



# **WAFW**

# **RULES AND**

# **REGULATIONS 2024**



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# INTRODUCTION

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The WAFLW Rules & Regulations reflect the following guiding principles:

- To promote, develop, and ensure the effective management of WAFLW football matches and recognise the WAFLW as the pre-eminent league in Western Australia.
- To recognize that the WAFLW Competition sits within a national framework and is commensurate with other State leagues;
- To create an exciting and even competition which is appealing to the public;
- To ensure the WAFLW is a broadcast quality competition;
- To adopt good governance and integrity within the WAFLW competition;
- To ensure Player welfare is paramount;
- To administer natural justice in Arbitration and Tribunal hearings;
- To ensure transparency and fairness in transfer rules
- To strive for consistency of coaching standards and the development of Players in the Rogers Cup competition;
- To encourage good sportsmanship; and
- To providing a safe, fair and inclusive game day environment for all involved.

The WAFC conducts the WAFLW competition in accordance with its power under the Constitution of WAFC.

These Rules & Regulations:

- contain 'introductory boxes' which provide background, context and meaning to the Rules that follow;
- contain policies in the Schedules which form part of the Rules & Regulations;
- have been drafted with input from the WAFLW Clubs;
- will refer back to preceding versions of the Rules and Regulations should there be any dispute regarding the interpretation of the current Rule and Regulations; and
- may be amended by WAFC after duly consulting with the WAFLW Clubs.
- may be amended by WAFC from time to time as it, in its absolute discretion, deems fit.

The WAFLW competition plays under the Laws of Australian Football as determined by the Australian Football League. These Laws are updated annually and published by the AFL. The WAFC may deviate from these Laws in order to provide for Laws which better suit the WAFLW competition.

All Players must indicate their willingness to abide by the WAFLW Rules and Regulations by completing the Competition Registration Form via Play HQ.

Each rule shall be read and construed independently of the other provisions of these Rules. Parts of a rule may be valid if other parts or provisions of the rule were deleted.

The WAFC will act in the best interests of the competition, without undue formality and without being bound by the rules if they consider it is not in the best interests of the competition.

Any matter of any kind whatsoever not dealt with or provided for in this document may be dealt with in such manner as the WAFC determines.

A copy of these WAFLW Rules and Regulations will be provided on the WA Football Website [www.wafootball.com.au](http://www.wafootball.com.au).

# 1 REGISTRATION OF WAFLW PLAYERS

The West Australian Football League Women's (**WAFLW**) registration system aims to promote the inclusion of geographically Zoned Players on WAFLW Club lists and to limit the recruiting of Players that are external to Club boundaries. As a result, the registration system has defined limitations placed on the ability for WAFLW Clubs to recruit Players. This registration system has been implemented to enhance the geographic zoned model adopted by the West Australian Football Commission (**WAFC**) for football in Western Australia.

The West Australian football system allows for Players to participate at multiple levels of competition. Conceptually, the Australian Football League Women's (**AFLW**) is the highest level, followed by the WAFLW and Community Football (Senior Metropolitan and Country Leagues). Player movement is determined by transfer and permit guidelines as outlined by the AFL National Transfer Regulations and further defined in [Rules 1.4](#) and 1.5, of these Rules.

The WAFLW implements a points system for registered Talent Identified Players of a WAFLW Club and a Rogers Cup List for Zoned Players who are bound to their club until the calendar year when which they turn 19 years of age. Limitations placed on WAFLW Clubs through the use of the points system and a Rogers Cup List may have an impact on the ability of a Player to be registered to a WAFLW Club. Guidelines for the registration of senior Players with a WAFLW Club are defined in Rule 2 (Registered Senior Player List) and Rogers Cup Players are defined in [Rule 8](#) relating to the Rogers Cup Competition.

## 1.1 Registration

### 1.1.1 Registration Process

- a) The Registration Process will be overseen by the WAFC.
- b) The WAFC shall assess and determine any question relating to the right or qualification of any person to register in the WAFLW competition
- c) Prior to any Player playing in any WAFLW Match, any public announcement or points list adjustment, the WAFLW Club must:
  - i. submit a completed Registration (Form 1), on DocuSign, if the player has transferred from another WAFLW Club or if a player is being added to their WAFLW Senior List on a Season Permit; and
  - ii. ensure compliance in accordance with Rule 2.1
  - iii. submit a Form 6 – Player Transfer agreement (if applicable), lodged on DocuSign.
- d) All WAFLW Players (League and Rogers Cup) must complete an online WAFLW Registration form via Play HQ at the beginning of each WAFLW Season.
- e) It is the responsibility of the WAFLW player to supply their name and relevant details to the WAFLW via the online WAFLW Registration form.
- f) In completing the online WAFLW Registration form and / or signing a WAFLW Registration Form (Form 1) in accordance with 1.1.1 c) i, a Player agrees to follow the terms as set out in these Rules and accepts that these Rules may be amended from time to time at the sole discretion of the WAFC.
- g) In the event that any Player or Club fails to provide information or complete the processes for registration contemplated by (1.1.1) above, the corresponding WAFLW Club may be penalised in accordance with [Rule 10](#).
- h) Any AFLW Contracted player, seeking to register or transfer to a WAFLW club will be subject to approval by the WAFC. AFLW clubs do not have the authority to allocate or make decision on the registration or transfer of a player within the WAFLW competition.
- i) The WAFC may, in its absolute discretion without giving reasons:

- i. Approve or deny the registration or transfer of an AFL Contracted player.

### **1.1.2 Player and Club Education**

The WAFC is committed to ensuring safe, welcoming and inclusive environments for all people involved in Australian Rules Football in Western Australia. To achieve this, the WAFC has adopted a specific and consistent approach to a range of social issues, underpinned by education, awareness-raising activities, support services, social responsibilities, research and evaluation, and compliance in line with education programs delivered by the AFL. The following key topics may be covered:

- Alcohol
- Anti-Doping
- Illicit Drugs
- Social Media
- Mental Health
- Vilification and Discrimination
- Concussion
- MRP/Tribunal

As part of their obligations to the WAFC, WAFLW Club' Officials and Players must attend and complete education programs as required by the WAFC to ensure those participants in the WAFLW are informed to ensure a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment.

All Education sessions must be held at the WAFL Club facility.

- a) All Players (Rogers Cup and League Players) must attend any education session, facilitated by the WAFC and delivered to WAFLW Clubs on key issues and challenges that exist within society and, therefore, within WAFLW Clubs as required from time to time by the WAFC.
- b) Any representative, including but not limited to an Authorised Officer, Coaches, Football Staff, Officials, of a WAFLW Club may be required to attend and complete the education session contemplated by (a) above upon request by the WAFC.
- c) In the event that any Player or Club Official fails to attend or complete those education sessions contemplated by (a) above, the WAFLW Club will be required to liaise with the WAFC to ensure all players and officials have undertaken the education. Non-compliance by the corresponding WAFLW Club with Rule 1.1.2 may result in the club being penalised in accordance with [Rule 11.](#)

### **1.1.3 Authorised Officers**

- a) WAFLW Clubs must lodge a list of two (2) persons who shall for the purpose of these Rules, act as that WAFLW Club's Authorised Officer.
- b) The Authorised Officers of the Club have the right to act on behalf of the Club in all matters including but not limited to, registrations, transfers, permits and termination of matches.
- c) WAFLW Authorised Officers (Form 4) must be updated and lodged with the WAFL as of 1<sup>st</sup> November each year and lodged to the WAFC on Docusign.
- d) In the event that an Authorised Officer is no longer required by the WAFLW Club to act as an Authorised Officer, or the list of two (2) persons otherwise requires amendment during the year, the WAFLW Club must update the WAFL of the change by completing a new Form 4 on Docusign.

### **1.1.4 Minimum Age of Registration**

- a) Any Player reaching sixteen (16) years of age during the current season's calendar year may apply to the WAFLW to register as a Player of the WAFLW in the WAFLW League or Reserves or Rogers

Cup competitions.

- i. For the avoidance of doubt, any player reaching fifteen (15) years of age during the current season's Calendar year may apply to play WAFLW Rogers Cup but will be ineligible to play WAFLW League.
  - a. There will be a maximum number of players eligible to play in any match in accordance with Rule 8
- b) A Player registration will only be accepted by the WAFLW if the Player satisfies the Minimum Age Criteria.

### **1.1.5 Obligations of the WAFC**

- a) The WAFC has an obligation to:
  - i. ensure any application for registration is lodged in accordance with these Rules;
  - ii. approve those applications which conform with these Rules; and
  - iii. deny those applications which do not conform with these Rules and advise the unsuccessful WAFLW Club of the denial of registration.

