



WA FOOTBALL COMMISSION

2024 JUNIOR FOOTBALL COMPETITION POLICIES, RULES & REGULATIONS

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PART A: INTRODUCTION

THIS PUBLICATION

This document outlines the Community Football Policies, 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 the Game* and any modified form of Australian Football as amended by the Australian Football League (AFL) or the WAFC.

The WAFC Junior Football Policies, Rules and Regulations Handbook aims to:

- a) make it easier for leagues, clubs, volunteers and other stakeholders to administer Australian Football at the community level;
- b) provide a framework for key organisational requirements in relation to Australian Football at the community level;
- c) address appropriate standards of behaviour and the prevention of discrimination and harassment in Australian Football at the community level; and
- d) encourage that the game of Australian Football is played in a fair and good-spirited manner.

VARIATION OF RULES, REGULATIONS AND POLICIES

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

- a) Any matter of any kind whatsoever not dealt with or provided for in this Handbook may be dealt with in such a manner as the WAFC determines.
- b) Any variation (exemption) to these Rules & Regulations must be approved by the WAFC Competition Specialist prior to implementation.

INTERPRETATION

- a) 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.
- b) Should any dispute or objection arise as to the meaning, interpretation or intent of any of these Rules and Regulations or Competition Policies, the WAFC shall settle such dispute or objection.
- c) The WAFC may from time to time amend this Handbook as it, in its absolute discretion, deems fit.

DEFINITIONS

Advocate	A support person for a witness at a Tribunal who is not a legal practitioner.
AFL	the Australian Football League
Arena	the playing field and all the area between the playing field and the perimeter fence, including any break in the perimeter fence. Where an arena does not have a perimeter fence, then the perimeter fence shall be interpreted as being located 10m outside and parallel to the playing surface.
Away Team	the second named team for a fixture
Club	any junior football club which affiliates with the WAFC through membership.
Coach	means a coach, assistant coach or any other Person holding, or seeking to hold, coaching responsibilities at a Club or Team (paid or unpaid) who is Accredited (or required to be Accredited) via CoachAFL.
Club of Origin	a Player's original or current club
Competition	the specific division in which a team has fixtured matches.
Development Squad Player	any player who has played in a WAFL / WAFLW match (Colts, Rogers Cup, Futures or Development Squad) in the current and/or previous year.
Encroachment	where a person enters the playing surface when they are unauthorised to do so.
E-Points	Environment points awarded to a team for displaying positive game day behaviour. The purpose of the E-point system is to weight game day behaviour with the same importance as winning a match. The E-Point model is applied to all Youth Competitions.
Finals match	means an Elimination Final, Qualifying Final, Semi Final, Preliminary Final or Grand Final
Home Team	the first named team for a fixture
Junior Competitions	any age group in the range Year 3 to Year 6
Laws of the Game	means the Laws of Australian Football as administered and controlled by the AFL and set out at https://play.afl/learning-resource/laws-game#article-0
Melee	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 WAFC, is likely to bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute or prejudice the interests or reputation of the WAFC or the competition(s) conducted by the WAFC.
PlayHQ	AFL Registration and Competition system
Playing surface	the field of play inside the Boundary Line, Goal Line and Behind Line, excluding the area between such lines and the perimeter fence.
Policy breach	means a breach of any Section of this handbook (other than a breach constituting a Reportable Offence).
Official	includes but is not limited to a coach, assistant coach, team manager, runner, employee or any person performing any duties (paid or unpaid) for or on behalf of a Club or Team.
Tribunal	an independent tribunal acting on behalf of Community Football in WA.
Umpire	includes any of the field, boundary, goal and emergency Umpires officiating a match (paid or unpaid) for or on behalf of a Club, Team or WAFC.

WAFC	West Australian Football Commission, or an authorised representative of the West Australian Football Commission.
Youth Competitions	any age group in the range Year 7 to Year 12

PART B: JUNIOR FOOTBALL

1. SPIRIT OF JUNIOR FOOTBALL

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 and 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 and 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 Junior Football.
- 1.6 Not accept poor behaviours around our game and deter practices that undermine our game environments (coaching, playing, volunteering, spectating and umpiring).
- 1.7 Adhere to any directive issued by the WAFC 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 Junior Football. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes spectators.

2. RESPONSIBILITY OF AFFILIATED CLUBS

All Affiliated Clubs, including their players, officials, parents/guardians, volunteers and spectators shall be bound by the Policies, Rules and Regulations outlined in this Handbook, the *Laws of the Game* and the National Community Football Policy Handbook. A WAFC Affiliated Club must:

- 2.1. adopt, implement and comply with this Policy Handbook;
- 2.2. use best endeavours to educate their members about this Handbook and the consequences for breaches of this Handbook;
- 2.3. promote and model appropriate standards of conduct at all times;

- 2.4. be responsible for ensuring their administrators, coaches, officials, volunteers, parents, players and spectators act in a constructive and encouraging manner at all times;
- 2.5. ensure their coaches understand their responsibility to their club and to the children and young people in their care;
- 2.6. communicate to their members the need to act accordingly at all times before, during and after any match or function representing their Club or WAFC; and
- 2.7. ensure their club provide equal opportunities for participation in football for all players, regardless of ability, size, shape, gender, sexuality, age, disability, race or ethnic origin.

PART C: PLAYERS

- REGISTRATION
- YEAR GROUP SUMMARY
- PRIMARY REGISTRATION POLICY
- AGE DISPENSATION – PLAY UPS
- AGE DISPENSATION – PLAY DOWNS
- PLAYER MOVEMENT BETWEEN TEAMS
- PERMITS AND MULTIPLE COMPETITIONS
- TRANSFERS AND PERMITS
- LOCAL TRANSFER RULES
- TRANSFER REFUSAL
- FINALS ELIGIBILITY
- LONG TERM INJURIES

3. REGISTRATION

- 3.1. 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 (PlayHQ).
- 3.2. Players must not alter their name or date of birth to register via the Registration System.
- 3.3. Players are not permitted to be registered more than once in the Registration System.
- 3.4. Proof of age documentation for players new to Junior Football is required to be shown. A Player is not eligible to play Junior Football until they appear as 'active' in PlayHQ.
- 3.5. The WAFC is committed to the inclusion of gender diverse people within our game and will utilise the [AFL's Gender Diversity Policy](#) in instances where Trans, Non-Binary or other Gender Identity is raised.
- 3.6. 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.

4. YEAR GROUP SUMMARY

Junior and Youth football in WA is aligned to school years with the primary purpose of allowing players to play football with the friends that they attend school with.

2024 YEAR GROUP		BIRTH DATE RANGE	
Auskick <i>(not eligible to play in Junior or Youth Competitions)</i>	Pre Primary	1 July 2018	to 30 June 2019
	Year 1	1 July 2017	to 30 June 2018
	Year 2	1 July 2016	to 30 June 2017
Junior Competitions	Year 3	1 July 2015	to 30 June 2016
	Year 4	1 July 2014	to 30 June 2015
	Year 5	1 July 2013	to 30 June 2014
	Year 6	1 July 2012	to 30 June 2013
Youth Competitions	Year 7	1 July 2011	to 30 June 2012
	Year 8	1 July 2010	to 30 June 2011
	Year 9	1 July 2009	to 30 June 2010
	Year 10	1 July 2008	to 30 June 2009
	Year 11	1 July 2007	to 30 June 2008
	Year 12	1 July 2006	to 30 June 2007

5. PRIMARY REGISTRATION POLICY

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.

- 5.1. With the exclusion of WAFL / WAFLW Club listed participants, registered players should hold their Primary Registration with a Junior Club or a club that have teams registered in a Junior competition.
- 5.2. Any player who turns 18 on or after July 1 who requests a transfer of their Primary Registration to a Senior Community Club are subject to approval by the WAFC.

<p>WAFL / WAFLW Players</p>	<p>Players turning 18 years of age in the current season’s calendar year may be primary registered with their zoned WAFL Club. Players can permit back to their Community Club of Origin for the entirety of the Community season.</p> <p>Players turning 17 years of age in the current season’s calendar year may seek an exemption to be primary registered with the zoned WAFL Club under special circumstances. WAFL Clubs will communicate with their relevant local Junior Club and Competitions Team as to who these individuals are, prior to a transfer being requested.</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>
<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.</p> <p>Players can be permitted to senior competitions as rules permit.</p>
<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>
<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>
<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>

6. AGE DISPENSATION - PLAY UPS

- 6.1. On application to the WAFC, a Player may be eligible to play up a MAXIMUM of one year group only.
- 6.2. Players should only be permitted to play up an age level when their physical capability and social sense enables them to compete adequately at the higher age level and should be based on the advantage to be gained by the Player, not just to make up team numbers.
- 6.3. Players are permitted to play up temporarily, only if they are not displacing a registered player in the higher age group.
- 6.4. No player may play more than four (4) games across the teams of an older year group without approval from the WAFC Competition Team.
- 6.5. 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).
 - 6.5.a. The Player will not be eligible to play any further regular season games or finals in the younger year group.
 - 6.5.b. If the Player plays a further game in the younger year group, they shall be deemed ineligible, and the match forfeited.
 - 6.5.c. 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.
- 6.6. If a Player plays a 5th game without WAFC approval, the Player will be deemed ineligible, and the match forfeited.
- 6.7. A Player granted permission to play up a year group will be eligible for fairest and best votes for the competition in which they have received permission to play.

7. AGE DISPENSATION - PLAY DOWNS

- 7.1. On application to the WAFC, a Player may be eligible to play down a MAXIMUM of one year group only.
- 7.2. Players are not permitted to play down temporarily.
- 7.3. 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.
- 7.4. 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.
- 7.5. The granting of any Play Down request shall apply only to the current season and can be subject to review by the WAFC during the current season.
- 7.6. A Player granted permission to play down a year group will be eligible for fairest and best votes for the competition in which they have received permission to play.
- 7.7. 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.
- 7.8. 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.

- 7.9. 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.
- 7.10. Smaller Clubs who have less than the minimum required players to nominate a team may apply for play down permits. Permits for this reason will be granted at the discretion of the WAFC Competitions Team with a maximum of four (4) permits provided per team.
- 7.11. In assessing an application for dispensation, the WAFC will have regard to the following factors:
 - 7.11.a. the Player's previous playing history, playing ability, level of competition previously played in and the effect of the Player's Disability or Physical Size Considerations on their capacity to effectively participate in Australian Football.
 - 7.11.b. how it is proposed that the grant of dispensation will support the Player to overcome any barriers to their effective participation in Australian Football.
 - 7.11.c. the safety and welfare of the Player and those Players they will be participating with and against; and
 - 7.11.d. any other relevant factors as determined by the WAFC.
- 7.12. The WAFC may revoke a dispensation approval at any time provided that the reasons for such revocation are provided to the Permitted Player via their Club.
- 7.13. A Player with an approved permit to play down is not permitted to play any matches in their correct/appropriate age group (as per their year of birth) and/or higher age groups. Should this occur, they will be deemed ineligible, and the game forfeited.

8. PLAYER MOVEMENT BETWEEN TEAMS

- 8.1. Players are not permitted to move from one team to another team within the same Club and year group after Round One of that season unless approved or directed to do so by the WAFC.
- 8.2. 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, and the game deemed a forfeit.
- 8.3. Each team is to be treated as a separate entity.

9. PERMITS AND MULTIPLE COMPETITIONS

- 9.1. Any Player who plays a match at WAFL / WAFLW level, is deemed ineligible to play in a Junior Competition on the same weekend.
- 9.2. Any Player who plays a match at Senior Community level (ie Perth Football League etc), is deemed eligible to play in a Junior Competition on the same weekend.
- 9.3. A Player listed as an emergency in any WAFL / WAFLW match but who takes no part in the match is not considered to have represented that club and therefore is available for selection at their Junior Club.

10. TRANSFERS AND PERMITS

All WAFC competitions adhere to the AFL National Player Transfer Regulations. In addition to these, the below transfer and permit rules apply to all Junior and Youth Competitions under the control of the WAFC.

Note: Transfers are open between 1st February to 30th June, whilst Permits remain open all season.

11. LOCAL TRANSFER RULES

- 11.1. At the full discretion of the WAFC Competitions Team, Teams can be penalised for exceeding five (5) WAFL Development Squad Players when transferring or permitting new players into their team who are listed on WAFL Development Squad lists.
- 11.2. If a club has more than 5 *homegrown* WAFL Development Squad players, no penalty will be considered unless further WAFL Development Squad Players are transferred or permitted in.
- 11.3. Penalties include but are not limited to loss of 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.

12. TRANSFER REFUSAL

- 12.1. As per the National Community Football Policy Handbook, a transfer may only be refused on the following grounds;
 - 12.1.a. The Player is required to continue playing for the source Club.
(i.e. a permit is required to be submitted instead of a transfer)
 - 12.1.b. The Player is financially indebted to the source club as evidenced by proper financial records.
(i.e. outstanding fees)
 - 12.1.c. The Player is in possession of source club property that must be returned.
(i.e. playing jumper or equipment)
 - 12.1.d. The Player wishes to withdraw their transfer request and continue playing for the source club.

13. FINALS ELIGIBILITY

- 13.1. Players may only compete in one finals series with one team.
- 13.2. To be eligible to take part in any finals match, all players must have played a minimum number of matches for that team in the qualifying rounds of that season. This minimum number of matches is;
 - 13.2.a. non-WAFL / WAFLW Players must have played a minimum of five (5) matches.
 - 13.2.b. WAFL / WAFLW Players must have played a minimum of seven (7) matches.
- 13.3. Additionally, any WAFL / WAFLW Players who have played at least three quarters of the total matches of the qualifying rounds of the relevant WAFL/WAFLW season will be ineligible to play with a Junior Club / team during junior finals.
- 13.4. Players who miss matches in the qualifying rounds of a season through participation in any WAFC State Program match, 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.

14. LONG TERM INJURIES

- 14.1. 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.
- 14.2. A long-term injury is classed as six (6) or more consecutive matches.
- 14.3. The application must include;
 - 14.3.a. Letter of support from the club
 - 14.3.b. Supporting documentation from a suitably qualified medical professional stating the length of injury, including the date sustained.
- 14.4. 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.

PART D: TEAMS

- TEAM NOMINATIONS
- MULTIPLE TEAMS IN A YEAR GROUP
- TEAM WITHDRAWALS
- UNCOMPETITIVE TEAMS
- COLOURS AND TEAM UNIFORM

15. TEAM NOMINATIONS

The WAFC 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.

- 15.1. The WAFC 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.
- 15.2. Each team nomination should include the name and other relevant details of the following people:
 - 15.2.a. An accredited coach capable of teaching players the laws and skills of Australian Football in line with the Spirit of Junior Football and the WAFC Code of Conduct.
 - 15.2.b. A manager capable of assisting the coach by carrying out clerical and other duties relating to the efficient functioning of the team.
- 15.3. Team Nomination fees are:
 - 15.3.a. Year 3 to 6 Modified aged Teams - \$300
 - 15.3.b. Year 7 to 12 Youth aged Teams - \$350

16. MULTIPLE TEAMS IN A YEAR GROUP

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. 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.

- 16.1. Each team nominated by the respective club must be done so in such a way that each team is competitive within its nominated division.
- 16.2. 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.
- 16.3. If the teams are viewed to be uncompetitive by the WAFC, the WAFC has the power to direct the club to re-allocate players.
- 16.4. 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.

17. TEAM WITHDRAWALS

- 17.1. A Club which withdraws a team or teams from any competition without a reason acceptable to the WAFC, may be liable to a penalty.
- 17.2. 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.

18. UNCOMPETITIVE TEAMS

- 18.1. 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.

- 18.2. At any point across 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.
- 18.3. If a team is deemed uncompetitive, 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.
- 18.4. If a team is deemed uncompetitive and the club refuses to re-allocate players after notification from the WAFC Competitions Team, that team will not be eligible to play for premiership points for the remainder of the season.

19. COLOURS AND TEAM UNIFORM

- 19.1. Each Club shall nominate its colours and design of playing uniform.
- 19.2. All designs must be approved by the WAFC.
- 19.3. If the WAFC deems the design is a clash, they shall request that the club determine another design within agreed design criteria.
- 19.4. All Indigenous jumper design applications to the WAFC must include;
 - 19.4.a. details of the Artist;
 - 19.4.b. details of the Artist's Community;
 - 19.4.c. the story behind the artwork; and
 - 19.4.d. must 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.
- 19.5. All teams representing a Club shall wear the playing uniform approved for that Club by the WAFC.
- 19.6. 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.
- 19.7. If the WAFC determines that there is a clash between two (2) teams for a given match, then the Away Team must wear an alternative strip.
- 19.8. Players wishing to wear compression garments under their uniform are subject to the stipulations found under the **Protective Equipment** section of this handbook.

PART E: MATCH DAY ROLES

- SUPPORTING UMPIRES AND OFFICIALS OF JUNIOR FOOTBALL
- COACHES AND ASSISTANT COACHES
- TEAM MANAGERS
- RUNNERS
- FIELD UMPIRES
- GOAL UMPIRES
- BOUNDARY UMPIRES
- TIMEKEEPER
- INTERCHANGE STEWARD
- FIRST AID / MEDICAL OFFICER
- WAFC CODE OF CONDUCT
- GAME DAY VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR MATCHES

20. 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, volunteers, players, and spectators play a vital role in developing the highest quality umpires and game day officials.

- 20.1. 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.
- 20.2. 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.
- 20.3. 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.

21. COACHES AND ASSISTANT COACHES

When you take on the role of a Coach, you are taking on a powerful leadership role. As a Coach, your actions and behaviours have a significant impact on everyone around you. You are an influential role model to all and someone that everyone looks to for the setting of standards and acceptable behaviours.

- 21.1. The Coach's role is responsible for developing players' skills and knowledge of the game while ensuring maximum enjoyment is had by all participants, including (but not limited to);
 - 21.1.a. Ensuring the match is conducted within the [Spirit of Junior Football](#).
 - 21.1.b. Ensuring all participants within the Coaches Box are always displaying appropriate positive sporting behaviours.
 - 21.1.c. Educating players about the importance of respect and responsibilities towards match officials, opposition teams and umpires, on and off the field.
 - 21.1.d. Ensuring they demonstrate a gesture of good sportsmanship toward the match day umpires and opposition coach both pre and post-game through a handshake, fist bump or elbow bump. This mark of respect reinforces the Coach's commitment to influencing positive game day environments.
 - 21.1.e. Maintaining a working knowledge of and adhering to all relevant AFL and WAFC laws, regulations, policies and by-laws. Continue to improve your coaching skills and knowledge to better serve the development of young athletes.
 - 21.1.f. Ensuring all players are involved in a positive environment where skill learning and development are priorities and are not overshadowed by a desire to win.
 - 21.1.g. Ensuring players have the same opportunities for involvement with equal game time and equal opportunity to play in a variety of positions on the field.
 - 21.1.h. Ensuring the team selection process is fair and consistent.
 - 21.1.i. Prioritising player safety by recognising the significance of injury and illness and having due consideration of Medical and First Aider advice concerning the return of injured, concussed or ill players to training or matches.

