



WA FOOTBALL COMMISSION

2023 JUNIOR FOOTBALL COMPETITION POLICIES, RULES & REGULATIONS

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SECTION A: INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the Community Football Rules & Regulations for all Junior and Youth competitions conducted by the West Australian Football Commission (WAFC). These competitions shall be played according to the AFL Laws of Australian Football and any modified form of Australian Football as amended by the Australian Football League (AFL) or the WAFC.

1. SPIRIT OF JUNIOR FOOTBALL

Every participant understands that Football in Western Australia is delivered to the Community with the Spirit of the Game in mind.

It is incumbent on every participant irrespective of their place in the game, to ensure that they will;

- 1.1 **Not focus on winning at all costs** and understand that the role of Junior & Youth Football is to foster the development of players, volunteers, umpires, coaches, and officials. Learning to win and lose is part of the developmental journey of a participant but must remain secondary to the primary focus of player development.
- 1.2 Maximise the enjoyment and development of Junior & Youth footballers.
- 1.3 Provide our children with a game environment that is safe, fun, and fair.
- 1.4 Ensure that the values which add to the spirit of our game, which include fairness, equality, respect, and teamwork are encouraged and celebrated.
- 1.5 Uphold, promote, and protect the Rules, Laws, Codes, Policies and Spirit of the game.
- 1.6 Not accept poor behaviours around our game and deter practices that undermine our games environments (coaching, playing, volunteering, spectating, and umpiring).
- 1.7 Adhere to any directive issued by the games controlling bodies in the best interests of achieving the above.
- 1.8 Coaches should adopt an athlete centred coaching philosophy.
- 1.9 A Person, Club or Team must not engage in conduct which is unbecoming or likely to prejudice the interests or reputation of Junior Football in Western Australia or to bring the game of football into disrepute.
- 1.10 Any person attending or participating in a match, event or training session is required to behave in a manner that supports the values of Spirit of the Game. Failing to do so may result in penalties being applied to individuals, teams or clubs.
For the avoidance of doubt, this includes spectators.

2. INTERPRETATION & DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 All Committees, Coaches, Players and Parents are to request interpretations, clarifications and explanations of the Competition Policies, Rules and Regulations via their respective Club's Executive Committee.
- 2.2 Should any dispute or objection arise as to the meaning, interpretation or intent of any of these Rules & Regulations or Competition Policies, the WAFC shall settle such dispute or objection.

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3. SUPPORTING UMPIRES AND OFFICIALS OF JUNIOR FOOTBALL

Umpires and Competition Officials play a key role in the successful delivery of Community Football. Coaches, club officials, players, and parents play a vital role in developing the highest quality umpires and game day officials.

- 3.1 All team players, officials, parents, and spectators are expected to adhere to the following: WA Football has a **ZERO TOLERANCE** stance against any form of umpire or official abuse, verbal dissent, intimidation or disputing of decisions.
- 3.2 Players, officials, parents, and spectators are not permitted to comment about an umpire or the performance of an umpire in any way other than in writing to the Umpires Coach via their Club President.
- 3.3 Only the Captain or Team Manager from either team can approach an umpire during the breaks in a match. The Captain or Team Manager cannot question decisions, interpretations or question the free kick count.

SECTION B: COMPETITION GOVERNANCE

4. REGISTRATION

No player shall be eligible to take part in any official match under the control of the WAFC until an online registration form is completed and approved through the WAFC approved Registration System.

- 4.1 Players must not alter their name or date of birth to register via the Registration System.
- 4.2 Players are not permitted to be registered more than once in the Registration System.
- 4.3 No Junior or Youth Player is to receive cash/cheque/monies as payment, incentive, or reward for playing football in underage competitions. Vouchers from a sponsor or the club canteen are the preferred incentive method.

5. SCRATCH MATCHES & INSURANCE

Clubs may arrange scratch/practice matches outside of WAFC fixtured competitions.

For insurance purposes:

- 5.1 All scratch matches must be played within the WAFC Policies and Rules & Regulations
- 5.2 Any new player (i.e. a player that is not currently registered to a Club) can register from 1 November 2022 and will be covered under the AFL National Risk Protection Program from the date of registration. In addition, that new player will be covered for up to 4 weeks prior to registering (i.e. considered as a 'prospective player');
- 5.3 Any current player (i.e. a player who played in 2022 season and is registered with a Club) who will be transferring clubs for 2023, but who cannot complete the transfer until February 2023, will be covered whilst training with the new club prior to the transfer being completed; and
- 5.4 Any former player (i.e. a player who did not play in the 2022 season but remains registered with a Club) who will be transferring clubs for 2023, but who cannot complete the transfer until February 2023, will be covered whilst training with the new club prior to the transfer being completed.
- 5.5 All scratch matches with official umpires are bound by the Laws of the Game, including penalties for reportable offences.

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6. ALTERATION OF RULES & REGULATIONS

Should any situation arise which is not covered in these Rules & Regulations, then the WAFC will refer to the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook and;

- 6.1 The WAFC will resolve any matter, which is not provided for in these Rules & Regulations.
- 6.2 Any variation (exemptions) to these Rules & Regulations must be approved by the WAFC Competition Specialist, prior to implementation.

SECTION C: SEASON ADMINISTRATION

7. YEAR GROUPS, AGE DISPENSATION, ELIGIBILITY & FINALS QUALIFICATIONS

This section has been removed and is now a standalone policy, 'WAFC Competition Rules - Eligibility & Finals Qualification.

8. GENDER DIVERSITY

The WAFC is committed to inclusion and will utilise the [AFL's Gender Diversity Policy](#) in instances where Trans, Non-Binary or other Gender Identity is raised.

9. WORKING WITH CHILDREN - CLUB OFFICIALS

All District and Club volunteers are bound by legislative requirements relating to [Working with Children Checks](#). Clubs and individuals are required to comply with legislation

SECTION D: RULES OF THE GAME - TRIBUNAL GUIDELINES

10. INTRODUCTION & SCOPE

These Tribunal Guidelines are adopted by WAFC and Country Junior Competitions to provide clubs, players, and officials with clear guidelines for those who commit reportable offences.

The offences covered in this section and subsequently bound by the Tribunal process, are as per the most recent AFL Rules of the Game, [AFL Laws of Australian Football](#)

Procedure for governance of WAFC Policy Breaches and Penalties are explained in **SECTION E: POLICIES & CODES OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS**.

The span of the Tribunal Guidelines is outlined below:

- Team Officials – Year 3 to Year 12
- Players – Year 7 to Year 12

Any player involved in an AFL Rules of the Game reportable incident occurring in Year 3, 4, 5 or 6 Competitions will be managed by the player's club, in consultation with the WAFC Competition Team who will provide an appropriate penalty range, based on evidence provided by the umpires and team officials.

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11. PROCESS

Report

The Junior Match Committee will assess all reports and potential Reportable Offences. Reportable Offences can be reported by the following groups:

- Umpire
- Umpire Coach
- Competition Official
- WAFC Staff Member

11.1 All timelines mentioned below may be adjusted at the discretion of the WAFC under exceptional circumstances.

11.2 All Notice of Reports are to be received by **12pm Monday** after the match is played. The Junior Match Committee will gather the required information relevant to deciding on whether a charge is made.

11.3 The Junior Match Committee will inform the player or official and their club president whether a reported or referred player/official has been charged, and the corresponding base sanction for that charge by **5pm Monday** after the match is played.

11.4 Determination of type of offence and appropriate charge

Following the review of each report or referral, the Junior Match Review Committee will determine whether the charge is appropriate and alter the charge if required.

There are three types of Reportable Offences:

- A low-level offence
- A classifiable offence
- A direct to tribunal offence (referred directly to the Community Football Tribunal)

12. REPORTABLE OFFENCES

A reportable offence occurs where a Player or Official commits any of the offences set out in Law 22.2.2 of the 2023 Laws of Australian Football, or any superseding Rules as provided by the AFL.

There are three categories of Reportable Offences - Low Level, Classifiable, and Direct to Tribunal Offences. Any Offence defined in the AFL Laws of the Game but not specified in these Tribunal Guidelines will be categorised by the WAFC Junior Match Review Committee.

13. LOW LEVEL OFFENCES

The following are low-level offences which do not require classification however may be addressed by the Junior Match Review Committee through the issuing of a Yellow or Red Card. In the case of a Red Card, the player will receive an automatic 1 match suspension.

13.1 If relevant and appropriate evidence is present, the Junior Match Review Committee have the powers to:

- Issue Yellow & Red Cards
- Upgrade a Yellow Card to a Red Card
- Downgrade a Red Card

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13.2 Low Level Offences cannot be contested at the Community Football Tribunal.

13.3 List of Low-Level Offences

- Attempt to Strike / Kick / Trip
- Careless Contact with an Umpire
- Disputing a Decision
- Instigator of a Melee (*see 13.4*)
- Engaging in a Melee (*see 13.4*)
- Interfering with a Player Kicking for Goal
- Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact with an Injured Player
- Not Leaving the Playing Surface
- Obscene Gesture
- Pinching
- Prohibited Boots, Jewellery or Equipment
- Scratching
- Shaking, Climbing or Interfering with Goal or Behind Posts
- Spitting at Another Player
- Staging
- Time Wasting
- Tripping
- Using Abusive, Insulting, Threatening or Obscene Language
- Wrestling
- Any Other Act of Low-Level Misconduct which is not a Classifiable Offence or Direct Tribunal Offence

13.4 Penalties may be applied to Teams who engage in a melee at the discretion of the Junior Match Review Committee as outlined in 16.1 and 16.2.

14. CLASSIFIABLE OFFENCES

14.1 The following reportable offences are graded by the Junior Match Review Committee to determine an appropriate base sanction:

- Striking
- Kicking or stomping
- Kneeing
- Charging another person
- Charging or engaging in rough conduct against an opponent which in the circumstance is unreasonable
- Forceful front-on contact
- Head-butting an opponent or making contact to an opponent using the head
- Making unreasonable or unnecessary contact to the eye region of an opponent
- Making unreasonable or unnecessary contact to the face of an opponent
- Using abusive, insulting, or obscene language towards or in relation to an Umpire
- Behaving in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards or in relation to an Umpire

14.2 As indicated in the table below, the determination of a base sanction for a Classifiable Offence will be made based on an assessment of whether:

1. The conduct is Intentional or Careless;
2. The impact is Severe, High, Medium or Low; and
3. The contact with the other Player / Official is High / Groin or to the Body.

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14.3 Grading of Classifiable Offences

Conduct	Impact	Contact	Base Sanction	Early Guilty Plea
Intentional	Severe	All	Tribunal	N/A
	High	High/Groin/Chest*	Tribunal	N/A
		Body	4 Matches	3 Matches
	Medium	High/Groin/Chest*	3 Matches	2 Matches
		Body	2 Matches	1 Match
	Low	High/Groin/Chest*	2 Matches	1 Match
Body		1 Match	1 Match	
Careless	Severe	All	Tribunal	N/A
	High	High/Groin/Chest*	3 Matches	2 Matches
		Body	2 Matches	1 Match
	Medium	High/Groin/Chest*	2 Matches	1 Match
		Body	1 Match	1 Match
	Low	High/Groin/Chest*	1 Match	1 Match
Body		1 Match	Yellow Card/Reprimand	

*Chest applies to Female football only

14.4 At the discretion of the Junior Match Review Committee, all penalties (Base Sanction and Early Guilty Plea) may be doubled if the player or official has been found guilty of a reportable offence within the past 12 months.

14.5 Reduction in base sanction for early guilty plea

The base sanction for Classifiable Offences can, in many instances be decreased where a player submits an early guilty plea.

14.6 Options available to the player or official charged with a classifiable offence:

A player or official charged with a Reportable Offence may:

- Submit an early guilty plea, in which case the relevant sanction for the Reportable Offence will apply subject to a reduction available because of the early guilty plea as per grading table.
- Contest a charge at the Community Football Tribunal using evidence to show they are not guilty of the classifiable offence or guilty of a lesser charge.

The player or official charged must submit their Option by **12pm Tuesday** after the match is played.

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15. DIRECT TO TRIBUNAL OFFENCES

15.1 List of Direct to Tribunal Offences

The following offences are Reportable Offences that are sent directly to the Community Football Tribunal to determine an appropriate penalty within the Standard Range of Penalties:

- Intentionally making contact with, or striking, an Umpire.
- Attempting to make contact with, or strike, an Umpire.
- Spitting at or on an Umpire.
- Spitting on another person.
- Any classifiable offence which attracts a base sanction that the Junior Match Review Committee finds inappropriate.
- Any other act of serious misconduct which the Junior Match Review Committee considers appropriate to send to the Community Football Tribunal.

15.2 Standard Range of Penalties

The Community Football Tribunal will in most instances, determine the appropriate sanction for a Direct to Tribunal offence within the Standard Range of Penalties.

Offence	Standard Penalty Range
Striking	2-10 weeks
Kicking	2-10 weeks
Kneeing	2-10 weeks
Stomping	2-10 weeks
Charging	2-10 weeks
Rough Conduct	2-10 weeks
Forceful front on contact	2-10 weeks
Headbutt or contact using head	2-10 weeks
Eye-gouging/unreasonable or unnecessary contact to the eye region	2-10 weeks
Unreasonable or unnecessary contact to the face	1-5 weeks
Scratching	1-5 weeks
Tripping	2-10 weeks
Intentional contact with an umpire	4 weeks – 2 years
Striking an umpire	2 years – 10 years
Spitting on or at an umpire	1 year – 5 years
Spitting on another person	2 – 10 weeks
Attempting to strike an umpire	1 year – 5 years
Behaving in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards or in relation to an umpire	2 - 10 weeks

15.3 Extreme Incidents

The WAFC Competitions Team and Community Football Tribunal reserve the right to apply penalties beyond the Standard Penalty Range in circumstances that are deemed necessary.

- Any such penalty must be endorsed by either the relevant WAFC Executive Manager or WAFC Head of Competitions.

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16. MELEES

16.1 The Junior Match Review Committee assesses all melees, and the maximum penalties may be applied to teams who engage in a melee as per the following table.

Offence	E Points	Fine
1 st Melee for the season	-4	\$500
2 nd Melee for the season	-4	\$750
3 rd or any further Melee for the season	-4	\$1000

16.2 A melee is defined as an incident involving three or more Players and/or Officials who are grappling or otherwise struggling with one another and which, in the opinion of the field Umpire or any other person authorised by the relevant Controlling Body, is likely to bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute or prejudice the interests or reputation of the relevant Controlling Body or the competition(s) conducted by that Controlling Body.

17. TRIBUNAL HEARING

All tribunal hearings will be heard via the WAFC Community Football Tribunal which operates as per the WAFC Community Football Tribunal Guidelines. The below points provide a summary for Junior Football Participants.

The tribunal will hear a charge for which a Player or Official has pleaded not guilty or has pleaded guilty to a lesser charge. The tribunal may find the Player or Official guilty of the original charge, a lesser charge or not guilty of any charge. The tribunal will determine the appropriate sanction within the Standard Range of Penalties for the Reportable Offence if it finds the player guilty of a Reportable Offence.

Unless requested for attendance by the Tribunal Chairman, Umpires or Victims may provide evidence prior to the Tribunal hearings however must be available to be contacted by the Tribunal Chairman during the hearing period if required.

Players, Officials and Umpires are permitted to be accompanied by an advocate however this advocate may not be a legal practitioner and is only to act in the role of providing support. An advocate will not be asked to provide evidence.

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18. TRIBUNAL APPEAL HEARING

18.1 Appeal Hearing

A player or official may decide to appeal the decision of the Tribunal to the Community Football Appeal Board based on one of the following criteria being applied:

- An error of law has occurred.
- The decision of the Tribunal is so unreasonable that no Tribunal acting reasonably could have come to that decision having regard to the evidence before it.
- The classification of the offence by the Tribunal was manifestly excessive or inadequate, or
- The sanction imposed by the Tribunal was manifestly excessive or inadequate.

18.2 All appeal lodgements must:

- Occur within 48 hours of notification of the Tribunal decision,
- Be accompanied by a \$500 fee, and
- Supply supporting evidence that articulates how the decision fits into one of the appeal criteria in **16.1**.

Competition Management also reserves the right to appeal decisions of the Tribunal to the Community Football Appeal Board based on the above stated appeal criteria.

