



**WA FOOTBALL COMMISSION**

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Return To Competitions 2020 – By Law Changes

## Recommencement of Junior Football

The WAFC is now able to provide a provisional start and end date of the Junior Competition, which will allow clubs the opportunity to prepare for a revised season in 2020.

- Return to Competitions – Weekend July 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>
- Completion of Competitions – Weekend, September 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>
- 11 Round Junior Season
  - » Yr 7-12 Round 11 to be a Live Fixture, based on Ladder positions after Round 10.
  - » Yr 3-6 Round 11 will be a Live Fixture, games to be determined by Conference Staff following Round 8.

## Competition Structures

Normal finals eligibility rules shall apply, however, the minimum games required to be finals eligible has been amended to three (3).

For the avoidance of doubt, any Player Eligibility Requirements will be 50% of 2019 Rules and Regs and rounded up if required. i.e. 6 games becomes 3 games. 5 games also becomes 3 games.

## Competition Structures – Round 11 Year 7-12

There shall be one (1) match in each division played as a Grand Final while all other sides will be fixtured against a similar positioned side to allow everyone to participate in the 11<sup>th</sup> Round.

In the event of an uneven number of teams in a division, WAFC Competition Staff will attempt to fixture a non-compulsory cross-conference fixture to another side in a similar position.

The Final Round will be fixtured after the completion of the 10th round.

Yr 7-12 Final Round Format are is follows;

- 1v2 – Grand Final
- 3v4 – Playoff for 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Flag
- 5v6 – Playoff for 5<sup>th</sup> Place
- 7v8 – Playoff for 7<sup>th</sup> Place

There will be no regrading for Community Football year in 2020.

## Rule Modifications

### Game Duration

Game lengths have been shortened to reflect the interruption to player preparation, to minimise the effects of fatigue injuries. This will also support the efforts with game change overs and social distancing requirements.

Yr 3 through Yr 6 :	4x 15-Minute Quarters.
Male Yr 7 through Yr 9 :	4x 15-Minute Quarters.
Female Yr 7 through Yr 12:	4x 15-Minute Quarters
Male Yr 10 & 11/12:	4x 18-Minute Quarters.

### Numbers on the Bench

An easing of restricted bench numbers will occur although the 50% game time rule still applies.

Yr 3 through Yr 6 remains the same (unlimited bench)

Yr 7 through Yr 12 – Maximum of 7 players on the bench. This applies to Male and Female competition.

## Rule & Policy Modifications

### Last Possession

All junior leagues and competitions will adopt the Last Possession Rule. There will be no further requirement appoint boundary umpires to adjudicate when the ball is out-of-bounds.

The WAFC is excited to trial a rule that has been used in other competitions across Australia, and the 2020 season provides us an ideal opportunity to undertake this pilot.

The home team will be required to place soft cones around the boundary line perimeter and players should be reminded to “play the whistle”.

Year 11/12 Competitions have the option to utilise Boundary Umpires at the discretion of the Conference Team and will still utilise the Last Possession Rule.

### Handshake Policy

The principle of this policy is still in place for 2020 but participants are not required to shake the hand of the umpire. It is suggested instead to discuss the positive game environment.

## Competition Administration

### Permission to Play

Registrations and permissions to play remain unchanged, all existing WAFC Community Competition Rules and Procedures are will be enforced as will the Australian Football Player and Official National Deregistration Policy.

The existing AFL National Player Registration Transfer Regulations remain unchanged although the cut off date for Transfer has been extended to July 31<sup>st</sup> in WA.

For the avoidance of doubt, zero weeks of a player's suspension are deemed to be served during the Covid-19 restrictions.

### Covid-19 Permit By-Law

In the case of a player moving from one club to another due to their existing Club not submitting teams, or participating in 2020, a player will be eligible for a Type 2 Covid Permit for the 2020 season and will revert back to their original club at the conclusion of the season.

## Volunteer Match Day Officials

The WAFC and its Junior Councils have agreed to simplify the match day volunteer structure. This includes removing several 'traditional' football roles and the combining and simplifying of other match day requirements.

### Coaches Box

Maximum of 5 people

Performing the following roles:

- Head Coach
- Assistant Coach / Runner \*
- Medical Trainer
- Team Manager

### Timekeeper Area

- Timekeeper / \*\*Scorer (Combined Role Yr 7-12)
- \*\*Interchange

*\*Where the Assistant Coach is unable to perform the duties of Team Runner an additional volunteer may be appointed to perform the duties of Runner.*

*This role MUST NOT carry out the duties of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Coach.*

*\*\*Interchange and Scorer duties are only required in Yr 7-12 games.*

*The Team Manager is permitted in both the Coaches Box and Timekeeper Area.*

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### Match Day Official (MDO)

An MDO is still to be provided by the Home side and may enter the Coaches Box or Timekeepers Area if required.

### Water Carriers

Due to Covid-19 we now have new restrictions in place regarding the sharing of water bottles. Due to this restriction, the potential for a simple mistake to result in players sharing bottles and most importantly to reduce the impact this will have on our club volunteers, Water Carriers ARE NOT permitted on the field during play in 2020.

Players should be encouraged to:

- Hydrate before and after games as per normal.
- Locate their personal drink bottle by utilising the interchange during the game.
- Utilise their own water bottle at  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{3}{4}$  time.



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- Both sides will still be required to provide a Goal Umpire if one is not provided by the competition.
- Home side will still be required to provide a Field Umpire if one is not provided by the competition.
  
- The Home side MUST provide a Timekeeper, but opposition sides are encouraged to provide a 2nd Timekeeper.
- Years 7-12: Timekeeper(s) also keeps score, confirming with Goal Umpires at the breaks.
- Years 3-6: Timekeeper is permitted (but not required) to stay in the Interchange area only.
- Water Carrier role now removed, players are encouraged to drink during the breaks or whilst rotating through the interchange. This will allow for all participants to use their own water bottle.

### Key Points

Clubs are encouraged to minimise the number of officials within Interchange Area or Coaches Box.

**No water carriers are permitted on the oval during the game.**