- 21.1.j. Understanding and respecting that Coaches are not permitted to enter the playing surface during the game unless instructed to do so by the Field Umpire.
- 21.1.k. Abiding by the **WAFC Code of Conduct** at all times.
- 21.2. Each team is required to supply a Coach who has been accredited as an age-appropriate Foundation Coach via [CoachAFL](#) prior to the game.
- 21.3. If a Coach or Assistant Coach is not a [CoachAFL](#) member and does not hold a current Foundation Coach accreditation, they will not be permitted to coach.
- 21.4. Coaches must play all eligible and able players up to the maximum allowed in all home and away matches. For avoidance of doubt, this includes Finals.
- 21.5. Coaches must adhere to the **Equal Opportunity and Fair Play Policy** for all players in all games.
- 21.6. Coaches must avoid overplaying the talented players, aiming to maximise the participation and enjoyment for all players regardless of ability.
- 21.7. Only Coaching staff listed on the team sheet may be present within the Coaches Box during play.
- 21.8. Coaching staff must remain within the Coaches Box during play. Coaching staff may only exit the Coaches Box at authorised quarter changes, half time and at the conclusion of the match.
- 21.9. Coaches are subject to the same investigations and penalties as players, including suspensions, sanctions and fines.
- 21.10. Coaches who receive a suspension may also be issued a Coaching Citation Notice in addition to the original suspension.
- 21.11. Any Coach who receives three (3) Citation Notices within their competition career may lose their [CoachAFL](#) Accreditation and/or be Deregistered.
- 21.12. Coaches shall be clearly identified by wearing the approved WAFC requirement i.e. uniform, vest and/or lanyard.

22. TEAM MANAGERS

When you take on the role of a Team Manager, you are entrusted to look after the well-being of all participants involved. Team Managers are integral to junior football and enable good working relationships between the club, coach, players, umpires, opposition, volunteers and spectators. On game day you have a unique vantage point, positioned to notice and positively influence the behaviours of all participants.

- 22.1. The Team Manager role is responsible for ensuring the efficient and effective operation of the team, including (but not limited to):
 - 22.1.a. Ensuring the match is conducted within the **Spirit of Junior Football**.
 - 22.1.b. Ensuring all match paperwork is completed correctly (both online and hard copies).
 - 22.1.c. Maintaining a working knowledge of and adhering to all relevant AFL and WAFC laws, regulations, policies and by-laws.
 - 22.1.d. Acting as the liaison between your Team and other participants including the Umpires, Match Day Officials and Opposition Team.

- 22.1.e. Ensuring all players are eligible to participate in the match in compliance with this handbook, i.e., registered, active, current permit, and /or not under suspension.
- 22.1.f. Coordinating and overseeing your team's game-day volunteers including scorekeeping, timing and any other game-related responsibilities.
- 22.1.g. Assisting in resolving disputes, conflicts, or issues that may arise on game day.
- 22.1.h. Helping maintain a positive game environment by promptly addressing any negative game day behaviour from players, team volunteers and spectators.
- 22.1.i. Liaising with the Opposition Team Manager in relation to any photography or videoing that will occur during the match as per the **Photo and Video Policy**.
- 22.1.j. Maintaining accurate records for game day including team sheets and injury reports.
- 22.1.k. Ensuring the safety of all players by inspecting the ground prior to the game to assess its suitability and safety for use as per **32.g Match Day Checklist**.
- 22.1.l. Abiding by the **WAFC Code of Conduct** at all times.
- 22.2. Each team is required to supply a Team Manager who acts as the primary point of contact for umpires, match officials and opposing teams.
- 22.3. The Home Team Manager is responsible for the welfare of the umpires on match day.
- 22.4. 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.
- 22.5. In the case of an alleged vilification incident, the Team Manager must inform their Club President as per the **Vilification Policy**.
- 22.6. Team Managers are permitted to be inside the Coaches Box during game play. Team Managers may also leave the Coaches Box if there is a matter that needs attending to.
- 22.7. Understanding and respecting that Team Managers are not permitted to enter the playing surface during the game unless instructed to do so by the Field Umpire.
- 22.8. Team Managers are subject to the same investigations and penalties as players, including suspensions, sanctions and fines.
- 22.9. Team Managers shall be clearly identified by wearing the approved WAFC requirement i.e. uniform, vest and/or lanyard.

23. RUNNERS

- 23.1. The Team Runner role is responsible for communication between the coaches and players, including (but not limited to):
 - 23.1.a. Ensuring the match is conducted within the **Spirit of Junior Football**.
 - 23.1.b. Acting as the liaison between the coaches and players during game play.
 - 23.1.c. Monitoring the game play to identify negative game day behaviour from their players and promptly intervening to deescalate any tensions.

- 23.1.d. Assisting the First Aid / Medical Officer with the removal of any injured players from the playing surface.
- 23.1.e. Abiding by the **WAFC Code of Conduct** at all times.
- 23.2. Each team is permitted to have one runner.
- 23.3. Team Runners must be eighteen (18) years or older.
- 23.4. Team Runners must be identified on the Team Sheet (hard copy and online).
- 23.5. Team Runners must enter and exit the playing surface via the interchange area.
- 23.6. Team Runners must deliver messages from the Coach to Players as quickly as possible and immediately leave the playing surface once the message has been delivered.
- 23.7. Team Runners are not permitted to remain on the playing surface to loiter, coach or barrack.
- 23.8. Team Runners are under no circumstances allowed to make verbal or physical contact with umpires, opposition Players or officials.
- 23.9. Team Runners are not permitted to question, talk to, or give instruction to the field umpires.
- 23.10. Team Runners are not permitted to enter the 50m arc during kick outs or shots on goal.
- 23.11. Team Runners are not permitted to enter the centre square during ball ups.
- 23.12. Team Runners are only permitted to be on the playing surface for a maximum of seven (7) minutes per quarter.
- 23.13. Team Runners shall be clearly identified by wearing the approved WAFC requirement i.e. uniform, vest and/or lanyard.
- 23.14. Team Runners are not permitted to carry water or medical supplies on the Playing Surface during game play.

24. FIELD UMPIRES

- 24.1. The Field Umpire role is responsible for umpiring the match during general play, including (but not limited to):
 - 24.1.a. Ensuring the match is conducted within the **Spirit of Junior Football**.
 - 24.1.b. Ensuring all match paperwork is completed correctly.
 - 24.1.c. Maintaining a working knowledge of all relevant AFL and WAFC laws, rules, regulations, policies and by-laws.
 - 24.1.d. Ensuring teams follow all relevant AFL and WAFC laws, rules, regulations, policies and bylaws.
 - 24.1.e. Ensuring a safe environment wherever possible for all players.
 - 24.1.f. Making fair, unbiased and consistent decisions.
 - 24.1.g. Assisting less experienced Umpires at every opportunity.
 - 24.1.h. Reporting all match day paperwork, reported offences, unacceptable behaviour or conduct to the relevant WAFC Competitions Team by **9am Monday** following the match.
 - 24.1.i. Abiding by the **WAFC Code of Conduct** at all times.

- 24.2. The WAFC will attempt to appoint umpires for all matches.
- 24.3. 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 WAFC.
- 24.4. Any umpire not appointed by the WAFC under rule 24.3 must be:
- 24.4.a. Sixteen (16) years or older;
 - 24.4.b. named on match documents;
 - 24.4.c. suitably attired for the match as approved by the WAFC; and
 - 24.4.d. compliant with all **Working With Children (WWC) legislation**.
- 24.5. No individual shall be eligible to participate in any official match under the control of the WAFC as a Field Umpire until an online registration form and relevant WAFC approved education module has been completed.
- For avoidance of doubt, this includes WAFC appointed umpires, Club Umpires and Parent Umpires.*

25. GOAL UMPIRES

- 25.1. The Goal Umpire role is responsible for umpiring the area behind the goal posts during general play, including (but not limited to):
- 25.1.a. Ensuring the match is conducted within the **Spirit of Junior Football**.
 - 25.1.b. Ensuring they are in the best position possible to judge whether a Goal or a Behind has been scored.
 - 25.1.c. Signalling that a Goal or Behind has been scored upon being given the 'All Clear' by the Field Umpire. Signals are first made by using hand signals followed by waving of flags.
 - 25.1.d. Recording the Goals and Behinds scored by each Team during a Match.
 - 25.1.e. Comparing score cards at the end of each quarter with the other Goal Umpire and Independent scorer. If there are any discrepancies, the Field Umpire is to be advised as soon as possible.
 - 25.1.f. Endeavouring to keep the area immediately behind the goal line clear of spectators and other obstructions.
 - 25.1.g. Understanding and respecting that a Field Umpire may overrule any decision made by the Goal Umpire.
 - 25.1.h. Understanding and respecting that Goal Umpires are not permitted to enter the playing surface during the game unless instructed to do so by the Field Umpire.
 - 25.1.i. Making fair, unbiased and consistent decisions.
 - 25.1.j. Understanding and respecting that Goal Umpires are not permitted to coach or communicate with players during play.
 - 25.1.k. Ensuring at the conclusion of the match, the scorecard is dated, signed and handed to the Field Umpire.
 - 25.1.l. Abiding by the **WAFC Code of Conduct** at all times.

- 25.2. Each team is required to supply a goal umpire with sufficient knowledge and competency to carry out all responsibilities of the position. This individual;
- 25.2.a. Should be an adult; and
 - 25.2.b. Cannot be an injured or rostered off player for that team.

26. BOUNDARY UMPIRES

- 26.1. Boundary Umpires are only required for Year 11/12 Male Competitions. Boundary Umpires are not required for any other WAFC Competition as they utilise the Last Possession Rule.
- 26.2. The Boundary Umpire role is responsible for umpiring the boundary of the field during general play, including (but not limited to):
- 26.2.a. Ensuring the match is conducted within the **Spirit of Junior Football**.
 - 26.2.b. Moving along the boundary of the field, keeping up with play and judging whether the ball is Out of Bounds or Out of Bounds on the Full and signalling to the Field Umpire when that has occurred by raising their arm above their head.
 - 26.2.c. Throwing the football back into play if it has gone Out of Bounds, when directed to do so by a Field Umpire.
 - 26.2.d. Understanding and respecting that a Field Umpire may overrule any decision made by the Boundary Umpire.
 - 26.2.e. Making fair, unbiased and consistent decisions.
 - 26.2.f. Understanding and respecting that Boundary Umpires are not permitted to coach players during play.
 - 26.2.g. Abiding by the **WAFC Code of Conduct** at all times.

27. TIMEKEEPER

- 27.1. The Timekeeper role is responsible for ensuring the accurate game and break times are adhered to, including (but not limited to);
- 27.1.a. Ensuring the match is conducted within the **Spirit of Junior Football**.
 - 27.1.b. Keeping time for each quarter of the match as outlined in **Section 33: Match Duration**.
 - 27.1.c. Indicating the start and end of each quarter to the Field Umpire via a siren or bell.
 - 27.1.d. Commencing the clock used for timing the match at the beginning of each quarter when the ball leaves the Umpire's hands in the act of throwing the ball up.
(The Field Umpire will signal they are ready for time to commence by raising the ball above their head.)
 - 27.1.e. Ensuring that once the clock has commenced during a qualifying round match, that the clock is not stopped or paused during the quarter.
 - 27.1.f. Abiding by the **WAFC Code of Conduct** at all times.

- 27.2. Each home team is required to supply a Timekeeper for each match. This individual can also act as an Independent Scorer for the match.

28. INTERCHANGE STEWARD

- 28.1. The Interchange Steward is responsible for tracking player game time during general play, including (but not limited to);
- 28.1.a. Ensuring the match is conducted within the **Spirit of Junior Football**.
 - 28.1.b. Monitor and keep an accurate record of game time of your team's Players throughout the match on the '[Rookie Me Play](#)' app.
In the event the app is unavailable, player rotations need to be kept manually on paper.
 - 28.1.c. Ensuring the Team's Coach is aware of player game times throughout the match to ensure all players receive a minimum of 60% game time.
 - 28.1.d. Ensuring players enter and exit the playing surface through the Interchange Area.
 - 28.1.e. Ensuring players do not prematurely enter the playing surface until their teammate has exited the Playing Surface.
 - 28.1.f. Ensuring the players and jumper numbers listed on the [Rookie Me Play](#) app accurately reflect the players taking part in the match.
 - 28.1.g. Ensuring at the conclusion of the match, that the match details are finalised and uploaded by connecting to a WIFI service.
 - 28.1.h. Abiding by the **WAFC Code of Conduct** at all times.
- 28.2. Each team is required to supply an Interchange Steward for each match.
- 28.3. The Interchange Steward is permitted to be in the Interchange Area and the Coaches Box.
- 28.4. In Youth Competitions only, the Interchange Steward is also permitted to act in an Assistant Coach role.

29. FIRST AID / MEDICAL OFFICER

- 29.1. The First Aid / Medical Officer is responsible for the prevention and prompt attention of injuries to players, including (but not limited to);
- 29.1.a. Ensuring the match is conducted within the **Spirit of Junior Football**.
 - 29.1.b. Ensuring their team has an adequately stocked and well maintained first aid kit prior to any match commencing.
 - 29.1.c. Ensuring they familiarise themselves with the location of the stretcher and emergency vehicle access points at the ground, prior to any match commencing.
 - 29.1.d. Monitor players during general play with regards to potential or occurrence of injuries.
 - 29.1.e. Ensuring the assessment of any injured players promptly and providing initial treatment.
 - 29.1.f. Liaise and coordinate with the Opposition Team's First Aid / Medical Officer to ensure timely and suitable first aid is delivered to all players, regardless of their team.

- 29.1.g. Ensuring any player with a concussion or suspected concussion does not return to play and is aware of the **WAFC Concussion Policy**.
 - 29.1.h. Ensuring that all injuries that occur in games are accurately assessed, recorded and documented.
 - 29.1.i. Abiding by the **WAFC Code of Conduct** at all times.
- 29.2. Each team is required to supply a First Aid / Medical Officer with appropriate qualifications for each match. The required qualifications are;

Recommended	Level 1 Sports Trainer or Level 2 Sports Trainer or Qualified Medical Professional
Minimum	First Aider or Qualified Medical Professional

For avoidance of doubt, the above terms have the following meaning;

- Level 1 Sports Trainer** a person who has completed a Level 1 Sports Trainer Course and first aid certificate (HLTAID011 Provide First Aid) which is current and up to date.
- Level 2 Sports Trainer** a person who has completed a Level 2 Sports Trainer Course and first aid certificate (HLTAID011 Provide First Aid) which is current and up to date.
- Qualified Medical Professional** a person who is a qualified doctor, paramedic, physiotherapist, osteopath, chiropractor, registered nurse or firefighter with current Emergency Management Competency and appropriate first aid competencies.
- First Aider** a person who has obtained a nationally accredited first aid certificate (HLTAID011 Provide First Aid) which is current and up-to-date.

- 29.3. Should a team fail to provide a qualified First Aid / Medical Officer, then the opposing team's suitably qualified First Aid / Medical Officer may assume control of injured players for both teams.
- 29.4. The First Aid / Medical Officer shall be clearly identifiable at all games, ensuring they wear the WAFC approved white vest with green cross.

30. WAFC CODE OF CONDUCT

The major objective of Junior and Youth Football is to provide an opportunity for all children to play Australian Football in a safe, positive environment designed to maximise the acquisition of skill and provide enjoyment. As a participant in junior football, your behaviour both on and off the field, reflects not only on yourself but also on your team, club and the sport as a whole. The WAFC Code of Conduct, if followed by all people involved in our game, should ensure the fulfilment of this important objective. Failing to do so may result in penalties being applied.

For avoidance of doubt, this Code of Conduct applies to all individuals involved, including Players, Officials, Volunteers, Umpires and Spectators.

SPIRIT OF JUNIOR FOOTBALL	
30.a	All participants must understand and adhere to BYLAW #1 'The Spirit of Junior Football'
FAIR PLAY	
30.b	Play by the rules and abide by the principles of fair play.
30.c	Accept both victory and defeat gracefully.
30.d	Players and Officials – shake hands with opponents, coaches and officials before and after each match.
30.e	Always consider the welfare and safety of all participants.
SHOW RESPECT	
30.f	Spectators – refrain from instructing, coaching or distracting players during the match.
30.g	Display and foster respect for all participants regardless of the match outcome.
30.h	Contribute to a safe sporting environment and respectful culture which is accepting of individual differences.
30.i	Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
30.j	Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not swearing, criticising, sledging, using derogatory language or harassing any other participant.
30.k	Maintain open and respectful communication with all participants. Address concerns through proper channels.
30.l	Stay in control of your emotions, regardless of the situation. Avoid verbal or physical outbursts and do not engage in behaviour that can harm others emotionally, mentally or physically.
SUPPORTING UMPIRES	
30.m	Accept the decision made by umpires and officials, even if you disagree. Show respect by not arguing or challenging their decisions during or after matches.
30.n	Never abuse an umpire. Abuse is defined as any language, terminology or behaviour intended to insult, offend, intimidate, threaten or harm.
30.o	Never approach an umpire unless you are a person authorised to do so under this handbook.
30.p	Never publicly criticise an umpire – raise any concerns you have with your Team Manager or Club.

30.q	Respect the critical and very difficult role that umpires have in our game. Understand that umpires have different levels of skill and experience and do the best they can.
HANDLING DISPUTES	
30.r	In the event of a dispute or concern, do not engage in confrontations, arguments or physical altercations instead, address respectfully through appropriate channels (eg Team Manager or Club Officials).
ANTI DISCRIMINATION AND INCLUSION	
30.s	Treat all individuals with fairness and respect. Reject discrimination, bullying or harassment in any form and report any incident through appropriate channels.
LAWS, RULES, REGULATIONS, POLICIES AND BYLAWS	
30.t	Maintain a working knowledge of and adhering to all relevant AFL and WAFC laws, regulations, policies and by-laws.

31. GAME DAY VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR MATCHES

JUNIOR COMPETITIONS (YEAR 3 to 6)	
Permitted in the Coaches Box: Coach Team Manager Runner First Aid / Medical Officer	Not Permitted in the Coaches Box: Interchange Steward Goal Umpire Independent Scorer / Timer (Home Team only)
YOUTH COMPETITIONS (YEAR 7 to 12)	
Permitted in the Coaches Box: Coach Team Manager Runner First Aid / Medical Officer Assistant Coach Interchange Steward / Second Assistant Coach <i>(dual role)</i>	Not Permitted in the Coaches Box: Goal Umpire Independent Scorer / Timer (Home Team only) Boundary Umpire (Year 11-12 Male Competition only)

PART F: MATCH & GROUND OPERATIONS

- GROUNDS
- GROUND PREPARATION DIAGRAMS
- MATCH DURATION
- MATCH BALLS
- EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND FAIR PLAY
- MATCH ON-FIELD EQUALISATION (EVEN-UP AND EVEN-DOWN)
- TEAM SHEETS
- SCRATCH MATCHES
- FIXTURES
- FORFEITS
- MATCH RESULTS
- PREMIERSHIP POINTS AND LADDERS
- ENVIRONMENT POINTS (E-POINTS)
- SEND OFF RULE (YELLOW AND RED CARDS)
- UMPIRE FEES
- APPROACHING UMPIRES
- REMOVAL OF PLAYERS FROM THE PLAYING FIELD
- GROUND ENCROACHMENT
- STRETCHERS AND INJURIES
- MERCY RULE
- DUTY OF CARE
- DANGEROUS TACKLES

32. GROUNDS

GROUND MARKING										
32.a	The ground shall be marked in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football , which shall include a spectator line at least two (2) metres outside the boundary line and six (6) metres behind the goals.									
COACHES BOX										
32.b	Two clearly identified Coaches Boxes shall be marked with; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no less than five (5) metres from either side of the Interchange area in Year 5 competitions and above. Fifteen (15) to twenty (20) metres distance between the two Coaches Boxes. 									
32.c	The Coaches Boxes must be marked in paint. Where this is not possible, collapsible cones may be used. Bunting or rope should then be used to mark the perimeter to prevent unauthorised individuals entering the Coaches Box.									
32.d	The Coaches Boxes cannot be marked in front of the spectator line.									
32.e	The Coaches Box placement and dimensions shall be set up as per Ground Preparation Diagram Figure 1 .									
INSURANCE MATCH DAY CHECKLIST										
32.f	A check of the ground surface is to be conducted before the first match of the day and any time there is a change to the ground ie change in playing oval size and/or weather conditions change.									
32.g	The appropriate Match Day Checklist must be completed for each ground check. Print version - https://au.marsh.com/content/dam/marsh-affinity-2/pacific/documents/afl/match-day-checklist.pdf Online form - https://info-pacific.marsh.com/acton/media/44357/afl-matchday-checklist-marsh									
SAFETY REQUIREMENTS										
32.h	Matches are not permitted to commence until padding is placed around all fixed goal and behind posts as per the Laws of Australian Football.									
32.i	There must be a stretcher present at the ground before a game is permitted to commence.									
OVAL LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS										
32.j	In accordance with Australian Standards, the following are minimum lighting requirements; <table border="1" data-bbox="341 1700 1216 1877"> <thead> <tr> <th>Competition</th> <th>Training</th> <th>Matches</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Junior (Years 3-6)</td> <td>50 lux</td> <td>50 lux</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Youth (Years 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	Matches	Junior (Years 3-6)	50 lux	50 lux	Youth (Years 7-12)	50 lux	100 lux
Competition	Training	Matches								
Junior (Years 3-6)	50 lux	50 lux								
Youth (Years 7-12)	50 lux	100 lux								

GROUND SIZE SUMMARY

32.k

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 ranges have been purposefully overlapped to allow for less ground configurations on match day. Ground configuration examples have been outlined in **Ground Preparation Diagram Figure 2**.