### **1.1.6 Obligations of the WAFLW Club**

- a) WAFLW Clubs must complete a WAFLW Registration Form (Form 1) signed by the Player (and parent/guardian where the Player is under 18 years of age), and/or complete an online registration form as per [Rule 1.1.1](#).
- b) Where a WAFLW Registration Form (Form 1) is required in accordance with [1.1.1 c](#)) i., the WAFLW Registration Form must be provided to the WAFLW in accordance with e) below and signed by an Authorised Officer of the WAFLW Club prior to the Player playing any match for that WAFLW Club.
- c) WAFLW Clubs must not play any person who is not regarded as a Registered Player of that WAFLW Club in accordance with [Rule 1](#)
- d) Unless a Player is regarded as a Registered Player with the WAFLW Club, the Player will be considered ineligible, and the Club will be penalised in accordance with [Rule 11](#) in the event that the Player participates in any scheduled Matches.
- e) All required paperwork as per [1.1.1 c](#)) must be completed and lodged to the WAFC on DocuSign.

### **1.1.7 Licence and Funding Agreements**

The WAFC provides funding to WAFL Clubs as determined by the Funding Agreements which imposes obligations on WAFLW Clubs in return for financial support provided by the WAFC.

Both the Licence Agreement and the Funding Agreement allows the WAFC to impose penalties for breach of either the Licence Agreement and/or the Funding Agreement.

- a) In order to field any team in the WAFLW Competition, the WAFL Club responsible for that team must be in possession of a licence as granted by the WAFC.
- b) The terms of the licence contemplated by (a) above shall be governed by a Licence Agreement.
- c) Those WAFL Clubs in possession of a licence may be provided funding by the WAFC in consideration of the terms and principles determined by the WAFC.
- d) The terms of the licence contemplated by (c) above shall be governed by a Funding Agreement, either included or a separate agreement.
- e) Any WAFL Club party to a Licence Agreement and/or Funding Agreement acknowledges that both documents are fundamental to their participation in any competition governed by the WAFC.
- f) Any WAFL Club who breaches either a Licence Agreement and/or Funding Agreement will be



penalised in accordance with [Rule 11](#).

### **1.1.8 Cancellation of Registration**

- a) The WAFC may at any time and on such conditions as it thinks fit cancel or suspend the registration of a Player, Coach or Official when it is of the opinion that the Player or Coach has:
  - i. conducted themselves in a manner unbecoming of a WAFLW Coach, Player or Official.
  - ii. conducted themselves in a manner likely to prejudice the reputation or interests of the WAFC.
  - iii. has brought the game of football into disrepute.
  - iv. has been found guilty at the WAFL Tribunal or by the Match Review Panel three times in one season: or
  - v. has met criteria defined in AFL National Deregistration Guidelines.
- b) Notwithstanding (a) above, the WAFC in its sole discretion may refer any allegation of a breach of the Laws of Australian Football by a person to the WAFL Tribunal.

### **1.1.9 WAFLW League Team Bye (Home and Away)**

- a) Any player that plays WAFLW League in the week preceding the WAFLW League team bye will be ineligible to play Rogers Cup on the weekend of the WAFLW League bye.
- b) The WAFL will not be accepting any applications for special circumstances to circumvent this rule.
- c) Penalties may apply for a breach of this rule in accordance with Rule 10

### **1.1.10 Player Ineligibility**

- a) A Player is deemed an Ineligible Player by the WAFC where that Player or their WAFLW Club:
  - i. fails to comply with any provision contained in [Rule 1](#);
  - ii. is currently under suspension (in any league); or
  - iii. has had their registration cancelled in accordance with [Rule 1.1.8](#)
- b) Where an Ineligible Player participates in a sanctioned WAFLW match, the team that Player represented will be considered as playing an Ineligible Player and the WAFLW Club to which that team belongs will be penalised in accordance with [Rule 11](#)
- c) For the avoidance of doubt, penalties will be classified as a Major Breach, Intermediate Breach or Minor Breach as follows:
  - i. Major Breach
    - a. Any Player that has not had a completed registration or a permit of any type lodged with the WAFLW and is currently registered in an alternative league.
    - b. Player is under 18 years of age and is not zoned to the WAFLW Club.
    - c. Player is currently under suspension in any league.
    - d. Player is currently listed for WAFLW Club on Supplementary List as defined in Rule 2.3; or
    - e. Player registration had been previously cancelled by the WAFLW or has been nationally de-registered under AFL National deregistration policy.
  - ii. Intermediate Breach
    - a. Player has previously had registration form lodged with WAFLW, is registered in another senior league and did not complete relevant permit for Temporary Registration.
    - b. Player is registered or is playing on temporary registration and is currently listed for WAFLW Club on Long Term Injury List as defined in [Rule 2.3](#)

- c. Player was not included on the Senior 30-40 list and participates in League Football.
  - iii. Minor Breach
    - a. Player is zoned under 18 years of age and registration form was not included prior to the match.
    - b. Player is a registered Rogers Cup aged Player who does not qualify in accordance with Rule 8 and is deemed to be an Ineligible Player.
- d) In the event a WAFLW Club is deemed to have committed a Major Breach, the Club will:
  - i. lose all premiership points and these will be awarded to the opposition team, where applicable;
  - ii. record a match score of zero points for and maintain the original opposition score as their points against, however the team in opposition will maintain the original match percentage (the scores stand); and
  - iii. individual Player statistics for the match will stand as recorded, meaning all Players receive a match credit for games totals, match statistics are included in Player tallies and any reports to be assessed by the WAFL Tribunal stand.

## 1.2 Rules Relating to Registration

### 1.2.1 Zoned Players

The WAFLW operates under a zoning agreement that outlines WAFLW Club geographical recruitment zones. The aim of this system is to develop and promote Players from within their respective WAFLW Club allocated zone.

- a) WAFLW Club metropolitan and country zones are as defined in [Rule 7](#).
- b) A Player is considered a Zoned Player of their respective WAFLW Club until they are turning 18 years of age or older in that current season calendar year. A Player is also considered a Zoned Player if they are included on the WAFLW Club Rogers Cup list as defined in [Rule 8](#). Any Player that is not yet turning 18 years of age or younger in that calendar year may not transfer to another WAFLW Club unless there is a mutual agreement reached with the zoned WAFLW Club.
- c) Players (or Player representatives) that approach a WAFLW Club that is not their zoned Club are to be referred to their zoned WAFLW Club. Any contact or discussion with a Zoned Player that is under 18 years of age and/or who is not turning 18 in that calendar year and not zoned must be initiated with the zoned WAFLW Club and permission granted by that WAFLW Club to allow for any further discussion to take place. WAFLW Clubs that make any approach or contact with a Zoned Player of another WAFLW Club will have the appropriate penalty applied as defined in Rule 10.
- d) A Player that is under 18 years is considered a Zoned Player and may be recruited by another WAFLW Club provided they satisfy criteria outlined in [Rule 1.3](#)
- e) Any Player that is turning 18 years of age or older in that calendar year and is not included on the WAFLW Clubs Rogers Cup or Senior Players List is automatically eligible for transfer between WAFLW Clubs.
- f) A Player is bound to their WAFLW Club zone where the Player has lived in a Permanent Residence within the WAFLW Club metropolitan or country zone for a period of not less than 18 consecutive months.
- g) In the event that a Player's parents reside at more than one address the Permanent Residence is determined by the address that the Player primarily resides.
- h) For the purposes of establishing Permanent Residence in accordance with (g) above, the WAFLW may request further documentation to establish the players custodial parent and consideration may be given to:

- i. the residential address of the custodial parent; and
  - ii. the residential address listed at the players school;
- i) Any person who is temporarily residing within a WAFLW Club zone for the purpose of attending a scholastic institute, military or service institute or is incarcerated in a correctional facility, shall not become bound to the WAFLW Club in that WAFLW Club zone.
- j) Penalties may apply for a breach of this rule in accordance with Rule 10.

### 1.2.2 Non-Football Player Zoning

The purpose of this rule is to enable potential players turning 17 years of age or older who do not currently play AFL football at any level to be introduced into the Football Talent Pathway. This will enable first choice athletes to register with a WAFL Club and not be residentially bound.

- a) Any person who has not held an active AFL football registration for the preceding twenty-four (24) months at any level and is turning 17 or 18 years of age in that calendar year will be eligible to register with any WAFL Club in the calendar year the Player turns 17 years of age or older, regardless of where the Player may be zoned under these Rules.