18.3 The grounds for appeal must first be reviewed and confirmed to meet the criteria by a majority vote of 3 independent WAFC staff members, including no less than 1 member of the WAFC Integrity Unit. This determination is final.

18.4 The Appeal Board may not substitute its own opinion for that of the Tribunal merely because it would have exercised its discretion in a manner different from the way the Tribunal exercised its discretion.

SECTION E: POLICIES & CODES OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS

19. RULES & REGULATIONS, POLICIES & CODES OF CONDUCT

19.1 All clubs, players, parents, spectators, and officials are bound by the WAFC's Junior & Youth Football Rules and Policies and True Sport Codes of Conduct (WAFC Rules) and are subject to penalties at the discretion of WAFC for any breach of the WAFC's Rules.

19.2 Should any dispute or objection arise as to the meaning or interpretation of any of the WAFC Rules, the WAFC shall settle such dispute or objection by making a determination in its sole discretion. That determination is final and binding.

19.3 If WAFC is made aware of a club or individual who is in breach of its WAFC Rules, WAFC may, if it considers appropriate and in exercising its independent discretion, conduct an investigation and make a determination based upon its own investigations.

19.4 When WAFC makes a determination and imposes a penalty (if any), it must immediately inform the club in writing detailing:

- the alleged conduct and its findings in relation to it;
- the penalty; and
- the club's right to appeal.

19.5 Penalties handed down by the WAFC for breaches of WAFC Rules can only be applied and served in competitions within the scope of these rules.

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20. DISPUTES & APPEALS – COMPETITION POLICIES, RULES AND REGULATIONS

20.1 Clubs are entitled to appeal penalties and / or decisions made by WAFC for any breach of the WAFC's Rules on the grounds that the club's application for appeal meets any one of the following criteria:

- an error in the application of a rule has occurred;
- the decision is so unreasonable that no decision maker acting reasonably could have come to that decision having regard to the evidence before it; or
- the sanction imposed was manifestly excessive or inadequate.

20.2 Request to Appeal

20.2.1 E-Points cannot be appealed if aligned to a Red or Yellow Card infringement.

20.2.2 The club requesting an appeal must provide submissions in writing and addressed to WAFC requesting to appeal a penalty. Appeal submissions must be submitted within 48 hours of receiving notification of the penalty, and must be accompanied by a \$500 fee. Any appeal submissions received after this time will not be considered by the Appeal Panel.

20.2.3 The club must outline on what basis the penalty meets the appeal criteria outlined in 20.1 in its appeal submissions.

20.2.4 If additional time is required to provide further evidence to support the appeal, this must be noted in the submissions and must be supplied before the Appeal Panel meets.

20.2.5 If an appeal is ultimately successful and penalty imposed by WAFC is reduced by the Appeal Panel, the club will be refunded 50% of the appeal fee (being \$250).

20.3 Appeal Panel

20.3.1 The Appeal Panel will consist of no less than three (3) people, who must consist of the following:

- the WAFC Integrity Department Member (Chairperson); and
- two (2) relevant WAFC Community Competition Staff or Community Football Tribunal Members.

20.3.2 All members of the Appeal Panel must be independent to the case and original penalty.

20.4 Appeal Hearing

20.4.1 The Appeal Panel will meet prior to the appeal proceeding, review all evidence presented before it (including the club's submissions) and determine whether the club's appeal submissions meets the Appeal Criteria outlined in **20.1**

20.4.2 The Appeal Panel has the sole discretion and power to determine whether a case should be heard or not on the basis that it does or does not meet the appeal criteria.

20.4.3 If an appeal is not allowed the Appeal Panel must notify the Club as soon as reasonably practicable and provide written reasoning why the appeal request does not meet the Appeal Criteria.

20.4.4 If the Appeal Panel determines that an appeal will not be heard, then the club will have no further right of appeal and must accept the penalty originally imposed by WAFC.

20.4.5 The appeal will be considered by the Appeal Panel based solely on written submissions. The club will not be entitled to attend appeal hearings.

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- 20.4.6** In making its determination, the Appeal Panel may refer to any information it thinks fit or believes is relevant to the case before it.
- 20.4.7** The Appeal Panel will determine whether the penalty fits within one of the appeal criteria based on the evidence before it and any new additional evidence provided by the club (if any).
- 20.4.8** The Appeal Panel may not substitute its own opinion for that of the original decision maker's merely because it would have exercised its discretion in a manner different from the way the original decision maker exercised its discretion.
- 20.5 Appeal Decision**
- 20.5.1** The Appeal Panel shall not dismiss any case on grounds of technicality.
- 20.5.2** The Appeal Panel will decide as to whether the original penalty is in breach of one of the appeal criteria.
- 20.5.3** The Appeal Panel will determine the final and appropriate penalty.
- 20.5.4** The WAFC will communicate the decision of the Appeal Panel back to the club within a reasonable period after the decision has been made.

SECTION F: SUSPENSIONS

21. SUSPENSIONS

- 21.1** Any player, Official, Club Member or Spectator suspended by either a tribunal or prescribed penalty in a WAFC affiliated competition for a Law of the Game, will not be permitted to play, coach, or participate in any capacity, in any WAFC affiliated competition including schools, senior metropolitan community football or regional football, for the duration of the penalty unless otherwise stated by the WAFC.
- 21.2** Any player, Official, Club Member or Spectator suspended by either a tribunal or prescribed penalty in a WAFC affiliated competition for a Bylaw or Code of Conduct breach will only be permitted to play, coach, or participate in any capacity, in another WAFC affiliated competition including schools, senior metropolitan community football or regional football, for the duration of the penalty at the discretion of the other competition, in consultation with the WAFC.
- 21.3** Any player, Official, Club Member or Spectator reported or in receipt of a prescribed penalty notice, is not to play or act in any official capacity in a WAFC affiliated competition until such time as the charge has been dealt with.
- 21.4** Any player, Official, Club Member or Spectator who chooses to contest a Red Card, Report or Prescribed Penalty is deemed suspended until such time as the charge or report is dealt with to the satisfaction of the WAFC.
- 21.5** A player, Official, Club Member or Spectator found guilty of an offence who has been given a suspension, fine or any other sanction by the Community Football Tribunal, shall not be permitted to enter the Arena on Match Days while the penalty remains unserved.
- 21.6** Any player who is suspended throughout the season will be deemed ineligible for fairest and best awards.

WAFC POL.01: Social Media & Communications Policy



POLICY BACKGROUND

The West Australian Football Commission recognises the value in using Social Media to build more meaningful relationships with affiliate clubs, communities, their members and stakeholders. Social Media offers the opportunity for people to gather in online communities of shared interest and create, share or consume content in ways that can be beneficial for Australian Football.

The West Australian Football Commission has an obligation to ensure that affiliated clubs maintain a safe physical and emotional environment for its members, and this includes cyber safety and the safe and responsible use of Internet and Information & Communication Technologies (ICT). Individual members also have a responsibility to use ICT in a safe and responsible way, and not bring the game into disrepute. This policy outlines the expectations of all Community Football stakeholders in ensuring we create a cybersafe environment.

By way of affiliation the AFL National Social Media Engagement Policy applies to all clubs.

1. PUBLIC STATEMENT	
1a	All media enquiries should be directed through the West Australian Football Commission. District, Club and Team representatives should not make public statements about WAFC managed competitions.
2. STATEMENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA	
2a	<p>It is important to understand that content posted on Social Media can have serious ramifications for the Person involved, the WAFC, affiliated clubs, members, commercial partners or other related organisations and individuals. This policy does not intend to discourage nor unduly limit personal expression or online activities. However the risk and damage that may be caused (either directly or indirectly) in certain circumstances should be recognised.</p> <p>Before using Social Media, the WAFC encourages all Persons to ask themselves the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Am I revealing any sensitive or confidential information? ii. Would I want my Club, Coach, team, family or friends to see this? iii. Will I regret my actions? iv. Could this negatively impact the reputation of the WAFC, a Club or Team? v. Could this be seen as inappropriate, discriminatory, defamatory or in breach of any laws?
3. ACCOUNTABILITIES	
3a	<p>All Community Football stakeholders, including clubs and their members will create a cybersafe environment by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using the WAFC/Community Football Club’s name, motto, crest and/or logo only in an appropriate way in line with the organisation’s guidelines, • Using the WAFC/Community Football Club’s websites to provide information about competitions, committees, policies, rules, social events or other important sport related issues, • Using SMS and/or email by officials, managers, coaches etc. to communicate organisation business and organisation sanctioned social events (via parents in the case of juniors), • Using the WAFC/Community Football Club’s social network pages to promote positive organisation news and events (with permission obtained from featured individual(s) and via parents for juniors), • Ensuring content of posts or electronic communication doesn’t breach any WAFC/Community Football Club policies or codes of conduct, • Ensuring content of posts or electronic communication doesn’t breach state or Commonwealth law. This includes not engaging in ‘sexting’ where a member sends or is in possession of an

	<p>inappropriate sexualised image of a person under the age of 18 years – this is a criminal offence in WA and the Police will be informed immediately,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not engaging in cyber bullying, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ harassing, teasing, intimidating or threatening another person via electronic means, ○ sending or posting inappropriate digital pictures or images, email/instant/phone/text messages, or website postings (including social network sites i.e. Facebook or blogs) and is irrespective of whether the page could be viewed by the wider public or not, • Members will remain responsible for and be vigilant of the content and security of their individual accounts such as email, social networking (i.e., Facebook), micro blogging (i.e., Twitter), video sharing (i.e., YouTube), picture sharing (i.e., Instagram, Snapchat) and mobile phones.
4. BREACHES & PENALTIES	
4a	<p>If there is a good faith belief that content published on Social Media is in breach of this Policy, or which is otherwise inappropriate or unlawful, the matter is to be reported to the complainant’s Club President immediately.</p> <p>It is then the responsibility of the complainant’s Club President to contact the WAFC Competitions staff requesting that they investigate the matter.</p>
4b	<p>Any breach of this policy may be investigated by the WAFC, and penalties may be issued at the absolute discretion of the Competition Team. Penalties include but are not limited to suspension, fines, loss of E-Points and/or sanctions.</p> <p>Any cyber-bullying or threats to participants including officials and umpires via social media will not be tolerated and may attract significant penalties.</p> <p>Previous examples of penalties have ranged from a warning to 6 match penalties for comments made on personal social media accounts. Most examples are from personal stories or blogs and have been screenshot by a friend of the victim.</p>

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

[AFL National Social Media Engagement Policy](#)

WAFC POL.02: Sponsorship Policy

POLICY BACKGROUND

The West Australian Football Commission Brand and Growth team manages all league-wide sponsorship / partnership agreements and is responsible for sponsorship policies, templates, and proposals.

Sponsorships and explicit endorsement of products and / or services of a sponsor must be in the public interest and must be approved via the management process.

ACCOUNTABILITIES

RULE	DESCRIPTION OF ACTION
1	<p>All potential sponsors must have company values that are aligned with the values of the West Australian Football Commission.</p> <p>We place tremendous value on the significant social benefits and the creation of better communities through the values of teamwork, responsibility, respect, leadership, commitment and community participation.</p>
2	<p>Sponsorships that could involve football in controversial issues or expose football to adverse criticism must be avoided.</p> <p>The following sponsors are regarded as inappropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political or religious organisations; • Programs that may denigrate, exclude or offend minority community groups; • Sponsors that may be considered a public health risk to the community (including companies that manufacture or whose primary business is to sell tobacco or alcohol products); • Sponsors that create environmental hazards; • Sponsors that do not reflect community standards; • Sponsors that directly conflict with West Australian Football Commission sponsors or partners, whereby this conflict has been made clear to clubs; • Sponsors that have the potential to bring the sport into disrepute.
3	<p>All clubs must comply with sponsorship requirements related to Junior Football as directed by the WAFC.</p> <p>Sponsorship queries can be addressed to the WAFC Commercial team – partnerships@wafc.com.au</p>

WAFC POL.03: Equal Opportunity & Fair Play Policy

POLICY BACKGROUND

The West Australian Football Commission will ensure that equal opportunities for participation in football are made available to all children, regardless of ability, size, shape, gender, age, disability, or ethnic origin.

RULES

1. FEMALE PARTICIPATION	
Single sex (all boy/all girl) competitions are preferred if teams can be arranged within the schools or junior districts and/or country regions.	
1a	Females can participate with males until and including Year 9.
1b	The WAFC has an expectation that Clubs will provide equal access to facilities for all participants regardless of gender.
1c	Female only competitions will be given equitable scheduling of fixtures to mixed and / or male only competitions.
2. PLAYER ROTATION	
It's the role of the coach to ensure all players, regardless of their age, size, gender, ability or the competition they are playing in, are given an equal opportunity to play in a variety of positions on the field. This is important in allowing players to gain experience and learn and develop the skills of each position. Adhering to this policy and its intent ensures all players and parents feel they are getting a fair go and are a part of the team, enhancing overall participation in Junior & Youth Football.	
2a	Every player in a team must play at least half (50%) of a game. This only applies to the first game a player plays in a weekend, e.g., if a player has completed a match with their team and then plays up for another team who is short of players, that player is not required to play 50% game time in the second match.
2b	All players must play equal game time across the season.
2c	Each team is required to track player game time utilising an app or program prescribed by the competition.
2d	Breaches of this policy may result in coaching citations or the game being deemed a forfeit.
3. MAXIMISE PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES	
Coaches are required to utilise all available players up to the maximum allowable on the bench.	
3a	Coaches must utilise all places in the team for each match and play the maximum number of players available to them. This includes finals but only refers to players that are qualified to play in the final.
3b	Breaches of this policy may result in coaching citations or the game being deemed a forfeit.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

WAFC COMPRULES

WAFC POL.04: Drugs & Alcohol Policy

POLICY BACKGROUND

The West Australian Football Commission strictly prohibits illicit drugs and excessive alcohol consumption at any level of Community Football, and greatly appreciate the support of the wider football family by supporting the Smoke Free Environments at football grounds around WA.

RULES

1. ALCOHOL	
1a	Clubs have a responsibility to ensure they meet legislative requirements regarding alcohol management within the club. This can be broken down into two areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Liquor license requirements ii. Responsible serving of alcohol requirements.
1b	Clubs with liquor licenses must ensure they meet all responsible serving of alcohol requirements and ensure that anyone consuming alcohol does not engage with Junior & Youth Football in any way.
1c	Bringing your own alcohol to any Junior or Youth Football match or training session is strictly prohibited.
1d	Football Clubs need to have clear policies, procedures and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU's) that address the issue of alcohol sales and consumption, particularly when attached to Sporting Clubs or Senior Football Clubs. Shires and local councils should have specific policies, procedures, and MOUs in place.
2. SMOKE FREE ENVIRONMENT	
Smoke Free Environments must be maintained and implemented into all areas of our game using the following strategies. For the purpose of this policy, Smoking includes the use of e-cigarettes and vaping.	
2a	Smoke Free change rooms – Please ensure player changing areas are always smoke free.
2b	Smoke Free club rooms (social halls, canteens, etc.) – please ensure the club rooms, social hall, kitchen, and canteen are always smoke free.
2c	Smoke Free interchange benches, including coaches and managers area – Please ensure there is no smoking by any person in the interchange area where the coach, manager and interchange players sit or stand.
2d	Smoke Free viewing areas – Please ensure the following areas are Smoke Free during matches and other events. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Club room verandas. ii. Interchange benches. iii. Seated outdoor viewing areas. iv. Areas close to where juniors are coached.
2e	Smoke Free NAB AFL Auskick – Our youngest players are the future of our game. Please ensure there is no smoking in any area where the NAB AFL Auskick activities are taking place.
2f	Smoke Free Area acknowledgement – to assist promote your sporting area as smoke free, the following announcements may be utilised: <i>“WA Junior Football Clubs support smoke free sporting venues for all members and supporters. Please observe the smoke free areas which include change rooms, club rooms, verandas, interchange benches, outdoor seated viewing areas and areas close to where juniors are coached”.</i>
2g	Breaches of this policy may result in future fixtures being relocated or game being deemed a forfeit.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

WAFC.POL.14 – True Sport Codes of Conduct

2023 FINAL Version

POLICY BACKGROUND

As an affiliated state body of the AFL, the West Australian Football Commission subscribes to the AFL Extreme Weather Policy which can be found at www.afl.com.au/policies.