Competition	Length range	Width range
Year 3 - 4	80m – 100m	50m – 75m
Year 5 - 6	90m – 110m	70m – 85m
Year 7 - 8	110m – 140m	70m – 110m

Year 9 Year 9/10 Female	120m – 150m	90m – 120m
Year 10 – 12 Male Year 11 – 12 Female	135m – 185m	110m – 155m

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

33. GROUND PREPARATION DIAGRAMS

Figure 1

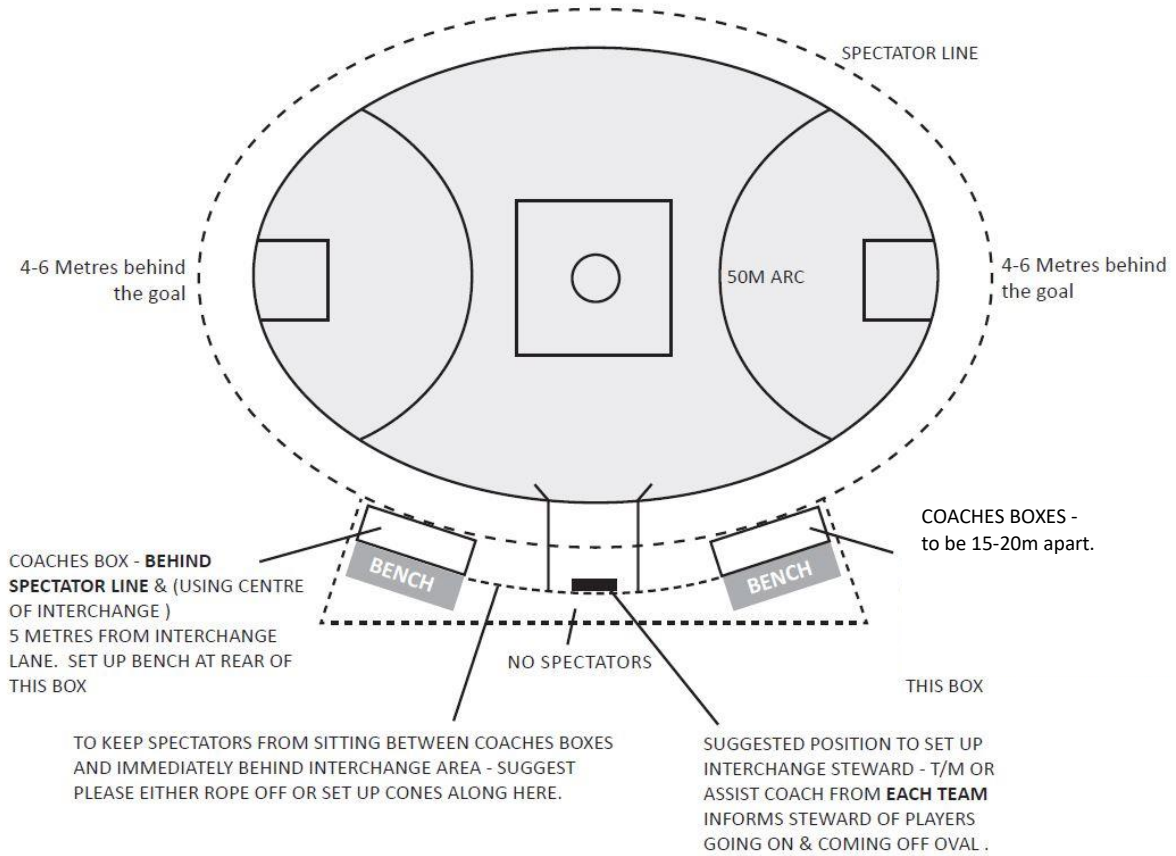
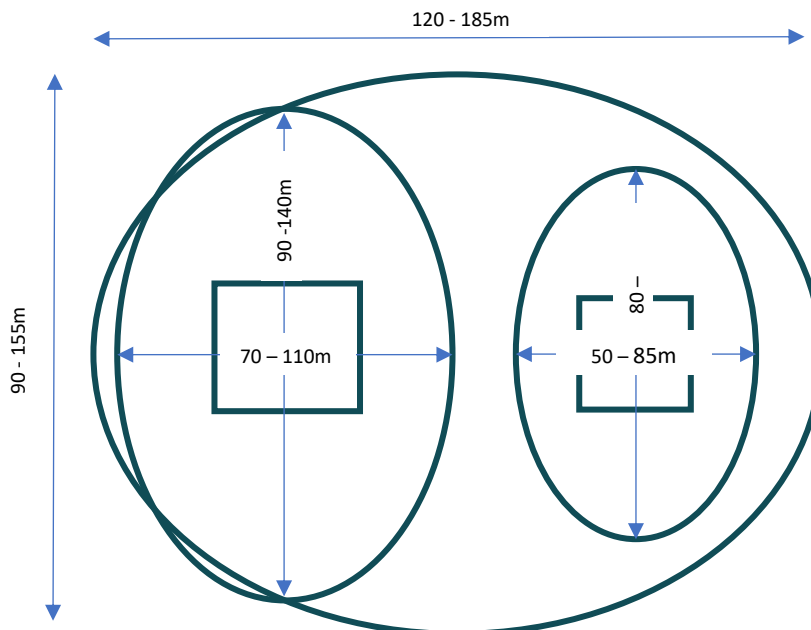


Figure 2



34. MATCH DURATION

MATCH DURATION													
34.a	<p>The length of match duration for all Junior and Youth matches controlled by the WAFC shall be as follows;</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Competition</th> <th>Width range</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Year 3 – 8</td> <td rowspan="2">4x 15-minute quarters</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 9 – 12 Female</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 9 – 12 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 (see below)</p>	Competition	Width range	Year 3 – 8	4x 15-minute quarters	Year 9 – 12 Female	Year 9 – 12 Male	4x 20-minute quarters					
Competition	Width range												
Year 3 – 8	4x 15-minute quarters												
Year 9 – 12 Female													
Year 9 – 12 Male	4x 20-minute quarters												
34.b	If a match is running late, then the last two (2) quarters are to be shortened sufficiently and equally so that the match will finish on time.												
BREAK INTERVALS													
34.c	<p>The maximum times allowed for break intervals between quarters are:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Competition</th> <th>First quarter</th> <th>Half time</th> <th>Third quarter</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Junior (Years 3-6)</td> <td>3 minutes</td> <td>8 minutes</td> <td>3 minutes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Youth (Years 7-12)</td> <td>5 minutes</td> <td>10 minutes</td> <td>5 minutes</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Competition	First quarter	Half time	Third quarter	Junior (Years 3-6)	3 minutes	8 minutes	3 minutes	Youth (Years 7-12)	5 minutes	10 minutes	5 minutes
Competition	First quarter	Half time	Third quarter										
Junior (Years 3-6)	3 minutes	8 minutes	3 minutes										
Youth (Years 7-12)	5 minutes	10 minutes	5 minutes										
34.d	<p>Upon a second warning from the Field Umpire, if a team has not made an acceptable effort to take to the field, the Umpire shall award a free kick to the opposing team.</p> <p>Should both teams be offending, the Field Umpire will pay a free kick to the first returning team.</p>												
34.e	If any team is deemed by the Field Umpire to be in breach of rule 34.c, the Coach of the offending team shall be reported for engaging in time wasting.												
FINALS													
34.f	Should the final scores of both teams be equal at the end of the time allocated for a match in any finals round match, including the Grand Final, such match shall be extended by two (2) additional periods of five (5) minutes.												
34.g	<p>At the end of ordinary time of the drawn match, there will be a two (2) minute break between fulltime and the commencement of the extra time.</p> <p>Coaches are permitted on the playing surface during this time.</p>												
34.h	<p>At the completion of the first additional period of five minutes, teams are required to change ends with no break.</p> <p>Coaches, spectators and officials are not permitted to be on the playing surface during this time.</p>												
34.i	<p>Should the scores remain tied at the end of the two 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. The team who scores shall be declared the winner.</p>												

35. MATCH BALLS

- 35.1. Each team competing in a WAFC controlled match shall supply a football;
- 35.1.a. The Home team shall provide the match ball.
- 35.1.b. The Away team shall provide a suitable spare football.
- 35.2. All match footballs must be:
- 35.2.a. Of an age-appropriate size as per 35.4.
- 35.2.b. Manufactured by a WAFC agreed sponsored brand (Burley Sekem).
- 35.2.c. Leather footballs to be *Premier* quality.
- 35.2.d. Synthetic footballs to be *Attack* quality.
- 35.2.e. Display branding of the nominated WAFC Ball Sponsor (Healthway – Go for 2&5).
- 35.2.f. Yellow in colour.
- 35.3. All match footballs used in Grand Finals shall be;
- 35.3.a. new;
- 35.3.b. supplied by the WAFC;
- 35.3.c. returned to the WAFC following the conclusion of the match.
- 35.4. All match footballs must adhere to the following sizes;

Competition	Gender	Size	Material
Year 3 Year 3 – 4	Male Female	Size 1	Synthetic
Year 4 Year 5 - 6	Male Female	Size 2	Synthetic
Year 5	Male	Size 2	Leather
Year 6 – 7 Year 7 – 8	Male Female	Size 3	Leather
Year 8 – 10 Year 9 – 12	Male Female	Size 4	Leather
Year 11 - 12	Male	Size 5	Leather

36. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND FAIR PLAY

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

FEMALE PARTICIPATION	
36.a	Single sex (all male / all female) competitions are preferred if teams can be arranged within the schools or junior districts and / or country regions.
36.b	Female players can participate with males until and including Year 9.
36.c	The WAFC has an expectation that Clubs will provide equal access to facilities for all participants and officials, regardless of gender.
36.d	Female only competitions will be given equitable scheduling of fixtures to mixed and / or male only competitions.
PLAYER ROTATION	
36.e	All players, regardless of their age, size, gender, ability or the competition they are playing in, are to be 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.
36.f	Every player in a team must play at least sixty percent (60%) of a match.
36.g	Rule 36.f 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 60% game time in the second match.
36.h	All players must play equal game time across the season.
36.i	Each team is required to track player game time utilising the 'Rookie Me Play' app.
36.j	Breaches of the Equal Opportunity and Fair Play Policy may result in Coaching Citations being issued or the game being deemed a forfeit.
MAXIMISE PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES	
36.k	Coaches must utilise all places in the team for each match and play the maximum number of players available to them (including bench spaces). This includes finals, but only refers to players that are qualified to play in finals.
36.l	Teams with excess players must have an equal and fair player roster that ensures wherever possible, that all players have an equal number of matches played across the season. Teams with excess players must ensure different players are rostered off each week. Players should not be excluded from multiple matches in a row without a valid reason ie injury, disciplinary reasons.
36.m	Breaches of the Equal Opportunity and Fair Play Policy may result in Coaching citations being issued or the game being deemed a forfeit.

37. MATCH ON-FIELD EQUALISATION (EVEN UP AND EVEN DOWN)

The Match On-Field Equalisation Policy is to be enforced in all Junior and Youth Football matches controlled by the WAFC. The Match On-Field Equalisation Policy is in place to ensure both teams have equal numbers on the field while maximising participants playing time and is to be applied to all home and away matches, including finals.

- 37.1. Teams must have the same number of players on the playing surface during a match at all times.
- 37.2. The only exceptions where teams are not required to match player numbers on the playing surface are:
 - 37.2.a. in the instance where a player has been sent off with a yellow card and there is no replacement player available, no even-up is required during the penalty period.
For avoidance of doubt, once the 15-minute penalty has been served, teams must return to an even number of players on the playing surface.
 - 37.2.b. in the instance where a player has been sent off with a red card, and there is no replacement player available, no even-up is required for the remainder of the match.
- 37.3. If during the match, a player has to leave the playing surface due to an injury and there are no replacement players in that team, the following applies:
 - 37.3.a. The team with the injured player must notify the Opposition Team that they have no replacement player available.
 - 37.3.b. The opposition team is to remove one of their players from the playing surface immediately to keep the numbers on the playing surface even.
For avoidance of doubt, the player removed should be the closest to the interchange area.
 - 37.3.c. If the injured player is subsequently able to return to the playing surface, the team must notify the opposition team and then players from both teams should re-enter the playing surface together.
- 37.4. As per the Competition Rules, the maximum number of players on the playing surface at any time is;
 - 37.4.a. Year 3 Mixed and Year 3/4 Female Competitions – 12 players
 - 37.4.b. Year 4 to Year 10 Competitions – 15 players
 - 37.4.c. Year 11/12 Female Competitions – 16 players
 - 37.4.d. Year 11/12 Male Competitions – 18 players
- 37.5. When teams cannot field the maximum number of players on the playing surface for that competition, the rules in the below table will apply.

Competition	Requirement
Years 3 - 9	Teams with higher number of players must offer additional players to play for the opposition team if they are unable to field the required number of players. Players must be rotated so that no single player plays more than one (1) quarter per match for the opposition team.
Years 10 – 12 Male Years 9 – 12 Female	Teams with higher number of players must remove additional players from the playing surface until numbers are even. This team then plays with a larger bench.

- 37.6. During Finals, if a Team in the Year 7 to 9 Competitions are 01 to 3 players short, the requirement to adhere to 37.5 will be at the discretion of the local competition, in consultation with the two Team Coaches.
- 37.7. Where matches are played with less than the maximum as per age specific competition rules, Coaches must ensure that field positions remain even.
The below tables explain how to adjust teams on the playing surface in this scenario.

12-a-side			
On Field	Defenders	Mids / Wings	Forwards
12	4	3 / 1	4
11	4	2 / 1	4
10	3	3 / 1	3
9	3	2 / 1	3
8	2	3 / 1	2
7	2	2 / 1	2

15-a-side			
On Field	Defenders	Mids / Wings	Forwards
15	5	3 / 2	5
14	5	3 / 1	5
13	4	3 / 2	4
12	4	3 / 1	4
11	4	2 / 1	4
10	3	3 / 1	3

16-a-side			
On Field	Defenders	Mids / Wings	Forwards
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

18-a-side			
On Field	Defenders	Mids / Wings	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

38. TEAM SHEETS

- 38.1. A team sheet is required to be prepared by each Team prior to every match using the PlayHQ system.
- 38.2. Team Managers are responsible for ensuring the teamsheet accurately reflects the list of all players and officials participating in the match and must include;
- 38.2.a. The name of each player participating
 - 38.2.b. The jumper number of each player participating (including last minute changes)
 - 38.2.c. The full name of all Team Officials representing the team, including:
 - 38.2.c.i. Coach
 - 38.2.c.ii. Assistant Coach (if applicable)
 - 38.2.c.iii. Team Manager

- 38.2.c.iv. Runner
 - 38.2.c.v. First Aid / Medical Officer
 - 38.2.c.vi. Goal Umpire
 - 38.2.c.vii. Boundary Umpire
 - 38.2.c.viii. Interchange Steward
- 38.3. Any person not listed on the teamsheet must not participate in the match as a Player or Official.
- 38.4. Should any individual participate in a match playing or officiating under another individual's name, they will be deemed ineligible, and the match deemed a forfeit.
- 38.5. Team Managers must ensure the accuracy of a teamsheet prior to the commencement of a match and make amendments to it where it is known at the time that:
- 38.5.a. A person listed on the teamsheet will not be participating in the match
(mark a line through this person's name).
 - 38.5.b. A person not listed on the teamsheet will be participating in the match
(handwrite on paper teamsheet and manually adjust online in PlayHQ)
- 38.6. A completed teamsheet must be submitted to the Field Umpire before the commencement of the match.
- 38.7. Where a teamsheet lists a Player's name that has not been crossed off, the Player will be recorded as having played the match.
- 38.8. Players arriving late will not be permitted to participate in the match until they have been checked by the Field Umpire and appear on the teamsheet. This can only be done at the quarter or half time breaks.
- 38.9. Any player arriving after the commencement of the third quarter cannot participate in the match.
- 38.10. At the conclusion of the match, Field Umpires are to handwrite the score, note any red or yellow cards issued and sign the paper teamsheet.
- 38.11. Team Managers are responsible for ensuring paper teamsheets and PlayHQ records properly reconcile post match.

39. SCRATCH MATCHES

The purpose of scratch matches is to provide additional playing opportunities for players outside of official competitions, fostering skill development, team cohesion and understanding of how to implement strategies and techniques in gameday scenarios.

- 39.1. Clubs may arrange scratch / practice matches outside of WAFC fixtured competitions.
- 39.2. Notification of scratch matches must be submitted to the relevant Competition Team a minimum of seventy-two (72) hours prior to the match commencement.
- 39.3. All scratch matches must be played within the WAFC Rules, Regulations, Policies and Bylaws.
- 39.4. All scratch matches with official Field Umpires are bound by the *Laws of the Game*, including penalties for reportable offences.

- 39.5. For insurance purposes, wherever possible, all players should be registered in PlayHQ prior to taking the field. Where registration in PlayHQ has not been completed, the following will apply;
- 39.5.a. Players will be covered under the [AFL National Risk Protection Program](#) from the date of registration. In addition, players will be covered for up to four (4) weeks prior to registering (i.e. considered as a 'prospective player')
- 39.5.b. Any player who will be transferring into the Club, but cannot complete the transfer until the Transfer Period begins (1st February), will be covered by the [AFL National Risk Protection Program](#) whilst training with the destination Club prior to the transfer being completed.
- 39.6. Any player currently under suspension may still be eligible to participate in a scratch match with their registered club, upon seeking approval from the relevant WAFC Competition Team.
For avoidance of doubt, scratch matches will not count as part of the player's suspension period.
- 39.7. Payment of official Field Umpires will be the responsibility of the teams participating in the scratch match.

40. FIXTURES

- 40.1. The WAFC will prepare a fixture list for all matches and determine dates, locations and times of all matches played in WAFC controlled competitions in its ultimate discretion. Fixturing will endeavour to balance the interests of all participating Clubs as well as venue availability.
- 40.2. The WAFC reserves the right to grade and regrade throughout the season to provide players with competitive matches.
- 40.3. Any re-fixturing that occurs after the commencement of the season will be at the discretion of the WAFC. Changes will be made with fairness and transparency in mind, aiming to minimise disruptions to the overall competition.
- 40.4. Any proposed amendment or alteration to the fixtures by Clubs shall be submitted in writing to the WAFC.
- 40.5. Junior Clubs may only request an amendment to the fixture where it has been agreed to by both competing Clubs. If no agreement can be reached, then the original fixture will remain.
- 40.6. Where possible, Grand Finals will be played on neutral grounds.
- 40.7. If unforeseen circumstance disrupts finals fixtures, the relevant WAFC Competition Team will determine how to proceed and whether games will be rescheduled.