### 1.2.3 Listed Players

The WAFLW operates under a points system for registered Senior Players of a WAFLW Club as defined in [Rule 2](#) Registered Senior Player Points List and a Rogers Cup List defined in [Rule 8](#). WAFLW Clubs are permitted to nominate a number of players in accordance with Rule 2.5 from their Senior Player List that are regarded as Listed Protected Players of that WAFLW Club.

Listed Players may only transfer to another WAFLW Club if there is mutual agreement reached with the current WAFLW Club.

The WAFC may adjust the number of listed players at their discretion from time to time.

- a) Any Player who is registered with a WAFLW Club and moves interstate or overseas either for personal reasons, through interstate transfer or registered to an AFLW Club, shall remain tied to the WAFLW Club as if the player were at all times included on the Clubs Senior Players List or Rogers Cup List, whether or not they are so included until:
  - i. The Player is transferred by their WAFLW Club to any other Club, WAFLW or otherwise. The WAFLW Club may include the Player on their supplementary list as defined in [Rule 2.2](#) Supplementary List on completion of transfer from the WAFLW Club.
- b) All AFL Senior or Rookie list Players that have been delisted by their respective AFLW Club and are bound to their WAFL Club as outlined in Rule 1.2.3 a) shall be eligible for transfer to another WAFL Club .

### 1.2.3.1 Notice of Player Discussion

In order to ensure transparency across the WAFLW, Players and/or representatives of, are prevented from holding discussions with WAFLW Clubs other than their own without notifying their WAFLW Club.

The obligation to notify a WAFLW Club of any discussions with one of their Listed Players provide that WAFLW Club with the opportunity to consider that Player's position and where appropriate, hold their own discussions in relation that Player's future at the WAFLW Club.

For Avoidance of doubt, this Rule 1.2.3.1 only applies to players who are on a WAFLW Clubs Protected List or are classified under [Rule 2.1.1](#)

These provisions ensure transparency across the WAFLW in the interests of all WAFLW Clubs.

- a) Listed Players in accordance with Rule 1.2.3, may make approach or may be approached by an alternate WAFL Club outside the Transfer Application Period contained in Rule 1.4.1, provided a Notice of Player Discussion (Form 10) is lodged detailing discussion within 24 hours of the discussion occurring.
- b) A discussion can be made in person, via the phone or any form of communication including social media. This also includes casual conversations and official meetings between the club and player that are instigated by the club coach or club official.
- c) A Notice of Player Discussion (Form 10) must be lodged by the WAFL Club (Destination Club) who is approaching or has been approached by the Player using the WAFL Online administration system.
- d) Following a Notice of Player Discussion (Form 10) being lodged in accordance with a) or c), the Player's source WAFLW Club and the destination Club will receive a notification by email of the discussion having occurred.
- e) Should the Destination Club offer the player an opportunity to leave the Primary Club and play for the Destination Club, and the player chooses to accept the offer, the Destination Club may request a transfer on the PlayHQ database. Any player Transfer must still comply with the relevant Transfer Rules under [Rule 1.4](#)
- f) It is the responsibility of the Destination Club to seek clarification, from the WAFL, of the points value of any player prior to making any approach.
- g) WAFLW Clubs may only approach or have Player discussions with another WAFLW Club's Listed player during the period as determined by the WAFC at the conclusion of the WAFL season until the end of the Transfer Applications Period.
- h) For the avoidance of doubt, all players listed on the WAFL Online administration system will be considered as Listed players and subject to g) above and Rule 1.4 where no player can be transferred between WAFL clubs.
- i) WAFLW Clubs acting contrary to this Rule 1.2.3.1 will be penalised in accordance with [Rule 11](#)

### 1.2.3.2 Permission to Train

- a) No Listed Players or Talent Identified may train with a Destination Club, unless there has been a mutual agreement between Clubs documented in a Permission to Train (Form 22), stating the terms with which permission is granted.
- b) For the purposes of this Rule, training includes any involvement in any team activity, or any activities supervised by any member of the coaching staff at a Destination Club.
- c) The primary WAFLW Club must lodge the Permission to Train (Form 22) using WAFL Online administration system.
- d) Following a Permission to Train (Form 22) being lodged in accordance with (c) above, the Player's

primary WAFL Club and the destination WAFL Club will receive a notification of the approval by email.

- e) No Listed Player may play any Inter-Club or Intra-Club Match with any other Club, unless there has been a mutual agreement between Clubs provided by Permission to Train (Form 22), stating the terms with which permission is granted.
- f) In the event that a Player intends to play in any Inter-Club or Intra-Club Match with any other Club, the Player's primary WAFLW Club must lodge the Permission to Train (Form 22) using WAFL Online administration system.
- g) Following a Permission to Train (Form 22) being lodged in accordance with (f) above, the Player's primary WAFLW Club and the destination WAFLW Club will receive a notification of the approval by email.
- h) Once written permission is granted, the Primary Club may not retract permission without written agreement from the WAFC. If it is agreed by the WAFC to retract the permission the destination club must cease all contact with the player immediately.
- i) WAFLW Clubs acting contrary to this Rule 1.2.3.2 will be penalised in accordance with [Rule 11](#)

#### **1.2.4 Community League Players (Western Australia)**

The WAFLW aims to promote Player development and allows Players registered in Community Leagues within the state of Western Australia to register with a WAFLW Club.

Community Football Leagues are amateur and country leagues; including any of the Perth Football League, the Metropolitan Football League or the West Australian Country Football League.

A Player may be registered at a Primary Club in the WAFLW however they may still play for a Community Football League. This ensures that Community Football Leagues receive the benefit of quality WAFLW Players in their games where practical.

- a) Players may play under Temporary Registration between WAFLW and affiliated WACFL leagues in accordance with [Rule 1.5](#)
- b) Players may play under Temporary Registration between WAFLW and affiliated metropolitan senior community leagues in accordance with [Rule 1.5](#)
- c) Players transferring out of the WAFLW, who have been transferred to a WAFLW Club from a Community Club shall be transferred back to their club of origin. Should the player wish to be transferred to an alternative community club, the player will need to be transferred from that community club. Players are still eligible to be permitted in accordance with [Rule 1.5](#)
  - i. For the avoidance of doubt, if there is a transfer agreement between two community clubs, the agreement/ document must be uploaded to the players PLAY HQ profile by the WAFLW Club authorised officer.

#### **1.2.5 Coaches**

- a) The Head Coach of each grade (Rogers Cup and League) must hold an AFL Level two coach accreditation at the commencement of the season in the current football calendar year.
- b) A League and Rogers Cup Assistant coaches may be actively working towards their level two coach accreditation for the current season.
- c) For the avoidance of doubt, "actively working towards" means the coach (non-playing) must be registered for the AFL Level two coach accreditation course in the current season calendar year and must have completed the course within that calendar year.
- d) Any Player seeking to receive payment or benefits for coaching purposes, in accordance with Rule

4.1v. must apply to the WAFC for approval.

- i. In accordance with d), the Player (seeking to be a coach at any level) must either hold a current minimum level two (2) coaching accreditation prior to the commencement of the season and must provide evidence of such accreditation or training as the case may be upon application to the WAFC; or
  - ii. Satisfy the below criteria:
    - i. must hold a current Level 1 Coach Accreditation and be working towards, in accordance with ii) below, a Level 2 Coach accreditation in the current season calendar year; and
    - ii. must have completed the Level 2 Coach Accreditation before the 14<sup>th</sup> of October in the current season. Failure to complete the level 2 course prior to this date will result in any benefit to the player(s) being included in the Club TPP for the current season.
  - iii. A Club may apply for a maximum of two (2) players to fulfill coaching roles in any calendar year.
  - iv. A Club may allocate a maximum of \$5,000 per player to a maximum of \$10,000 per club.
  - v. The WAFC will take into consideration, but not limited to, the following:
    - i. Age of the player;
    - ii. Any previous coaching experience, length of time a level one accreditation has been held for;
    - iii. Position description associated with the coaching role;
    - iv. Benchmarking payment/ benefit against other coaching positions and remuneration.
  - vi. The WAFC may, in its absolute discretion, approve or deny any application.
  - vii. For the avoidance of doubt, any payment made to any Player, who has not achieved a minimum Level 2 Accreditation or had an application approved by the WAFC in accordance with d), for coaching services will be deemed a player payment or benefit
- e) All coaches must register with their club on Coach AFL before Round 1 of the current season.
- f) A person who is a Listed Player with a WAFLW club at any time may seek to become a non-playing coach of another WAFLW club with approval of their primary listed club.
- g) The primary club must complete a permission to train form or an agreement between the two clubs for another person who satisfies (d)
- h) A person participating as a non-playing coach in accordance with (c) must gain a transfer in accordance with [Rule 1.4](#) from their Primary WAFLW Club before being able to become a Registered Player with their Destination WAFLW Club.
- i) Where a WAFLW League, or Rogers Cup coach is deregistered of their Coaching Accreditation, then the coach is no longer permitted to coach in the WAFLW Competition.

