

2023 WAFC Year 5 & 6 Competition Rules

BACKGROUND

All competitions managed by the West Australian Football Commission are played as per the AFL Laws of Australian Football. The below modifications have been made to all Year 5 & 6 competitions to assist junior players with skill development, an understanding of the game and ensure fair and even competitions. Coaches must endeavour to coach players within the spirit that these rules were intended (refer to WAFC Junior & Youth Rules & Regulations, Rule 1 – Spirit of Junior Football.)

Please note that where mixed year group competitions are played, the competition rules of the lower year group shall be applied.

COMPETITION RULES

1. MATCH OPERATIONS	
1a. Ground Size	As per WAFC POL.15A – Ground Preparation, ground sizes for Year 5 – Year 6 competitions should be 90m – 110m (L) x 70m – 85m (W)
1b. Football	Female Year 5/6: Size 2 synthetic football Male Year 5: Size 2 leather football Male Year 6: Size 3 leather football
1c. Number of Players	15-a-side The below rules apply to both Male and Female formats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. No ruck or rovers ii. Unlimited reserves iii. Numbers on the field should always be even
1d. Match Length	4x 15-minute quarters.
2. GENERAL MATCH RULES	
2a. Start of Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Ball-up in the centre of the ground between 2 players, approximately of equal size. ii. Players are not permitted to take full possession out of a ruck contest. iii. Maximum of 3 players from each team permitted within 20 metres of ball up.
2b. Positions	Soft zone resets at each stoppage: 15-a-side: 5 lines of 3 (i.e., FF, HF, C, HB, FB) and as per WAFC FIELD POSITIONS POLICY .
2c. After a Goal	After a goal, a ball-up should occur in the centre of the ground as per 2a. The umpire shall select different players to contest the centre ball-up each time.
2d. Out of Bounds	Last Possession Rule: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. From a kick or handball, a free kick is to be awarded to the nearest opponent. ii. If a player runs the ball over the boundary line, a free kick is to be awarded to the nearest opponent. iii. If the ball is off hands or a player's body, a ball-up is to occur 10 metres in from the boundary line. iv. If there is any doubt as to who's free kick it is, a ball-up is to occur 10 metres in from the boundary line.

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2e. Scrimmage	Umpire to stop play before throwing the ball up. Coaches should instruct players to get into position as per 2b to teach players the positions and reduce congestion.
2f. Marking	A mark is to be awarded for any kick that travels a minimum of 10 metres
2g. Bouncing	Players are only permitted to bounce (or touch the ball on the ground) once before disposing of the ball.
2h. Kicking off the Ground	Players are not permitted to deliberately kick the ball off the ground or use feet to control the ball whilst it is on the ground. Whereby the foot makes accidental contact to the ball, the umpire will call play on.
2i. Protected Area	The protected area at this level is 5 metres.
2j. 50m Penalties	Due to the reduced size of the playing field, umpires may award a 25-metre penalty.
2k. Order-off Rule	To be applied as per the Red & Yellow card system.
3. CONTACT	
3a. Tackling	<p>Modified Wrap Tackle Rule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Player may wrap both arms around an opponent. ii. Players may take their opponent by dropping their weight. iii. Strictly no slinging or bringing the opposition player to ground in an aggressive manner. iv. Once tackled legally, players have 3 seconds to dispose of the ball, or a free kick for “holding the ball” will be awarded.
3b. Bumping	Bumping is permitted as per AFL Laws of Australian Football.
3c. Smothering	Stealing or smothering the football whilst the opponent is in the process of kicking or has possession in general play is permitted.
3d. Shepherding	A player is permitted to block opponents and bump within 5 metres of the ball as per 3b.
4. COMPETITION RESULTS	
4b. Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. No match results. ii. No premiership points. iii. No ladders iv. No finals
4c. Awards	No awards (Best & Fairest etc) at this level.
5. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY	
5a. Temporary Play Ups	i. Please see 2023 WAFC – Eligibility & Finals Qualifications
5b. Player Movement	i. Players are not permitted to play for another team in the same age group.