41. FORFEITS

- 41.1. All teams participating in WAFC competitions are expected to make every effort to fulfil their scheduled fixtures and play all available matches.
For avoidance of doubt, this includes negotiating rescheduling of the match with the opposition.
- 41.2. In the event a team anticipates or is forced to forfeit a match, the Club must promptly notify the Opposing Club and WAFC Competitions Team as soon as they become aware of the situation.

- 41.3. 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.
- 41.4. Should a Team play an ineligible Player or utilise an ineligible Official, that Team will forfeit the match.
- 41.5. A match shall be deemed a forfeit if at the start of the match either team consists of less than the minimum number of players required as listed below;
- 41.5.a. 7 players (12-a-side competitions)
 - 41.5.b. 10 players (15 and 16-a-side competitions)
 - 41.5.c. 12 players (18-a-side competitions)
- 41.6. For Junior matches (Year 3 to 6) with insufficient numbers listed as per 41.5, Teams are encouraged to still play a match with all 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.
- 41.7. In the event of a forfeit, the following payment of umpires will apply;
- 41.7.a. If the forfeiting Club provides more than twenty-four (24) hours' notice to the WAFC, no payment of umpires is required.
 - 41.7.b. If the forfeiting Club provides less than twenty-four (24) hours' notice to the WAFC, that team is required to pay one hundred percent (100%) of umpire fees for the match.
- 41.8. In the event of a forfeit, the following match results in Youth competitions will apply;
- 41.8.a. The Team receiving the forfeit will be credited with a score of sixty (60) points 'for' and zero (0) points 'against' on the competition ladder.
 - 41.8.b. The Team receiving the forfeit will be credited with full Premiership points (4 points) and E-points (4 points) on the competition ladder.
 - 41.8.c. The Team giving the forfeit will be credited with a score of zero (0) points 'for' and sixty (60) points 'against' on the competition ladder.
 - 41.8.d. The Team giving the forfeit will be credited with zero (0) Premiership points and E-points (0 points) on the competition ladder.
 - 41.8.e. If the WAFC believes that a genuine attempt has been made to reschedule the match, point 41.8.d will not apply and the Team giving the forfeit may be credited with zero (0) Premiership points and four (4) E-points on the competition ladder.
- 41.9. In the event of a forfeit, the following teamsheet requirements will apply;
- 41.9.a. The Team receiving the forfeit are required to create a teamsheet which will credit the listed players as having played that game for the purposes of finals eligibility and historical records.
 - 41.9.b. The Team giving the forfeit are not required to create a teamsheet and players will not be credited as having played the match for the purposes of finals eligibility and historical records.

42. MATCH RESULTS

- 42.1. Clubs are responsible for ensuring match results involving their teams, are entered into the PlayHQ system promptly after the completion of each match.
- 42.2. Scoring in Junior Competitions (Year 3 to Year 6) are for competition purposes only and with the exclusion of official match day paperwork (ie teamsheets, score cards and PlayHQ results), the publishing of match results in print or electronic media is prohibited.
- 42.3. Any match will not be determined as abandoned until the match is officially called off by the Field Umpire, Umpire Coach or WAFC Competitions staff member.
- 42.4. Where a match is unable to commence or continue within the time scheduled, for reasons beyond the control of either team, the following will apply:

Circumstance	Result
Match not commenced	Match result determined by the WAFC.
Game is abandoned <u>prior</u> to halftime	If a match has commenced but is not able to proceed at any time prior to halftime, the match shall be deemed to be drawn and the scores of the teams at the time the match was interrupted shall be used in calculating the percentage of each team.
Game is abandoned <u>after</u> halftime	If the halftime interval has been reached and the match unable to proceed, the scores of the Teams at the time the match was interrupted shall be deemed to be the final scores of the match.
Recommencing of play	Where a Team is directed to recommence play by a Field Umpire and the Team fails, refuses or neglects to recommence play, the Team shall be deemed to have forfeited the match.

- 42.5. If a winning Team's margin exceeds sixty (60) points, the Team will only be credited with a maximum margin of sixty (60) points.
For avoidance of doubt, scores entered into PlayHQ should be the full score as per the scorecards. The WAFC Competitions Team are then responsible for adjusting the final results at the conclusion of the round.
- 42.6. If a winning Team's margin exceeds sixty (60) points, with the exclusion of official match day paperwork (ie teamsheets, score cards and PlayHQ results), the publishing of match scores in print or electronic media is prohibited.

43. PREMIERSHIP POINTS AND LADDERS

- 43.1. Premiership points and ladders shall be maintained in PlayHQ by the WAFC for Youth Competitions only.
- 43.2. Premiership points and ladders will not be maintained for Junior Competitions as they are participation-based skill development competitions.
- 43.3. If re-grading occurs in a division, all Premiership points will be reset at the discretion of the WAFC.

- 43.4. Premiership points will be awarded as follows;
- 43.4.a. Four (4) Premiership points to the winning team,
 - 43.4.b. Two (2) Premiership points to both teams in the case of a drawn or cancelled match,
 - 43.4.c. Zero (0) Premiership points to the losing team,
 - 43.4.d. Zero (0) Premiership points for a bye,
 - 43.4.e. Awarded as per point 41.8 for any forfeited matches.
- 43.5. Where equality in combined total of Premiership and E-points occurs at the conclusion of qualifying rounds, the position of a team shall be decided by percentage.
- 43.6. In competitions with an uneven number of matches have been played, a Match Ratio shall apply to the ladder. Match Ratio is calculated by the number of wins divided by the number of games played, multiplied by 100.

44. ENVIRONMENT POINTS (E-POINTS)

Environment Points (known as E-points) have the objective of recognising and rewarding positive game day environments by supplementing Premiership points, to weigh game day behaviour with the same importance as winning a match.

- 44.1. E-points are applied to all Youth Competitions.
- 44.2. E-points will be allocated after the completion of each qualifying round.
- 44.3. Each Team is eligible to be awarded a maximum of four (4) E-points, per match, in the qualifying rounds.
- 44.4. In addition to point 44.3, the WAFC will hold two (2) bonus rounds each season where teams will be eligible to have their awarded E-points doubled. These bonus rounds will occur;
 - 44.4.a. The first bonus round will occur within the first four (4) matches of the qualifying rounds.
 - 44.4.b. The second bonus round will occur within the last four (4) matches of the qualifying rounds.
- 44.5. Teams will forfeit their match E-points as follows;

Circumstance	Result
Yellow card	Non-allocation of one (1) E-point per card issued.
Red card	Non-allocation of two (2) E-points per card issued.
Team Player, Spectator or Official issued with a prescribed penalty suspension of one match or more	Non-allocation of two (2) E-points per person charged.
Report of poor spectator behaviour	Non-allocation of up to four (4) E-points (at the sole discretion of the WAFC)
Team has a Code of Conduct, Policy or Bylaw breach, relating to inappropriate game day behaviour	Non-allocation of up to four (4) E-points (at the sole discretion of the WAFC)

- 44.6. Non-allocation of E-points as outlined in 44.5 may be doubled for any breach that occurs during a break of play or after the final siren as the Field Umpire does not have the ability to award a free kick. *For avoidance of doubt, the maximum is 4 E-Points per match.*
- 44.7. During Finals matches, the WAFC may substitute financial fines in place of E-point forfeitures.
- 44.8. If a Competition is subject to re-grading, Teams will carry forward their E-points into their new Competition.

45. SEND OFF RULE (YELLOW AND RED CARDS)

- 45.1. Umpires and WAFC Competitions staff can issue Yellow and Red cards to any player, official or spectator as deemed necessary.
- 45.2. A Player ordered off under a Yellow Card is;
 - 45.2.a. Required to leave the Playing Surface immediately through the interchange;
 - 45.2.b. Not permitted to resume playing for fifteen (15) minutes of playing time;
 - 45.2.c. May be replaced on the Playing Surface by a benched player immediately.
- 45.3. A Player ordered off under a Red Card is;
 - 45.3.a. Required to leave the Playing Surface immediately through the interchange;
 - 45.3.b. Not permitted to sit on the bench or enter the Playing Surface for the remainder of the match (including breaks).
 - 45.3.c. May be replaced on the Playing Surface by a benched player after fifteen (15) minutes of playing time.
- 45.4. A Team Official or Spectator ordered off under either a Yellow or Red Card is required to leave the vicinity of the Playing Surface immediately. They are not permitted to enter the Playing Surface, Coaches Box, change rooms or spectate for the duration of their penalty period. The penalty period is as follows;
 - 45.4.a. Yellow cards – fifteen (15) minutes.
 - 45.4.b. Red cards – the remainder of the match.
- 45.5. In the event that an individual is issued with two (2) Yellow cards in one match, the individual will take no further part in the match and receive an automatic one (1) match suspension.
- 45.6. In the event that an individual is issued with three (3) Yellow cards over the duration of the season, then the third and every subsequent Yellow Card received will be upgraded to a Red Card at the conclusion of the match, resulting in an automatic one (1) match suspension.
- 45.7. Any individual who is ordered off for a Yellow Card and fails to leave the Playing Surface immediately, will then be further reported and consequently deemed to have committed a Red Card offence.
- 45.8. Any individual who fails to leave the Playing Surface or Arena immediately when directed to do so shall be reported, the match terminated, and the individual's Team will forfeit the match.

- 45.9. Any individual receiving a Red Card should be assisted by their Club to remove themselves from the Venue as soon as practicably possible.

46. UMPIRE FEES

- 46.1. The WAFC shall determine the maximum fee for umpires annually prior to the commencement of the season.
- 46.2. Only qualified Umpires who are [registered](#) with and appointed by the WAFC can be remunerated by the WAFC, as per the rates stipulated in point 46.5.
- 46.3. The Umpire fees for each match will be shared equally between both competing teams, with the exception of forfeited games as stipulated in point 41.7 and Grand Finals as per point 46.6.
- 46.4. Clubs will be invoiced monthly for their matchday Umpire fees with strict terms of payment.
- 46.5. Umpire rates of payment are as follows;

Competition	Fee
<p>Year 11/12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 2 Umpire system • 3 Umpire system recommended. • Official Boundary Umpires are optional for male competitions. • Official Goal Umpires are optional 	<p>\$120 per Field Umpire</p> <p>\$70 per Boundary Umpire (2 umpire)</p> <p>\$40 per Goal Umpire</p>
<p>Year 10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Umpire system (where possible) • 'Last Possession' rule removes the need for Boundary Umpires 	<p>\$100 per Umpire (1 Umpire)</p> <p>\$80 per Umpire (2 Umpire)</p>
<p>Year 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Umpire system (where possible) • 'Last Possession' rule removes the need for Boundary Umpires 	<p>\$100 per Umpire (1 Umpire)</p> <p>\$75 per Umpire (2 Umpire)</p>
<p>Year 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Umpire system (where possible) • 'Last Possession' rule removes the need for Boundary Umpires 	<p>\$90 per Umpire (1 Umpire)</p> <p>\$70 per Umpire (2 Umpire)</p>
<p>Year 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Umpire system (where possible) • 'Last Possession' rule removes the need for Boundary Umpires 	<p>\$80 per Umpire (1 Umpire)</p> <p>\$60 per Umpire (2 Umpire)</p>
<p>Year 3 to 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Umpire system • 'Last Possession' rule removes the need for Boundary Umpires 	<p>\$40 per Umpire</p>

***Note: Female mixed age competitions default to the higher age for umpire payments.**

- 46.6. The WAFC will cover one hundred percent (100%) of Umpire match fees for Grand Final matches.
- 46.7. The WAFC will cover one hundred percent (100%) of Emergency Umpire fees during finals for the following competitions;
 - 46.7.a. Year 9-12 Female Youth Competitions;
 - 46.7.b. Year 10-12 Male Youth Competitions.
- 46.8. The Emergency Umpire fee for Finals matches in competitions stipulated in point 46.7 shall be \$25 per match.

47. APPROACHING UMPIRES

- 47.1. **No person, except as listed in point 47.2, shall approach or talk to an Umpire (Field, Boundary or Goal) prior to, during or after the conclusion of a match.**
For avoidance of doubt, this includes when leaving the playing surface and venue.
- 47.2. The following individuals may approach an umpire;
 - 47.2.a. Team Manager (as per 47.3),
 - 47.2.b. Team Captain (for the purpose of requesting a headcount or as per 47.3),
 - 47.2.c. Coaches (only for the purpose of shaking hands prior to the match and at its conclusion),
 - 47.2.d. WAFC Competitions staff,
 - 47.2.e. Umpire Coaches,
 - 47.2.f. Umpire Escorts.
- 47.3. An Umpire may be approached by a Team Captain or Manager for the following reasons;
 - 47.3.a. Clarification of competition rules – enquiry when there is a consistent change/failure to follow the prescribed competition rules. **Not** to query an umpiring decision or interpretation.
 - 47.3.b. Player safety – to address concerns of player safety in event of extreme weather or match/oval conditions **only**.
 - 47.3.c. Clarification of sent off individual – seeking clarification of the details surrounding a send-off (ie what the sanction was for). **Not** to argue or debate the decision of the umpire.
 - 47.3.d. Clarification of Game Day Environment – seeking clarification whether the Umpire has any areas of concern for the Game Day Environment (ie spectator behaviour).
- 47.4. Club officials, players and spectators are not to approach any umpire during or immediately following a match to voice any concerns or other feedback regarding the umpiring.
- 47.5. Club Presidents may provide feedback to the WAFC via the prescribed [online form](#). Feedback should be specific and objective to enable it to be used for focused training and improved umpiring standards.

48. REMOVAL OF PLAYERS FROM THE PLAYING FIELD

When other parties view Team Officials entering the field, there can be a perceived perception that they may be entering the field for negative reasons and then choose to enter the field themselves. This can quickly bring the game into disrepute and create an unsafe game environment.

- 48.1. No Coach or Club / Team Official may remove a Team from the playing field during play.
- 48.2. Any Coach or Club / Team Official who has concerns for safety during a match, should have their Team Manager speak with the Field Umpire at the next available break. Should the safety concerns continue, the Team Manager should contact their Club President who will then in turn notify the WAFC Competitions Team for appropriate action.
- 48.3. If a Coach or Club / Team Official remove the Team from the Playing Arena whilst a match is in progress, this individual 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.
- 48.4. A match will not be deemed finished, abandoned or called off until officially done so by the Field Umpire, Umpire Coach or WAFC Competitions Staff member.
- 48.5. All individuals are bound by the **Ground Encroachment Policy** and breaches will be investigated by the WAFC Competitions Team.

49. GROUND ENCROACHMENT

Encroachment refers to a violation that occurs when an unauthorised individual enters the Playing Surface or disrupts the flow of the game. Unauthorised individuals on the Playing Surface pose a risk to both themselves and the participants, meaning Ground Encroachments have the potential to quickly bring the game into disrepute and create an unsafe game environment. For this reason, the WAFC takes a strong stance on any violations of the Ground Encroachment Policy.

- 49.1. Clubs are responsible for ensuring all participants understand and adhere to this handbook, including the Ground Encroachment Policy. This includes education relating to the possible consequences of a breach of the Ground Encroachment Policy.
- 49.2. Individuals who are authorised to be on the playing surface during game play are;
 - 49.2.a. Players listed on the teamsheet and not currently benched;
 - 49.2.b. Team Runners;
 - 49.2.c. Team First Aider / Medical Officers;
 - 49.2.d. Field Umpires;
 - 49.2.e. Any individual requested by the First Aider / Medical Officer to assist with the carrying of an injured player on a stretcher.
*For avoidance of doubt, individuals covered under 49.2.e are only permitted on the playing surface when directed to do so by the Field Umpire as per the **Stretcher Policy**.*
- 49.3. In the event of an encroachment of the Playing Surface by any unauthorised persons, or that play is prevented by any other means, the Field Umpire shall seek assistance of fellow Umpires and/or any member of the WAFC to clear the Playing Surface so that the match may be resumed.
- 49.4. If the Field Umpire is unable to resume the match as per 49.3 within a reasonable period of time, they shall terminate play at that time and report all circumstances to the WAFC. The WAFC at its discretion, may award the result, declare the match abandoned or call a replay.

- 49.5. Spectators are expected to remain behind the spectator line and refrain from encroaching onto the field of play during matches.
For avoidance of doubt, this includes instances where players are injured.
- 49.6. Any Club whose officials, players or spectators are found to be responsible for the unauthorised encroachment of the Playing Surface shall be liable for penalties at the discretion of the WAFC.
- 49.6.a. Based on evidence collected, the WAFC will determine an appropriate suspension penalty between the range of two (2) matches to a life ban.
- 49.6.b. If the encroachment includes any physical or verbal contact with opposition players, Umpires or WAFC officials, the penalty may be increased up to a Life Ban from all WAFC Competitions.
- 49.7. The Home Club is responsible for ground security on match day but cannot enter the Playing Surface unless requested to do so by the Field Umpire.

50. STRETCHERS AND INJURIES

- 50.1. The Host Club must provide a stretcher in good condition for all matches, that is readily accessible to the First Aid / Medical Officer.
- 50.2. The location of a stretcher for Venues shall be as follows;
- 50.2.a. One match – the stretcher should be placed behind the interchange area;
- 50.2.b. Multiple matches – recommendation to have one stretcher per oval, however if only one stretcher is available then it must be located in a quickly accessible central location for all ovals currently in use.
- 50.3. The officially appointed First Aider / Medical Officer on the day is in charge of all players and shall have final say as to the suitability of a player to resume playing the current match.
- 50.4. Any player who is injured during a match and who, in the opinion of the First Aider / Medical Officer, requires the assistance of a stretcher, shall be attended to as soon as possible so as to ensure the health and safety of the player.
- 50.5. Where a First Aid / Medical Officer has deemed a stretcher is required, the following game-play procedure will apply;
- 50.5.a. Upon being advised or noticing that a Player requires a stretcher, the Field Umpire shall stop play at the earliest opportunity to do so by blowing their whistle **once**.
For avoidance of doubt, game play will pause however the clock will continue.
- 50.5.b. After a stretcher has been called for by the First Aid / Medical Officer, the Field Umpire shall blow their whistle **twice** indicating that authorised persons are now permitted to enter the playing surface to assist with the carrying of the injured player on the stretcher.
*For avoidance of doubt, any unauthorised individuals who enter the playing surface prior to the double whistle will be in violation of the **Ground Encroachment Policy**.*
- 50.5.c. Once the injured player has been removed from the Playing Surface, the Field Umpire shall recommence play.

- 50.6. Where a First Aid / Medical Officer has called for a stretcher, the following player procedures will apply;
- 50.6.a. If a player is removed from the playing surface on a stretcher, then that Player will take no further part in the game whatsoever.
*For avoidance of doubt, any player who is unable to bear their own weight and is supported by another individual propping them up for any part of the journey off the Playing Surface, will **not** be deemed to have been stretched off.*
- 50.6.b. The injured Player may be removed from the Playing Surface on a stretcher via the most direct route for play to recommence.
- 50.6.c. A Team may replace the injured Player with a benched player, but they must enter the Playing Surface via the Interchange area.
- 50.7. Only authorised persons are permitted to enter the Playing Surface and no team meetings or coaching is permitted during this time.
- 50.7.a. Players are to remain in their positions ready for recommencement of play.
- 50.7.b. Should a Coach enter the playing surface and in the opinion of the Umpire or WAFC Competitions staff was doing so to provide instruction, a free kick will be awarded to the opposition in front of the goal at the end of the 10-metre square.
- 50.7.c. Should both teams' Coaches enter the playing surface for the purpose of giving instruction, play will resume under the rules of the game and both Teams may have a fine imposed at the discretion of the WAFC.
- 50.8. If the First Aid / Medical Officer is of the opinion that an injured player cannot be moved from the Playing Surface due to the severity of injury, then play may be abandoned at the discretion of a meeting between the two Team Managers, the Field Umpire and/or any WAFC appointed official. The decision will be made in line with;
- 50.8.a. Providing a duty of care to the injured Player with due regard for their health and safety.
- 50.8.b. Allowing First Aider / Medical Officer to provide a level of care consistent with the limits of their qualifications; and
- 50.8.c. Causing minimal impact on the starting time of any subsequent matches.
- 50.9. All Field Umpires and Team Managers shall report all stretcher call outs and the outcomes on match documentation.