### 1.3 Family History

The WAFLW promotes the ability for family members to maintain links to WAFLW Clubs.

Players must satisfy the provisions of this Rule 1.3 in order to be considered for registration at a WAFLW Club under which they are not geographically zoned.

- a) A Player who satisfies criteria in accordance with Rule 1.3.1, 1.3.2, or 1.3.3 will be eligible to register with a WAFLW Club provided that Player is not already a Registered Player with their zoned WAFLW Club.
- b) Once registration and transfer requirements are completed in accordance with these Rules, the Player will be regarded as a local Zoned Player of that WAFL Club.

- c) In addition to the Player's completed WAFLW Registration Form (Form 1), the WAFLW Club must submit the following (as applicable):
  - i. Mother/Daughter or Father/Daughter (Form 5a Womens)
  - ii. Grand Mother / Grand Daughter or Grand Father / Grand Daughter (Form 5a Womens)
  - iii. Sister / Sisters or Brother / Sister (Form 5b)
- d) The WAFLW Club may be required to provide when requested, any further information deemed necessary by the WAFC in order to prove identity or validity of the associated family member.

### **1.3.1 Mother/ Daughter/ Father/ Daughter**

- a) A Player may become a Registered Player for the WAFLW Club for which the players Mother or Father played or was associated where that Player's father:
  - i. played in fifty (50) or more League Matches with any one WAWFL/WAFLW or WAFL Club; or
  - ii. played for one (1) WAFLW/WAFL Club for a combined total of 70 League or Reserve Matches in at least five (5) football seasons; or
  - iii. was elected as a Life Member of the WAFL/WAFLW Club;

### **1.3.2 Grandmother/ Granddaughter & Grandfather /Granddaughter**

- a) A Player may become a Registered Player for the WAFLW Club for which their Grandfather or Grandmother played or was associated where that Player's Grandfather or Grandmother:
  - i. played in 50 or more League Matches with that WAFL/WAFLW Club; or
  - ii. played for (1) WAFL Club for a combined total of 70 League or Reserve Matches in at least five (5) football seasons; or
  - iii. was elected as a Life Member of any the WAFL Club;

### **1.3.3 Sisters/Sister & Brother/Sister**

This Rule 1.3.3 is only to apply where a sister plays for a different WAFLW Club and the sister wishes to transfer to that club. For the avoidance of doubt, this rule only applies to the WAFLW Competition

- a) A Player may become a Registered Player for the WAFLW Club for which their sister/brother played or where all of the following criteria is met:
  - i. The first sister/brother must have played their first game prior to reaching 18 years of age;
  - ii. The first sister/brother must have the same mother and/or father;
  - iii. the first sister/brother must be a Registered Player of a WAFL/WAFLW Club playing either Rogers Cup/Colts, Reserves or League level at the time of application, or has progressed onto AFL/AFLW level through that WAFL/WAFLW Club; or
  - iv. the brother has played at least fifty (50) League Matches or played for the WAFL Club for a combined total of 70 League or Reserve Matches in at least five (5) football seasons, or
  - v. The sister has played 10 games at the one club in at least two (2) football seasons.

## **1.4 Transfers**



The WAFLW operates in alignment with the AFL National Transfer Regulations to determine transfer guidelines of Players between and amongst all state bodies, state leagues and community football bodies.

In circumstance where the AFL National Transfer Regulations do not apply or are only applicable to Players currently registered or applying for registration with the WAFLW, the following criteria will be used to determine the outcome of transfer.

The following provisions will apply for the 2024 season:

- WAFLW Rogers Cup Team only to WAFLW League Team – Not Granted. Refer to Season Permits

Any WAFLW League club (Temporary) who have players on a Type 2 Permit from a WAFLW Rogers Cup (Primary Club) must advise the Primary Club of their players availability by 9am Thursday prior to the weekends fixture.

#### **1.4.1 National Transfer Application Period**

- a) A Transfer may be lodged between 1 February to 30 June in each calendar year.
- b) No Application for Transfer is to be lodged after 11:59pm (AEST) on 30 June in any calendar year.
- c) The WAFC shall schedule a Christmas Closed Period which will be communicated via email to all WAFLW Clubs during which period no Application for Transfer is to be lodged or player discussion commenced as per Rule 1.2.3.1 Clubs may not continue any previous discussions with players during the Christmas close period.
- d) For the purposes of this Rule 1.4, the period between 1 February to 30 June in each calendar year will be the Application Period.
- e) Where any Player registration is received within the Application Period, the Application for Transfer will be processed by the WAFC in accordance with this Rule 1.4, subject to the AFL National Transfer Regulations.
- f) Where any Application for Transfer is received outside of the Application Period the application will be received by the WAFC and the application may be considered at the discretion of the WAFC, subject to [Rule 1](#) and [Rule 2](#)
- g) Where any Application for Transfer is received outside of the Application Period and the Player wishes to participate in activities such as training and/or practice matches with the Destination Club, a written agreement between the Primary and Destination Clubs must be submitted in accordance with Rule 1.2.3.2 prior to that Player as training and/or participating in any practice match.

#### **1.4.2 Procedure for Transfer**

- a) The WAFLW Club must lodge a Registration Form (Form 1) and Transfer Agreement (Form 6) with the WAFC in accordance with Rule 1.1.6(a), detailing all information relating to the Transfer.
- b) A transfer must be initiated by the Player or, where the Player is under the age of 18, that Player's parent or legal guardian by logging into the Competition Management Platform and submitting a Transfer Request.
- c) The former club has six (6) Calendar Days, commencing from when the Transfer Request is electronically submitted through the Competition Management Platform, to approve or refuse the



Transfer Request.

### **1.4.3 Approvals of Transfer**

- a) If the Former Club approves the Transfer within six (6) Calendar Days from lodgment of the Transfer Request, the Transfer Request will be approved in the Competition Management Platform.
- b) If the Former Club does not approve or refuse the Transfer Request within six (6) Calendar Days from lodgment of the Transfer Request vi the Competition Management Platform, the relevant Transfer will occur automatically following the expiry of the six (6) Calendar Days.
- c) The WAFC will only approve transfers in accordance with [Rule 1](#)

### **1.4.4 Refusals of Transfer**

- a) A Former Club may refuse a Transfer Request within six (6) Calendar Days from lodgment of the application via the Competition Management Platform.
- b) Subject to c) below, a refusal can only occur where a Former Club can substantiate that the player:
  - i. is indebted to the Club; and/or
  - ii. is in possession of Club property that needs to be returned
- c) Without limiting d) below, once 24 months have elapsed since a Club initially refused a Transfer Request, the circumstances described in b) ii and iii above are not valid grounds for refusing a Transfer Request.
- d) A Club refusing to Transfer a player must provide evidence (written documentation acknowledged by both parties) in order to substantiate the refusal upon request by the WAFC within four (4) Calendar Days of the request. Failure to provide such evidence may result in the WAFC approving the Transfer upon resubmission of the Transfer Request by the player or, where the player is under the age of 18, that player's parent of legal guardian.
- e) In the event that a Player is not a Listed Player for their respective WAFLW Club and has their Application for Transfer denied on the basis of (b)(ii) or (b)(iii) above, that Player's Primary WAFLW Club must not include that Player as a Listed Player before that Player has been granted the opportunity to repay Club debt or return Club property.

#### **1.4.5 Withdrawal of Transfer**

- a) A WAFLW Club or Player may withdraw their Registration. The Player or WAFLW Club must complete a Withdrawal of Registration Form and submitting the Withdrawal of Registration Form to the WAFC.
- b) The Withdrawal of Registration Form must be submitted to the WAFC prior to the acceptance of transfer by the Player's Primary Club or the expiry of the transfer time limit, being six (6) calendar days.

