

**2021 JUNIOR FOOTBALL POLICIES, RULES & REGULATIONS
SUMMARY OF CHANGES**

RULE	CHANGE	RATIONALE
Rules & Regulations - Introduction 3.0 Interpretations and Definitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short dialogue added below header 	For Club Presidents to filter questions to Competition staff. In many instances, the President will already know the answer, and this will ensure a clear reporting path.
Rules & Regulations - Competition Governance 7 Disputes and Appeals. 7.1 E-point appeals 7.2 Appeal Fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjust header to read <i>Disputes and Appeals – Policies, Rules and Regulations</i> Clubs are entitled to appeal penalties <i>and or decisions...</i> Remove <i>regional development council or other</i> E-Points cannot be appealed <i>if aligned to a Red or Yellow Card infringement</i> \$250 non-refundable fee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create clear definition between Tribunal appeal process and By-law appeal process. Clearer definition for what can be appealed. Removal of RDC from appeal process Update to appeal process regarding E-points. This fee will be used to facilitate an appeal via an independent body.
Rules & Regulations 9.2 Year Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>In a combined age group, only the senior aged players can apply to go up to the next age bracket.</i> <p>e.g., In year 7/8 Combined competition, only the Year 8 aged players can apply to go up to the next age bracket.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will reduce the age gap between players as the development path continues to grow.
Rules & Regulations 9.13 *New Heading* Gender Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9.13 <i>The WAFC is committed to inclusion and will utilise the AFL’s Gender Diversity Policy in instances where Trans, Non-Binary or other Gender Identity is raised.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For any decision related to Gender Diversity, the WAFC will refer to the 2020 AFL policy and apply accordingly. Policy link attached
Rules & Regulations – Tribunal Guidelines Tribunal Hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> accompanied by an advocate however this advocate may not be a legal practitioner <i>and is only to act in the role of providing support. An advocate will not be asked to provide evidence.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definition of advocate’s role
Rules & Regulations Reportable Offences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22.2.2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update to current (2020) AFL Rules
WAFC Policies Pol.04: Equal Opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3a. – Coaches are required to utilise all available players up to the maximum allowable in each match. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification regarding utilising players when available to ensure players are not missing out on game time to make rotations easier and ensure all available players are provide equal opportunities to participate.
Pol.05: Drugs & Alcohol Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Smoke Free Environments must be maintained and implemented into all areas of our game using the following strategies. Smoking includes use of e-cigarettes and vaping. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update of description to include vaping and e-cigarettes.
Pol.07: Weather Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of paragraph to ensure consistency across Metro conferences in the event of weather affected fixtures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explanation to cover results if required for Finals games

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Pol.08: Protective Equipment Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4b – removal of reference to “runners, water carriers, sports trainers and medical” • 4d – further definition to “other protective gear” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unnecessary inclusion in injury prevention bylaws for players • For the safety of all participants, this ensures medically required items have been assessed prior to use in games.
Pol.09: Vilification Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5b – WAFC may choose to independently discuss mediation with each party if appropriate and can include sharing of statements/claims. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This process is available if the mediator believes a resolution will be unlikely should the parties confront each other.
Pol.10b: Competitions Policy: Colours & Team Uniform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items 3 & 4 provide details regarding compression garments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This adjustment has been made after consideration was given to the time of games being played and the impact wearing such garments have on different age groups in matches.
Pol.10c: Competitions Policy – Fixtures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2c – Determination of results should COVID (or similar) impact a singular or multiple round(s). • 2d – Final’s qualifications to be assessed at WAFC discretion. • Removal of Item 5 – Cross Conference Fixtures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlining results should unforeseen circumstances nullify an entire round. • Any adjustments to criteria will be assessed thoroughly before finalising and may be subject to further changes throughout the season. • A post-final, cross conference competition will not be held in 2021.
Pol.10d: Competitions Policy: Transfers and Permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruling adjustment that allows players to transfer as per AFL National Policy, but if in doing so breaches the policy, a penalty can be prescribed by the Competitions staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No set penalties in place allow for the Comps Team to assess the impact of the breach on the competition and if appropriate, penalise teams accordingly. Any potential penalties are determined by Competition Management Team (not just local Conference) to ensure consistency across all Metro Competitions.
Pol.10e: Competitions Policy: Results, Premiership Points & E-Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2b & 2c includes the ability for the WAFC to fine clubs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fines may be activated if clubs/teams repeatedly acquire yellow or red cards.
Pol.10f: Competitions Policy: Match Forfeits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of penalty for use of ineligible player or official • Reference to payment requirements in the event of a forfeit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra explanation to assist clubs with understanding the consequences of utilising an ineligible participant. • Clarity regarding payment of umpires in the event of a forfeit (also explained in Pol 14a)
Pol.10g Competition Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 7 now included in competition F & B voting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although the primary focus of coaches must remain on team play and participation, this rule change supports players transitioning from Modified rules football.
Pol.14a: Umpire Policy: Umpire Fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor adjustments to allow contingency for single umpires in older ages if 2nd umpire is unavailable. • If less than 24 hrs notice provided, forfeiting club must pay full umpire costs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated to include as not previously mentioned which left clubs and umpires unclear on payment amount. • As per Policy 10f.