LIGHTNING	
1	<p>In the event of lightning being present in the immediate proximity of the venue during the course of a match or training session, play / training shall be stopped and all involved parties are to return to the pavilion.</p> <p>30/30 SAFETY GUIDELINE</p> <p>In the absence of specific information from weather radar or a specialised warning device then the 30/30 Safety Guideline should be used. According to the 30/30 Safety Guideline, when lightning is considered to be a possible or actual threat to an Australian Football Match the following procedures are applicable:</p> <p>a) The observation of approaching storm clouds, the first flash of lightning or clap of thunder, no matter how far away should heighten lightning awareness. The level of risk depends on one's location (direction and distance) relative to the storm cell and the direction in which the storm system is travelling.</p> <p>b) A simple method of determining the distance to the storm cell is to measure the time elapsed from when the lightning flash is observed and when the associated clap of thunder is heard.</p> <p>c) Light travels faster than sound. Assuming that the light from the flash reaches the observer instantaneously, and knowing that sound takes approximately three (3) seconds to travel one (1) kilometre, the distance can be determined by using the following rule: Distance (in Km) = Time from observing the flash to hearing thunder (in 3 seconds).</p> <p>d) It is important to remember that lightning may be obscured by clouds so it must be assumed that when thunder is heard, lightning is in the vicinity. In such cases, careful judgment must be used to determine whether a threat exists.</p> <p>e) The first part of the "30/30" rule is a guide to the postponement or suspension of activities. Most experts agree that the accepted "safe" distance from lightning is greater than 10km. This means that as the time interval between observing the flash and hearing the thunder approaches 30 seconds, all those in exposed areas should be seeking or already inside safe shelters. A storm cell with lightning activity within 10km constitutes a threat.</p> <p>f) The second part of the 30/30 rule provides the criteria for the resumption of activity. Here it is recommended that people wait a minimum of 30 minutes after the last sighting of lightning or sound of thunder. This figure is based on the observation that the typical storm moves at about 40km/h. Thus, waiting 30 minutes allows the thunderstorm to be about 20km away, minimising the likelihood of a nearby lightning strike.</p> <p>g) It is important to emphasise that blue skies and lack of rainfall are not adequate reasons to breach the 30 minute minimum return-to-activity rule.</p>

WAFC POL.05: Weather Policy

	<p>CLUB RESPONSIBILITY</p> <p>All Clubs should monitor environmental factors such as lightning both in matches and at any training session or activity administered by the Club. The Club should assess the lightning risk by reviewing information provided by the BOM. The following general guidelines should also be followed:</p> <p>a) If a lightning threat emerges, the nominated Club Official must contact all relevant parties (WAFC Competitions staff, Umpires, parents/guardians, oppositions Clubs etc) and provide updates on a regular basis.</p> <p>b) A decision to delay, suspend or resume training or game should be made in consultation with all relevant umpires, coaching and administration staff.</p> <p>c) If players are training when the lightning threat becomes real then they should leave the training venue immediately and take shelter inside a building or metal framed car. They should not shelter under or near trees or bodies of water.</p> <p>d) Once the storm’s path has been reassessed, there must be a minimum of 30 minutes elapsed before returning to play/training.</p> <p>e) When there is no access to the BOM, the “30/30” rule serves as a guide for the suspension and subsequent resumption of activities.</p>
OTHER EXTREME WEATHER OR ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS	
2	<p>In the case of any other events of extreme weather or environmental conditions, including but not limited to extremely strong winds, flood, extreme fire danger, or fires being present in the vicinity of the training session/game, consultation of all parties involved must take place to determine the safest outcome for all involved.</p>
RESULTS	
3	<p>If a game is abandoned due to weather conditions, the WAFC shall decide if the fixture is to be rescheduled or determine a result according to the progress score and point of the game at which the game was abandoned.</p> <p>For all regular season and final round matches, all decisions pertaining to the above rules will be controlled by the WAFC or their appointed officials as per the following guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Games abandoned <u>prior</u> to half time; the Match Day Official, or if not available the Team Managers will contact the Match Day Management Committee (Competition Team Leader or Competition Administrator) for guidance on how to proceed. • Games abandoned <u>after</u> half time will have the team with the higher score deemed to be the winner. The score at the point the game is abandoned will be determined to be the final score.

RESPONSIBILITY

All clubs competing in a competition administered by a Football Body should monitor environmental factors. Umpires in consultation with the WAFC competition official are responsible for the ongoing assessment of suitability to play in line with the respective AFL policies.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

[AFL Extreme Weather Policy](#)

[AFL Heat Policy](#)

[AFL Lightning Policy](#)

WAFC POL.06: Protective Equipment Policy

POLICY BACKGROUND

The West Australian Football Commission understands that due to the nature of Australian Football, parents and players may want to take certain safety measures to ensure they are protected while participating in training and matches. In doing this, the WAFC must ensure that any protective equipment is suitable for football and that the safety of all participants is considered.

RULES

1. MOUTH GUARDS	
1a	The WAFC strongly recommends that all players wear a mouth guard when either at training or playing football.
2. PROTECTIVE HEAD GEAR	
2a	A player who desires to wear protective headgear during a match must ensure it is made of soft, lightweight padded material that is suitable for football. Inspection of the head gear prior to each match should ensure it is not dangerous to the player wearing it or any other player.
2b	No prior notification, inspection or approval by the WAFC is required before a match.
3. SPECTACLES	
3a	To minimise the risk of injury, players wishing to wear spectacles during matches and training must wear spectacles with plastic frames and plastic lenses. Spectacles must be held on securely by a band.
4. OTHER PROTECTIVE GEAR	
4a	Players are not permitted to wear a Plaster Cast during a game.
4b	Players are not permitted to wear jewellery, including wrist bracelets. All piercings must be removed, not taped.
4c	Medical bracelets are permitted however they must be taped and marked 'MEDIC'.
4d	All other protective gear must be approved by the WAFC. This includes but is not limited to shin guards, protective vests, diabetic pumps, and kidney guards.

WAFC POL.07: Vilification Policy

POLICY BACKGROUND

Vilification to any degree is totally unacceptable at any level of football. All those involved in Community Football have the right to be involved in an environment that is free from vilification and/or harassment. The West Australian Football Commission takes an extremely firm stance on eliminating this type of behaviour from the game.

As an affiliated state body of the AFL, the WAFC subscribes to the AFL Vilification Policy which can be found at www.afl.com.au/policies. By way of affiliation this policy applies to all clubs.

RULES

RULE	DESCRIPTION OF ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
1. AN ALLEGED INCIDENT		
1a	Conduct that threatens, disparages, vilifies or insults another person on any basis, including but not limited to, a person's race, religion, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin, special ability/disability, illness, disease or sexual orientation, preference or identity.	Vilified Player
2. GAME DAY RESOLUTION		
2a	The clubs and individuals concerned will take immediate action to resolve the matter at the ground between the two teams concerned.	Team Managers
2b	If the matter is resolved a written report is required to be submitted to the Club President by the Team Manager of the complainant within 24 hours.	
2c	No public statement (including via social media) is allowed by the clubs, players, umpires or any representative of the club(s) involved.	
2d	If the matter cannot be resolved immediately it is the responsibility of both Team Managers to inform their respective Club President of the issue immediately.	
3. CLUB RESOLUTION		
3a	The Club President of the complainant is then required to contact the opposition President within 24 hours of the incident.	Club Presidents
3b	The clubs then have 48 hours to mediate and resolve the matter.	
3c	If the matter is resolved, a written report is required to be submitted by both Club Presidents to the WAFC within 24 hours post resolution.	
3d	No public statement (including via social media) is allowed by the clubs, players, umpires or any representative of the club(s) involved.	
3e	If the matter cannot be resolved at a club level, then it is the responsibility of the complainant's Club President to contact the WAFC no later than 72 hours after the incident requesting that they investigate the matter.	
4. COMPETITION RESOLUTION		
4a	The WAFC and or local league Complaints Officer will investigate the matter and determine the appropriate next course of action. This may involve mediation or referral directly to the Tribunal.	WAFC
4b	No public statement (including via social media) is allowed by the clubs, players, umpires, or any representative of the of the club(s) involved.	

WAFC POL.07: Vilification Policy

5. MEDIATION		
5a	The WAFC will arrange for a mediation meeting between the individuals and clubs to be held at the earliest convenience. This should be held no later than 7 days of receiving the complaint.	WAFC
5b	At the discretion of the WAFC, mediators may opt to initially meet with each party independently, without the other party being present. This process may also include the sharing of statements or claims made.	
5c	If no resolution can be reached the matter will be referred to a Tribunal for determination.	
5b	No public statement (including via social media) is allowed by the clubs, players, umpires or any representative of the club(s) involved.	
6. TRIBUNAL		
6a	The Tribunal will hear the matter in accordance with the Guidelines, Policies, Rules and Regulations of the competition.	WAFC
6b	The Appeal Panel will consist of no less than 3 people, consisting of the following: * WAFC Integrity Department Member (Chairperson) * 2 Community Football Tribunal Members or if unavailable, WAFC Community Competition Staff.	

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

[AFL National Vilification Policy](#)

WAFC POL.8: Concussion Policy

GUIDELINES

Head impacts can be associated with serious and potentially fatal brain injuries. In the early stages of injury, it is often not clear whether you are dealing with a concussion or there is a more severe underlying structural head injury. For this reason, the most important steps in initial management include:

1. Recognising a suspected concussion.
2. Removing the player from the game.
3. Referring the player to a medical doctor for assessment.

Any player who has suffered a concussion or is suspected of having a concussion must be medically assessed as soon as possible after the injury and **must NOT** be allowed to return to play in the same game/practice session.

There must be an accredited first aider at every game and the basic rules of first aid should be used when dealing with any player who is unconscious or injured.

HEADCHECK CONCUSSION APP

The Headcheck Concussion App continues to help Trainers, Coaches and Parents/Guardians recognise the symptoms of a suspected concussion and its severity through a series of concise questions and observations to quickly identify whether a child's head injury requires an ambulance, hospital, or a GP visit. The App also assists Parents/Guardians in managing their child's recovery program based on the symptoms displayed as well as guide the Parents/Guardians on their child's safe return to school, training, and games.

The Headcheck Concussion App can be downloaded for free on both Apple and Android devices. For more information about the app, please visit www.headcheck.com.au

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR SUSPECTED CONCUSSION

RULE	DESCRIPTION OF ACTION	
1.	Assess for presence of any concussion symptoms or signs (e.g., stunned, confusion, memory problems, balance problems, headache, dizziness, not feeling right)	
2.	Implement first aid management protocol, including cervical spine immobilisation	
3.	Remove from the ground and assess using pocket CRT (Concussion Recognition Tool)	
4.	Presence of any factors for urgent hospital referral (e.g., confusion, vomiting, worsening headache).	
	YES Call for ambulance and refer to hospital.	NO Do not allow player to return to play. Refer to medical doctor for assessment (at venue, local general practice, or hospital emergency department)

WAFC POL.8: Concussion Policy

REPORTING & RECORD KEEPING

All concussions are to be reported to Competition Team as soon as possible but no later than 9am on the Monday following the game.

The relevant medical report to allow the player to return to training and matches must also be supplied to the Competitions Team before resuming training.

All medical reports will be confidentially held by Competition staff and not shared with anyone.

RETURN TO TRAIN AND PLAY PROCEDURE

The minimum requirement for returning to full training and playing matches is outlined in the AFL Nation Community Concussion Guideline as per the diagram on the following page. Players must follow the graded loading program and supply a medical certificate to local Competition Administrators before returning to full training and playing games.

A more conservative approach should be adopted for any player who has had a history of concussion or if there is any reoccurrence of symptoms. The referenced 12 days is not standard *wait and play*, it is the minimum requirement, and all concussions should be treated as unique and assessed independently.

MULTIPLE CONCUSSIONS IN A SEASON

Following any concussion, a player must receive a medical clearance to Return to Play as per the National Concussion Guidelines. If a player receives a second concussion in a season, then the player **must** be assessed by a doctor or medical practitioner who specialises in concussion management, and be medically cleared by them in order to Return to Training or Play. The WAFC can assist clubs and families in identifying doctors who specialise in the field of concussion.

If a player receives a third concussion within a season (combined across any competition i.e., club, school, AFL9's, etc) then it is highly recommended by the WAFC, that the player does not play for the remainder of the season, and should continue to be assessed / monitored by a medical specialist in Concussion Management.

WAFC POL.8: Concussion Policy

PHASES OF REST, RECOVERY AND RETURN TO PLAY FOLLOWING CONCUSSION

Focus	Goal	Requirements to move to next stage
Rest		
Rest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help speed up recovery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete physical and cognitive rest in the first 24 – 48 hours
Recovery		
Symptom limited activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two days of activities that do not provoke symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No concussion-related symptoms at rest or with physical or brain activity for at least 1 day and the player has successfully returned to work/school • The player should also have a medical clearance (e.g. physiotherapist, sports trainer, first aider) to confirm that the player has had no concussion-related symptoms for at least 1 day
Graded Loading – individual program		
Light / moderate aerobic exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light / moderate aerobic exercise (e.g. walking, jogging, cycling at slow to medium pace) • No resistance training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remain completely free of any concussion-related symptoms
Recovery Day		
Sport-specific exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased intensity (e.g. running at an increased heart rate) and duration of activity • Add sports specific drills (e.g. goal kick, stationary handball) • Commence light resistance training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remain completely free of any concussion-related symptoms • The player should also have a medical clearance (e.g. physiotherapist, sports trainer, first aider) to confirm that the player has had no concussion-related symptoms for at least 1 day
Recovery Day		
Graded Loading – full team training		
Limited contact training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return to full team training – non-contact except drills with incidental contact (incl. tackling) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remain completely free of any concussion-related symptoms • Player confident to return to full contact training
Recovery Day		
Clearance by a medical doctor is required before returning to the final full contact training session and competitive contact sport		
Full contact training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full team training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remain completely free of any concussion-related symptoms • Player confident to participate in a match
Recovery Day		
Return to Play		

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

[AFL Community Concussion Guidelines \(2021\)](#)

[Head Injury Assessment Form](#)

[Pocket Concussion Recognition Tool \(CRT\)](#)

[Headcheck Concussion Management App](#)

[Return to Play Following Concussion – Medical Clearance Form](#)

[Return to Play Following Concussion – Checklist Form](#)

WAFC POL.09: Photo & Video Policy

POLICY BACKGROUND

The West Australian Football Commission recognises that photographing and filming children in Community Football is usually performed in an appropriate manner and for good reason, however the inappropriate photographing and filming of children can occur which puts children at risk.

Community Football clubs are expected to create and maintain safe environments that are fit for purpose, provide positive experiences, and ensure the safety of children.

If a parent, guardian, or club official needs to discuss images being recorded due to privacy concerns, the team managers must immediately meet and discuss to ensure the privacy and safety of all participants. Respect should be afforded to all requests to not publish any photos or videos on social media platforms.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Additional information and resources regarding taking images and video of children can be found below:

[Play by the Rules – Taking images of children.](#)

[Drone Usage](#)

WAFC POL.10: Competitions Policy

POLICY BACKGROUND

This policy documents the procedures involved in conducting Junior & Youth Competitions controlled by the West Australian Football Commission. The various sections of this policy have been divided up into the following sub-procedures for ease of access and editing:

WAFC POL.10:

- A – Team Selection & Nominations
- B – Colours & Team Uniform
- C – Fixtures
- D – Transfers & Permits
- E – Results, Premiership Points & E-Points
- F – Match Forfeits

WAFC POL.10A Competitions Policy: Team Selection & Nominations

POLICY BACKGROUND

The West Australian Football Commission is committed to forming fair, even and competitive competitions that enable young players of all abilities to have fun, actively participate and improve their knowledge and skills of the game. The intent of this policy is to:

- a) clearly outline the team nomination process.
- b) provide guidance on how clubs can allocate players to teams in instances where there is more than one team in a year group.

TEAM NOMINATIONS

The West Australian Football Commission will establish a date each year where clubs will submit team nominations for year groups in which they wish to field teams for the upcoming season. The WAFC shall consider all nominations and where possible shall include teams in competitions as nominated.