#### **1.4.6 Appeals Regarding Player Transfers**

- a) Where a Player appeals on the grounds that they are entitled to be removed from the Player list of one Club and placed on the Player list of another Club, or transfer to a Community Football League, the WAFL Arbitrator will consider the interests of football and the Player before making their decision.
- b) In relation to the interests of football the WAFL Arbitrator's decision should attempt to:
  - i. ensure sufficient stability in the membership of Club teams to enable team spirit and public support to be maintained;
  - ii. prevent the stronger Clubs from obtaining an unfair proportion of the best Players at the expense of weaker Clubs;
  - iii. provide Clubs with an incentive to expend substantial time and effort in the development of junior and senior football; and
  - iv. enable football to continue to conduct vigorous competitions between competitive and financially viable Clubs.
- c) In relation to the interests of the Player, the WAFL Arbitrator's decision should have regard to:
  - i. the Player's age;
  - ii. the period of service the Player has given to the Club and the number of games played during that time;
  - iii. the established and potential performance level of the Player;
  - iv. the benefits and opportunities available to the Player and the Club to which he wishes to transfer.
- d) The provisions of this Rule 1.4.6 shall apply to any other appeal the WAFL Arbitrator is requested to determine regarding a Player's freedom to transfer from one Club to another Club.

## 1.5 Permits

The WAFLW promote the development of Players within the state and allows WAFLW clubs to temporarily register a player for competition through the use of permits. The permit will be regarded as a Temporary Registration in the respective language for the duration of the permit.

For the 2024 season, the WAFLW's objective is to ensure a player from a Rogers Cup club without a WAFLW League team (Perth) has the same opportunity to play WAFLW League as any player in with the WAFLW competition.

The WAFLW will not allow any transfers for Rogers Cup club without a WAFLW League team (Perth) to Rogers Cup teams that have a team in the WAFLW League competition. All Perth players seeking a transfer may only be permitted until February 2025. The WAFC will review this rule at the conclusion of the 2024 season.

The competition is required to balance the needs of the WAFLW clubs and the players to ensure the relative strength all WAFLW Club's is maintained, and opportunities exist for the club and player to progress towards a WAFLW League club in the future. It is essential that players maintain their primary registration at their WAFLW Rogers Cup club and are Season Permitted to the WAFLW League Club (Temporary Club).

The WAFLW will permit players to play within the WAFLW League competition only (Temporary club). When the player is not selected for the Temporary club, they are required to play for their Primary Club in the Rogers Cup competition.

The WAFLW will not allow any transfers for Rogers Cup club without a WAFLW League team to Rogers Cup teams that have a team in the WAFLW League competition.

The WAFLW recognises the permit agreements as outlined in the AFL National Transfer Regulations and Play HQ as follows:

1. **Game Permit:** Allows Player to play for another Club for the period of one match.
2. **Season Permits:** Player to play for both Clubs for the duration of the permit, maximum one season.

Clubs are able to view permits involving their Club at any time in the Play HQ system using their log in credentials. The transfers are listed by status such as Awaiting Approval, Pending, Approved or Denied.

### 1.5.1 Game Permit (Type 1. Match Day Permit)

- a) A Game Permit allows a Player to play for the duration of one (1) match for a WAFLW Club other than the WACFL Club under which that Player is registered subject to (b), without a formal transfer to the WAFLW Club being required.
- b) A Game Permit may only apply to Players moving between WAFLW and affiliated WACFL leagues and Clubs.
- c) Players granted Temporary Registration by way of a Game Permit satisfy the registration requirement for selection in the State Program and for nomination in the AFLW Draft.
- d) Where a Club seeks a Game Permit for a Player permitting to a WAFLW Club from a WACFL Club, the following restrictions apply:
  - i. Game Permits are not valid for use in the WAFLW League Matches;

- ii. a maximum four (4) Game Permits per Player may be granted prior to June 30 in Rogers Cup;
- e) Where a Club seeks a Game Permit for a Player permitting from a WAFLW Club to a WACFL Club(s) the following restrictions apply:
  - i. a maximum of six (6) Game Permits per Player may be granted prior to June 30;
  - ii. WAFLW Players are permitted to play a maximum one (1) match in any Grade over the duration of a weekend or long-weekend.
- f) Any Player who plays a match that is not in accordance with this Rule 1.5.1 will be penalised in accordance with [Rule 11](#)

### **1.5.2 Season Permit (Type 2. Local Interchange Permit)**

- a) A Season Permit allows a Player to play for an extended duration, maximum of one (1) season, for a WAFLW Club other than the Community Football League Club under which that Player is registered without a formal transfer to the WAFLW Club being required.
- b) The Player may play in matches representing either the Player's Primary Club or the Player's Temporary Club in the affiliated league of that Club.
- c) The WAFLW approves the use of Local Interchange Permits between Community Football Leagues including:
  - i. The Perth Football League;
  - ii. The Metropolitan Football League (Formally Mercantile Football League); and
  - iii. The WACFL Affiliated leagues (25 leagues).
- d) Players gaining Temporary Registration by way of a Season Permit satisfy the registration requirement for selection in the State Program and for nomination in the AFLW Draft.
- e) The WAFLW Club may need to lodge a WAFLW Registration Form (Form 1) with the WAFLW in accordance with Rule 1.1.1, detailing all information relating to the Season Permit.
- f) The Season Permit must be completed via the Play HQ system by the requesting WAFLW Club, or by the WAFLW on behalf of the requesting WAFLW Club.
- g) Once the Season Permit is lodged online via the Play HQ system all relevant parties will be notified via email and the Primary Club will have six (6) calendar days (including public holidays) to respond.
- h) The duration of the Season Permit must be no longer than the end of the current season of the Destination Club's relevant league.
- i) Once the end date of the Season Permit is reached, the Season Permit will automatically expire and the Player will have no Temporary Registration with the Destination Club (i.e. a further Season Permit will need to be lodged in order for the Player to play another match).
- j) Players are permitted to play a maximum of one (1) match in any competition, including but not limited to any WAFLW or Community Football Leagues, over the duration of a weekend or long-weekend, unless approved by no later than two (2) hours prior to the match by the WAFC, in its absolute discretion without giving reasons.
- k) Players who have been transferred to a WAFLW Club from any Community Football League Club in the current or immediate past season must be permitted/ or cleared back to the respective Community Football League Club.
- l) Should a Player wish to be permitted to play for an alternative Community Football League Club, the Player will need to be transferred within the Community Football League system prior to permits being arranged from a WAFLW Club or provide an agreement for such permit.
- m) Where an agreement has been made between the WAFLW and the WACFL, a Season Permit may be utilised for Players returning to Club of Origin to reduce processing of multiple Game Permits in accordance with Rule 1.5.1.
- n) For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this Rule 1.5.2 precludes the application Rule 1.5.1 save for

that there will be no requirement to lodge multiple permits online in the Play HQ system.

- o) Any Player who plays a match that is not in accordance with this Rule 1.5.2 will be penalised in accordance with [Rule 11](#)

## 1.6 Attendance at Meetings

This purpose of this Rule is to ensure all clubs attend certain meetings called by the WAFC so that Clubs can be kept informed and participate in important discussions and decisions relating to competition.

- a) All Clubs are required to send at least one club representative to attend all Meetings called by the WAFC.
- b) Failure to attend a meeting under this Rule will incur a fine specified in [Rule 11](#).

## 1.7 Coach Accreditation

### 1.7.1 General

- a) A Person must be Accredited to coach Australian Football at a Club or Controlling Body.
- b) A Club or Controlling Body may only appoint a Person as a Coach if that Person is Accredited.
- c) For the avoidance of doubt, the AFL or Controlling Body does not represent that a Person who has obtained Accreditation is a fit and proper person to be appointed as a Coach. Without limiting the foregoing:
  - i. it is a matter for the Club or Controlling Body appointing a Coach to satisfy itself that a Person is a fit and proper person to be appointed as a Coach;
  - ii. the function of the Accreditation process is primarily to ensure that all Coaches satisfactorily complete the required educational modules for their Accreditation level;
  - iii. as part of the Accreditation process a Person may be required to submit a National Police Check to the AFL or Controlling Body.