51. MERCY RULE

The Mercy Rule Policy is established in accordance with the **Spirit of Junior Football**. The purpose is to instil in all participants that it serves no beneficial purpose to inflict massive losses on an opposition team. Player 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 with a reduction of one-sided matches.

- 51.1. In the event of a one-sided match, both Coaches have a responsibility to even the match up to the best of their ability.
- 51.2. There is no discretion for Coaches to agree to the non-implementation of the Mercy Rule.
- 51.3. Clubs and Coaches may be required by the WAFC to explain any circumstance in which there is evident failure to take equalisation measures or achieve a competitive balance between the teams.
- 51.4. Failure to adhere to the Mercy Rule by Coaches may result in penalties including a reprimand, loss of Premiership Points, non-awarding of E-Points, Coaching Citations or suspensions.
- 51.5. Where the match score difference between Teams equals or exceeds sixty (60) points, the following is to occur;
- 51.5.a. Scoring on the Scoreboard is to cease at the end of the quarter the margin has been reached.
- 51.5.b. Goal Umpires and Independent scorers are to continue scoring as usual.
- 51.6. While the Mercy Rule is in effect, Coaches and Officials should use discretion to ensure the Spirit of Junior Football is maintained. Respect for opponents, officials and the game itself remains paramount.
- 51.7. Coaches have a key role in fostering the development of 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.
- 51.8. In the event of a one-sided match, both Coaches have a responsibility to implement measures to:
- 51.8.a. Equalise the on-field competitive balance of the match; and
- 51.8.b. Allow for improved participation in the match for the players of the trailing team.
For avoidance of doubt, a match does not need to reach a sixty point difference before measures are introduced.
- 51.9. Examples of measures that may be implemented in accordance with 51.8 are listed below;

Applying the Mercy Rule – Leading Team

Scoring endlessly is not only unfair on your opponents but will not aid the development of your players.

- 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 are many long- term benefits of having players develop skills on both sides of their body.

Applying the Mercy Rule – Trailing Team

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.

- 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.

52. DUTY OF CARE

- 52.1. All players have a duty of care to their fellow participants.
- 52.2. All contested elements of the game must be conducted within acceptable bounds to protect the health, safety and welfare of players and to minimise the risk of injury.
- 52.3. Coaches have a duty of care to educate players about the effect their body can have on an opponent, and how to protect not only themselves but also their opponents.

53. DANGEROUS TACKLES

- 53.1. Players when tackling should not place their opponent (head or body) in a vulnerable position which is inherently dangerous.
Players when being tackled, should also not place their head or body in a vulnerable position which is inherently dangerous.
- 53.2. A dangerous tackle could be considered when the level of force is more than would normally be expected in a given situation.
- 53.3. The cues of a dangerous tackle include;
 - 53.3.a. Leaves head or body in a vulnerable position.
 - 53.3.b. Excessive rotation, including slinging.
 - 53.3.c. One or both arms pinned.
 - 53.3.d. Lifting of the legs.
 - 53.3.e. A tackle that drives or has two actions.
- 53.4. Field Umpires may award a free kick, yellow or red card for Rough Conduct in cases of dangerous tackles.

53.5. The below guidelines are designed to assist umpires in determining whether a penalty should be paid for a Dangerous Tackle.

Impact / Severity	Head Contact	Outcome
Low	Head does not hit the ground	Free Kick
Low	Head does hit the ground	Yellow card
High	Head does not hit the ground	Yellow card
High	Head does hit the ground	Red card

53.6. Other circumstances which may warrant an instant Red Card are those that are deemed to be inherently dangerous. Examples include;

- 53.6.a. Slinging motion where the ball player does not have control to brace themselves for landing.
- 53.6.b. When a player is lifted off the ground and not returned to ground with reasonable care.
- 53.6.c. When the tackler pins the arms of the ball player, and they have no way to brace themselves for landing.

53.7. Any Yellow Card issued may be upgraded by the Field Umpire, Umpire Coach or WAFC Competitions staff member.

PART G: COMPETITION RULES

- YEAR 3 AND 4 COMPETITION RULES
- YEAR 5 AND 6 COMPETITION RULES
- YEAR 7 AND 8 COMPETITION RULES
- YEAR 9 AND 10 COMPETITION RULES
- YEAR 11 AND 12 COMPETITION RULES
- COMPETITION RULES MATRIX – MODIFIED RULES
- COMPETITION RULES MATRIX – FEMALE COMPETITIONS
- COMPETITION RULES MATRIX – YOUTH COMPETITIONS

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

54. YEAR 3 AND 4 COMPETITION RULES

All WAFC managed competitions are played as per the AFL Laws of the Game. The below modifications have been made to Year 3 & 4 competitions to assist players with skill development and develop an understanding of the game.

MATCH OPERATIONS								
54.a	Ground Size	As per 32.k Ground Size Summary ; Year 3 – Year 4 competitions must be 80m – 100m (L) x 50m – 75m (W)						
54.b	Ball Size	As per 35.4 Match Balls ; <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Year 3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Year 4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Year 3/4 Female</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Size 1 synthetic</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Size 2 synthetic</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Size 1 synthetic</td> </tr> </table>	Year 3	Year 4	Year 3/4 Female	Size 1 synthetic	Size 2 synthetic	Size 1 synthetic
Year 3	Year 4	Year 3/4 Female						
Size 1 synthetic	Size 2 synthetic	Size 1 synthetic						
54.c	Player numbers	As per 37.4 Match On-Field Equalisation ; <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Year 3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Year 4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Year 3/4 Female</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">12-a-side</td> <td style="text-align: center;">15-a-side</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12-a-side</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">All ages: Unlimited reserves</p>	Year 3	Year 4	Year 3/4 Female	12-a-side	15-a-side	12-a-side
Year 3	Year 4	Year 3/4 Female						
12-a-side	15-a-side	12-a-side						
54.d	Match Length	As per 34.a and 34.c Match Duration ; <p style="text-align: center;">4x 15-minute quarters</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Breaks are 3 minutes, 8 minutes and 3 minutes</p>						
GENERAL MATCH RULES								
54.e	Start of Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ball-up in the centre of the ground between two (2) players of approximate equal size. • Players are not permitted to take full possession out of a ruck contest. • Maximum of three (3) players from each team are permitted within twenty (20) metres of ball up. 						
54.f	Positions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soft zone resets at each stoppage. • No rucks or rovers • Positions as per 37.7 Match On-Field Equalisation; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15-a-side: 3 groups of 5 (5x Defenders, 5x Mids/Wings and 5x Forwards) • 12-a-side: 3 groups of 4 (4x Defenders, 4x Mids/Wings and 4x Forwards) 						
54.g	Out of Bounds	<p>Last Possession Rule in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From a kick or handball, a free kick is to be awarded to the nearest opponent. • If a player runs the ball over the boundary line, a free kick is to be awarded to the nearest opponent. • If the ball is off hands or a players body, a ball-up is to occur ten (10) metres in from the boundary line. 						

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the Field Umpire has any doubt as to whose free kick it is, a ball-up is to occur ten (10) metres in from the boundary line.
54.h	Scrimmage	Field Umpire to stop play and with the help of the Coaches (remaining in the Coaches Box), instruct players to return to their positions before throwing the ball up. This is to teach players the positions and reduce congestion.
54.i	Marking	A mark is awarded for any reasonable attempt at catching the ball, regardless of distance covered.
54.j	Bouncing	Players are only permitted to bounce (or touch the ball on the ground) once, before disposing of the ball.
54.k	Kicking off the Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Players are not permitted to deliberately kick the ball off the ground or use their 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.
54.l	Deliberate Rushed Behind	Deliberate rushed behinds will not apply at this level.
54.m	Protected area	The protected area at this level is five (5) metres.
54.n	50m Penalties	Due to the reduced size of the playing field, the Field Umpire may award a twenty-five (25) metre penalty.
54.o	Order-off Rule	To be applied as per section 45, Send off Rule.

CONTACT

54.p	Tackling	<p>Modified Wrap Tackle Rule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Players may wrap both arms around an opponent. Players must not drop to the ground. Strictly no slinging or bringing the opposition to the ground. Grabbing the arm is not permitted. Once tackled legally, players have three (3) seconds to dispose of the ball, or a free kick for <i>holding the ball</i> will be awarded. 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.
54.q	High Contact	All high contact shall be paid as a free kick regardless if the ball carrier was responsible for the high contact via a shrug, drop, arm lift or duck.
54.r	Bumping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strictly no bumping. When in possession of the ball, no fending, pushing off or barging.
54.s	Smothering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strictly no smothering, stripping or stealing of the ball.
54.t	Shepherding	Players are not permitted to push, shoulder or block an opponent who is not in possession of the ball.

COMPETITION RESULTS		
54.u	Competition	As per section 42 Match Results : No match results, premiership points, ladders or finals.
54.v	Awards	No awards (Fairest and Best etc) at this level.
PLAYER ELIGIBILITY		
54.w	Player Movement	Players are not permitted to play for another team in the same age group.
54.x	Age Dispensation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a child is born after 30/06/2016, they are not permitted to play in Year 3 or older competitions. These children instead participate in the Auskick Program. • All other requests for Play downs are as per section 7: Age Dispensation – Play Downs
COACHES		
54.y	Coaches	<p>Coaches are to remain in the Coaches Box during game play as per section 21.8: Coaches and Assistant Coaches.</p> <p><i>For avoidance of doubt: in previous seasons, Coaches were able to be on the Playing Surface during game play however this is no longer permitted.</i></p>

55. YEAR 5 AND 6 COMPETITION RULES

All WAFC managed competitions are played as per the AFL Laws of the Game. The below modifications have been made to Year 5 & 6 competitions to assist players with skill development and develop an understanding of the game.

MATCH OPERATIONS								
55.a	Ground Size	As per 32.k Ground Size Summary ; Year 5 – Year 6 competitions must be 90m – 110m (L) x 70m – 85m (W)						
55.b	Ball Size	As per 35.4 Match Balls ; <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Year 5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Year 6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Year 5/6 Female</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Size 2 leather</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Size 3 leather</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Size 2 synthetic</td> </tr> </table>	Year 5	Year 6	Year 5/6 Female	Size 2 leather	Size 3 leather	Size 2 synthetic
Year 5	Year 6	Year 5/6 Female						
Size 2 leather	Size 3 leather	Size 2 synthetic						
55.c	Player numbers	As per 37.4 Match On-Field Equalisation ; All ages: 15-a-side with Unlimited reserves						
55.d	Match Length	As per 34.a and 34.c Match Duration ; 4x 15-minute quarters Breaks are 3 minutes, 8 minutes and 3 minutes						
GENERAL MATCH RULES								
55.e	Start of Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ball-up in the centre of the ground between two (2) players of approximate equal size. • Players are not permitted to take full possession out of a ruck contest. • Maximum of three (3) players from each team are permitted within twenty (20) metres of ball up. 						
55.f	Positions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soft zone resets at each stoppage. • No rucks or rovers • Positions as per 37.7 Match On-Field Equalisation; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15-a-side: 3 groups of 5 (5x Defenders, 5x Mids/Wings and 5x Forwards) 						
55.g	Out of Bounds	Last Possession Rule in place. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From a kick or handball, a free kick is to be awarded to the nearest opponent. • If a player runs the ball over the boundary line, a free kick is to be awarded to the nearest opponent. • If the ball is off hands or a players body, a ball-up is to occur ten (10) metres in from the boundary line. • If the Field Umpire has any doubt as to whose free kick it is, a ball-up is to occur ten (10) metres in from the boundary line. 						
55.h	Scrimmage	Field Umpire to stop play and with the help of the Coaches, instruct players to return to their positions before throwing the ball up. This is to teach players the positions and reduce congestion.						
55.i	Marking	A mark is awarded for any kick that travels a minimum of ten (10) metres.						

55.j	Bouncing	Players are only permitted to bounce (or touch the ball on the ground) once, before disposing of the ball.
55.k	Kicking off the Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Players are not permitted to deliberately kick the ball off the ground or use their 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.
55.l	Deliberate Rushed Behind	Deliberate rushed behinds will not apply at this level.
55.m	Protected area	The protected area at this level is five (5) metres.
55.n	50m Penalties	Due to the reduced size of the playing field, the Field Umpire may award a twenty-five (25) metre penalty.
55.o	Order-off Rule	To be applied as per section 45, Send off Rule .
CONTACT		
55.p	Tackling	<p>Modified Wrap Tackle Rule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Players may wrap both arms around an opponent. • Players may take their opponent to the ground by dropping their weight. • Strictly no slinging or bringing the opposition player to the ground in an aggressive manner. • Once tackled legally, players have three (3) seconds to dispose of the ball, or a free kick for <i>holding the ball</i> will be awarded.
55.q	High Contact	All high contact shall be paid as a free kick regardless if the ball carrier was responsible for the high contact via a shrug, drop, arm lift or duck.
55.r	Bumping	Bumping is permitted as per AFL Laws of the Game.
55.s	Smothering	• Stealing or smothering the football while the opponent is in the process of kicking or has possession in general play is permitted.
55.t	Shepherding	Players are permitted to block opponents and bump within five (5) metres of the ball.
COMPETITION RESULTS		
55.u	Competition	As per section 42 Match Results : No match results, premiership points, ladders or finals.
55.v	Awards	No awards (Fairest and Best etc) at this level.
PLAYER ELIGIBILITY		
55.w	Player Movement	Players are not permitted to play for another team in the same age group.
55.x	Age Dispensation	Play ups and downs are permitted as per section 6: Age Dispensation – Play Ups and 7: Age Dispensation – Play Downs .

56. YEAR 7 AND 8 COMPETITION RULES

All WAFC managed competitions are played as per the AFL Laws of the Game. The below modifications have been made to Year 7 & 8 competitions to assist players with skill development and ensure fair and even competitions.

MATCH OPERATIONS								
56.a	Ground Size	As per 32.k Ground Size Summary ; Year 7 – Year 8 competitions must be 110m – 140m (L) x 70m – 110m (W)						
56.b	Ball Size	As per 35.4 Match Balls ; <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Year 7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Year 8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Year 7/8 Female</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Size 3 leather</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Size 4 leather</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Size 3 leather</td> </tr> </table>	Year 7	Year 8	Year 7/8 Female	Size 3 leather	Size 4 leather	Size 3 leather
Year 7	Year 8	Year 7/8 Female						
Size 3 leather	Size 4 leather	Size 3 leather						
56.c	Player numbers	As per 37.4 Match On-Field Equalisation ; All ages: 15-a-side with a maximum of five (5) players on the bench.						
56.d	Match Length	As per 34.a and 34.c Match Duration ; 4x 15-minute quarters Breaks are 5 minutes, 10 minutes and 5 minutes						
GENERAL MATCH RULES								
56.e	Start of Play	Players are not permitted to take full possession out of a ruck contest.						
56.f	Positions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positions as per 37.7 Match On-Field Equalisation; • 15-a-side: 5 forwards, 3 midfielders, 2 wings and 5 defenders 						
56.g	Out of Bounds	<p>Last Possession Rule in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From a kick or handball, a free kick is to be awarded to the nearest opponent. • If a player runs the ball over the boundary line, a free kick is to be awarded to the nearest opponent. • If the ball is off hands or a players body, a ball-up is to occur ten (10) metres in from the boundary line. • If the Field Umpire has any doubt as to whose free kick it is, a ball-up is to occur ten (10) metres in from the boundary line. 						
56.h	Scrimmage	Field Umpire to stop play and with the help of the Coaches, instruct players to return to their positions before throwing the ball up. This is to teach players the positions and reduce congestion.						
56.i	Marking	A mark is awarded for any kick that travels a minimum of fifteen (15) metres.						
56.j	Bouncing	Players are only permitted to bounce (or touch the ball on the ground) twice, before disposing of the ball.						
56.k	Kicking off the Ground	Players are permitted to deliberately kick the ball off the ground or use their feet to control the ball whilst it is on the ground.						
56.l	Deliberate Rushed Behind	Deliberate Rushed Behinds will be paid as per the AFL Laws of the Game.						

56.m	Protected area	The protected area at this level is five (5) metres.
56.n	Order-off Rule	To be applied as per section 45, Send off Rule .
CONTACT		
56.o	Contact	Tackling, bumping, smothering and shepherding is permitted as per AFL Laws of the Game.
56.p	High Contact	All high contact shall be paid as a free kick regardless if the ball carrier was responsible for the high contact via a shrug, drop, arm lift or duck.
COMPETITION RESULTS		
56.q	Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoring and match results are permitted as per section 42 Match Results. • Premiership Points and Ladders are permitted as per section 43 Premiership Points and Ladders • E-Points will be awarded as per section 44 E-points. • Finals are played.
56.r	Awards	Best Players and Goal Kickers may be recorded and awarded at this level.
PLAYER ELIGIBILITY		
56.s	Player Movement	Players are not permitted to play for another team in the same age group.
56.t	Age Dispensation	Play ups and downs are permitted as per section 6: Age Dispensation – Play Ups and 7: Age Dispensation – Play Downs .
56.u	Finals Eligibility	Players are eligible to participate in finals as per section 13: Finals Eligibility .

57. YEAR 9 AND 10 COMPETITION RULES

All WAFC managed competitions are played as per the AFL Laws of the Game. The below modifications have been made to Year 9 & 10 competitions to assist players with skill development and ensure fair and even competitions.

MATCH OPERATIONS						
57.a	Ground Size	As per 32.k Ground Size Summary ; Year 9 and Year 9/10 Female competitions must be 120m – 150m (L) x 90m – 120m (W) Year 10 Male competitions must be 135m – 185m (L) x 110m – 155m (W)				
57.b	Ball Size	As per 35.4 Match Balls ; All ages: Size 4 leather				
57.c	Player numbers	As per 37.4 Match On-Field Equalisation ; All ages: 15-a-side with a maximum of five (5) players on the bench.				
57.d	Match Length	As per 34.a and 34.c Match Duration ; <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; width: 50%;">Year 9/10 Female 4x 15-minute quarters</td> <td style="text-align: center; width: 50%;">Year 9 and Year 10 4x 20-minute quarters</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Breaks are 5 minutes, 10 minutes and 5 minutes</td> </tr> </table>	Year 9/10 Female 4x 15-minute quarters	Year 9 and Year 10 4x 20-minute quarters	Breaks are 5 minutes, 10 minutes and 5 minutes	
Year 9/10 Female 4x 15-minute quarters	Year 9 and Year 10 4x 20-minute quarters					
Breaks are 5 minutes, 10 minutes and 5 minutes						
GENERAL MATCH RULES						
57.e	General	Rules as per AFL Laws of the Game.				
57.f	Positions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positions as per 37.7 Match On-Field Equalisation; • 15-a-side: 5 forwards, 3 midfielders, 2 wings and 5 defenders 				
57.g	Out of Bounds	<p>Last Possession Rule in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From a kick or handball, a free kick is to be awarded to the nearest opponent. • If a player runs the ball over the boundary line, a free kick is to be awarded to the nearest opponent. • If the ball is off hands or a players body, a ball-up is to occur ten (10) metres in from the boundary line. • If the Field Umpire has any doubt as to whose free kick it is, a ball-up is to occur ten (10) metres in from the boundary line. 				
57.l	Deliberate Rushed Behind	Deliberate Rushed Behinds will be paid as per the AFL Laws of the Game.				
57.m	Protected area	The protected area at this level is five (5) metres.				
57.n	Order-off Rule	To be applied as per section 45, Send off Rule .				
CONTACT						
57.p	High Contact	All high contact shall be paid as a free kick regardless if the ball carrier was responsible for the high contact via a shrug, drop, arm lift or duck.				