RULES

1. TEAM NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS	
1a	Each team nomination should include the name and other relevant details of the following people: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. An accredited coach capable of teaching players the laws and skills of Australian Football in line with the Spirit of the Game and the WAFC's True Sport Codes of Conduct ii. A manager capable of assisting the coach by carrying out clerical and other duties relating to the efficient functioning of the team.
2. ENTERING MULTIPLE TEAMS IN A DIVISION/YEAR GROUP	
If a club enters more than one team in a single division in any year group or has multiple teams in a year group, then the following is to apply.	
2a	Each team nominated by the respective club must be done so in such a way that each team is competitive within its nominated division.
2b	If a club has two teams in one division, it must be done so in such a way that each team is competitive within that division.
2c	If the teams are viewed to be uncompetitive by the WAFC within the first five rounds as per Rule 4 of this document, the WAFC has the power to direct the club to re-allocate players.
2d	If the club is directed to re-nominate the teams, the club will resubmit the teams and will be subject to further review by the WAFC.
2e	Specific competition rules regarding entering multiple teams in a division/year group can be found in the individual Competition Rules documents.
3. TEAM WITHDRAWALS	
3a	A Club which withdraws a team or teams from any competition without a reason acceptable to the WAFC, may be liable to a penalty. If a team is withdrawn from a competition after the commencement of a season, the WAFC shall determine how the fixtures will be re-organised and for which games premiership points will be awarded.

WAFC POL.10A Competitions Policy: Team Selection & Nominations

UNCOMPETITIVE TEAMS PROCESS

This process provides clubs a clear and transparent process for determining whether a team is uncompetitive under Rule 2 of this document, and how the WAFC will work with a club to rectify this.

RULES

4. UNCOMPETITIVE TEAMS PROCESS	
4a	Prior to the season, the WAFC will formally notify any clubs if they believe a team may be deemed uncompetitive based on the previous year's results which will include a recommendation to re-allocate players across teams prior to the season beginning
4b	At any point across the first five rounds of the season, the WAFC may formally notify clubs if they believe a team may be deemed uncompetitive and provide a recommendation to re-allocate players across teams.
4c	For a team to be deemed uncompetitive they must meet the following criteria as a minimum. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Must have lost a minimum of three matches by 60 points or more across the first five matches. ii. A Competition Official must have attended two matches across the first five matches and have made an assessment that the team is uncompetitive within the context of the match at both matches.
4d	If a team is deemed uncompetitive at the conclusion of Round 5, they will be requested to provide evidence to the competition that they have taken steps to improve the competitiveness of the team, including re-allocating players between teams within the club.
4e	If a team is deemed uncompetitive and the club refuses to re-allocate players after the completion of Round 5, that team will not be eligible to play for premiership points for the remainder of the season.

TEAM ALLOCATION

There are various methods a club may choose to adopt when allocating players among two or more teams in a year group. The WAFC suggests that Clubs consider each of the below methods.

- **Even Teams:** Ensuring each team is of equal strength.
- **Friendship Groups:** Ensuring players are able to play with their close friends.
- **School Groups:** Ensuring players are able to play with their school friends.
- **Annual Rotation:** Ensuring players are able to experience playing with different players and are prepared for older year groups when there is an increased likelihood that teams will merge.

5. ADOPT A CLUB MENTALITY OVER A TEAM MENTALITY

Clubs are encouraged to adopt a club mentality rather than an individual team mentality. This will encourage long-term friendships that extend beyond school groups and past teammates and minimises the impact of players having to move or merge teams during their Junior Football career.

The WAFC encourages teams from the same club, in the same year group to train together as one. The benefits of doing this include:

- Building a strong club culture
- Encouraging strong friendships between a larger group of players and parents making any regrade or reallocation of players less daunting for players and their families.
- Ability to run more effective training sessions with larger numbers at training, implementing a hub training model which keeps players engaged and exposes them to a variety of coaches and coaching styles.
- Sharing of resources – green space, coaches, equipment etc.

6. WHEN SHOULD CLUBS MERGE OR SPLIT TEAMS?

With a focus on participation, the WAFC looks to maximise the number of opportunities for as many young players as possible to play the game. As such, denying registrations and turning players away is discouraged, however the WAFC understands the complications involved when deciding whether to enter one or more teams in a year group. The below table will act as a guide to assist clubs in working through these decisions.

Year Group	1 Team	Requires Action	2 Teams	3 Teams
12-a-side Competitions	9 – 18 players	19 – 22 players	23 – 34 players	35+ players
15-a-side Competitions	12 – 23 players	24 – 28 players	29 – 46 players	47+ players
18-a-side Competitions	15 – 28 players	29 – 35 players	36 – 56 players	57+ players

Action Required

If a club sits within the above 'Requires Action' column for any of their year groups, the below options are available and should be considered:

1. Recruitment:

Work together with WAFC district staff to recruit additional numbers in order to enter a second team.

2. Utilising current WAFC Policies, Rules & Regulations:

Enter a second team and utilise current Junior Football Policies, Rules & Regulations to ensure sufficient numbers for a match, which includes:

- Play Ups - see WAFC Competition Rules Eligibility & Finals Qualification.
- Even Up – see WAFC POL.13D Game Day Even Up & Field Positions.

3. Player Permitting:

The WAFC encourages local Junior Clubs to work together utilising Rotating Player Permits, which enables teams with excess players to temporarily permit their players to a nearby club to assist with teams who are low on numbers. This is a great way of ensuring players get maximum playing time and more opportunities to touch the football and further develop their skills rather than not playing or sitting on the bench.

4. Team Mergers:

Work together with neighbouring clubs who may also be low on numbers in the same year group, to enter a merged team.

7. CONSIDERATIONS

Deciding to split or merge teams

The below considerations must be made, particularly when numbers sit within the 'Requires Action' column in the above table:

- Entering one team with too many players results in excessive interchange sizes, reduced game time and fewer coaches per player.
- Entering a second team with too few players increases the number of coaches and volunteers required.
- Priority should be given to returning and new players over players transferring in from other clubs.

Team Allocations

The WAFC suggests that clubs should endeavour to make their teams as even as possible, splitting players based on their skills, size, speed and overall ability. Please discuss with your WAFC Competition staff who can provide guidance as to the most suitable division for your teams.

- For clubs affected by PSA boarders, please ensure there are an equal number of boarders spread across the two teams.
- Upon request to the WAFC, Clubs will have the ability to make changes over the first two rounds of the Home & Away season, providing flexibility to get team balance right.
- After teams have been split, they are still encouraged to train together as per Rule 5 above.
- The WAFC encourages clubs to follow this process and reallocate players to a new team each season. The idea behind this is to promote players' individual development and allows them to experience the game playing with different teammates. It also promotes a club over team mentality where players are exposed to different coaches and coaching styles and encourages new friendships in both the player and parent groups.

WAFC POL.10B Competitions Policy: Colours & Team Uniform



POLICY BACKGROUND

Each Club shall nominate its colours and design of playing uniform.

RULES

1. APPROVAL	
1a	All designs must be approved by the WAFC.
1b	All Indigenous jumper design applications to the WAFC must include details of the artist, their community and the story behind the artwork. The application must also include approval from the artist giving permission for how the artwork, design or image can be used and if there are any limitations for its use.
1c	All teams representing a Club shall wear the playing uniform approved for that Club by the WAFC.
1d	Players not wearing the correct, approved uniform may be removed from the playing surface at the discretion of the field umpire or a WAFC Competitions staff member.
2. JUMPER CLASHES	
2a	If the WAFC deems that there is a clash, they shall request that the club determine another design within agreed design criteria.
2b	If the WAFC determines that there is a clash between two teams for a given match, then the Away Team must wear an alternative strip.
3. COMPRESSION GARMENTS – Year 7 to Year 12 ONLY	
3a	The wearing of full-length arm and leg compression garments must be approved by the WAFC Competition Team.
3b	The colour, length & style of compression undergarments (such as 'Skins' or 'Under Armour') shall be approved by the WAFC in line with the playing uniform.
3c	T-shirts and other non-compression garments are not permitted to be worn unless authorised by WAFC Competition Team.
4. COMPRESSION GARMENTS – Year 3 to Year 6 ONLY	
4a	Unless directed by the WAFC Competitions Team, competition participants may wear compression garments of any style, colour, or length.
4b	Long and short sleeve, non-compression t-shirts may be worn if the shirt does not have a hood.
4c	Players are not permitted to wear jumpers, jackets, or hooded garments under a football jumper during a match.
5. TEAM OFFICIAL GARMENTS	
5a	Team Officials are required to wear garments and/or vests as directed by the WAFC.

WAFC POL.10C Competitions Policy: Fixtures

POLICY BACKGROUND

Prior to the commencement of each football season the WAFC Competitions Team shall prepare a fixture list for all matches to be played in competitions under the control of the WAFC and to allocate grounds and times for such matters.

RULES

1. FIXTURES	
1a	Any proposed amendment or alteration to the fixtures by clubs or teams shall be submitted in writing to the WAFC.
1b	Any re-fixturing that occurs after the commencement of the season will be at the discretion of the WAFC.
2. RE-GRADING	
2a	Re-grading will occur after Round 5 of all competitions if required.
2b	For re-grading to occur, any of the following criteria must be met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. A team shall be deemed uncompetitive in the division they are currently in, or ii. There must be a team that has demonstrated that they will be more competitive in another division.
2c	Once re-grading occurs in a division, all the premiership points will be reset.
3. FINALS	
3a	Where possible, Grand Finals will be played on neutral grounds.
3b	If unforeseen circumstances disrupt finals, the Competition Team will determine how to proceed and whether games will be rescheduled.

WAFC POL.10D Competitions Policy: Transfers & Permits

POLICY BACKGROUND

All West Australian Football Commission competitions adhere to the AFL National Player Transfer Regulations. In addition to the national regulations, the below transfer and permit rules apply to all Junior & Youth Competitions under the control of the WAFC.

1. LOCAL TRANSFER RULES	
1a	At the full discretion of the WAFC Competitions Team, Teams can be penalised for exceeding 5 WAFL Development Squad players when transferring or permitting players in new players who are listed on WAFL Development Squad lists.
1b	If a club has more than 5 <i>homegrown</i> WAFL Development Squad players, no penalty will be considered unless further WAFL Development Squad players are transferred or permitted in.
1c	Penalties include but are not limited to Premiership Points and can be reviewed and applied at any stage of the regular season. Discretionary penalties are not automatically applied for breaching this policy and the WAFC will discuss all factors with clubs before a final determination is made.
2. PRIMARY REGISTRATION OF YOUTH PLAYERS	
2a	As per WAFCPOL.17: Primary Registration Policy, with the exclusion of WAFL / WAFL Club listed participants, registered players who turn 18 on or after July 1 of the given year should hold their Primary Registration with a Junior Club or a club that have teams registered in a Junior competition.
2b	Any players who turn 18 on or after July 1 who requests a transfer to a senior club are subject to approval by the WAFC.
3. TRANSFER REFUSAL	
3a	As per the AFL National Player Transfer Regulations, for avoidance of doubt, a transfer may only be refused on the following grounds; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The player is required to continue playing for the source Club (ie a permit is required to be submitted instead of a transfer) ii. The player is financial indebted to the source club as evidenced by proper financial records (ie outstanding fees) iii. The player is in possession of source club property that must be returned (ie playing jumper or equipment) iv. The player wishes to withdraw their transfer request and continue playing for the source club

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

[AFL National Player Transfer Regulations \(2021\)](#)

WAFC POL.10E Competitions Policy: Results, Premiership Points & E-Points

PREMIERSHIP POINTS

Premiership Points and E-Points are awarded in all West Australian Football Commission run competitions in Year 7 and above.

RULES

1. PREMIERSHIP POINTS	
1a	Four Premiership Points are to be awarded to the winning team of a Home & Away match.
1b	Two Premiership points are to be awarded to each team in a drawn Home & Away match
1c	If a winning team's margin exceeds 60 points (10 goals) the team will only be credited with a maximum of 60 points (10 goals) winning margin.
1d	Where equality in total premiership points occurs at the conclusion of the qualifying round (Home & Away season), the position of a team shall be decided by E-points and then percentage.
1e	If uneven matches are played, a match ratio shall apply to the premiership table. Match Ratio is calculated by the number of wins divided by the number of games played multiplied by 100.

E-POINTS

The purpose of the E-Point system is to weight game day behaviour with the same importance as winning a match and reward teams for displaying positive game day behaviour. The system deters players, coaches, and parents from engaging in negative game day behaviour prior to it taking place. The E-Point model is applied to all competitions from Year 7 and above.

RULES

2. E-POINTS	
2a	A maximum of four E-Points will be awarded per team per game for each completed regular season match. The team's behaviour (including that of players, team officials, support staff or spectators) will determine if any of these E-Points will not be awarded.
2b	For every Yellow Card received by a participating team on game day, 1 less E-Point will be awarded and the penalised club may be liable for a financial fine.
2c	For each Red Card received by a participating team on game day 2 less E-Points will be awarded and the penalised club may be liable for a financial fine.
2d	Any team who has a player, parent/spectator or official who is issued a prescribed penalty with a base sanction of one match or more will receive 2 less E-Points for each person charged.
2e	Any team who has a code of conduct, policy or bylaw breach relating to inappropriate game day behaviour will receive up to four (4) less E-points awarded. This is at the sole discretion of the WAFC.
2f	If any breach occurs during a break of play or after the final siren, the number of E-points not awarded may be doubled as the umpire does not have the ability to award a free kick.
2g	During Finals, the WAFC can substitute financial fines in the place of E-Point penalties.
2h	If regrading occurs, a team's E-Points will be carried forward.

WAFC POL.10F Competitions Policy: Match Forfeits

RULES

1. FORFEITURE OF MATCHES	
1a	For any Year 3 to 6 matches with insufficient numbers (listed per 1b below), Clubs are encouraged to play a game with any available players and utilise the even-up principle to ensure players and umpires are still provided with a modified game day environment to develop skills and in-play decision making.
1b	In a competition playing for premiership points, a match shall be deemed a forfeit if at the start of the match either team consists of less than: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 players (18-a-side competitions) • 10 players (15 or 16-a-side competitions) • 7 players (12-a-side competitions)
1c	Where a team fails to appear or forfeits a match, full premiership points (4) and E-Points (4) shall be awarded to the team receiving the forfeit.
1d	A team receiving a forfeit will be credited with a score of 60 points 'for' and zero points 'against' on the competition ladder.
1e	A team giving the forfeit will be credited zero (0) premiership points and zero (0) E-points on the competition ladder. If the WAFC believes a genuine attempt has been made to reschedule the game then the team giving the forfeit may be credited with zero (0) premiership points and four (4) E-points on the competition ladder.
1f	In the event of a forfeit, both Clubs involved shall advise the WAFC in writing of the date of the match and include the reasons for the forfeit.
1g	Players for the team receiving the forfeit shall be credited as having played that game for the purposes of finals eligibility and historical records. Players for the team that forfeited the match will not be credited as having played the match.
1h	Should a team play in ineligible player or utilise an ineligible official, that team will forfeit the game.
2. PAYMENT OF UMPIRES	
2a	If a team forfeits and provides less than 24 hours notice to the WAFC Competition Team Leader or Administrator, that team is required to pay 100% of umpires' fees for the match, as per WAFC Pol.11 'Umpire Fees'.
2b	No payment of umpires is required if more than 24hrs notice is provided to the WAFC.

WAFC POL.11 Umpire Policy: Umpire Fees

POLICY BACKGROUND

The West Australian Football Commission has developed a new Umpire fee structure with a clear focus on improving the match day environment by increasing attraction and retention rates and building a strong pathway for Community Football Umpires.

All Junior Umpire Fees will be reviewed annually as the WAFC continues to look at ways to reduce and clearly define payment levels. This will hopefully remove some of the barriers allowing for greater flexibility for Umpires to be appointed games across various levels of Community Football. From a Club and League volunteer perspective, the simplification of Umpire fees will also reduce confusion and administrative workload around Umpire payments.

The WAFC shall fix the maximum fee for umpires annually prior to the commencement of the season.

PAYMENT

Only qualified umpires who are registered with umpire.afl/officials-hq and appointed by the WAFC can be remunerated by the WAFC, as per the rates in this policy.

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) is the preferred payment method with 50% paid by each team. This process was successfully implemented in 2020 across most Metro Junior competitions with the intention of having every junior District adhere to this process.