### 1.7.2 Accreditation process

- a) **Process**
  - i. To apply for Accreditation as a Coach, a Person (Applicant) must:
    - A. register on Coach.AFL;
    - B. accurately and honestly complete the relevant Accreditation application form(s) via Coach.AFL; and
    - C. complete:
      - 1. the relevant training applicable for Foundation Accreditation, Level 2 Accreditation or Level 3 Accreditation (as applicable); and/or
      - 2. the relevant update or refresher training (as applicable).
  - ii. Following completion of the Accreditation process set out in Rule 1.7.2(a)(i) by an Applicant, the AFL may:
    - A. grant Accreditation to the Applicant; or
    - B. request additional information from the Applicant including a current National Police Check; or
    - C. deal with the matter in such other manner as the AFL sees fit.
- b) **Additional information requested by AFL**
  - i. Upon receipt of a request for additional information by the AFL under Rule 1.7.2(a)(ii)(B), the Applicant must provide such requested information to the AFL as soon as practicable for assessment.
  - ii. Following its assessment of the information provided, the AFL may grant Accreditation to the Applicant at its absolute discretion.
  - iii. If the information (including any National Police Check) provided discloses that the Applicant has been convicted of, or is charged with, a Serious Criminal Offence that Applicant will not be granted Accreditation.
  - iv. A decision by the AFL under this Rule 1.7.2(b) will be notified to the Applicant confidentially and as soon as reasonably practicable

### 1.7.3 Accreditation Review

#### a) Review right

- i. Where a Person is not granted Accreditation under Rule 1.7.2 that Person may, within 14 calendar days of such decision, by written application have that determination reviewed by the AFL Head of Community Football (or their nominee) within a reasonable period of receipt of such written application.
- ii. A written application under Rule 1.7.3(a)(i):
  - A. must be submitted by email to [coachregistrar@afl.com.au](mailto:coachregistrar@afl.com.au);
  - B. must set out why the Person considers the relevant determination to be incorrect; and
  - C. may include any further information the Person considers relevant.
- iii. In reviewing a written application submitted in accordance with 1.7.3(a)(ii), the AFL Head of Community Football (or their nominee) may have regard to any matter they consider relevant including but not limited to:
  - A. the nature of any information provided under Rule 1.7.2;
  - B. the time elapsed since the date of any charge(s) or conviction(s) disclosed in any information provided under Rule 1.7.2;
  - C. any evidence of a Person's:
    1. good standing in the community, especially since the date of any charge(s) or conviction(s) disclosed in information provided under Rule 1.7.2; and
    2. positive behavioural remediation, especially since the date of any charge(s) or conviction(s) in information provided under Rule 1.7.2.
- iv. Following its review of the written application, the AFL Head of Community Football (or their nominee) may confirm, reverse or modify the original determination.

#### b) Appeal right

- i. A Person the subject of a determination under Rule 1.7.3(a)(iv) may appeal that determination to a panel comprising at least two (2) members appointed by the AFL Executive General Manager Game Development (or their nominee(s)) on one or more of the following grounds:
  - A. the AFL Head of Community Football (or their nominee) failed to have regard to relevant matters or had regard to irrelevant matters;
  - B. the AFL Head of Community Football (or their nominee) was affected by a conflict of interest; or
  - C. the determination, or any part of the process undertaken, was inconsistent with Rule 5 or any relevant laws.
- ii. Any such appeal must be submitted by email to [coachregistrar@afl.com.au](mailto:coachregistrar@afl.com.au) within seven (7) calendar days of a determination under Rule 1.7.3(a)(iv).
- iii. A Person may not produce fresh evidence at an appeal under this Rule 1.7.3(b) without leave of the panel.
- iv. A determination of the panel is final and subject only to any rights of appeal provided by law.

#### c) Accreditation status

The AFL will endeavour to note each Person's Accreditation status on their Coach. AFL account, including any relevant details about that Person's Accreditation history (including any review and appeal history).

### 1.7.4 Coach citations

- a) Where a Coach is suspended under Rule 6 of this document, the WAFC (in consultation with the AFL) may issue a Citation Notice to that Coach in addition to the original suspension.
- b) Following the issue of a Citation Notice to a Coach, the AFL will record that Citation Notice on the Coach's Coach.AFL account.

[Guidance note: Refer to Schedule 19. If a Coach receives three Citation Notices, then that Coach may lose their Accreditation in accordance with Schedule 19.]

## 1.8 Umpire Accreditation

### 1.8.1 General

- a) A Person must be Accredited to umpire a Match unless otherwise permitted by a Controlling Body in accordance with that Controlling Body's rules and regulations.
- b) A Controlling Body may only appoint a Person as an Umpire if that Person is Accredited unless otherwise permitted by the Controlling Body in accordance with the Controlling Body's rules and regulations.
  - i. For the avoidance of doubt, the AFL does not represent that a Person who has obtained Accreditation is a fit and proper person to be appointed as an Umpire. Without limiting the foregoing:
    - A. it is a matter for the Controlling Body appointing an Umpire to satisfy itself that a Person is a fit and proper person to be appointed as an Umpire;
    - B. the function of the Accreditation process is primarily to ensure that all Umpires satisfactorily complete the required educational modules for Accreditation.
    - C. as part of the Accreditation process a Person may be required to submit a National Police Check to the Controlling Body or AFL.

### 1.8.2 Accreditation Process

- a) **Process regulations.**
  - i. To apply for Accreditation as an Umpire, a Person (Applicant) must:
    - A. register on OfficialsHQ;
    - B. accurately and honestly complete the relevant Accreditation application form(s) via OfficialsHQ; and
    - C. if applicable, complete:
      1. the relevant training applicable for Accreditation; and/or
      2. the relevant update or refresher training (as applicable).
  - ii. Following completion of the Accreditation process set out in Rule 1.8.2(a)(i) by an Applicant, the AFL may:
    - A. grant Accreditation to the Applicant; or
    - B. request further information from the Applicant including a current National Police Check; or
    - C. deal with the matter in such other manner as the AFL sees fit.
- b) **Further information requested by AFL**
  - i. Upon receipt of a request for further information by the AFL under Rule 1.8(a)(ii)(B), the Applicant must provide such requested information to the AFL as soon as practicable for assessment.
  - ii. Following an assessment of the information provided, the AFL may grant Accreditation to the Applicant at its absolute discretion.
  - iii. If the information (including any National Police Check) provided discloses that the Applicant has been convicted of, or is charged with, a Serious Criminal Offence that Applicant will not be granted Accreditation.
  - iv. A decision by the AFL under this Rule 1.8.2(b) will be notified to the Applicant confidentially and as soon as reasonably practicable.

### 1.8.3 Review of determination regarding Accreditation

- a) **Review right**
  - i. Where a Person is not granted Accreditation under Rule 1.8.2 that Person may by written application have that determination reviewed by the AFL Head of Community Football (or their nominee) within a reasonable period of receipt of such written application.
  - ii. A written application under Rule 1.8.3(a)(i):
    - A. must be submitted by email to [umpire.afl@afl.com.au](mailto:umpire.afl@afl.com.au);
    - B. must set out why the Person considers the relevant determination to be incorrect; and
    - C. may include any further information the Person considers relevant.

- iii. In reviewing a written application submitted in accordance with Rule 1.8.3(a)(ii), the AFL Head of Community Football (or their nominee) may have regard to any matter they consider relevant including but not limited to:
    - A. the nature of any information provided under Rule 1.8.2;
    - B. the time elapsed since the date of any charge(s) or conviction(s) disclosed in any information provided under Rule 1.8.2;
    - C. any evidence of a Person's:
      - 1. good standing in the community, especially since the date of any charge(s) or conviction(s) disclosed in information provided under Rule 1.8.2; and
      - 2. positive behavioural remediation, especially since the date of any charge(s) or conviction(s) in information provided under Rule 1.8.2.
  - iv. Following its review of the written application, the AFL Head of Community Football (or their nominee) may confirm, reverse or modify the original determination.
- b) **Appeal right**
- i. A Person the subject of a determination under Rule 1.8.3(a)(iv) may appeal that determination to the AFL Executive General Manager of Game Development (or their nominee) on one or more of the following grounds:
    - A. the AFL Head of Community Football (or their nominee) failed to have regard to relevant matters or had regard to irrelevant matters;
    - B. the AFL Head of Community Football (or their nominee) was affected by a conflict of interest; or
    - C. the determination, or any part of the process undertaken, was inconsistent with Rule 1.8 or any relevant laws.
  - ii. Any such appeal must be submitted by email to [umpire.afl@afl.com.au](mailto:umpire.afl@afl.com.au) within seven (7) days of a determination under Rule 1.8.3(a)(iv).
  - iii. A Person may not produce fresh evidence at an appeal under this Rule 1.8.3(b) without leave of the AFL Executive General Manager of Game Development (or their nominee).
  - iv. A determination of the AFL Executive General Manager of Game Development (or their nominee) is final and subject only to any rights of appeal provided by law.
- c) **Accreditation status**
- i. The AFL will endeavour to note each Person's Accreditation status on their OfficialsHQ account, including any relevant details about that Person's Accreditation history and any review and appeal history.



## 2 REGISTERED SENIOR PLAYERS LIST

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The Senior Players List uses a points allocation system to assess the relative strength of each Player based on their playing background.

Importantly, the Senior Players List imposes a Points 'cap' on the relative strength of a WAFLW Club to ensure that no one WAFLW Club has a list of Players substantially stronger than any other WAFLW Club. The classification of Players in this manner ensures equalisation across the WAFLW to the overall advantage of all WAFLW Clubs.

