

CIRCULAR



Subject: ABANDONED 3RD JULY 2021 FIXTURE
Date: 19th July 2021
Document ID: 46, 2020-21
From: David Armstrong, General Manager
Ph: 9287 5522 (Office Hours Mon to Fri, 8.30am to 5pm)
Email: darmstrong@wafc.com.au
Audience: Club Committees, Board Members

Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none">The League will not be re-fixturing 3rd July round.	Action: FYI
--	-----------------------

The League appreciates club feedback provided at the recent Club President's Meeting and from the 12 clubs who wrote to the League proceeding the meeting. Three consistent themes emerged:

1. Integrity
2. Practicalities
3. Commercial

Integrity

We understand that every attempt be made to uphold the integrity of the competition. Our endeavours to date have been impacted with the abandoned 24th April round. The competition's predicament is that further lockdowns are highly likely, and our best endeavours may be in vain. However, as requested by clubs, we have assessed replaying the 3rd July fixture in the last round. We also assessed the feasibility and practicalities of extending the season, playing mid-week under lights and Sunday fixtures.

Practicalities

In assessing the practicalities of moving 143 matches fixtured 3rd July 2021 to the last round, the following was considered:-

- Due to limited ground availability across the Perth metro area our fixtures are interconnected. When considering fixture changes we need to bear in mind other PFL grades, junior football, rugby and soccer.
- PFL has four competitions with the respective last qualifying round effecting four weekends. Integrated: 24th July, Womens: 7th August, Mens B to E: 14th August, Mens A Grade 21st August.

To highlight the interconnectedness of fixtures as shown in red:

- Re-fixturing the last round of women's matches (R14) would require re-fixturing B to E Grades (R17) and A-Grade (R16).
- Re-fixturing the last round B to E Grades (R18) and would require re-fixturing A-Grade (R17).
- Saturday 7th-14th-21st August has 95 junior matches fixtured across 16 senior grounds which need to be factored.
- Consideration also needs to be provided for soccer fixtures at Willetton, and rugby fixtures at Cottesloe and UWA (changerooms) across these three weekends.

	August				September			
	7 th	14 th	21 st	28 th	4 th	11 th	18 th	26 th
Integrated	Finals W2	Finals W3	GF					AFL GF
Women	R14	Finals W1	Finals W2	Finals W3	GF			AFL GF
B – E	R17	R18	Finals W1	Finals W2	Finals W3	GF		AFL GF
A	R16	R17	R18	Finals W1	Finals W2	Finals W3	GF	AFL GF

- The practicalities of re-fixturing the last round means multiple weeks will require re-fixturing. Clubs have advised that changing fixtures will impact some players, officials and club volunteers that have planned personal, work and club events based on advertised fixtures.

Commercial

- Club financial benchmarking shows that 45% of club revenue is generated from bar/canteen sales.
- Clubs have advised that home club events planned will result in loss of important revenue.
- Re-fixturing 7th-14th-21st August inevitably means some clubs may now lose 1 or 2 home matches and some may gain an additional home match.

Summary

Providing some certainty to players, officials and club volunteers in uncertain times is important. In our best endeavours to maintain competition integrity, the practicalities of re-fixturing, and the financial and logistical impact on players and clubs appears greater. After careful consideration and consistent with the decision not to re-fixture the abandoned round 24th April, the League will not be re-fixturing 3rd July round.

FINANCIAL

As WA remains in a State of Emergency and the possibility of further WA Government COVID-19 restrictions impacting clubs, the League will consider the financial impact on clubs at the end of the season.