In the event of a forfeit less than 24 hours prior to a game, Umpires will still be required to be remunerated, with the entire cost being paid by the team forfeiting.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

All Ages - Competition Rules

[AFL Laws of Australian Football](#)

WAFC POL.11 Umpire Policy: Umpire Fees

COMPETITION	FEES
<p>YEAR 11/12 COMPETITIONS</p> <p>The WAFC Competition is played as per the AFL Laws of Australian Football.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 2 Umpire System, 3 Umpire System recommended • 4 x 20-minute quarters male, 4 x 15-minute quarters female • Official Boundary and Goal Umpires are optional for male competitions • Official Goals Umpires are optional for female competitions <p>18-a-side for male, 16-a-side for female</p>	<p>\$110 per Field Umpire</p> <p>\$60 Boundary (2 Umpire)</p> <p>\$40 Goals</p>
<p>YEAR 10 COMPETITIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Umpire System (where possible) • 4 x 20-minute quarters male, 4 x 15-minute quarters female • 15-a-side <p>15-a-side competitions are played on smaller sized grounds with the “Last Possession” rule enforced. Field Umpires adjudicate out of bounds free kicks removing the need for Boundary Umpires.</p>	<p>\$100 per Umpire (1 Umpire)</p> <p>\$80 per Umpire (2 Umpire)</p>
<p>YEAR 9 COMPETITIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Umpire System (where possible) • 4 x 20-minute quarters, 4x 15-minute quarters female • 15-a-side <p>15-a-side competitions are played on smaller sized grounds with the “Last Possession” rule enforced. Field Umpires adjudicate out of bounds free kicks removing the need for Boundary Umpires.</p>	<p>\$95 per Umpire (1 Umpire)</p> <p>\$70 per Umpire (2 Umpire)</p>
<p>YEAR 8 COMPETITIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Umpire System (where possible) • 4 x 15-minute quarters • 15-a-side <p>15-a-side competitions are played on smaller sized grounds with the “Last Possession” rule enforced. Field Umpires adjudicate out of bounds free kicks removing the need for Boundary Umpires.</p>	<p>\$90 per Umpire (1 Umpire)</p> <p>\$65 per Umpire (2 Umpire)</p>
<p>YEAR 7 COMPETITIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Umpire System (where possible) • 4 x 15-minute quarters • 15-a-side <p>15-a-side competitions are played on smaller sized grounds with the “Last Possession” rule enforced. Field Umpires adjudicate out of bounds free kicks removing the need for Boundary Umpires.</p>	<p>\$80 per Umpire (1 Umpire)</p> <p>\$60 per Umpire (2 Umpire)</p>
<p>YEAR 3-6 COMPETITIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Umpire System • 4 x 15-minute quarters • 15-a-side <p>With reduced ground size and younger age only one Umpire one is required in these competitions. As they also play the “Last Possession” rule, there is no requirement for Boundary Umpires which increases the responsibilities of the Field Umpire.</p>	<p>\$40 per Umpire</p>

***Note: Female Competitions default to higher age for umpire payments**

WAFC POL.12 Umpire Policy: Umpire Handshake Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

Coaches are expected to demonstrate a gesture of good sportsmanship toward the match day umpires both pre- and post-game. This can be achieved through a handshake, fist bump or elbow bump while discussing the positive game day environment and reflect on the positives of football.

This mark of respect will reinforce our commitment to influencing positive game day environments and stands as an excellent example of behaviour from the Coach to Players and Spectators. Coaches should also replicate this gesture of good sportsmanship toward the Opposition Coach.

WAFC POL.13: Match Operations Policy

POLICY BACKGROUND

This policy documents the procedures and rules involved in conducting Junior & Youth matches controlled by the WAFC. The various sections of this policy have been divided up into the following sub-procedures for ease of access and editing:

WAFC POL.13

- WAFC POL.13A – Ground Preparation
- WAFC POL.13B – Team Sheets
- WAFC POL.13C – Match Duration
- WAFC POL.13D – Game Day Player Even Up & Field Positions
- WAFC POL.13E – Send Off Rule
- WAFC POL.13F – Removal of Players from the Arena
- WAFC POL.13G – Ground Encroachment
- WAFC POL.13H – Match Ball Policy
- WAFC POL.13I – Stretcher Policy
- WAFC POL.13J – Mercy Rule

WAFC POL.13A Match Operations Policy: Ground Preparation

POLICY BACKGROUND

This policy documents the procedures involved in preparing the ground for Junior & Youth Football matches controlled by the WAFC. Each team shall be responsible for following this policy at its home games. Where a game is allocated to a neutral venue, the WAFC shall nominate a home team which shall be responsible for all provisions as if the game were being played on the home ground of that team. The WAFC will have final discretion for use of all competitions.

RULES

1. GROUND MARKING										
1a	The ground shall be marked in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football, which shall include a spectator line at least two metres outside the boundary line and six metres behind the goals.									
2. COACHES BOX										
2a	A clearly identified Coaches and players box shall be marked no less than five metres from either side of the interchange area in Year 5 competitions and above. The placement and dimensions of the Coaches box shall be set up as per Figure 1 in below Ground Preparation Diagrams section.									
2b	The Coaches box must be marked in paint. Where this is not possible, cones may be used.									
2c	The Coaches box cannot be marked in front of the spectator line.									
3. MATCH DAY CHECKLIST										
3a	A check of the ground surface is to be conducted before the first match of the day and the appropriate Match Day Checklist completed. Print version - https://sport.marshadvantage.com.au/afl/documents/Match_Day_Checklist.pdf Online form - https://info-pacific.marsh.com/acton/media/44357/afl-matchday-checklist-marsh									
3b	If a Youth match is played following a Junior or Auskick match and/or the weather conditions change, then another ground check should occur prior to that game commencing and be documented.									
4. SAFETY REQUIREMENTS										
4a	Matches are not permitted to commence until padding is placed around all fixed goal and behind posts as per the Laws of Australian Football.									
4b	There must be a stretcher present at the ground.									
5. LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS										
5a	In accordance with Australian Standards, any night fixture shall have a minimum of 50 lux for Year 3 – 6 competitions and a minimum of 100 lux for Year 7 competitions and above. <table border="1" data-bbox="427 1753 1307 1955"> <thead> <tr> <th>COMPETITION</th> <th>TRAINING REQ.</th> <th>MATCH REG.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Junior (Year 3 – 6)</td> <td>50 lux</td> <td>50 lux</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Youth (Year 7 – 12)</td> <td>50 lux</td> <td>100 lux</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>For more information on lighting requirements please refer to the AFL Community Preferred Facility Guidelines.</p>	COMPETITION	TRAINING REQ.	MATCH REG.	Junior (Year 3 – 6)	50 lux	50 lux	Youth (Year 7 – 12)	50 lux	100 lux
COMPETITION	TRAINING REQ.	MATCH REG.								
Junior (Year 3 – 6)	50 lux	50 lux								
Youth (Year 7 – 12)	50 lux	100 lux								

6. GROUND SIZE SUMMARY

6a

	COMPETITION	GENDER	LENGTH RANGE	WIDTH RANGE
A	Year 3 - Year 4	Both	80m – 100m	50m – 75m
B	Year 5 - Year 6	Both	90m – 110m	70m – 85m
C	Year 7 - Year 8	Both	110m – 140m	70m – 110m
D	Year 9 Year 9 – 10	Male Female	120m – 150m	90m – 120m
E	Year 10 – 12 Year 11 – 12	Male Female	135m – 185m	110m – 155m

The WAFC recommends that where possible, clubs use the lower range of the above ground sizes to improve player development.

Field sizes are reduced in younger age groups and 15-a-side competitions to suit players’ skill level and ability and to cater for the reduced number of players.

Reduced field sizes allow for ‘cross-field’ matches in Year 7 – 8 and allow for more matches to be played in the same timeslot, reducing the impact on volunteers, and increasing ground availability.

The above ranges have been purposefully overlapped to allow for less ground configurations on match day.

Ground configuration examples have been outlined in **Figure 2** of the **Ground Preparation Diagrams** section.

WAFC POL.13A Match Operations Policy: Ground Preparation

Fig. 1

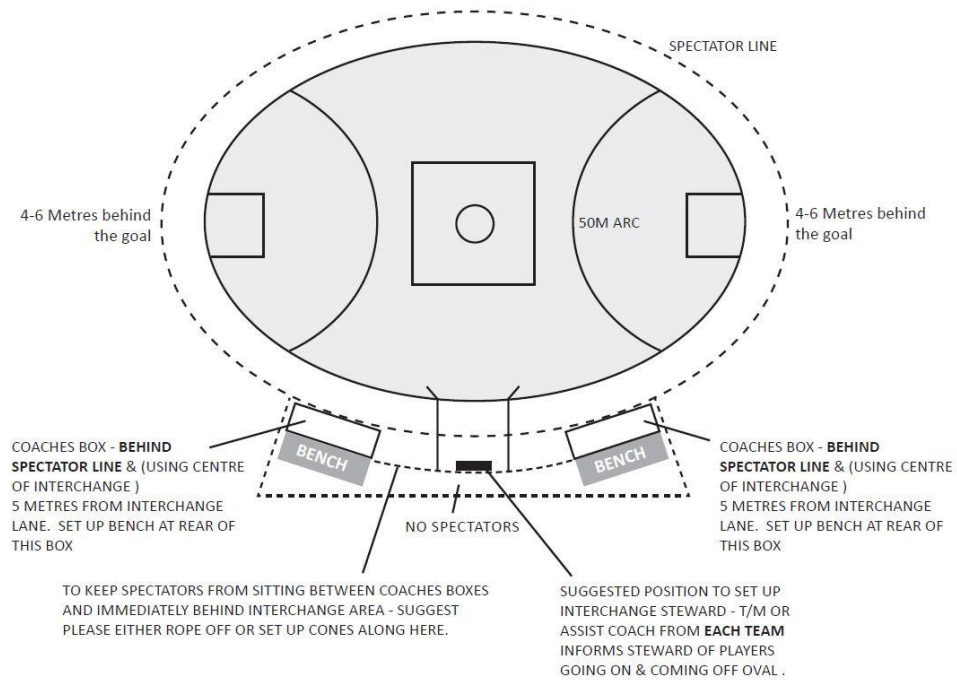
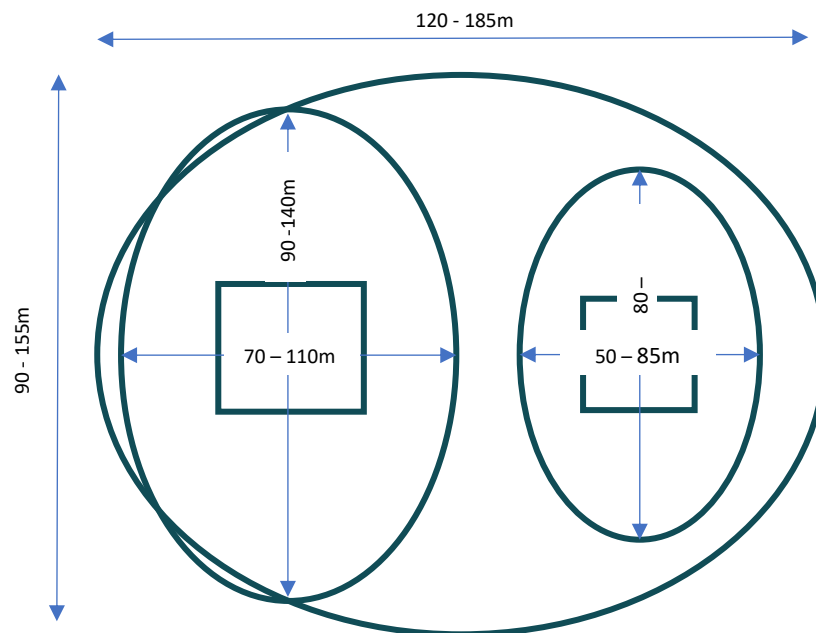


Fig. 2



SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

[Laws of Australian Football](#)

[AFL Community Preferred Facility Guidelines](#)

WAFC POL.13B Match Operations Policy: Team Sheets

POLICY BACKGROUND

This policy documents the procedures involved in submitting Team Sheets for Junior & Youth Football matches controlled by the WAFC. All competing teams shall ensure all players, coaches and team officials representing the team for any given match are included on the team sheet in the WAFC approved Registration System. Each team shall be responsible for following this policy at all games.

RULES

1. TEAM SHEETS	
1a	Each competing team shall provide WAFC approved team sheets for each match.
1b	All players' jumper numbers shall be displayed on the team sheet.
1c	Players may only enter the field of play if they are listed on the team sheet and in attendance at the game.
1d	A player can only be listed on the team sheet if they enter the field of play.
1e	Late arriving players cannot take to the field until presented to the umpires at the next break between quarters. Late arriving players shall not enter the playing field after half time.
1f	Late arriving players must be presented to the umpire before the start of the third quarter to be eligible to play.

WAFC POL.13C Match Operations Policy: Match Duration

POLICY BACKGROUND

This document outlines the duration of Junior & Youth matches controlled by the WAFC, including the length of time between quarters and any rules surrounding time on/extra time.

RULES

1. MATCH DURATION																	
1a	<p>As per the WAFC Competition Rules, the length of match duration for all Junior & Youth Matches controlled by the WAFC shall be as follows:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>COMPETITION</th> <th>GENDER</th> <th>DURATION</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>Year 3 - Year 8</td> <td>Both</td> <td>4x 15-minute quarters</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B</td> <td>Year 9 - Year 12</td> <td>Female</td> <td>4x 15-minute quarters</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C</td> <td>Year 9 - Year 12</td> <td>Male</td> <td>4x 20-minute quarters</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>No time on may be added to any game, with the exception of Finals (point 4).</p>		COMPETITION	GENDER	DURATION	A	Year 3 - Year 8	Both	4x 15-minute quarters	B	Year 9 - Year 12	Female	4x 15-minute quarters	C	Year 9 - Year 12	Male	4x 20-minute quarters
	COMPETITION	GENDER	DURATION														
A	Year 3 - Year 8	Both	4x 15-minute quarters														
B	Year 9 - Year 12	Female	4x 15-minute quarters														
C	Year 9 - Year 12	Male	4x 20-minute quarters														
2. INTERVALS																	
2a	<p>The maximum times allowed for intervals between quarters in all age groups are:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>INTERVAL</th> <th>DURATION</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>First quarter break</td> <td>Shall be not more than 5 minutes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Half time break</td> <td>Shall be not more than 10 minutes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Third quarter break</td> <td>Shall be not more than 5 minutes</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>i. Upon a second warning from the umpire, if a team has not made an acceptable effort to take the field, the umpire shall award a free kick to the opposing team. Should both teams be offending the umpire will pay a free kick to the 1st returning team.</p> <p>ii. In addition, if any team is deemed by the Umpire to be in breach this rule, the coach(s) of the offending team(s) shall be reported for engaging in time wasting.</p>	INTERVAL	DURATION	First quarter break	Shall be not more than 5 minutes	Half time break	Shall be not more than 10 minutes	Third quarter break	Shall be not more than 5 minutes								
INTERVAL	DURATION																
First quarter break	Shall be not more than 5 minutes																
Half time break	Shall be not more than 10 minutes																
Third quarter break	Shall be not more than 5 minutes																
3. FINALS																	
3a	Should the final scores of both teams in any final round match, including the Grand Final, be equal at the end of the time allocated for the match, such match shall be extended by two additional periods of five minutes with no time on, in which the teams shall change ends and kick to either end of the ground alternatively.																
3b	<p>At the end of the game there will be a two-minute break between fulltime and the commencement of the extra time.</p> <p>Coaches are allowed on the field at this time.</p>																
3c	After the completion of the first five minutes of extra time, teams are required to change ends																

WAFC POL.13C Match Operations Policy: Match Duration

	<p>with no break.</p> <p>Coaches and officials are not permitted to be on the field during this time.</p>
3d	<p>Should the scores still be tied at the end of these additional periods, the team captains will decide which team will kick to which end of the ground by the toss of a coin.</p> <p>Play will then resume until one team scores and that team shall be declared the winner.</p>

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

WAFC Junior & Youth Rules & Regulations

WAFC Competition Rules

AFL Laws of Australian Football

POLICY BACKGROUND

This document outlines the Game Day Player Even Up Rules and Field Positions that are to be enforced in all Junior & Youth Football matches controlled by the WAFC. The Even Up rule is in place to ensure both teams have equal numbers on the field while maximising participants' playing time and shall be applied to all home and away matches. Criteria for finals are explained below in 2a.