### 2.1 Senior List

- a) WAFLW Clubs with WAFLW League must include the names of all Senior Registered Players on a Senior Player List that is comprised of a minimum of 30 players and a maximum of 40 players.
- b) Some Players on the Senior Player List will be allocated points based on history and aligned to a point category as outlined in Rule 2.1.1.
- c) The Senior Players List must not exceed a maximum cumulative Player points in accordance with Rule 2.5.
- d) Players may not participate in any WAFLW League match unless they are included in the WAFLW Club Senior Players List in accordance with [Rule 1.2.3](#) Listed players on the day of the match.
- e) Nothing in this Rule 2.1 excuses a Player included on the Senior Player List from satisfying the requirements of registration in accordance with [Rule 1](#).
- f) Players included on the Senior Players List registered by way of a Type 2 Season Permit (Rule 1.6.2) will be regarded as a Registered Player of their respective Secondary WAFLW Club should they choose to transfer between WAFLW Clubs.
- g) Players named in the League squad, must be listed on the WAFLW Club Senior Players List or have a request to be listed (form 8) in accordance with [Rule 3.3](#), prior to the match.
- h) Penalties may apply for a breach of this rule in accordance with [Rule 11](#)

#### 2.1.1 Player Points Value

Point Categories are based around the following classifications:

##### 2.1.1.1 Talent Identified/Protected Points Categories

| Point Value | Point Category  |
|-------------|---|
| 2           | AFLW (Talent ID) State U18/19's player (Participated in the National Championships)       |
| 2           | Any player on a clubs Senior Protected Players List                                       |
| 3           | Any player on an East Perth, South Fremantle, or West Perth Senior Protected Players List |
| 4           | AFLW National Academy   |
| 5           | AFLW – Drafted or Rookie listed player  |

#### 2.1.2 Senior List Additions & Removals

- a) Eligible Players may be added or removed from a WAFLW Club Senior Player Points List at any time via the WAFL Online administration system by an Authorised Officer of the WAFLW Club.

- b) Any AFLW (contracted) player who participates in a match in the current season with a points value is required to be listed for the remainder of the season, including finals.
- c) The WAFLW will approve and make all necessary changes, subject to Rule 1 and Rule 2.
- d) Where the addition of a Player to a WAFLW Club Senior Player List will exceed the maximum points contrary to [Rule 2.1 \(d\)](#), the Player change will not be accepted by the WAFLW and the WAFLW Club will be advised.
- e) Players who satisfy more than one point category must be classified under the category with the highest point value.
- f) Players registered in accordance with the Family History provisions of [Rule 1.3](#) will be regarded as Local District Players.
- g) Players transferred from the WAFLW Club in accordance with [Rule 1.4](#) will be removed from the respective WAFLW Club Senior Player Points List by the WAFLW on completion of transfer.
- h) The WAFLW may, in its absolute discretion without giving reasons:
  - i. apply a points value to a player based on an individual player's circumstances.
  - ii. apply a points value to a WAFLW Club based on an individual club circumstance. i.e. competitive balance
  - iii. approve or deny the listing of a current AFLW contracted player.

## 2.2 Supplementary List

Each WAFLW Club may list additional Players on the WAFLW Club Supplementary list as Community League Players. These Players are Players that are no longer currently regarded as Registered Players of the respective WAFLW Club.

- a) A WAFLW Club may have up to two (2) Supplementary List Players at any one time.
- b) Any inclusion on the Supplementary List must be lodged via the WAFL Online System by a WAFLW Club Authorised Officer prior to the completion of transfer from the respective WAFLW Club. A club may request for a player to be moved to a Supplementary List prior to a transfer being completed but will be subject to conditions in Rule 2.2
- c) Players who are included on the Senior Player List who will no longer be playing for the WAFLW Club due to but not limited to, retirement, travelling and time off from senior football may be placed on the Supplementary List at any time by the WAFLW Club Authorised Officer.
- d) Players placed on a WAFLW Club's Supplementary List in accordance with c) will not be regarded as a Registered Player of the respective WAFLW Club.
- e) Players listed on the Supplementary List must not be included on the Senior Player List until the WAFLW Club has completed the Player registration and transfer process in accordance with [Rule 1](#), accompanied with a Form 1 signed by the player and the WAFLW Club.
- f) Supplementary List Players are not eligible to play for any WAFLW Club unless they are included on the respective WAFLW Club Senior Player Points List through the Player registration and transfer process in accordance with [Rule 1](#)
- g) Players who are included on the Senior Players List by way of a permit in accordance with [Rule 1.5](#) must not be added to a WAFLW Club Supplementary List.
- h) Any Player listed on the WAFLW Club Supplementary List will not have a point value awarded, will not contribute towards the cumulative total of points, and will not be included in the Senior Players List for that WAFLW Club for the purposes of Rule 2.1.
- i) Supplementary List Players are regarded as Listed Players in accordance with Rule 1.2.3.

- j) All players who are not eligible for transfer in accordance with Rule 1.4.6 shall become eligible to transfer 12 months from the date they are included on the Supplementary List as a Community League Player.
- k) Players must be included on the Supplementary List for a minimum of four (4) matches (including home and away and finals series) and/or a minimum of six (6) weeks during the period between the Open period commencing and Round 1 of the WAFLW season.
  - i. For the avoidance of doubt, a player can be listed for a minimum of six (6) weeks being the combination of off season and in season weeks. For example, a player may have served 5 weeks in the off season and will be required to serve another one (1) week in season, before being available for selection.
- l) Players listed on Supplementary List are not permitted to play in WAFLW matches in any grade.
- m) Any Player who plays a match that is not in accordance with this Rule 2.2 will be penalised in accordance with [Rule 11](#)

## 2.3 Long Term Injury List

Each WAFLW Club may list additional Players on the WAFLW Club Long Term Injury List as Long Term Injury Players (LTIP). These Players are Players who are not able to play matches for an extended period of time due to injury.

- a) A WAFLW Club may have up to Three (3) Long Term Injury List Senior Players and Two (2) Long Term Injury List Roger Cup Players at any one time.
- b) Inclusion on the Long-Term Injury List requires submission of the Notification of Long-Term Injury (Form 8b) to the WAFC manually via email to [wafwoperations@wafc.com.au](mailto:wafwoperations@wafc.com.au)
- c) The WAFLW Club Authorised Officer, a WAFLW Club Medical Officer and the injured Player must all sign the Notification of Long-Term Injury (Form 8b).
- d) The WAFLW Club Authorised Officer must include supporting evidence detailing the nature of the injury with the Notification of Long-Term Injury (Form 8b).
- e) The WAFLW will include the Player on the WAFLW Club Long Term Injury List upon receiving the above documentation for a period of no less than 6 weeks and no more than 12 calendar months.
- f) A Long-Term Injury Player may be included on the WAFLW Club Senior Player Points List or Rogers Cup List at any point after the six (6) week minimum time limit is complete in accordance with (e).
- g) Any Player listed on the WAFLW Club Long Term Injury List will not have a point value awarded, will not contribute towards the cumulative total of points, and will not be included in the Senior Players List for that WAFLW Club for the purposes of Rule 2.1.
- h) Long Term Injury Players are regarded as Listed Players in accordance with Rule 1.2.3.
- i) Players listed on the Long-Term Injury List are not permitted to play in WAFLW matches in any grade.
- j) Any AFLW Player who is currently on an AFLW Long term injury list may be included on the WAFLW LTIP, if the AFLW Club has countersigned the Form 8b.
- k) If a player plays in a community football competition or the AFLW Competition whilst listed on the LTIP, the player will be removed immediately by the WAFC.
- l) Any player who is retained on the LTIP for greater than 12 months shall be removed and become automatically eligible for transfer.

- m) Any player placed on a club's long term injury list will still be eligible to receive Loyalty Point Reductions for that season that the player is placed on the long-term injury list.
- n) Any player who plays a match that is not in accordance with this Rule 2.3 will be penalised in accordance with [Rule 11](#)

## 2.4 Player Service and Point Reductions

The WAFLW recognises contributions made by Players to their respective WAFLW Clubs through service.

To enhance the ability for WAFLW Clubs to retain Players that are not considered local zone Players and are awarded higher Player Point Values, concessions are granted that will reduce Player Point Values over service to a WAFLW Club.