COMPETITION RESULTS		
57.q	Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoring and match results are permitted as per section 42 Match Results. • Premiership Points and Ladders are permitted as per section 43 Premiership Points and Ladders • E-Points will be awarded as per section 44 E-points. • Finals are played.
57.r	Awards	Best Players and Goal Kickers may be recorded and awarded at this level.
PLAYER ELIGIBILITY		
57.s	Player Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Players are not permitted to play for another team in the same age group. • Players are eligible to play across multiple competitions (ie WAFL, WAFLW, PFL) as per section 9 Permits and Multiple Competitions.
57.t	Age Dispensation	Play ups and downs are permitted as per section 6: Age Dispensation – Play Ups and 7: Age Dispensation – Play Downs .
57.u	Finals Eligibility	Players are eligible to participate in finals as per section 13: Finals Eligibility .

58. YEAR 11 AND 12 COMPETITION RULES

All WAFC managed competitions are played as per the AFL Laws of the Game. The below modifications have been made to Year 11 & 12 competitions to assist players with skill development and ensure fair and even competitions.

MATCH OPERATIONS		
58.a	Ground Size	As per 32.k Ground Size Summary ; Year 11 – Year 12 competitions must be 135m – 185m (L) x 110m – 155m (W)
58.b	Ball Size	As per 35.4 Match Balls ; Year 11/12 Female Size 4 leather Year 11/12 Male Size 5 leather
58.c	Player numbers	As per 37.4 Match On-Field Equalisation ; Year 11/12 Female 16-a-side Year 11/12 Male 18-a-side All ages: A maximum of five (5) players on the bench.
58.d	Match Length	As per 34.a and 34.c Match Duration ; Year 11/12 Female 4x 15-minute quarters Year 11/12 Male 4x 20-minute quarters Breaks are 5 minutes, 10 minutes and 5 minutes
GENERAL MATCH RULES		
58.e	General	Rules as per AFL Laws of the Game.
58.f	Positions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positions as per 37.7 Match On-Field Equalisation; 16-a-side (Female competitions): 5 forwards, 4 midfielders, 2 wings and 5 defenders 18-a-side (Male competitions): 6 forwards, 4 midfielders, 2 wings and 6 defenders
58.g	Out of Bounds * Year 11/12 Female Competition only	Last Possession Rule in place. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From a kick or handball, a free kick is to be awarded to the nearest opponent. If a player runs the ball over the boundary line, a free kick is to be awarded to the nearest opponent. If the ball is off hands or a players body, a ball-up is to occur ten (10) metres in from the boundary line. If the Field Umpire has any doubt as to whose free kick it is, a ball-up is to occur ten (10) metres in from the boundary line.
58.h	Deliberate Rushed Behind	Deliberate Rushed Behinds will be paid as per the AFL Laws of the Game.
58.i	Insufficient Intent	Insufficient Intent will be paid as per the AFL Laws of the Game.

58.j	Order-off Rule	To be applied as per section 45, Send off Rule .
CONTACT		
58.k	High Contact	Where a tackle is reasonably applied and the ball carrier is responsible for the high contact via a shrug, drop, arm lift or duck, play on shall be called.
COMPETITION RESULTS		
58.l	Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoring and match results are permitted as per section 42 Match Results. • Premiership Points and Ladders are permitted as per section 43 Premiership Points and Ladders • E-Points will be awarded as per section 44 E-points. • Finals are played.
58.m	Awards	Best Players and Goal Kickers may be recorded and awarded at this level.
PLAYER ELIGIBILITY		
58.n	Player Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Players are not permitted to play for another team in the same age group. • Players are eligible to play across multiple competitions (ie WAFL, WAFLW, PFL) as per section 9 Permits and Multiple Competitions.
58.o	Age Dispensation	Play ups and downs are permitted as per section 6: Age Dispensation – Play Ups and 7: Age Dispensation – Play Downs .
58.p	Finals Eligibility	Players are eligible to participate in finals as per section 13: Finals Eligibility .

59. COMPETITION RULES MATRIX – MODIFIED RULES

MODIFIEDS	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
Players on Field	12 (unlimited bench)	15 (unlimited bench)	15 (unlimited bench)	15 (unlimited bench)
Minimum Players	7	10	10	10
Equalisation	Even-up	Even-up	Even-up	Even-up
Ground Size	80m – 100m (L) 50m – 75m (W)	80m – 100m (L) 50m – 75m (W)	90m – 110m (L) 70m – 85m (W)	90m – 110m (L) 70m – 85m (W)
Match Length	4x 15 min	4x 15 min	4x 15 min	4x 15 min
Breaks	3 mins 8 mins 3 mins	3 mins 8 mins 3 mins	3 mins 8 mins 3 mins	3 mins 8 mins 3 mins
Ball Size	Size 1 synthetic	Size 2 synthetic	Size 2 leather	Size 3 leather
Competition Details	No scores, ladders or finals. No Fairest & Best.	No scores, ladders or finals. No Fairest & Best.	No scores, ladders or finals. No Fairest & Best.	No scores, ladders or finals. No Fairest & Best.
Contact	Modified Wrap Tackle. No taking to ground.	Modified Wrap Tackle. No taking to ground.	Modified Wrap Tackle.	Modified Wrap Tackle.
Bounces	1 Bounce	1 Bounce	1 Bounce	1 Bounce
Marking	Any reasonable attempt	Any reasonable attempt	Kick must have travelled 10m	Kick must have travelled 10m
Out of Bounds	Last Possession Rule	Last Possession Rule	Last Possession Rule	Last Possession Rule
Kicking off Ground	Not permitted	Not permitted	Not permitted	Not permitted
Stealing, bumping, smothering & shepherding.	Not permitted	Not permitted	Permitted within 5m of the ball	Permitted within 5m of the ball
Field Umpire Fee	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40

60. COMPETITION RULES MATRIX – FEMALE COMPETITIONS

FEMALE	YEAR 3/4	YEAR 5/6	YEAR 7/8	YEAR 9/10	YEAR 11/12
Players on Field	12-a-side (unlimited bench)	15-a-side (unlimited bench)	15-a-side (5 on bench)	15-a-side (5 on bench)	16-a-side (5 on bench)
Minimum Players	7	10	10	10	10
Equalisation	Even-up	Even-up	Even-up	Even-down	Even-down
Ground Size	80m - 100m (L) 50m - 75m (W)	90m - 110m (L) 70m - 85m (W)	110m - 140m (L) 70m - 110m (W)	120m - 150m (L) 90m - 120m (W)	135m - 185m (L) 110m - 155m (W)
Match Length	4x 15 min	4x 15 min	4x 15 min	4x 15 min	4x 15 min
Breaks	3 mins 8 mins 3 mins	3 mins 8 mins 3 mins	5 mins 10 mins 5 mins	5 mins 10 mins 5 mins	5 mins 10 mins 5 mins
Ball Size	Size 1 synthetic	Size 2 synthetic	Size 3 leather	Size 4 leather	Size 4 leather
Competition Details	No scores, ladders, finals or F&B.	No scores, ladders, finals or F&B.	Scores, ladders, finals and F&B permitted. E-points apply.	Scores, ladders, finals and F&B permitted. E-points apply.	Scores, ladders, finals and F&B permitted. E-points apply.
Contact	Modified Wrap Tackle. No taking to ground.	Modified Wrap Tackle.	As per AFL Laws of the Game	As per AFL Laws of the Game	As per AFL Laws of the Game
Bounces	1 Bounce	1 Bounce	2 Bounces	Unlimited	Unlimited
Marking	Any reasonable attempt	Kick must have travelled 10m	Kick must have travelled 15m	Kick must have travelled 15m	Kick must have travelled 15m
Out of Bounds	Last Possession Rule	Last Possession Rule	Last Possession Rule	Last Possession Rule	Last Possession Rule
Kicking off Ground	Not permitted	Not permitted	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted
Stealing, smothering, shepherding and bumping	Not permitted	Permitted within 5m of the ball	Permitted within 5m of the ball	Permitted within 5m of the ball	Permitted within 5m of the ball
Field Umpire Fee	\$40	\$40	x1 ump - \$90 x2 ump - \$70 ea	x1 ump - \$100 x2 ump - \$80 ea	\$120 per umpire

61. COMPETITION RULES MATRIX – YOUTH COMPETITIONS

OPENS	YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11/12
Players on Field	15-a-side (5 on bench)	15-a-side (5 on bench)	15-a-side (5 on bench)	15-a-side (5 on bench)	18-a-side (5 on bench)
Minimum Players	10	10	10	10	12
Equalisation	Even-up	Even-up	Even-up	Even-down	Even-down
Ground Size	110m - 140m (L) 70m - 110m (W)	110m - 140m (L) 70m - 110m (W)	120m - 150m (L) 90m - 120m (W)	135m - 185m (L) 110m - 155m (W)	135m - 185m (L) 110m - 155m (W)
Match Length	4x 15 min	4x 15 min	4x 20 min	4x 20 min	4x 20 min
Breaks	5 mins 10 mins 5 mins	5 mins 10 mins 5 mins	5 mins 10 mins 5 mins	5 mins 10 mins 5 mins	5 mins 10 mins 5 mins
Ball Size	Size 3 leather	Size 4 leather	Size 4 leather	Size 4 leather	Size 5 leather
Competition Details	Scores, ladders, finals and F&B permitted. E-points apply.	Scores, ladders, finals and F&B permitted. E-points apply.	Scores, ladders, finals and F&B permitted. E-points apply.	Scores, ladders, finals and F&B permitted. E-points apply.	Scores, ladders, finals and F&B permitted. E-points apply.
Contact	As per AFL Laws of the Game	As per AFL Laws of the Game	As per AFL Laws of the Game	As per AFL Laws of the Game	As per AFL Laws of the Game
Bounces	2 Bounces	2 Bounces	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Marking	Kick must have travelled 15m	Kick must have travelled 15m	Kick must have travelled 15m	Kick must have travelled 15m	Kick must have travelled 15m
Out of Bounds	Last Possession Rule	Last Possession Rule	Last Possession Rule	Last Possession Rule	As per AFL Laws of the Game
Kicking off Ground	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted
Stealing, smothering, shepherding and bumping	Permitted within 5m of the ball	Permitted within 5m of the ball	Permitted within 5m of the ball	Permitted within 5m of the ball	Permitted within 5m of the ball
Field Umpire Fee	x1 ump - \$80 x2 ump - \$60 ea	x1 ump - \$90 x2 ump - \$70 ea	x1 ump - \$100 x2 ump - \$75 ea	x1 ump - \$100 x2 ump - \$80 ea	\$120 per umpire

PART H: HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICIES

- WEATHER
- PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, JEWELLERY AND UNDERGARMENTS
- CONCUSSION

62. WEATHER

Environmental factors regularly affect the playing of football. While environmental factors will not usually influence whether a Match should commence or continue, occasionally extremely adverse weather conditions may give rise to a need to assess whether participants are in danger. This section sets out the approach to take when assessing extreme weather conditions.

- 62.1. In the case of events of extreme weather or environmental conditions, consultation of all parties involved must take place to determine the safest outcome for all participants involved.
- 62.2. Environmental conditions that must be assessed include, but are not limited to;
- 62.2.a. Extremely strong winds;
(wind may create additional hazards in regard to trees, branches or other material becoming projectiles)
 - 62.2.b. Flood;
(heavy rainfall also needs to be considered in relation to its impact on the safety of the playing surface)
 - 62.2.c. Extreme fire danger;
 - 62.2.d. Fires present in the vicinity;
(smoke and air quality also needs to be considered)
 - 62.2.e. Lightning;
 - 62.2.f. Hail;
(size and intensity should be considered)
 - 62.2.g. Extreme heat.
- 62.3. In the event of lightning being present in the immediate proximity of the venue during a match or training, all activity must cease, and participants are to find suitable safe shelter.
- 62.4. In the absence of specific information from a weather radar or specialised warning device, then the **30/30 Safety Guideline** should be used for all cases of thunder and lightning.

Thunder and Lightning 30/30 Safety Guideline

Lightning is the visible part of an electrical discharge. Thunder is the resulting sound from the rapid expansion of air after this discharge. Sound follows light at 0.34km/sec.

It is important to note that lightning may be obscured by clouds, so it must be assumed that when thunder is heard, lightning is in the vicinity.

If the time between the lightning flash and the thunder sound is **less than 30 seconds** then the match or training **must be suspended**.

The match or training **must not resume** until **30 minutes after** the last sighting of lightning or sound of thunder.

Blue skies and no rainfall are not reasons to breach the 30-minute minimum return-to-activity rule.

- 62.5. A decision to delay, suspend or resume a match or training session should be made in consultation with all relevant umpires, team officials and WAFC Competitions staff.
- 62.6. If a lightning threat emerges during a match, the nominated Club Official must contact all relevant parties (WAFC Competitions staff, Umpires, Spectators, Opposition Club etc) and provide updates on a regular basis.
- 62.7. If a lightning threat emerges during a match or training, all participants are to take shelter immediately.

Safe shelter

- The Primary choice is a large, fully enclosed building.
- When no building is available, a fully enclosed vehicle with a metal roof and the windows completely closed offers some protection.

Unsafe locations and situations

- An open field.
- close vicinity to the tallest structure in the area (eg trees, light pole, goalposts).
- Small structures such as rain/picnic shelters, tents and Coaches Boxes.
- Umbrellas or any object that increases a person's height.
- Use of electrical appliances such as scoreboards.

- 62.8. Any match that is abandoned due to weather conditions will be determined by the WAFC Competitions Team in line with 42.4 **Match Results**.

63. PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, JEWELLERY AND UNDERGARMENTS

The WAFC 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.

- 63.1. Below is a list of commonly used protective equipment with notes regarding their classification. Clubs may submit Protective Equipment Permits on behalf of players to the relevant WAFC Competition Team at any point of the season.

Equipment	Permit	Notes
Mouthguards	No permit required	Mouthguards have a definite role in preventing injuries to the teeth and face and for this reason the WAFC strongly recommends that all players wear a mouth guard when participating in either training or matches.
Headgear	No permit required	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.

Breast protection	No permit required	A female player who desires to wear protective breast protection such as Zena Z1 or Boob Armour is able to do so without a permit required.
Eyewear	No permit required	<p>Players who wish to wear prescription glasses or goggles during matches and training sessions should wear glasses or goggles with plastic frames and lenses. A band must also hold the glasses on securely.</p> <p>A permit is not required as long as these conditions are met.</p>
Diabetic pumps / glucose monitors	Permit needed	<p>Diabetic pumps and glucose monitors are able to be worn during matches and training however additional padding must be worn.</p> <p>This padding provides protection for opposition players, the device itself and helps prevent any accidental removal of the device during physical contact.</p> <p>Soft padding can include foam and compression bandages. A permit is required to ensure these conditions are met.</p>
Shin guards	Permit needed	Shin guards are not permitted unless medically prescribed to protect an injury. A permit is required, and this medical recommendation must be attached to the permit request.
Gloves	Permit needed	Gloves are not permitted unless medically prescribed to protect an injury. A permit is required, and this medical recommendation must be attached to the permit request.
All other protective equipment	Permit needed	All other protective equipment including but not limited to, kidney guards, hearing aids, brace supports (ankle, knee, finger etc) require a permit.

63.2. Players are not permitted to wear a plaster cast during matches.

63.3. Players are not permitted to wear jewellery during matches.

63.3.a. All piercings must be removed.

Piercings are **not permitted to be taped**.

63.3.b. Medical bracelets are able to be worn however they must be completely taped and marked 'MEDIC'.

63.4. Black tape arm bands are permitted to be worn to commemorate a deceased individual.

63.5. The wearing of undergarments are as follows;

Competition age	Equipment	Notes
Junior Football Years 3 -6	Compression undergarments (Skins, Under Armour etc)	Participants may wear compression garments of any style, colour or length.
	Non-compression wear	Long and short sleeve, non-compression t-shirts may be worn on the condition the shirt does not have a hood.
	Jumpers, Jackets and hooded garments	Players are not permitted to wear jumpers, jackets, or hooded garments under their football playing jumper during a match.

Youth Football Years 7 - 12	Short length Compression undergarments (Skins, Under Armour etc)	Participants may wear compression garments of short length without a permit however they must be in line with the playing uniform or be of a neutral colour (black, white or beige). <i>For avoidance of doubt, this means if the team wears green shorts, then the player may wear green, black, white or beige coloured undergarments.</i>
	Full-length Compression undergarments (Skins, Under Armour etc)	Participants who desire to wear full-length arm or leg compression garments must apply for a permit to do so. These garments should be in line with the playing uniform or be of a neutral colour (black, white or beige). <i>For avoidance of doubt, this means if the team wears green shorts, then the player may wear green, black, white or beige coloured undergarments.</i>
	Non-compression wear	T-shirts, jumpers and other non-compression garments are not permitted to be worn under their football playing jumper unless authorised by WAFC Competition Team.

64. CONCUSSION

The West Australian Football Commission (WAFC) continues to prioritise the health and safety of all participants, and strongly encourages all leagues, clubs and teams to take a cautious approach to the management of concussion in Australian Rules Football.

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. **If in doubt, then sit them out.**

HEADCHECK CONCUSSION APP
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>
MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR SUSPECTED CONCUSSION
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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). If yes – Call for an ambulance and refer to hospital. If no – Do not allow player to return to play. Refer to a medical doctor for assessment.
REPORTING AND RECORD KEEPING
<p>All confirmed and suspected concussions are to be reported to the WAFC as soon as possible but ideally no later than 9am on the Monday following a match.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">This report is to be completed on the following link - https://wafootball.forms-db.com/view.php?id=740175</p>

<p>A relevant medical report that clears a player to allow the player to return to contact / collision training and matches must also be supplied to the Competitions Team before the player resumes training post 14 days of being symptom free.</p>
<p>All medical reports will be confidentially held by Competition staff and not shared with other parties.</p>
<p>RETURN TO TRAIN AND PLAY PROCEDURE</p>
<p>The West Australian Football Commission (WAFC) aligns to the national concussion guidelines released by the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) and the Australian Sports Commission (ASC). A minimum requirement for returning to full training and playing matches is outlined in these Concussion Guidelines 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.</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>The referenced 21 days is not a standard <i>wait and play</i>, it is the minimum requirement, and all concussions should be treated as unique and assessed independently with players following the graduated return to play process, and not be fixed on a set number of days to safely return.</p>
<p>MULTIPLE CONCUSSIONS IN A SEASON</p>
<p>Following any concussion, a player must receive a medical clearance to Return to Play as per the National Community Concussion Guidelines.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The WAFC can assist clubs and families in identifying doctors who specialise in the field of concussion.</p>
<p>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.</p>

There are a number of resources available to assist Clubs with the Management of Concussion, including:

- **Match Day Head Injury and Referral Form –**
https://play.afl/sites/default/files/2023-10/matchdayheadinjury_form_final%20%281%29.pdf
- **Concussion Recognition Tool –**
<https://sma.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Concussion-Recognition-Tool-CRT6.pdf>
- **Return to Play Medical Clearance Form –**
https://www.concussioninsport.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/1133929/Concussion-referral-and-return-form.pdf
- **Return to Learn –**
https://www.concussioninsport.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/1133471/RETURN-TO-LEARN.pdf

- **Concussion Education Course (15 minutes) –**

The WAFC **strongly recommends** that all parents, coaches, volunteers and players undertake the online concussion education course.

