

2023 WAFC COMPETITION RULES – Eligibility & Finals Qualifications



BACKGROUND

All competitions managed by the West Australian Football Commission are played as per the AFL Laws of Australian Football. In addition to the AFL Laws of Australian Football, the below local rules apply to Junior and Youth Football competitions in Western Australia to ensure fair and even competitions whilst maintaining a strong development focus for all players collectively. Coaches must endeavour to coach players within the spirit that these rules were intended (refer to WAFC Junior & Youth Rules & Regulations, Rule 1 – Spirit of Junior Football.)

ELIGIBILITY & QUALIFICATION RULES

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

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