel to assess the entries for inclusion in the Anthology are experienced journalists, authors, and publishers:

- Stephanie Brantz, Australia
- Nick Harris, Scotland
- Camini Marajh, Trinidad and Tobago
- Inas Mazhar, Egypt
- Bonita Mersiades, Australia
- Osasu Obayiuwana, Nigeria
- Laura Williamson, England

Further information

If you require further information, please email info@footballwritersfestival.com.au.

Final Terms & Conditions: 28 September 2022