<https://www.connectivity.org.au/courses/sport-related-concussion-course/>

- **Australian Concussion Guidelines for Youth and Community Sport –**

https://www.concussioninsport.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/1133994/37382_Concussion-Guidelines-for-community-and-youth-FA-acc.pdf

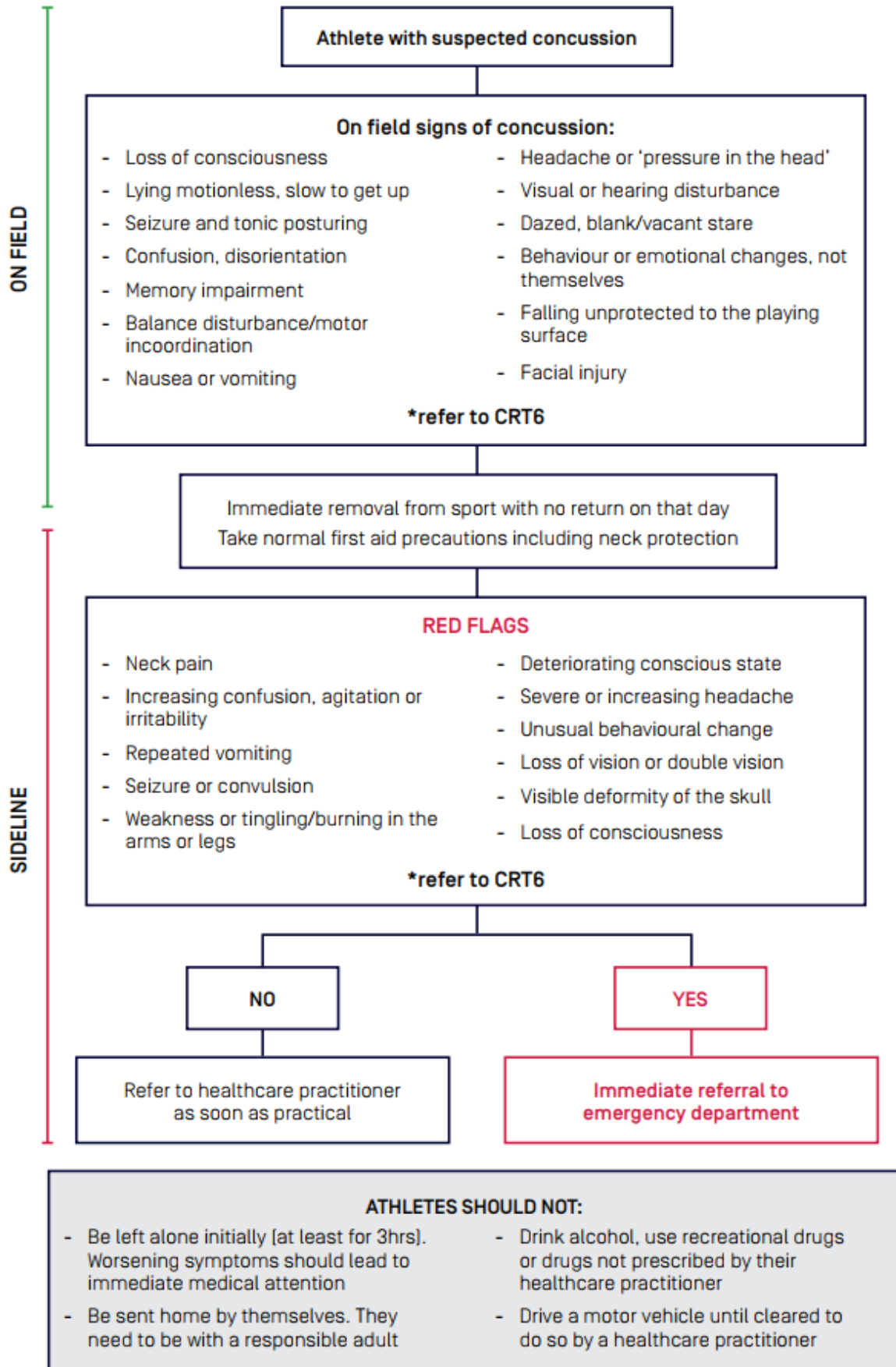
In relation to these protocols, a **Health Care Practitioner (HCP)** refers to a Specialist Sports Doctor / Physician, a General Practitioner (GP), or a AHPRA registered health care practitioner with appropriate training and experience in concussion assessment and management.

It is imperative that all clubs, volunteers, parents, coaches and players take a cautious approach to the management of a concussion, and that players work through each of the steps of a graduated return to play process.

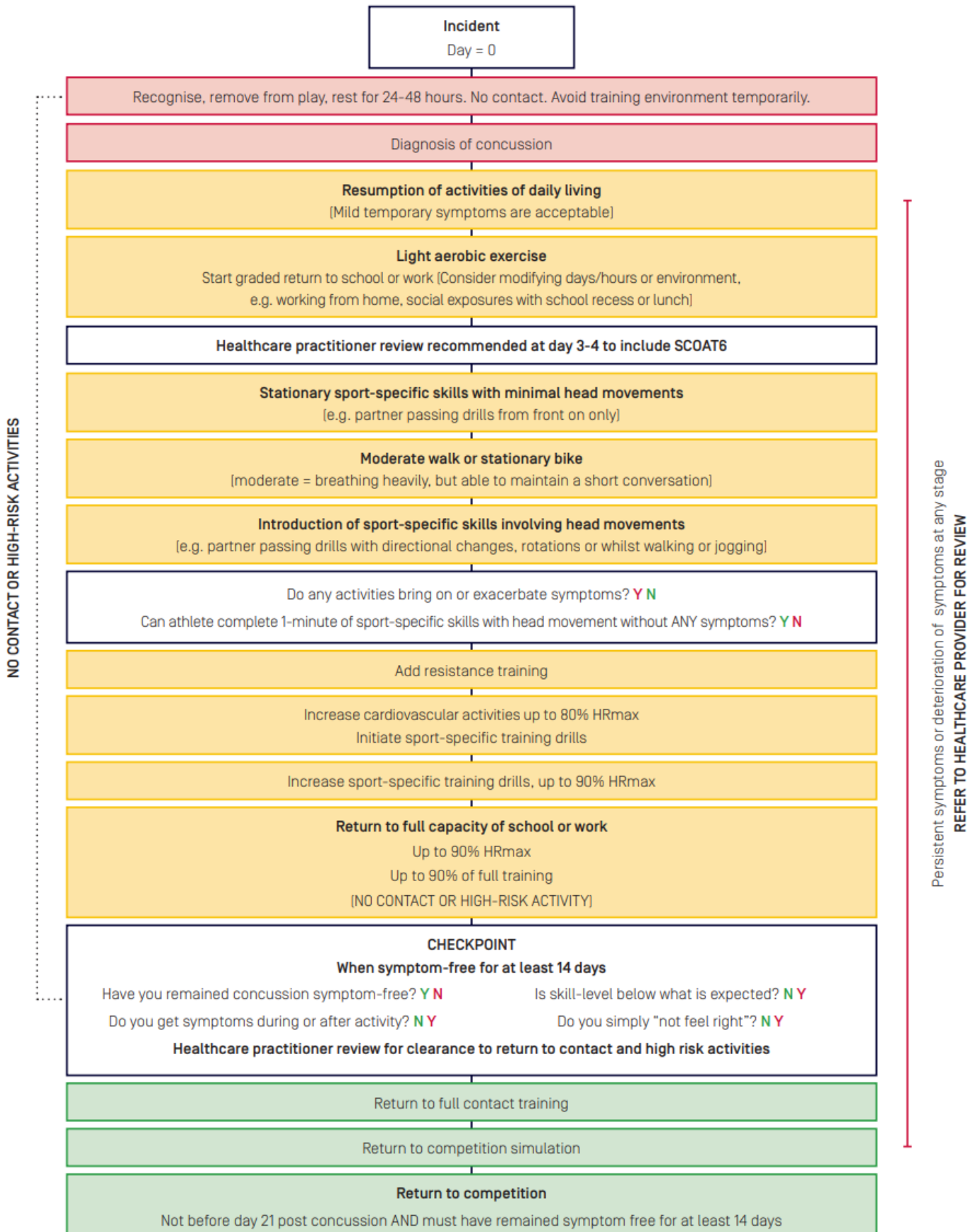
Under-reporting of concussions, or the downplaying of the symptoms of a concussion, has the potential to put the player at greater health risk.

“Everyone has a responsibility to report a suspected concussion”

Recognising a Suspected Concussion



Return to Play Protocols



Examples of return to sport timeframes

Note:

- > Day of concussive incident is considered 'Day 0'
- > Examples below assume a sport where competition occurs weekly on a Saturday
- > The 14 day symptom free period does not start until the first day that the athlete is symptom free

Key:

Incident
Symptomatic
Symptom-free
Contact training
Full competition

Athlete symptom-free on day 3 [Tuesday of the 1st week]				
Saturday	5. Saturday	12. Saturday	Saturday	Saturday
Sunday	6. Sunday	13. Sunday	Sunday	Sunday
Monday	7. Monday	14. Monday	Monday	Monday
1. Tuesday	8. Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday
2. Wednesday	9. Wednesday	Wednesday	Wednesday	Wednesday
3. Thursday	10. Thursday	Thursday	Thursday	Thursday
4. Friday	11. Friday	Friday	Friday	Friday

Athlete symptom-free on day 7 [Saturday of second week]				
Saturday	1. Saturday	8. Saturday	Saturday	Saturday
Sunday	2. Sunday	9. Sunday	Sunday	Sunday
Monday	3. Monday	10. Monday	Monday	Monday
Tuesday	4. Tuesday	11. Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday
Wednesday	5. Wednesday	12. Wednesday	Wednesday	Wednesday
Thursday	6. Thursday	13. Thursday	Thursday	Thursday
Friday	7. Friday	14. Friday	Friday	Friday

PART I: MEMBER PROTECTION POLICIES

- WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS
- SOCIAL MEDIA
- SPONSORSHIP
- DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND SMOKING
- VILIFICATION AND DISCRIMINATION
- PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO
- INSURANCE
- WAFC INTEGRITY TEAM

65. WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS

The Working With Children Check is a compulsory screening strategy for people engaging in child-related work in Western Australia. It is an important part of the measures that Clubs should have in place to protect children and young people when they are engaged with their organisation.

All Clubs and individuals are required to comply with the Working With Children legislation.

Is a Working With Children Check required?

A WWC Check is required if someone has an 'agreement to work' in a role undertaking 'child-related work', and no 'exemptions' apply.

Follow the guide below to determine whether a WWC Check is required.

QUESTION 1 – IS THERE AN AGREEMENT TO WORK?
<p>If yes - move to Question 2. If no - a WWC Check is not required.</p> <p><i>An agreement to work can be a written or unwritten agreement between a person and another person or an organisation, to carry out 'child-related work' in a paid, unpaid or volunteer basis. It can refer to both 'child-related employment' and a 'child-related business' as defined in the Working with Children (Screening) Act 2004</i></p>
QUESTION 2 – IS IT CHILD-RELATED WORK?
<p>If yes - move to Question 3. If no - a WWC Check is not required.</p> <p><i>Work is child-related if the 'usual duties' of the work involve or are likely to involve contact (physical, verbal or electronic) with a child in connection with at least one of the categories of 'child-related work'.</i></p> <p><i>There are 18 categories of child-related work prescribed and the most used category for the sports and recreation sector is 'Category 12 – Club, Association or Movement'.</i></p>
QUESTION 3 – DOES AN EXEMPTION APPLY?
<p>If yes - a WWC Check <u>is not</u> required. If no - a WWC Check <u>is</u> required.</p> <p><i>Certain people do not require a WWC Check because they fit within the description of an exemption from child-related work as outlined in the Working with Children (Screening) Act 2004 and the Working with Children (Screening) Regulations 2005.</i></p> <p>** Please see the following page for important information on changes that came into effect on 1 July 2023 **</p>

Reforms to strengthen Working With Children Checks came into effect on 1st July 2023.

These changes help to better protect children by making it harder for people who have committed certain offences or engaged in certain conduct to obtain a Working With Children Card.

It is important for Clubs to be aware that some individuals who previously held a WWC card or were eligible for a Parent or Child Volunteer exemption prior to 1st July 2023, may now no longer be eligible to do so.

The Act does not require a parent or child volunteer with a current Interim Negative Notice or Negative Notice to tell the organisation the reason why they are no longer able to volunteer for them. However, they must immediately stop accessing the child volunteer exemptions or parent volunteer exemption or they will be breaking the law and can be prosecuted.

Organisations do not have a legal obligation to check whether volunteers have an Interim Negative Notice or Negative Notice however if they become aware that this is the case for a parent or child volunteer, they must immediately take steps to ensure the person does not continue volunteering with children. Failure to act on this knowledge is an offence, and the organisation can be prosecuted.

To manage this risk, Clubs can update their practices to include a process for child and parent volunteers to acknowledge they understand the new laws and confirm that they are eligible to access the exemption category. If the WWC were to conduct a Compliance Check on the Club, these records would then form part of their documentation demonstrating compliance with the Act.

Good record keeping is essential to a Club's ability to demonstrate compliance with the WWC legislation. The WWC Screening Unit recommends organisations keep:

- a list of all individuals engaging in child-related work with the organisation and their WWC Check application number (where applicable), WWC Card number and expiry date
- a list of individuals engaging in child-related work who are exempt from requiring a WWC Check and any expiry date to their exemption, e,g child volunteer
- copies of WWC Cards for all individuals engaging in child-related work
- copies of any online card validations.
- copies of all notifications received from the WWC Screening Unit, including Interim Negative Notices or Negative Notices and any actions taken by the organisation.

Child Safety

Remember: a WWC Check is only one strategy to help keep children safe. More information on Working With Children including factsheets, training, record keeping templates, self-assessment reviews and a variety of resources can be found on the Working With Children website.

<https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/departments-of-communities/working-children-check>

66. SOCIAL MEDIA

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

The WAFC 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.

Social media may include (although is not limited to):

- social networking (e.g. Facebook, LinkedIn, Yammer, Snapchat)
- video and photo sharing apps (e.g. Instagram, YouTube, Pinterest, TikTok)
- blogs, including corporate blogs and personal blogs, Tumblr
- blogs hosted by media outlets (e.g. comments or 'your say' feature)
- micro-blogging (e.g. X (formerly Twitter))
- wikis and online collaborations (e.g. Wikipedia)
- forums, discussion boards and groups (e.g. Google groups, Whirlpool, Reddit)
- vod and podcasting
- online multiplayer gaming platforms
- instant messaging (including SMS, WhatsApp, Viber)

PUBLIC STATEMENT	
66.1	All media enquiries should be directed through the WAFC. District, Club and Team representatives should not make public statements about WAFC managed competitions.
STATEMENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA	
66.2	<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?

ACCOUNTABILITIES

66.3	<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 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, • 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) • Members will remain responsible for and be vigilant of the content and security of their individual accounts such as email, social networking, micro blogging, video sharing, image sharing and mobile phones.
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BREACHES AND PENALTIES

66.4	<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 relevant WAFC Competitions staff requesting that they investigate the matter.</p>
66.5	<p>The speed and reach of modern-day communication means that any material that is posted online is often available immediately to a wide-ranging audience. Posts may be impossible or difficult to delete, be replicated endlessly, may be sent to or seen by people the publisher never intended or expected would see them, and posts may also be misinterpreted.</p>
66.6	<p>Any potential breach of this policy may be investigated by the WAFC Competitions Team.</p>
66.7	<p>Any penalties for a breach of this policy 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. Posts that have been made in closed or ‘private’ groups will not be a valid reason as to why a penalty should not be applied.</p> <p>Any suspension awarded will be graded in accordance with the table listed in section 75.</p>

67. SPONSORSHIP

The WAFC 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 by the management process.

ACCOUNTABILITIES	
67.1	<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>
67.2	<p>Sponsorships that could involve football in controversial issues or expose football to adverse criticism must be avoided. 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 WAFC sponsors or partners, whereby this conflict has been made clear to Clubs; • Sponsors that have the potential to bring the sport into disrepute.
67.3	<p>All Clubs must comply with sponsorship requirements related to Junior Football as directed by the WAFC.</p> <p>Clubs may not partner with or in any way promote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any company in the QSR (Quick Service Restaurant) category, including but not limited to McDonalds, Hungry Jacks, Domino's Pizza and Red Rooster. • Alcohol-related brands should not be involved in Junior Football Clubs as a sponsor or partner. Where a Junior Football Club shares its facilities with a Senior Club or other Sporting Club, they should take reasonable measures to ensure that no non-CUB beer or cider product is displayed or sold while the Junior Football Club have primary usage of the facility, as CUB are the exclusive beer and cider supplier to WA Football.
67.4	<p>Sponsorship queries can be addressed to the WAFC Commercial team – partnerships@wafc.com.au</p>

68. DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND SMOKING

The WAFC 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.

ALCOHOL	
68.1	Clubs have a responsibility to ensure they meet legislative requirements regarding alcohol management within the Club. This can be broken down into two areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Liquor License requirements, - Responsible Service of Alcohol requirements.
68.2	Clubs with Liquor Licenses must ensure they meet all Responsible Service of Alcohol requirements and ensure anyone consuming alcohol does not engage with Junior and Youth Football in any way.
68.3	Bringing your own alcohol to any Junior or Youth Football match or training session is strictly prohibited.
68.4	Football Club's 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. These documents must align with the WAFC Sponsorship Policy located within this handbook.
SMOKE FREE ENVIRONMENT	
68.1	For the purpose of this policy, smoking includes the use of traditional tobacco products (cigarettes, cigars) and electronic delivery systems (e-cigarettes, vaping devices).
68.2	Smoke Free Environments must be maintained and implemented into all areas of our game using the following strategies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smoke Free change rooms; • Smoke Free Club rooms – social halls, canteens, kitchen etc; • Smoke Free Interchange Benches, including any area where Coaches, Managers or Players sit or stand; • Smoke Free viewing areas – verandahs, seated outdoor viewing areas, areas close to where Junior and Youth players are coached or playing; • Smoke Free NAB AFL Auskick – ensure there is no smoking in any area where the NAB AFL Auskick activities are taking place;
68.3	To assist promoting your sporting area as Smoke Free, the following announcement may be utilised; <p><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 or playing.”</i></p>
68.4	Breaches of this policy may result in future fixtures being relocated or games being deemed a forfeit.

69. VILIFICATION AND DISCRIMINATION

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 WAFC takes an extremely firm stance on eliminating this type of behaviour from the game.

This Policy applies to all persons involved in community football, including: players, coaches, team officials, club officials, league officials, volunteers, umpires, parents, guardians, spectators and sponsors.