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Pol.14d: Umpire Policy: Handshake Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of COVID-19 relevant adjustment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy adjustment to comply with current Health Dept. guidance
Pol.15a: Match Operations: Ground Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjustment of field sizes for all Male, Year 10 matches and above to have the ability to utilise a full-sized field. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 a-side and 18 a-side football in Year 10 to trial full sized ovals in 2021.
Pol.15d: Match Operations: Game Day Even Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of yellow card 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definition provided to clarify what to do in the event a player is yellow carded whilst team is utilising the even-up rule.
Pol.15e: Match Operations: Send Off Rule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3e – Once red carded, the participant should leave the venue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of the red carded participant from the venue will help to de-escalate any further potential issues. Once the person has gathered their possessions from the changerooms, they should be removed entirely.
Pol.15g: Match Operations: Ground Encroachment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Penalties can include but are not limited to, yellow or red cards, fines, e-points, match suspensions and deregistration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scope of penalties provided. Ground encroachment is one of the most serious breaches of policy as it impacts any attempts to escalate on-field issues.
Pol.15g: Match Operations: Stretchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further explanation for time delays and time remaining once recommencing play, if possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extra definition provided for clarity when time is stopped due to a stretcher entering the field.
Pol.15h: Match Operations: Match Balls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further definition to ball manufacturer and branding sponsor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Match balls are to be manufactured by Burley Sekem and display the 2 & 5 Healthways logos.
Pol.18: Photo & Video Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance provided around requests for privacy and consideration for photos and videos to not be published on social media. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The privacy and safety of all participants should be respectfully adhered to.
Pol.19f: True Sport – Runners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previously Runners and Water Carriers Removal of Water carriers Water Carriers are only permitted in extreme heat at the discretion of WAFC Competition Staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water carriers are not required on the ground. Each quarter is no longer than 15-20mins, which is within the safe time frame as suggested by trusport & other sources. Players are also able to rotate off the ground for a drink and utilise their own water bottle in line with Health Department advice. The removal of water carriers also ensures umpires can focus on players and the game and removes non-match participants being on the ground and engaging with players.
Pol.22: Primary Registration Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WAFL Futures – All players are to be primarily registered with their WAFL club during the Futures Competition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is in alignment with WAFL Rules and Regs which are ensure players are registered for correct WAFL team
Pol.23: Gender Diversity Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of AFL Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment to delivering football to all participants in a safe and fair program.

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WAFC Comp Rules Year 3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjust Male Year 4 football to synthetic. • 6a – Updated Coaches Box numbers to max of 5 people. • 6d - Removal of Water Carriers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid undeveloped players being exposed to leather football when their skills are not ready. • Trialled during 2020 with positive impact & feedback.
Year 5-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjust all Female Size 2 footballs to synthetic. • 6a – Updated Coaches Box numbers to max of 5 people. • 6d - Removal of Water Carriers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent rationale.
Year 7-8 Male	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4c – Year 7 Competition to include Fairest & Best voting and record goal kickers. • 7a – Updated Coaches Box numbers to max of 5 people. • 7d - Removal of Water Carriers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aligns all Year 7-12 competitions regarding awards. • Consistent rationale.
Year 9-10 Male	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1c – Maximum of 7 permitted on bench in each competition. • 2c – Last possession rule to be applied to all Year 9 & 10 Competitions. • 3aii – Definition regarding restrictions on play ups • 4ai - <i>A player is not permitted to play in multiple teams in the older year group within a junior competition, as per 3.a.i</i> • 6a – Updated Coaches Box numbers to max of 5 people. • 6d – Removal of water carriers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra numbers to allow greater participation. • Consistency across Junior football • Definition provided to ensure player sonly play for one side in higher age group. • Rule definition creates consistency across Conferences. • Consistent rationale
Year 11-12 Male	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2b – Removal of 5m Protected area rule. • 4a – Removal of Premier Division reference • 5b – Removed references to other age groups. • 6a – Updated Coaches Box numbers to max of 5 people. • 6d – Removal of water carriers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protected area to be consistent with AFL rules. • Premier Division not currently supported. • Removal of irrelevant information • Consistent rationale
Year 7-12 Female	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4c – Year 7 Competition to include Fairest & Best voting and record goal kickers. • 5b iv–xii – Inclusion of Rogers Cups relevant qualification criteria for Community Finals. • 7a – Updated Coaches Box numbers to max of 5 people. • 7d - Removal of Water Carriers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aligns all Year 7-12 competitions regarding awards. • Consistent application of finals qualification rules as per Male participants in WAFL Colts. • Consistent rationale