Field positions are detailed in the Junior Bylaws and are in place to maximise game flow and opportunities for players to touch the ball, whilst developing skills in decision making.

RULES

1. GENERAL APPLICATION	
1a	The even up rule will apply when one or two teams have less than the maximum number of players for the competition.
1b	If a team cannot field the maximum number of players for that competition, the team with the greater number of players must offer additional players to the lesser numbered team until team numbers comprise the maximum number of players, are even, or differ by one only.
1c	Each team shall start each quarter with even numbers of players on the field during the match. This requirement does not extend to having equal numbers on the bench and may be affected by a Red Card infringement as per 4a.
1d	Players must be rotated so that no single player plays more than one quarter per match for the opposition team.
2. FINALS APPLICATION	
2a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Teams must adhere to 1c for finals and must inform the Competition Administrators of any potential or actual shortage of players before the match begins. ii. If a team is 1-3 (inclusive) players short, the requirement to adhere to 1a, 1b & 1d will be at the discretion of the local competition, in consultation with the 2 team coaches. iii. If a team is 4 or more players short, 1a, 1b, 1c & 1d are activated, up to the maximum team requirement.
3. INJURIES	
3a	If a player is injured and the team has no player to replace the injured player, the opposing team must even up immediately.
3b	A team captain may not call for a Player Count until the injured player is replaced.
4. YELLOW & RED CARDS	
4a	A player ordered off for a Red card offence during an even-up situation cannot be replaced for the remainder of the match.
4b	A player ordered off for a Yellow card offence cannot be replaced by a member of the opposition team. No even-up is required during the penalty period but once the 15-minute penalty has been served, teams must return to an even number of players on the field.

5. FIELD POSTIONS

Where games are played with less than maximum as per age specific competition rules, the below tables explain how to adjust teams on field.

5a

Modified Rules – Year 3 to 6					
On Field	FB	HB	C	HF	FF
15	3	3	3	3	3
14	3	3	2	3	3
13	2	3	3	3	2
12	2	3	2	3	2
11	2	2	3	2	2
10	2	2	2	2	2
9	3		3	3	
8	3		2	3	
7	2		3	2	

Open Rules – Year 7 to 12			
On Field	Defenders	Mid / Wing	Forwards
18	6	4 / 2	6
17	6	3 / 2	6
16	5	4 / 2	5
15	5	3 / 2	5
14	4	4 / 2	4
13	4	3 / 2	4
12	4	4	4
11	4	3	4
10	3	4	3
9	3	3	3
8	3	2	3
7	2	3	2

WAFC POL.13E Match Operations Policy: Send Off Rule

POLICY BACKGROUND

This document outlines the Send Off Rule that is to be applied in all Junior & Youth Football matches controlled by the WAFC. The Send Off Rule is in place to positively address the Game Day Environment in Junior Football

RULES

1. GENERAL	
1a	Umpires can issue Yellow and Red Cards to any player, official or spectator as deemed necessary.
2. YELLOW CARDS	
2a	An offender ordered off for a Yellow Card offence can be replaced immediately but is prohibited from taking the field for 15 minutes playing time.
2b	In the event that a Player or Official: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Is issued with two Yellow Cards on the day of the match, then the offender shall take no further part in the game and cannot be replaced for 15 minutes and receives an automatic 1-match suspension. ii. Is ordered off for a Yellow Card offence and fails to leave the field immediately when directed by the field umpire, then the offender shall be reported for misconduct and consequently be deemed to have committed a Red Card offence. iii. Is issued with three Yellow Cards over the duration of a season, then the third and every yellow card received thereafter shall be upgraded to a Red Card at the conclusion of the match, resulting in an automatic one-match suspension.
3. RED CARDS	
3a	An offender ordered off for a red card offence cannot be replaced for 15 minutes playing time. The offending person may not return to the field for the remainder of the match.
3b	The offending person will be penalised in line with the Junior Football Tribunal Guidelines.
3c	A player, club/team official or spectator who fails to leave the arena immediately when directed by the umpire shall be reported for misconduct, the match shall be terminated, and the offending person's team will forfeit the match.
3d	Once leaving the playing arena, the participant's club should assist the person receiving the red card to remove themselves from the venue as soon as practically possible.

WAFC POL.13F Match Operations Policy: Removal of Players from the Playing Field

POLICY STATEMENT

No Coach or Club/Team Official may remove a team from the playing field during play. If a Coach or any club/team official removes a team from the playing arena whilst a game is in progress, such person and a responsible official from the person's club shall be required to appear before the WAFC and show cause why a penalty should not be imposed on the club and/or person, for their actions.

A match will not be determined as abandoned until the game is officially called off by the Field Umpire, Umpire Coach or WAFC Competitions Staff member. Any Officials on the Field will be deemed to be in breach of Policy 13G 'Match Operations Policy: Ground Encroachment' with a minimum penalty of 12 month suspension applied.

WAFC POL.13G Match Operations Policy: Ground Encroachment



POLICY BACKGROUND

This policy documents the rules and procedures that are to be adhered to following encroachment of the playing arena by an unauthorised person or persons. This policy applies to all Junior and Youth football matches controlled by the WAFC and is in place to ensure the safety of all community football participants and a means of positively addressing Game Day Environment.

RULES

GROUND ENCROACHMENT	
1	In the event of an encroachment of the area of play by unauthorised persons, or that play is prevented by any other means, the field umpire shall seek the assistance of fellow umpires and/or any member of the WAFC to clear the playing arena so that the match may be resumed. If the field umpire is unable to do this within a reasonable time, they shall terminate play at that time and report all circumstances to the WAFC. This body may award the result or declare the match abandoned, forfeited or call a replay at its discretion or in line with AFL Laws of the Game.
2	<p>Any Club whose officials, players and club spectators are found to be responsible for the unauthorised encroachment of any playing arena (and any official, player and club spectators so responsible) shall be liable for penalty.</p> <p>As per WAFC COMPETITION RULES – Match Day Roles Section 3b;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. If the WAFC deems a match has been impacted by encroachment of an adult(s), the minimum penalty for individuals is 16 matches. Less significant penalties will potentially apply to under 18's.ii. If the encroachment includes any physical or verbal contact with opposition players, the penalty may be increased up to a Life Ban from all WAFC Competitions.iii. If the encroachment includes any physical or verbal contact with Umpires or WAFC officials, the penalty may be increased up to a Life Ban from all WAFC Competitions.
3	The home club (or the team mentioned first in the fixture) is responsible for ground security on the match day but cannot enter the venue unless requested to by the Umpires.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

WAFC Junior & Youth Football Rules & Regulations
AFL Laws of Australian Football

WAFC POL.13H Match Operations Policy: Match Balls

POLICY STATEMENT

Each team competing in a WAFC controlled match shall supply a football. The home team shall provide the match ball and the away team is to provide a suitable spare football.

All match footballs must be:

- Of an age-appropriate size as per the WAFC Competition Rules.
- Manufactured by a WAFC agreed sponsored brand (Burley Sekem)
 - Leather footballs to be *Premier* quality
 - Synthetic footballs to be *Attack* quality.
- Display branding of the nominated WAFC Ball Sponsor (Healthway - Go for 2 & 5)
- Yellow in colour

As per the WAFC COMPRULES;

	COMPETITION	GENDER	SIZE	MATERIAL
A	Year 3 Year 3 - 4	Male Female	Size 1	Synthetic
B	Year 4 Year 5 – 6	Male Female	Size 2	Synthetic
C	Year 5	Male	Size 2	Leather
D	Year 6 - 7 Year 7 - 8	Male Female	Size 3	Leather
E	Year 8 - 10 Year 9 - 12	Male Female	Size 4	Leather
F	Year 11 - 12	Male	Size 5	Leather

All Grand Final Match footballs shall be new.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

WAFC COMPRULES.3-4

WAFC COMPRULES.5-6

WAFC COMPRULES.7-8

WAFC COMPRULES.9-10

WAFC COMPRULES.11-12

WAFC POL.13I Match Operations Policy: Stretchers

POLICY BACKGROUND

As per WAFC POL.13A – Ground Preparation, a stretcher is required at all Junior and Youth matches under the control of the WAFC, including finals.

RULES

1. CALLING FOR A STRETCHER	
1a	Any player who in the opinion of the injured player's team officials requires the assistance of a stretcher shall be attended to by a suitably trained and certified medical officer trained in the use of a stretcher prior to removal of that player.
1b	Only authorised persons are permitted to enter the field of play and no team meetings or coaching is permitted during this time. Players must remain in their positions ready for recommencement of play.
1c	Should a coach enter the field of play during a stretcher call and in the opinion of the umpire was doing so to provide instruction, a free kick will be awarded to the opposing side in front of goal at the end of the 10-metre square. (This rule will not apply if the 10 minutes or quarter break becomes enforced).
1d	Should both teams' coaches enter the field of play for the purpose of giving instruction, play will resume as would be the case under the rules of the game and both teams will have a fine imposed at the discretion of the WAFC.
1e	Umpires will report all stretcher call outs and the outcomes on the match documentation.
2. REMOVAL OF A PLAYER	
2a	If the stretcher has been called for by an authorised person, then the player will be removed from the playing field via the most direct route for play to recommence and the injured player may be replaced through the interchange.
2b	If a player is removed from the field on a stretcher, then that player will not take any further part in the game whatsoever.
2c	If a field umpire or team medical officer is of the opinion that a player cannot be moved from the field of play due to the severity of an injury, then play may be abandoned for the game at the discretion of a meeting between the two Team Managers and the Field Umpire and/or any league appointed official (i.e., match day steward). The WAFC shall be advised of any such abandonment for the purpose of either rescheduling the fixture or determining a result according to the progress score and point of the game at which the game was abandoned. For all final round matches all decisions pertaining to the above rules will be controlled by the WAFC or their appointed officials.
3. TIMEKEEPING	
3a	The timekeeper shall stop the clock once the field umpire has called time after a stretcher has entered the field of play and shall restart the clock at the time the field umpire recommences play and calls time.
3b	The timekeeper shall record the time out and the time of the quarter at which point the clock was stopped.
3c	If the time taken to attend to the injured player exceeds 10 minutes from the time out the following will apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the quarter would have ended during the delay - time will be called for the quarter and play will recommence for the next quarter after the standard break. • If the final quarter is in progress and the stretcher is called for, the remaining time will be played out once play recommences.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

WAFC POL.13A Ground Preparation

WAFC POL.13J Match Operations Policy: Mercy Rule

BACKGROUND

This Policy is established in accordance with the Mercy Rule principles of the Australian Football Match Policy and the Spirit of Junior Football. The purpose of this Policy is to instil in all participants that it serves no beneficial purpose to inflict massive losses on an opposition Team.

This policy applies to all Junior and Youth football matches controlled by the WAFC and is in place to ensure a better competition for young players and reduce the number of one-sided matches. Youth retention is a key focus for the WAFC and this Policy forms a key part of the strategy to ensure players are involved in competitive competitions.

RULES

1. SCORES	
1a	As per WAFC Year Competition Rules section 4a, teams in competitions in Year 3 to 6 have no match results published, no scoreboards present, no premiership points awarded nor ladders kept.
1b	As per WAFC POL10E Competitions Policy: Results, Premiership Points & Epoints 1a, teams in competitions in Year 7 and above will only be credited a with a maximum of 60 points (10 goal) winning margin regardless of the final score.
1c	Scoring on the scoreboard is to cease at the end of the quarter that the 60 point margin is achieved.
1d	The goal umpires and independent scorer are to continue to score the match as usual and submit the score cards to the Field Umpire at the conclusion of the Match.
1e	Each Team's total score as per the scorecards is to be recorded in PlayHQ as the official result. The WAFC Competitions Team are then responsible for adjusting the final results as per point 1b.
2. COACHING REPOSIBILITIES	
2a	Coaches have a key role in fostering the development of their players. Learning to win and lose is part of the developmental journey but must remain secondary to the primary focus of player development and player retention.
2b	In the event of a one-sided game, both the Home and Away team coaches have a responsibility to even the game up to the best of their ability. There is no discretion for Coaches to agree to non-implementation of the Mercy Rule.
2c	Clubs and Coaches may be required by the Competitions Team to explain any circumstance in which there is evident failure to take equalization measures or achieve a competitive balance between the Teams.
3. APPLYING THE MERCY RULE – LEADING TEAM	
3a	<p>Scoring endlessly is not only unfair on your opponents but will not aid the development of your players. Below are some techniques Coaches can implement when applying the mercy rule;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotation of dominant/influential players and adjust positions for all players. At junior level its vitally important that all players develop the skills required for all positions. • Setting a challenge of maintain possession for certain periods of time or amount of possessions before scoring. This will develop their game sense allowing increased player involvement. • Challenge the playing group to use non preferred hand and foot. There is many long-term benefits of having players develop skills on both sides of their body.

WAFC POL.13J Match Operations Policy: Mercy Rule

4. APPLYING THE MERCY RULE – TRAILING TEAM

4a	<p>Motivating a team that is trailing in a one-sided game can be a tough challenge, however it is achievable when the win/loss situation is not overemphasised by the adults around them. Redefine the definition of winning so your players are focused on self-improvement and individual goal attainment rather than the scoreline. Below are some examples Coaches can set their players;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Defenders can be tasked with blocking a shot on goal.• Players can be set the objective of taking a free kick and making a good pass to a team mate.• Forwards could be tasked with taking a mark in front of goal.• Teams can be set the objective of conceding fewer points in the next quarter than the last or no points in a set period of time.
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

WAFC Junior & Youth Football Rules & Regulations
Australian Football Match Policy

TRUE SPORT – CODE OF CONDUCT

INTRODUCTION - TRUE SPORT

True Sport is an initiative by the Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries that supports local sporting clubs and associations to use eight values to share the benefits of sport and recreation to our whole community.

True Sport is the sport we want. Good sport can make a huge difference to our community, and it is important to help sports work together to share this message through using a common language that everyone understands.

True Sport's eight values should be part of everyday life both on and off the field. By embracing these values, teams, clubs, participants, and officials can work together to create fun, fair and safe environments for one and all to participate in sporting activities.

The eight True Sport Values are:

- **Have Fun**
- **Be Safe**
- **Give Back**
- **Be Healthy**
- **Play Fair**
- **Bring Your Best**
- **Show Respect**
- **Include All**

For more information on please visit <https://truesport.com.au/>



POLICY BACKGROUND

The major objective of Junior & Youth Football is to provide an opportunity for all children to play Australian Football in a safe environment designed to maximise the acquisition of skill and provide enjoyment. The True Sport Codes of Conduct, if followed by all people involved in our game, should ensure the fulfilment of this important objective.

The West Australian Football Commission strongly advises that all persons involved be issued with copies of the appropriate True Sport code of conduct. WA Football supports acts of sportsmanship (e.g. handshaking) between players, coaches, administrators, umpires etc.

The various True Sport Codes of Conduct have been divided up into the following sub-documents for ease of access and editing:

WAFC.POL.14:

- A – RED FLAG – Game Environment Filter
- B – True Sport Administrator & Volunteers Code of Conduct
- C – True Sport Coaches Code of Conduct
- D – True Sport Parent & Spectators Code of Conduct
- E – True Sport Players Code of Conduct
- F – True Sport Runners Code of Conduct
- G – True Sport Umpires Code of Conduct

Breaches of these Codes of Conduct can result in penalties at the discretion of the WAFC. This includes suspensions, loss of Premiership points and/or loss of E-Points.

RED FLAG – Game Environment Filter

POLICY BACKGROUND

Protecting and enhancing our Game Environment will always be a strategic focus for Community Football with ongoing enhancement of a Game Environment Filter (RED FLAG). This will assist in monitoring all football segments, and the standard of the environment and the spirit in which they are played. To this end an online filter has been developed whereby key football stakeholders are able to identify and bring to the attention of governing bodies any undesirable behaviours and actions that may breach any of the True Sport Codes of Conduct or Rule 1 “The Spirit of Junior Football”.

RULES

1. RED FLAG NOTIFICATION

The Red Flag notification is completed online with confidentiality assured within the process. Issues that are flagged that require official intervention will be overseen by the WAFC in consultation with the specific League Officials and WAFC District/Regional Staff. The Red Flag filter will apply to everyone involved in Football from coaches, spectators, and players to volunteers and club administrators.