AN ALLEGED INCIDENT		
69.1	Conduct occurs that threatens, disparages, vilifies or insults another person on any basis, including but not limited to, a person's race/colour, religion/spirituality, nationality/ethnic origin, special ability/disability, sexuality, gender identity or other, for example body shaming, mental health, illness or disease etc. Vilified Player to advise their Team Official (Coach / Team Manager) of the alleged incident as soon as possible.	Vilified Player
GAME DAY ACTION		
69.2	The clubs and individuals concerned will take immediate action to resolve the matter at the ground between the two teams concerned.	Team Managers
69.3	If the matter is resolved, it is the responsibility of <u>both</u> Team Managers to inform their respective Club President via a written report within 24 hours.	
69.4	If the matter cannot be resolved immediately, it is the responsibility of <u>both</u> Team Managers to inform their respective Club President of the issue immediately.	
CLUB ACTION		
69.5	If the matter is resolved on game day, a written report is required to be submitted by both Club Presidents to the WAFC within 24 hours post resolution.	Club Presidents
69.6	If the matter cannot be resolved on game day, the Club President of the complainant is required to submit a Notice of Complaint to the WAFC by 5pm on the next business day after the relevant Match.	
NOTICE OF COMPLAINT		
69.7	A complaint may be lodged by a Person <u>or</u> a Club. A person is anyone who is reasonably connected to Australian Football (eg player, official, parent/guardian, spectator). Where a Person or Club is lodging a Complaint on behalf of the Offended Person, they should do so with the consent and support of that Offended person.	Person or Club
69.8	If a Notice of Complaint is lodged by a Club in connection to a match, then the submission must be submitted by 5pm on the next business day after the relevant match.	Club
69.9	If a Notice of Complaint is lodged by a Club and not in connection with a match (ie via social media, at a club event, training etc), then it must be submitted no later than 30 days after the incident.	Club

69.10	If the Notice of Complaint is lodged by a Person for any incident, it must be submitted no later than 30 days after the alleged incident.	Person
69.11	All Notice of Complaints must be submitted via the online WAFC Notice of Complaint - Prohibited Conduct (Vilification & Discrimination) form.	Person or Club
PUBLIC STATEMENT		
69.12	No public statement (including via social media) is permitted by the clubs, players, umpires or any representative of the club(s) involved at any stage of the process.	All Parties
WAFC RESOLUTION		
69.13	Once a Notice of Complaint is received, the WAFC Head of Competitions will complete a preliminary assessment of the complaint to ensure it meets all requirements and is able to proceed. Further information from the complainant may be requested before a decision can be made.	
69.14	The WAFC will investigate the matter and determine the appropriate next course of action. This may involve mediation, the issuing of a policy breach or referral directly to the Tribunal.	
69.15	The WAFC will arrange for a mediation meeting between the individuals and clubs to be held at the earliest convenience. Mediation is a key resolution mechanism of complaints as it provides an opportunity for both parties: - to be heard in a safe and professionally coordinated environment; and - to reach an agreed resolution prior to the WAFC progressing to more formal outcomes.	
69.16	Any matter which has not been resolved by mediation must have a Notice of Breach issued by the WAFC as per the AFL's National Policy. This Notice will include any sanctions that may be accepted under an Early Guilty Plea Offer. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following; - a suspension from playing and/or officiating in matches; - participation in a community program; - participation in an education course; - a public apology.	
69.17	A response to an Early Guilty Plea Offer under a Notice of Breach must be received by the WAFC no later than 48 hours after receipt of the Notice of Breach. The Offending Person may accept the Early Guilty Plea Offer or may elect to contest the Notice of Breach. Where a person elects to contest the Notice, the matter will progress to Tribunal.	
69.18	The Tribunal will hear the matter in accordance with the Guidelines, Policies, Rules and Regulations of the Competition.	

70. PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO

The WAFC 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.

Where a sporting event is held on private property not owned by the organisers, it is good practice to determine a mutually agreed photography policy.

GENERAL GUIDANCE

In Australia, generally speaking, there is no law restricting photography of people (including children) in public spaces as long as the images are not;

- Indecent
- Being used for voyeurism
- Protected by a court order
- Defamatory
- Being used for commercial purposes

Where a sporting event is held on a club's private property, privately owned land, a school or council owned facilities, the owner of private property or venue is able to restrict, ban or require permission of photography anywhere in their venue (e.g. some council owned facilities will not allow mobile phones or cameras in change rooms or toilets).

Where a sporting event is held on private property not owned by the organisers, it is good practice to determine a mutually agreed photographing policy. In a game setting, Team Managers should complete the following;

- Ensure the opposing Team Manager is aware there is a Photographer at the venue. The opposing Team Manager should then in turn identify any individual who does not provide consent for their image to be taken (ie due to court order or safety reasons).
- Identify where the images will be displayed (ie social media or privately shared)
- Provide details of who to contact if concerns or complaints of inappropriate image use are raised.

Use of drones is subject to Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) rules. This includes (but not limited to);

- You must not fly your drone higher than 120 metres above ground level.
- Keeping your drone at least 30 metres away from other people.
- You must not fly over or above people when a game is in progress.
- Respect personal privacy. Don't record or photograph people without their consent.

CASA Rules can be viewed at the following link - <https://www.casa.gov.au/knowyourdrone/drone-rules>

71. INSURANCE

The WAFC 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 [AFL National Risk Protection Program](#) covers each Junior Club from November 1 to October 31 at the base bronze level for Personal Accident. All clubs are insured at a basic Bronze level coverage and should investigate upgrading their level of cover. Upgrades to higher levels and therefore higher returns on claims are available after contacting Marsh direct.

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 Program](#), 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

72. WAFC INTEGRITY TEAM

The WAFC is committed to protecting the Health, Safety and Wellbeing of all individuals participating in WA Football competitions, activities, and programs. All participants are encouraged to report any improper conduct such as;

- Child Safe Guarding
- Grooming
- Illicit Substances
- Sexual Misconduct
- Wagering
- Anti Doping
- Match Fixing

To the WAFC Integrity Team via the online report form available at - <https://www.wafootball.com.au/integrity>

PART J: DISCIPLINARY

- REPORT PROCESS
- REPORTABLE OFFENCES
- GRADING AND PENALTY RANGES
- POLICY AND CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS
- SUSPENSION
- TRIBUNAL HEARING
- MELEES

73. REPORT PROCESS

73.1. Reports can be made by the following groups;

- 73.1.a. Umpires
- 73.1.b. Umpire Coaches
- 73.1.c. Competition Officials
- 73.1.d. WAFC Staff Members

73.2. All reports are to be received by the WAFC by **9am Monday** after the match is played.

73.3. The WAFC Competitions Match Committee will assess all reports and potential Reportable Offences. They will gather the required information relevant to deciding whether a charge is made.

73.4. Following the review of each report or referral, the WAFC Competitions Match Committee will determine whether the charge is appropriate and make alterations to the charge if required. This includes;

- 73.4.a. Issuing yellow and red cards
- 73.4.b. Upgrading yellow cards to a red card
- 73.4.c. Downgrading a red card to a yellow card
- 73.4.d. Altering the reported offence to a more appropriate offence
(*eg changing a striking charge to an attempted striking charge etc*).

73.5. The WAFC Competitions Team will inform the relevant 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.

73.6. All timelines mentioned in 73.2 and 73.5 may be adjusted at the discretion of the WAFC under exceptional circumstances.

74. REPORTABLE OFFENCES

A Reportable Offence occurs where a Player or Official commits any of the Offences set out in the current AFL Laws of the Game, or any superseding Rules as provided by the AFL. There are three types of Reportable Offences:

- A low-level offence
- A classifiable offence
- A Direct to Tribunal Offence

Any Offence defined in the current AFL Laws of the Game but not specified in this handbook will be categorised by the WAFC Competitions Match Committee.

The offences covered in this section are bound by the Tribunal process as per the National Community Football Policy handbook. These guidelines are adopted by the WAFC and Country Junior Competitions to provide Clubs, Players and Officials with clear guidelines for any Player or Team Official involved in a reportable incident.

Reportable Offences span both Players and Team Officials in Year 3 to Year 12 Competitions.

Note: Due to their young age, Junior Players in Year 3 to 6 will not appear at the Community Football Tribunal.

LOW LEVEL OFFENCES	
74.1	Low Level Offences cannot be contested at the Community Football Tribunal.
74.2	The offences listed below in 74.4 do not require classification and may be addressed by the WAFC Competitions Match Committee through the issuing of a Yellow or Red card.
74.3	In the case of a Red Card for a Low Level Offence, the Player will receive an automatic one (1) match suspension.
74.4	<p>List of Low Level Offences;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attempt to Strike / Kick / Trip • Careless Contact with an Umpire • Disputing a Decision • Instigator of a Melee / Wrestle • Engaging in a Melee / Wrestle • Interfering with a Player Kicking for Goal • Unreasonable or Unnecessary contact with an Injured Player • Unreasonable or Unnecessary contact with an Umpire • 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 • Striking • Time Wasting • Tripping • Using Abusive, Insulting, Threatening or Obscene Language • Any Other Act of Low-Level Misconduct which is not a Classifiable Offence or Direct to Tribunal Offence.
CLASSIFIABLE OFFENCES	
74.6	<p>The determination of a base sanction for a Classifiable Offence will be made based on an assessment of whether:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Conduct is Intentional or Careless; - The Impact is Severe, High, Medium or Low; and - The Contact with the other Person is High/Groin/Chest or to the Body. <p><i>Note: Interpretation provisions for these determinations can be found in the National Community Football Policy Handbook.</i></p>
74.7	All Classifiable and Verbal Offences will be graded in accordance with the tables listed in section 75 .
74.8	At the discretion of the WAFC Competitions Match 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.
74.9	<p>The base sanction for Classifiable Offences can, in many instances be decreased where a Player or Official submits an Early Guilty Plea.</p> <p>Where no reduction is available, the Player or Official will receive an automatic one (1) match suspension.</p>

74.10	<p>A Player or Official charged with a Reportable Offence may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accept the Early Guilty Plea offered. - Contest the charge at the Community Football Tribunal using evidence to show they are not guilty of the Classifiable Offence or are guilty of a lesser charge. <p>The Player or Official charged must submit their option by 12pm Tuesday after the match is played.</p>
74.11	<p>List of Classifiable Offences;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Striking • Kicking or stomping • Kneeing • Charging • Rough Conduct • Tripping • Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact to the Face or Eye Region • Forceful Front-On Contact • Headbutt or Contact Using Head • Using Abusive, Insulting, Threatening 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
DIRECT TO TRIBUNAL OFFENCES	
74.12	<p>Direct to Tribunal Offences are sent directly to the Community Football Tribunal to determine an appropriate penalty within the Standard Range of Penalties.</p> <p>No Early Guilty Plea is offered for these offences.</p>
74.13	<p>Due to their young age, Junior Players in Year 3 to 6 will not appear at the Community Football Tribunal. The Standard Range of Penalties table will be used to determine an appropriate penalty.</p>
74.14	<p>List of Direct to Tribunal Offences;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attempting to Strike an Umpire • Behaving in an Abusive, Insulting, Threatening or Obscene manner towards or in relation to an Umpire • Intentional Contact with an Umpire • Spitting at or on an Umpire • Spitting on Another Person • Striking an Umpire • Any classifiable or low level offence which attracts a base sanction that the WAFC Competitions Match Committee finds inappropriate • Any other act of serious misconduct
74.15	<p>The WAFC Competitions Team and Community Football Tribunal reserve the right to apply penalties beyond the Standard Range of Penalties in circumstances that are deemed necessary.</p> <p>Any such penalty must be endorsed by either the relevant WAFC Executive Manager or WAFC Head of Competitions.</p>

75. GRADING AND PENALTY RANGES

GRADING OF CLASSIFIABLE OFFENCES

Conduct	Impact	Contact	Base Sanction	Early Guilty Plea
Intentional	Severe	All	Tribunal	Not Applicable
	High	High / Groin / Chest	Tribunal	Not Applicable
		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	Not Applicable
	Careless	Severe	All	Tribunal
High		High / Groin / Chest	3 Matches	2 Matches
		Body	2 Matches	1 Match
Medium		High / Groin / Chest	2 Matches	1 Match
		Body	1 Match	Not Applicable
Low		High / Groin / Chest	1 Match	Not Applicable
		Body	1 Match	Not Applicable

Note: Chest applies to Female Football only

GRADING OF SOCIAL MEDIA OFFENCES

Conduct	Directed At	Base Sanction
Threatening	Umpire	8 Matches +
	Another Person or Club	7 Matches +
Abusive / Obscene	Umpire	5 - 7 Matches
	Another Person or Club	3 - 6 Matches
Insulting	Umpire	2 - 4 Matches
	Another Person or Club	1 - 3 Matches

GRADING OF VERBAL ABUSE OFFENCES

Conduct	Directed At	Volume	Base Sanction	Early Guilty Plea
Threatening	Umpire	Any	Tribunal	Not Applicable
	Another Person	Loud	Tribunal	Not Applicable
		Low	3 Matches	2 Matches
Abusive / Obscene	Umpire	Loud	4 Matches	3 Matches
		Low	3 Matches	2 Matches
	Another Person	Loud	3 Matches	2 Matches
		Low	2 Matches	1 Match
		Low	2 Matches	1 Match
Insulting	Umpire	Loud	3 Matches	2 Matches
		Low	2 Matches	1 Match
	Another Person	Loud	2 Matches	1 Match
		Low	1 Match	Yellow Card
		Low	1 Match	Yellow Card

Definitions:

Threatening	Displaying an intention to cause bodily harm or causing someone to feel vulnerable
Obscene / Abusive	Extremely offensive, foul or disgusting
Insulting	Disrespectful or scornfully abusive
Loud	Could be heard more than 50 metres
Low	Could be heard less than 50 metres

Note: For Threatening or Obscene conduct, if the individual is unrepentant, add one (1) match to the Base Sanction and Early Guilty Plea

DIRECT TO TRIBUNAL STANDARD RANGE OF PENALTIES	
Striking	2 – 10 matches
Kicking	2 – 10 matches
Kneeing	2 – 10 matches
Stomping	2 – 10 matches
Charging	2 – 10 matches
Rough Conduct	2 – 10 matches
Forceful front on contact	2 – 10 matches
Headbutt or contact using head	2 – 10 matches
Eye-gouging / unreasonable or unnecessary contact to the eye region	2 – 10 matches
Unreasonable or unnecessary contact to the face	1 – 5 matches
Scratching	1 – 5 matches
Tripping	2 – 10 matches
Intentional contact with an Umpire	4 matches – 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 matches
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 matches

76. POLICY AND CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS

- 76.1. All Clubs, players, parents, spectators, officials and volunteers are bound by the WAFC's Rules, Regulations, Policies and Code of Conduct.
- 76.2. All individuals are subject to penalties at the discretion of the WAFC for any breach of 76.1.
- 76.3. If the WAFC is made aware of a Club or Individual who is in breach of its WAFC Rules, the WAFC may, if it considers appropriate and in exercising its independent discretion, conduct an investigation and make a determination based upon its own investigations.
- 76.4. When the WAFC makes a determination and imposes a penalty (if any), it must immediately inform the Club in writing detailing:
- 76.4.a. The alleged conduct and its findings in relation to it;
 - 76.4.b. The penalty; and
 - 76.4.c. The Club's right to appeal.
- 76.5. Penalties handed down by the WAFC for breaches of WAFC Rules, Regulations, Policies and Code of Conduct can only be applied and served in competitions within the scope of these rules.
- 76.6. Should any dispute or objection arise as to the meaning or interpretation of any of the WAFC Rules, Regulations, Policies or Code of Conduct, the WAFC shall settle such dispute or objection by making a determination in its sole discretion. That determination is final and binding.

77. SUSPENSION

- 77.1. Any Individual 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.
- 77.2. Any Individual 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.
- 77.3. Any Individual 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.
- 77.4. Any Individual 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.
- 77.5. Any Individual found guilty of an Offence who has been given a suspension, fine or any other sanction, shall not be permitted to enter the Arena on Match Days while the penalty remains unserved.
- 77.6. Any Player who is suspended throughout the season will be deemed ineligible for fairest and best awards.

78. 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 participants.

- 78.1. The Tribunal will hear charge/s for which a Player or Official has;
 - 78.1.a. Plead not guilty;
 - 78.1.b. Plead guilty to a lesser charge;
 - 78.1.c. Been charged with a direct to tribunal offence.
- 78.2. The Tribunal may find the Individual;
 - 78.2.a. Guilty of the original charge;
 - 78.2.b. Guilty of a different charge; or
 - 78.2.c. Not Guilty of any charge.
- 78.3. If the Individual is found guilty, the Tribunal will determine the appropriate sanction within the **Standard Range of Penalties** for the Offence.
- 78.4. Unless requested for attendance by the Tribunal Chair, Umpires or Victims may provide written or video evidence prior to the Tribunal Hearing however, must be available to be contacted by the Tribunal Chair during the Hearing period if required.
- 78.5. Players, Officials and Umpires are permitted to be accompanied by an Advocate.
- 78.6. An Advocate may not be a legal practitioner and is only to act in the role of providing support.

- 78.7. An Advocate will not be permitted to provide evidence.
- 78.8. An Advocate will not be permitted to pose questions to Umpires, Victims or Witnesses.

79. MELEES

- 79.1. 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 WAFC, is likely to bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute or prejudice the interests or reputation of the WAFC or the competition(s) conducted by the WAFC.
- 79.2. The WAFC Competitions Team will assess all melees, and the maximum penalties may be applied to teams who engage in a melee as per the following table.

OFFENCE	MATCH E-POINTS AWARDED	FINE
1 st Melee for the season	0	\$500
2 nd Melee for the season	0	\$750
3 rd and any further Melee for the season	0	\$1,000

PART K: APPEALS

- APPEAL OF TRIBUNAL DECISIONS
- APPEAL OF WAFC DECISIONS
- REQUEST TO APPEAL
- APPEAL PANEL
- APPEAL HEARING
- APPEAL DECISION

80. APPEAL OF TRIBUNAL DECISIONS

- 80.1. A charged Player or Official may decide to appeal the decision of the Community Football Tribunal to the Community Football Appeal Panel based on one of the following criteria being applied:
 - 80.1.a. An error of law has occurred;
 - 80.1.b. 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;
 - 80.1.c. The classification of the offence by the Tribunal was manifestly excessive or inadequate; or
 - 80.1.d. The sanction imposed by the Tribunal was manifestly excessive or inadequate.
- 80.2. 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.
- 80.3. All appeal lodgements of Tribunal decisions must be received by the WAFC no later than 5pm on the day following the tribunal decision being handed down.

81. APPEAL OF WAFC DECISIONS

- 81.1. Clubs are entitled to appeal penalties and / or decisions made by the WAFC for any breach of the WAFC's rules, regulations, competition policies or Code of Conduct, on the grounds that the Club's application for appeal meets any one of the following;
 - 81.1.a. An error in the application of a rule has occurred;
 - 81.1.b. 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
 - 81.1.c. The sanction imposed was manifestly excessive or inadequate.
- 81.2. E-Points cannot be appealed if aligned to a Red or Yellow Card infringement.
- 81.3. All appeal lodgements of WAFC decisions must occur within 48 hours of notification of the decision.

82. REQUEST TO APPEAL

- 82.1. All appeal lodgements must:
 - 82.1.a. Be accompanied by a \$500 fee, and
 - 82.1.b. Supply written supporting evidence that articulates how the decision fits into one of the appeal criteria listed above.
- 82.2. The club must outline on what basis the decision meets the appeal criteria (81.1 or 81.1) in its appeal submissions.
- 82.3. 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.

Bank details for appeal fees;
West Australian Football Commission
BSB: 086 006 Account: 871005544

83. APPEAL PANEL

- 83.1. The Community Football Appeal Panel members must be independent to the case and original penalty.
- 83.2. The Community Football Appeal Panel will consist of no less than three (3) people, who must consist of the following:
 - 83.2.a. No less than one (1) member of the WAFC Integrity Unity (to act as Chair); and
 - 83.2.b. Two (2) relevant WAFC Community Competition Staff or Community Football Tribunal Members.
- 83.3. 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.

84. APPEAL HEARING

- 84.1. 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 submission meets the Appeal Criteria outlined above (Section **80.1** or **81.1**).
- 84.2. 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.
- 84.3. The appeal will be considered by the Appeal Panel based solely on written submissions. The Club or Individual will not be entitled to attend Appeal Hearings
- 84.4. In making its determination, the Appeal Panel may refer to any information it thinks fit or believes is relevant to the case before it.
- 84.5. 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).
- 84.6. The Appeal Panel may not substitute its own opinion for that of the original decision maker merely because it would have exercised its discretion in a manner different from the way the original decision maker exercised its discretion.

85. APPEAL DECISION

- 85.1. The Appeal Panel shall not dismiss any case on grounds of technicality.
- 85.2. The Appeal Panel will decide as to whether the original decision is in breach of one of the appeal criteria.
- 85.3. The Appeal Panel will determine the final and appropriate penalty.
- 85.4. Following a decision by the Appeal Panel, the Club or Individual will have no further right of appeal and must accept the decision and / or penalty imposed by the Community Appeal Panel.
- 85.5. The WAFC will communicate the decision of the Appeal Panel back to the club within a reasonable period after the decision has been made.
- 85.6. 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).
In exceptional cases, the WAFC reserve the right to refund the full amount of appeal fee (being \$500) at the discretion of the WAFC.

