

2023 WAFC Year 7 & 8 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 7 & 8 Male Competitions to assist players with skill development 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.13A – ‘Ground Preparation’, ground sizes for Year 7 – Year 8 competitions should be: 110m – 140m (L) x 70m – 110m (W).
1b. Football	Female Year 7/8: Size 3 leather footballs Male Year 7: Size 3 leather footballs Male Year 8: Size 4 leather footballs
1c. Number of Players	15-a-side: i. Maximum of 5 players on the bench • Upon request to the WAFC, exemptions may be granted for a team wishing to utilise 7 players on the bench ii. Numbers on the field should always be even
1d. Match Length	4x 15-minute quarters.
2. GENERAL MATCH RULES	
2a. Start of Play	Players are not permitted to take full possession out of a ruck contest.
2b. Positions	5 forwards, 3 midfielders, 2 wings & 5 defenders or as per WAFC POL.13D ‘Game Day Even up & Field Positions’ Policy.
2c. After a Goal	After a goal, a ball-up should occur in the centre of the ground as per 2a. Start of Play.
2d. Out of Bounds	Last Possession Rule: 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.
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 15 metres
2g. Bouncing	Players are only permitted to bounce (or touch the ball on the ground) twice before disposing of the ball.
2h. Kicking off the Ground	Players are permitted to deliberately kick the ball off the ground or use feet to control the ball whilst it is on the ground.

2023 WAFC Year 7 & 8 Competition Rules

2i. Protected Area	The protected area at this level is 5 metres.
2j. Order-off Rule	To be applied as per the Red & Yellow card system.
3. CONTACT	
3a. Contact	Tackling, bumping, smothering and shepherding is permitted as per AFL Laws of the Game.
4. COMPETITION RESULTS	
4b. Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Scoring and match results are permitted. ii. Premiership points and ladders are permitted. iii. Finals are played
4c. Awards	Year 7 & Year 8: Best players and goal kickers may be recorded and awarded at this level.
5. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY	
5a. Temporary Play Ups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Please see 'WAFC Competitions Rules – Eligibility & Finals Qualification'
5b. Player Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Players are not permitted to play for another team in the same age group.