2. RED FLAG ACCESS

Club Presidents, District Officials, Umpires and WAFC Game Development Staff will have authority to access the filter via a special password and link. Please contact the WAFC to secure your access.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

WAFC Junior & Youth Football Rules & Regulations
WAFC POL.14B - Administrator & Volunteers Code of Conduct
WAFC POL.14C - Coaches Code of Conduct
WAFC POL.14D - Parent & Spectators Code of Conduct
WAFC POL.14E - Players Code of Conduct
WAFC POL.14F - Runner Code of Conduct
WAFC POL.14G - Umpires Code of Conduct

POLICY BACKGROUND

The major objective of Junior & Youth Football is to provide an opportunity for all children to play Australian Football in a safe environment designed to maximise the acquisition of skill and provide enjoyment. The True Sport Codes of Conduct, if followed by all people involved in our game, should ensure the fulfilment of this important objective.

RULES

1. SPIRIT OF JUNIOR FOOTBALL	
1a	ALL administrators and volunteers must understand and adhere to BYLAW #1 'The Spirit of Junior Football' .
2. #HAVEFUN	
2a	Remember that children participate for enjoyment and play down the importance of rewards.
2b	Publicly encourage rule changes which will reinforce the principles of participation for fun and enjoyment.
3. #BESAFE	
3a	Ensure that rules, equipment, length of games and training schedules take into consideration the age, ability and maturity level of participating children.
3b	Ensure that adequate supervision is provided by qualified and competent coaches and officials capable of developing appropriate sports behaviour and skill technique.
3c	Provide clinics aimed at improving the standards of coaching and officiating, with an emphasis on appropriate behaviour and skill technique.
3d	Modify rules and regulations to match the skill level of children and their needs.
4. #BEHEALTHY	
4a	Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound officiating principles and the principles of growth and development of children.
5. #PLAYFAIR	
5a	Ensure that parents, coaches, sponsors, trainers and participants understand their responsibilities regarding fair play.
6. #SHOWRESPECT	
6a	Ensure that your behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sporting behaviour.
6b	Actively promote Positive Game Day Environments with Junior Football and the importance of E-Point structures to the game.
6c	Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
6d	Ensure promotion, well-being and safety of umpires and encourage good sportsmanship before, during and after matches.
6e	Ensure positive player/umpire relationships are continually developed.
7. #INCLUDEALL	
7a	Ensure that equal opportunities for participation in sports are made available to all children, regardless of ability, size, shape, gender, age, disability or ethnic origin.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

WAFC Junior & Youth Football Rules & Regulations

TRUE SPORT – COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

POLICY BACKGROUND

The major objective of Junior & Youth Football is to provide an opportunity for all children to play Australian Football in a safe environment designed to maximise the acquisition of skill and provide enjoyment. The True Sport Codes of Conduct, if followed by all people involved in our game, should ensure the fulfilment of this important objective.

This True Sport Coaches Code of Conduct is to be signed and adhered to as part of the accreditation requirements of the AFL & WAFC. Coaches should be aware that, in addition to this Code, they may be obliged to sign a further Code of Conduct/Ethics with their Club and/or League or State Sports Association.

RULES

1. SPIRIT OF JUNIOR FOOTBALL	
1a	ALL coaches must understand and adhere to BYLAW #1 ‘The Spirit of Junior Football’ .
2. #HAVEFUN	
2a	Ensure that players are involved in a positive environment where skill learning and development are priorities and are not overshadowed by a desire to win.
3. #BESAFE	
3a	Be always supportive and refrain from any form of personal abuse or unnecessary physical contact with the players in your care.
3b	Stress and monitor safety always.
3c	In recognising the significance of injury and sickness, you will seek and follow the physician’s advice concerning the return of injured, concussed, or ill players to training.
3d	Keep informed regarding sound principles of coaching and skill development, and of factors relating to the welfare of your players.
4. #BEHEALTHLY	
4a	Be reasonable in the demands you make on the time commitments of the players in your care, having due consideration for their health and well-being.
4b	Have due consideration for varying maturity and ability levels of your players when designing practice schedule, practice activities and involvement in competition.
5. #PLAYFAIR	
5a	Abide by and teach the AFL Laws of the Game and the Rules of your Club, District and League/Association.
5b	Display and always teach appropriate sporting behaviour, ensuring that players understand and practise fair play.
5c	Reject the use of performance enhancing substances in sport and abide by the guidelines set forth in the AFL Drug Policy.
6. #SHOWRESPECT	
6a	Display and foster respect for umpires, opponents, coaches, administrators, other officials, parents, and spectators.
7. #INCLUDEALL	
7a	Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all individuals within the context of your involvement in Australian Football, including refraining from any discriminatory practices based on race, religion, ethnic background, or special ability/disability.
7b	Avoid overplaying the talented players aiming to maximise participation and enjoyment for all players regardless of ability. When responsible for players in the 5-18-year-old age group, strive to ensure that all players gain equal playing time.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

WAFC Junior & Youth Football Rules & Regulations

TRUE SPORT – SPECTATORS & PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT

POLICY BACKGROUND

The major objective of Junior & Youth Football is to provide an opportunity for all children to play Australian Football in a safe environment designed to maximise the acquisition of skill and provide enjoyment. The True Sport Codes of Conduct, if followed by all people involved in our game, should ensure the fulfilment of this important objective.

RULES

1. SPIRIT OF JUNIOR FOOTBALL	
1a	ALL parents and spectators must understand and adhere to BYLAW #1 ‘The Spirit of Junior Football’ .
2. #HAVEFUN	
2a	Encourage children to participate in sport and have fun. Although remember this is about their ambition, and not yours.
2b	Remember that children play organised sports for fun. They are not playing for the entertainment of spectators, nor are they mini adults. Let them have fun and enjoy their junior sport experience.
3. #GIVEBACK	
3a	Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches, managers and helpers. Put your hand up to volunteer yourself.
4. #BEHEALTHY	
4a	Encourage your child to play multiple sports – they do not need to specialise and play one sport all year round.
5. #PLAYFAIR	
5a	Encourage children to always participate according to the rules.
5b	Encourage players to follow the rules and the umpire’s decisions.
6. #SHOWRESPECT	
6a	Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a game.
6b	Remember that children learn best from example. Applaud good plays by both teams.
6c	If you disagree with an official, raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official’s judgment and honesty in public.
6d	Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
6e	Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
6f	Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not swearing, using derogatory language, harassing players, coaches, umpires or volunteers.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

W AFC Junior & Youth Football Rules & Regulations

TRUE SPORT – PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

POLICY BACKGROUND

The major objective of Junior & Youth Football is to provide an opportunity for all children to play Australian Football in a safe environment designed to maximise the acquisition of skill and provide enjoyment. The True Sport Codes of Conduct, if followed by all people involved in our game, should ensure the fulfilment of this important objective.

RULES

1. SPIRIT OF JUNIOR FOOTBALL	
1a	ALL players must understand and adhere to BYLAW #1 'The Spirit of Junior Football' .
2. #HAVEFUN	
2a	Play for the “fun of it” and not just to please parents and coaches.
3. #PLAYFAIR	
3a	Play by the rules.
3b	Be a good sport. Applaud all good plays whether they are by your team, opponent, or the other team.
3c	Be prepared to take responsibility for your actions.
4. #BRINGYOURBEST	
4a	Work equally hard for yourself and for your team. Your team’s performance will benefit so will you.
5. #SHOWRESPECT	
5a	Never argue with an umpire or an official. If you disagree, discuss the matter with your coach or teacher after the game.
5b	Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other players, or provoking an opponent is not acceptable.
5c	Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully, or take unfair advantage of another teammate or player.
5d	Avoid using derogatory language or swearing.
6. #INCLUDEALL	
6a	Cooperate with and support your coach, teammates, and opponents. Without them there would no competition.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

W AFC Junior & Youth Football Rules & Regulations

TRUE SPORT – RUNNER CODE OF CONDUCT

POLICY BACKGROUND

The major objective of Junior & Youth Football is to provide an opportunity for all children to play Australian Football in a safe environment designed to maximise the acquisition of skill and provide enjoyment. The True Sport Codes of Conduct, if followed by all people involved in our game, should ensure the fulfilment of this important objective.

RULES

1. SPIRIT OF JUNIOR FOOTBALL	
1a	ALL runners must understand and adhere to BYLAW #1 'The Spirit of Junior Football' .
2. #BESAFE	
2a	The runner must be clearly identified.
2b	The runner's name must be entered on team sheets.
3. #GIVEBACK	
3a	The runner should be an adult.
4. #SHOWRESPECT	
4a	No abusive language or swearing.
4b	Always support the decision of the umpires and never question decisions.
4c	Deliver message and leave the ground immediately. Your role is not to coach or direct players. Do not remain on the ground. The game is for the kids, not you.
5. WATER CARRIERS	
5a	Water carriers are <u>not</u> permitted in Junior Community Football in Western Australia unless explicitly permitted by WAFC Community Football staff in circumstances of extreme heat.
5b	If WAFC staff permit water carriers, items 1a to 4b are applicable and as per 4c, water carriers must deliver water then immediately leave the ground. The water carriers shall be identified with a fluorescent vest or appropriate shirt that is approved by the umpires prior to the game starting and must have their names included on the team sheets.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

WAFC Junior & Youth Football Rules & Regulations

TRUE SPORT – UMPIRES CODE OF CONDUCT

POLICY BACKGROUND

The major objective of Junior & Youth Football is to provide an opportunity for all children to play Australian Football in a safe environment designed to maximise the acquisition of skill and provide enjoyment. The True Sport Codes of Conduct, if followed by all people involved in our game, should ensure the fulfilment of this important objective.

RULES

1. SPIRIT OF JUNIOR FOOTBALL	
1a	ALL umpires must understand and adhere to BYLAW #1 ‘The Spirit of Junior Football’ .
2. #HAVEFUN	
2a	Ensure that the “spirit of the game” for children is not lost by using common sense and not over emphasizing errors.
2b	Publicly encourage rule changes which will reinforce the principles of participation for fun and enjoyment.
3. #BESAFE	
3a	Modify rules and regulations to match the skill level of children and their needs.
3b	Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound officiating principles and the principles of growth and development of children.
4. #PLAYFAIR	
4a	Ensure that your behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sporting behaviour. Actions speak louder than words.
5. #BRINGYOURBEST	
5a	Compliment all participants on their efforts.
6. #SHOWRESPECT	
6a	Be consistent, objective and courteous in calling all infractions.
6b	Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
6c	Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

WAFC Junior & Youth Football Rules & Regulations
AFL Laws of Australian Football

WAFC POL.15: Insurance Policy

POLICY BACKGROUND

The West Australian Football Commission has negotiated in conjunction with the AFL, an Australian national insurance program with Insurance Brokers Marsh (formerly JLT). The program covers four critical areas of insurance:

- Player and Volunteer Personal Accident,
- Public Liability,
- Asset protection (theft and/or damage), and
- Associations (Directors and Officers Liability)

The national scheme covers each junior club from November 1 to October 31 at the base bronze level for Personal Accident. Upgrades to higher levels and therefore higher returns on claims are available after contacting Marsh direct.

TYPE OF COVER

All clubs are insured at a basic Bronze level coverage and should investigate upgrading their level of cover.

	Bronze Cover	Silver Cover	Gold Cover	Platinum Cover
Non-Medicare Medical Costs <i>(examples include: Ambulance, Physio, Dental, Chiro, Private Hospital Accommodation)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% Reimbursement • \$2,000 Max. per claim • \$100 excess per claim 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75% Reimbursement • \$2,500 Max. per claim • \$75 excess per claim 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90% Reimbursement • \$3,500 Max. per claim • \$50 excess per claim 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90% Reimbursement • \$7,500 Max. per claim • \$50 excess per claim
Capital Benefits	• \$20,000 for players under 18	• \$30,000 for players under 18	• \$40,000 for players under 18	• \$50,000 for players under 18
Quad / Para Benefit	\$1,000,000 maximum			

This table is to provide a brief overview. For full information regarding coverage and any changes to the policy please visit: <https://sport.marshadvantage.com.au/afl>

PRE-SEASON TRAINING INSURANCE

Within the AFL National Risk Protection Programme, Marsh covers all players who are registered to play with a club to the level of cover taken out by that club. In acknowledging that some players train to assess whether they want to register and play the full season, there is scope within the policy whereby 'prospective members' are covered for up to 4 weeks after their initial engagement with the club.

PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

It is strongly recommended that all players and families investigate their personal insurance needs and should consider the benefits of:

- Private Health Insurance
- Life Insurance
- Ambulance Recommendations

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

[MARSH AFL NRPP Summary](#)

[MARSH Player Information Flyer](#)

[Public Liability, Club Management Liability & Personal Injury](#)

[NAB AFL Auskick](#)

WAFC POL.16: Year Group Summary

POLICY BACKGROUND

Junior and Youth Football in WA is aligned to school years with the primary purpose of this being so that kids can play football with the friends that they attend school with.

YEAR GROUP SUMMARY

YEAR GROUP	BIRTH DATE RANGE
Auskick - Pre-Primary	01/07/2017 – 30/06/2018
Auskick - Year 1	01/07/2016 – 30/06/2017
Auskick - Year 2	01/07/2015 – 30/06/2016
Year 3	01/07/2014 – 30/06/2015
Year 4	01/07/2013 – 30/06/2014
Year 5	01/07/2012 – 30/06/2013
Year 6	01/07/2011 – 30/06/2012
Year 7	01/07/2010 – 30/06/2011
Year 8	01/07/2009 – 30/06/2010
Year 9	01/07/2008 – 30/06/2009
Year 10	01/07/2007 – 30/06/2008
Year 11	01/07/2006 – 30/06/2007
Year 12	01/07/2005 – 30/06/2006

WAFC POL.17: Primary Registration Policy

POLICY BACKGROUND

This policy is developed to provide clubs with clarity over where players are to be primary registered with an overall goal to increase transparency and communication between Clubs across different competitions.

Any player who is a member of a WAFL talent program may register to their WAFL club if their Junior Community Club is not set up to receive registrations by the time the National Registration Window opens on February 1.

1	<p>WAFL / WAFLW Players</p> <p>Players turning 18 years of age in the calendar year and who are likely to play the majority of matches with the WAFL / WAFLW competition will be primary registered with their zoned WAFL Club. WAFL Clubs will communicate with their relevant local Junior Club as to who is on these lists. Players can permit back to their Community Club of Origin for the entirety of the Community season.</p> <p>All players who do not fall into the above category are to be primary registered with a Junior Club. Players can be permitted to their zoned WAFL Club for the entirety of the season.</p>
2	<p>Community Juniors</p> <p>All players turning 18 after July 1 in the current season who are not listed in a category above are to be primary registered with a Junior Club or a club that have teams registered in a Junior competition. Players can be permitted to Senior competitions as rules permit.</p>
3	<p>Community Seniors</p> <p>All players turning 18 before June 30 or older in the current season who are not listed in a category above are to be primary registered with a Senior Club.</p>
4	<p>Club of Origin</p> <p>Players transferring or permitting from a WAFL Club are to be permitted or transferred to the club in which they were registered with prior to transferring to the WAFL Club. If a player is no longer eligible to play for their Club of Origin (i.e. Junior Club) the player shall choose their preferred club.</p>
5	<p>Player Fees</p> <p>In acknowledging players play between multiple competitions, clubs should work together to assess how fees can be paid equitably across two clubs based on the number of games played without costing the player any more than a player who plays for one club.</p>

The current changes made to the Primary Registration Policy will have a trial period in place for 2023 and reviewed accordingly.

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 Year 3 & 4 competitions to assist junior players with skill development and develop an understanding of the game. 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 3 – Year 4 competitions should be 80m – 100m (L) x 50m – 75m (W)
1b. Football	Year 3: Size 1 synthetic football Male Year 4: Size 2 synthetic football Female Year 3/4: Size 1 synthetic football
1c. Number of Players	15-a-side The below rules apply to both Male and Female 15-a-side formats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. No ruck or rovers ii. Unlimited reserves iii. Numbers on the field should always be even. <p>*Children born after 30/06/2015 are not permitted to play in Year 3 competitions</p>
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 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. 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.

	<p>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.</p>
2e. Scrimmage	Umpire to stop play and with the help of the coaches, instruct players to return to their positions as per 2b before throwing the ball up. This is to teach players the positions and reduce congestion.
2f. Marking	A mark is to be awarded for any reasonable attempt at catching the ball, regardless of distance covered.
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 and hold feet. ii. Players must not drop to ground. iii. Strictly no slinging or bringing the opposition player to ground. iv. Grabbing the arm is not permitted. v. Once tackled legally, players have 3 seconds to dispose of the ball, or a free kick for <i>holding the ball</i> will be awarded. vi. If the player being tackled deliberately goes to ground, a free kick for <i>holding the ball</i> will be awarded to the tackling player.
3b. Bumping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Strictly no bumping. ii. When in possession of the ball, no fending, pushing off or barging.
3c. Smothering	Strictly no smothering, stripping, or stealing of the ball.
3d. Shepherding	Players are not permitted to push, shoulder, or block an opponent who is not in possession of the ball.
4. COMPETITION RESULTS	
4a. Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. No match results. ii. No premiership points. iii. No ladders iv. No finals
4b. Awards	No awards (Best & Fairest etc) at this level.
5. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY	
5a. Temporary Play Ups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. If a child is born after 30/06/2015, they are not permitted to play in Year 3 or older competitions. ii. Please see 'WAFC Competition Rules – Eligibility & Finals Qualification'
5b. Player Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Players are not permitted to play for another team in the same age group.

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.

2023 WAFC Year 5 & 6 Competition Rules

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.

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.

BACKGROUND

All competitions managed by the West Australian Football Commission are played as per the AFL Laws of Australian Football. In addition to the AFL Laws of Australian Football, the below local rules apply to all Year 9 – Year 10 competitions to 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 should be set as follows: Year 9/10 Female: 120m – 150m (L) x 90m – 120m (W). Year 9: 120m – 150m (L) x 90m – 120m (W). Year 10: 135m – 185m (L) x 110m – 155m (W).
1b. Football	Male and Female: Size 4 leather footballs
1c. Number of Players	15-a-side: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Maximum of 5 players on the bench <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	Year 9/10 Female: 4x 15-minute quarters Year 9 and Year 10: 4x 20-minute quarters.
2. GENERAL MATCH RULES	
2a. General	Rules as per AFL Laws of Australian Football
2b. Positions	5 forwards, 3 midfielders, 2 wings & 5 defenders or as per WAFC POL.13D Game Day Even Up & Field Positions Policy.
2c. 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.
2d. Protected Area	The protected area at this level is 5 metres.
2e. Order-off Rule	To be applied as per the Red & Yellow card system.
3. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY	
3a. Temporary Play Ups	Please see 2023 WAFC Competition Rules – Eligibility & Finals Qualification for details.
3b. Player Movement	Players are not permitted to play for another team in the same age group.
3c. WAFL / WAFLW Players	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. No player may participate in WAFL / WAFLW Competition matches and Community Football on the same weekend. ii. If a player is found to have played in both Competitions in the same weekend, they may be deemed an ineligible player and the game will be recorded as a forfeit.
3d. Finals	Unique criteria are applied to WAFL / WAFLW and non-WAFL/WAFLW players, please see 2023 WAFC Competition Rules – Eligibility & Finals Qualification for details.

2023 WAFC Year 11/12 Competition Rules

BACKGROUND

All competitions managed by the West Australian Football Commission are played as per the AFL Laws of Australian Football. In addition to the AFL Laws of Australian Football, the below local rules apply to all Year 11/12 competitions to 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.)

COMPETITION RULES

1. MATCH OPERATIONS	
1a. Ground Size	As per WAFC POL.13A – ‘Ground Preparation’, ground sizes should be set as 135m – 185m (L) x 110m – 155m (W).
1b. Football	Female: Size 4 leather footballs Male: Size 5 leather footballs
1c. Number of Players	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Numbers on the field should always be even. ii. Female: 16-a-side <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Maximum of 5 players on the bench iii. Male: 18-a-side <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Maximum of 5 players on the bench <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon request to the WAFC, exemptions may be granted for a team wishing to utilise 7 players on the bench
1d. Match Length	Female: 4x 15-minute quarters Male: 4x 20-minute quarters.
2. GENERAL MATCH RULES	
2a. General	Rules as per AFL Laws of Australian Football
2b. Order-off Rule	To be applied as per the Red & Yellow card system.
3c. Out of Bounds FEMALE COMPETITION ONLY	<p>Last Possession Rule:</p> <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. <p>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.</p>
3. COMPETITION RULES	
3a. 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
3b. Awards	Best players and goal kickers may be recorded and awarded at this level.
4. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY	
4a. Temporary Play Ups	Please see 2023 Competition Rules – Eligibility & Finals Qualifications for details.
4b. Player Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. In 2023, players are no longer permitted to move from one team to another team in a different grade, in the same Club during the season.

2023 WAFC Year 11/12 Competition Rules

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Each team is to be treated as a separate entity, as per other age groups
<p>4c. WAFL / WAFLW Players</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. No player may participate in WAFL / WAFWLW Competition matches and Community Football on the same weekend. ii. If a player is found to have played in both Competitions in the same weekend, they may be deemed an ineligible player and the game will be recorded as a forfeit.
<p>4d. Finals</p>	<p>Unique criteria are applied to WAFL / WAFLW and non-WAFL/WAFLW players, please see 2023 Competition Rules – Eligibility & Finals Qualifications for details.</p>

BACKGROUND

The below Match Day Roles are provided to assist clubs and teams in understanding the specific role each person plays on Match Day.

MATCH DAY ROLES

1. TEAM ROLES	
<p>1a. Coaches</p>	<p>General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. A team for any match shall have a coach who is subject to the same investigations and penalties as a player, including suspensions, sanctions, and fines. ii. Coaches must play all eligible and able players up to the maximum allowed in all home and away matches. iii. Coaches must adhere to the Equal Opportunity & Fair Play Policy for all players in all games (refer to WAFC POL.03). <p>Accreditation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. All head coaches and assistant coaches must at minimum be accredited as an age-appropriate Foundation Coach via CoachAFL prior to coaching their first fixtured match. v. If a coach is not a CoachAFL member and does not hold at minimum, an age-appropriate Foundation Coach accreditation, they will not be permitted to coach. <p>Coaches Box</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vi. All coaching staff must remain within the Coaches Box. Only listed coaching staff can remain in the Coaches Box. Coaching staff may only exit the Coaches Box at authorised quarter changes, half time and at the conclusion of the match. vii. Each team is permitted to have a maximum of five people inside the Coaches Box, performing the following roles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head Coach • Assistant Coach • Runner • Medical Trainer • Team Manager <p>Year 3 Exemption</p> <p>The coach is permitted to be on the ground during any game and therefore may exit the Coaches Box.</p> <p>The coach is not permitted to carry water, a file or any other item which may cause injury to a participant.</p> <p>The coach's role is to provide support to the umpire in maintaining players in their correct positions, should refrain from "commentating" the game and must not influence the umpires.</p>
<p>1b. Team Manager</p>	<p>General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Each team is required to have a team manager who will act as the primary point of contact for umpires, between competing teams and match officials. ii. The Home Team Manager is responsible for the welfare of the umpires on match day. iii. Both the Home and Away Team Managers should convene with the Field Umpire at breaks to ensure a safe and positive game day environment is being maintained.

<p>1c. Runners</p>	<p>Year 3: <u>Year 3 teams are not permitted to have a runner.</u></p> <p>Year 4 through to 11/12:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Teams are only permitted to have one runner. ii. Team runners shall be clearly identified by wearing an approved uniform. iii. Runners are not permitted to carry water. iv. Team runners are not permitted to remain on the playing surface. Team runners are to deliver one message from the coach to a player and return immediately to the coach's box via the interchange area. v. Team runners are not permitted to 'coach' whilst on the ground. vi. Team runners must always enter and exit the playing field through the interchange area. vii. Team runners must be 18 years or older. viii. Team runners are not to carry out any other team official duties during a match. ix. Team runners are under no circumstances allowed to make physical contact with umpires, opposition players or officials.
<p>1d. Medical Officer/Trainer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Each team shall provide a team medical officer/sports trainer with a current HLTAID011 Provide First Aid (formerly HLTAID003). ii. The team medical officer/sports trainer shall be clearly identifiable. iii. The team medical officer/sports trainer must not remove a player on a stretcher unless they have necessary formal training and qualifications to do so. (e.g., SMA Level 1 Sports Trainer). iv. Should a team fail to provide a qualified medical officer/sports trainer, then the opposing teams suitably trained medical officer/sports trainer may assume control of injured players for both teams. v. Each team shall provide an appropriately and adequately stocked first aid kit and well-maintained sport-specific rescue/transport equipment are accessible at all training and competition venues

<h2>2. COMPETITION ROLES</h2>	
<p>2a. Field Umpires</p>	<p>The WAFC will attempt to appoint umpires for all matches.</p> <p>Should a field umpire not be available to officiate at any match the opposing coaches or team officials may agree to appoint an adult to act in that capacity. In such case the appointed umpire shall have the same responsibilities and authority as any umpire appointed by the Umpires Coach.</p> <p>Any umpire <u>not appointed by the WAFC</u> under this rule must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 18 years or older. ii. Named on match documents. iii. Suitably attired for the match as approved by the WAFC. iv. Compliant with all WWC legislation (Working with Children).
<p>2b. Boundary Umpires</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Boundary umpires are not required for WAFC Competition matches as the Last Possession Rule will apply. <p>Year 11/12 Males only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Each team must supply a correctly attired boundary umpire with sufficient knowledge and competency to correctly throw the ball into play and carry out all other responsibilities of the position, as per AFL Laws of the Game.

<p>2c. Goal Umpires</p>	<p>Each competing team shall supply a goal umpire with sufficient knowledge and competency to carry out all responsibilities of the position, as in AFL Laws of the Game.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Goal Umpires will wear appropriate attire and have a minimum of two signalling flags. ii. The goal umpires will endeavour to keep the area immediately behind the goal line clear of spectators and other obstructions. iii. The goal umpire is not permitted to coach or encourage players. iv. Goal Umpires are not permitted to enter the playing field during the game unless instructed to do so by the Field Umpire. <p>Year 7 to 11/12 only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v. The goal umpire will be supplied with a scorecard. The goal umpire will keep a record of each team's score during the game, will compare score cards at the end of every quarter and will change ends at half time. Goal Umpires must compare scorecards with the independent scorer at all breaks. vi. At the conclusion of the game the Goal Umpire will date and sign the scorecards and hand them to the field umpire.
<p>2d. Timekeeper</p>	<p>The home team shall supply a Timekeeper for each game. The Timekeeper will have a means of keeping time and of indicating the end of each quarter to the field umpire and be deemed to be the official timekeeper.</p>
<p>2e. Interchange Steward</p>	<p>As per Policy 03 Equal Opportunity & Fair Play (item 2c) each team must track player game time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Clubs may utilise up to 2 stewards per team. ii. This person/people are permitted inside the interchange area where they must remain for the duration of the match. iii. In the event an interchange steward is not in attendance the appointed timekeeper/s will be responsible for the recording of the send-off details and make notes of any issues that would usually be the responsibility of the Interchange Steward.

<h3>3. Penalties & Code of Conduct Breaches</h3>	
<p>3a. Abusive, offensive or insulting language</p>	<p>If the WAFC receives a report of abusive, offensive or insulting language or behaviour, a base penalty of 3 matches may apply. The WAFC reserves the right to adjust this penalty after reviewing statements from all relevant parties.</p>
<p>3b. Encroachment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. If the WAFC deems a match has been impacted by encroachment of an adult(s), the minimum penalty for individuals is 16 matches. Less significant penalties will potentially apply to under 18's. ii. If the encroachment includes any physical or verbal contact with opposition players, the penalty may be increased up to a Life Ban from all Junior WAFC Competitions. iii. If the encroachment includes any physical or verbal contact with Umpires or WAFC officials, the penalty may be increased up to a Life Ban from all Junior WAFC Competitions.
<p>3c. General</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. A team official under suspension for a breach of the Laws of the Game or the WAFC Rules & Regulations will be subject to penalties as per 'Section F: Suspensions'. ii. Team Officials are not permitted to make intentional contact with opposition players, umpires, or opposition officials, under any circumstances.

BACKGROUND

All competitions managed by the West Australian Football Commission are played as per the AFL Laws of Australian Football. In addition to the AFL Laws of Australian Football, the below local rules apply to Junior and Youth Football competitions in Western Australia to ensure fair and even competitions whilst maintaining a strong development focus for all players collectively. 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.)

ELIGIBILITY & QUALIFICATION RULES

1. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY	
<p>1a. Temporary Play Ups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. No player may play more than 4 games across the teams of an older year group without approval from the WAFC Competition Team. ii. Once a player has been approved to play a 5th game in an older year group, they shall be deemed to be a part of that older year group for the remainder of the season (including finals). They will not be eligible to play any further regular season games or finals in the younger year group. iii. If a player has played for multiple teams in the higher age group, the WAFC will determine which team that player is now a part of. iv. If a player plays a 5th game without WAFC approval, the player will be deemed ineligible, and the match forfeited.
<p>1b. Player Movements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Players are not permitted to move from one team to another team in the same Club and year group after Round One of that season, unless directed to do so by the WAFC under WAFC POL.10A 4b. <i>*This rule does not apply for "Temporary Play Ups".</i> ii. If a player does play for another team in the same Club and year group after Round One, they will be deemed an ineligible player. <i>*This rule does not apply for "Temporary Play Ups".</i> iii. Each team is to be treated as a separate entity.
<p>1c. Permits and Multiple Competitions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Any player who plays a match at WAFL / WAFLW level, is deemed ineligible to play in a Junior Community Competition on the same weekend. ii. Players who miss matches in the qualifying rounds of a season through participation in any WAFC State Program Matches, may be credited for each Junior Community match missed. The grade of game allocated will be the grade where the player has played most matches in the current season.
<p>1d. Permanent Play Up or Play Down (Age Dispensation)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Any player who is repeating Year 12 at school is not eligible to play in the Year 11-12 competition and should be encouraged to join a senior community competition. ii. On application to the WAFC, a player may be eligible to play up a MAXIMUM of one year group only. iii. On application to the WAFC, a player may be eligible to play down a MAXIMUM of one year group only. iv. A player granted permission to play up or down a year group will be eligible for the fairest and best votes for the grade in which they have received permission to play. v. All play down applications must be submitted by the Club and supported by a parent/guardian. The request must clearly state the reason for the request.

	<p>vi. The granting of any such request shall apply only to the current season and can be subject to review by the WAFC during the current season.</p> <p>SCHOOL YEAR</p> <p>vii. A player who requests to play down due to their current school year group must supply a letter from the school confirming that they are attending school in the year group in which they are playing.</p> <p>PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT CRITERIA</p> <p>viii. A player who requests to play down due to physical development must supply a written authority by a sports physician or registered medical practitioner specifying that the participant falls below the fifth percentile for height or weight.</p> <p>DISABILITY – PHYSICAL AND INTELLECTUAL</p> <p>ix. A player who requests to play down due to a disability that limits their ability to play must supply a written authority by a sports physician or registered medical practitioner stating the reasons for supporting the request. The supporting document may recommend that dispensation be approved for two seasons.</p> <p><i>Further clarification on criteria can be found in the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook (Section 4)</i></p>
2. FINALS ELIGIBILITY	
<p>2a. Finals Participation</p>	<p>Players may only compete in one finals series with the one team.</p>
<p>2b. Finals Qualifications Non-WAFL Participants</p>	<p>To be eligible to take part in any finals match all non-WAFL / WAFLW players must have played a minimum of five (5) matches for that team in the qualifying rounds of that season.</p>
<p>2c. Finals Qualifications WAFL / WAFLW Participants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. WAFL / WAFLW players must have played a minimum of seven (7) matches for their Junior Community team in the qualifying rounds of the current season to be eligible for finals. ii. WAFL / WAFLW players who have played at least three quarters of the total matches of the qualifying rounds of the relevant WAFL / WAFLW season are ineligible to play with a junior club / team during junior finals.
<p>2d. Long term injuries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. A player who has suffered a long-term injury and has subsequently not qualified for finals, on application to the WAFC may be deemed eligible to participate in finals. ii. The application must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Letter of support from the club. b. Supporting documentation from a suitably qualified medical professional stating the length of injury, including the date sustained. iii. If the player has participated in any other competition or sport during the season which the application is submitted, an exception may not be granted if it is deemed the player was unlikely to participate in WAFC Community Competitions for the matches missed through injury. iv. A long-term injury is classed as 6 or more consecutive matches.