- a) A Player that is not considered a Zoned Player and has an existing point value higher than 0 in accordance with Rule 2.1.1 will have their point value halved at the completion of their third (3<sup>rd</sup>) consecutive season of senior football for the respective WAFLW Club.
- b) The process outlined at (a) will occur at the completion of the initial block of three (3) seasons and the player will have their point value halved thereafter at the completion of each season until the Player is no longer regarded as a Registered Player of the WAFLW Club or the Player reaches a Player Point Value of 0.
- c) For the purposes of calculating points in accordance with (a) and (b), where the Player Point Values is not a whole number after the initial value is halved, the value will be rounded up to the nearest whole number.
- d) Any Player Point Value reductions applied at one WAFLW Club will not be recognised if the Player transfers to another WAFLW Club in accordance with Rule 1.4
- e) Where a Player is to transfer from the WAFLW Club or at any point that Player is not regarded as a Registered Player of that WAFLW Club as outlined in Rule 1 or Rule 2, prior to playing a third (3<sup>rd</sup>) consecutive season, the history at the WAFLW Club will not be included in awarding Player Point Value reductions for service should that Player return to that WAFLW Club in the future.
- f) Where a Player is to transfer from the WAFLW Club or at any point not be regarded as a Registered Player of that WAFLW Club as outlined in Rule 1 or Rule 2, and that Player has had their Player Point Value reduced for the purposes of Rule 2.1.1, this history at the WAFLW Club will be included and the Player will be recruited by the respective WAFLW Club with the awarded Player Point Value prior to transferring from that WAFLW Club.
- g) Any former WAFLW Talent Identified Player who is 19 years of age or older and not a listed player is eligible to have their points reduced to 0 points provided they have not played in the WAFLW during the previous 24 months, whilst residing in Western Australia and eligible to play WAFLW.
  - i. For avoidance of doubt, this rule does not apply to AFLW Players as listed in Rule 2.1.1.1

## 2.5 Protected Players List

- a) All WAFLW League clubs must submit a Protected Players List in accordance with Rule 2.5
- b) Players may be added or removed from a WAFLW Clubs Protected Players List at any time via

the WAFL Online administration system by an authorized officer of the WAFLW Club.

- c) Any player on a club's Protected Players List will carry Transfer Points under [Rule 2.1.1](#) if the player is transferred to another club.
- d) The Protected Players List will be for any Non-Talent Identified Players.
- e) A Player who is not on a club's Protected Players List that has a Notice of Player Discussion form submitted cannot be added to the club's Protected Players List.
- f) When a club has a player moving clubs, the destination club must notify the player if they are a protected player on a primary club list and that they will carry a points value.
- g) Penalties may apply for a breach of this rule in accordance with [Rule 11](#)

| <b>Club</b>            | <b>Number of Protected Senior Players</b>   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>Claremont</b>       | Up to twenty (20) cumulative player points<br>Up to ten (10) protected Players    |
| <b>East Fremantle</b>  | Up to twenty (20) cumulative player points<br>Up to ten (10) protected Players    |
| <b>East Perth</b>      | Up to twenty (25) cumulative player points<br>Up to twelve (12) protected Players |
| <b>Peel</b>            | Up to twenty (25) cumulative player points<br>Up to ten (10) protected Players    |
| <b>South Fremantle</b> | Up to twenty (25) cumulative player points<br>Up to twelve (12) protected Players |
| <b>Subiaco</b>         | Up to twenty (25) cumulative player points<br>Up to ten (10) protected Players    |
| <b>Swan Districts</b>  | Up to twenty (25) cumulative player points<br>Up to ten (10) protected Players    |
| <b>West Perth</b>      | Up to twenty (25) cumulative player points<br>Up to twelve (12) protected Players |

## 2.6 Appeals

- a) The WAFC will make all decisions with respect to Player points in accordance with [Rule 2](#)
- b) Any appeals against the decision of the WAFC will be heard by the WAFL Arbitrator.

## 2.7 Remuneration/ Football Match Payments

This rule is in place to protect the status of the WAFLW and to promote an even and fair competition.

Any payment or benefit made without the prior written approval by the WAFC will be deemed a Football Payment and a penalty may be issued at the absolute discretion of the WAFC.

The gross value (or grossed up pre-tax value) of all or any part of any money or benefit provided to the Player in respect of any match played between the period commencing 1st November in a year and expiring on 31st October in the next year under any contract, agreement, arrangement or understanding between a WAFL Club or any person or entity directly or indirectly associated with a WAFL Club and a Player or an Associate of that Player which relates to or is consideration for the playing of football (or agreement to play football) by that Player for any WAFL Club in any Match will be deemed to be a Football Match Payment for the purpose of these Rules.

- a) Without in any way limiting any other rule, the following payments paid or provided to or for the benefit of a Player or Associate of a Player by a WAFL Club or by any sponsor, supporter, supporter group of or any person or entity associated directly or indirectly with that WAFL Club are deemed to be Football Match Payments:
- i. payment, benefits or considerations made by the WAFL Club received by spouses, direct family members, Player managers or other duly authorised representatives and any other third party of the Player;
  - ii. any payment or provision of goods and services received by a Player or associate of the Player from any third-party person or entity for the purposes of playing football;
  - iii. where a Player or an associate of a Player is employed by a WAFL Club, and if such Player or Associate is paid an amount which in the opinion of the WAFC is in excess of the market value of the Player's or the Player's associate's services or where the Player or associate does not provide services consistent with the normal terms and conditions of such employment, the amount by which the payment exceeds the market value of those services or the whole of the payment as the case may be;
  - iv. any payment to a Player (other than full time League Playing Coach) for coaching purposes, which have not received approval from the WAFC as legitimate coaching fees to be set outside the Player Payment Rule.
  - v. any Player receiving payment for coaching purposes must hold a current minimum level two (2) coaching accreditation prior to the commencement of the season and must provide evidence of such accreditation or training as the case may be upon application to the WAFC, or be working towards Level two accreditation in accordance with Rule 1.2.5 d);
  - vi. any lump sum paid directly or indirectly to a Player or an associate of the Player on termination of the contract to play Football with a WAFL Club;
  - vii. any payment received as prize money for incentive or otherwise, other than as weekly after match prize incentives to the value of \$250 per weekend per club.
    - a. For the avoidance of doubt, a Club with two (2) teams may offer up to the value of \$250 per weekend,

- b. A Club with only one (1) team may offer up to the value of \$125 per week.
- viii. any payment to a Player (including a payment to be held in trust) by any person for the purpose of playing football for the WAFL Club.
- b) Players or Associates of a Player are not to receive or agree to receive, either directly or indirectly, any payments or benefits whatsoever in respect to their participation as a player in the WAFLW.
- c) For the avoidance of doubt, payments or benefits may include, but are not limited to:
  - i. match payments,
  - ii. reimbursement of expenses,
  - iii. travelling expenses,
  - iv. coaching payments;
  - v. relocation expenses; or
  - vi. any other payment as determined by the WAFC
- e) A club which makes payment or benefit, either directly or indirectly, by remuneration, earnings or reward whatsoever will be penalised under [Rule 11](#)
- f) Any player who has received a payment or reward will be penalised under [Rule 11](#)
- g) The amount of the fine in each instance shall be determined by WAFC at its absolute discretion, providing that the WAFC may, from time to time, upon application, may approve reimbursement of expenses such as travelling, payment of an honorarium or otherwise, at their absolute discretion.
- h) In respect to player sponsorships paid by the player or by a third party to sponsor a player, the benefits derived by the player from the player sponsorship shall be for the following approved items:
  - i. Preseason training uniform (Singlet, shorts, hat)
  - ii. In Season playing uniform (shorts, socks, polo shirt)
  - iii. 1 x Ticket to fairest and Best Awards night
  - iv. For the avoidance of doubt, any benefit and or equipment not listed above will be considered a player benefit for the purpose of these rules.
  - v. The WAFC may at their absolute discretion approve items not listed above upon application.

## 2.8 Top-Up Players

The WAFLW will allow Players that meet the defined criteria to participate as a Top-Up Player for the respective WAFLW Club.

This rule is to allow for Players to temporarily play at senior level for a WAFLW Club prior to a commitment being made to include them permanently on the Senior Players List.

This rule is also to allow Players residing in a country area to temporarily play at Rogers Cup level for a WAFLW Club prior to a commitment being made to include them on the Rogers Cup list. This is designed to enable country zoned players to play during school holiday periods.

- a) Top-Up Players may be:
  - i. a Registered Player in the Rogers Cup Grade with the WAFLW Club in accordance with Rule 1 and may remain on the Top Up list for up to four (4) League matches.
  - ii. A Registered Player in a community competition and on permit with a WAFL Club in

accordance with Rule 1 and may remain on the Top up List for up to four (4) Rogers Cup matches.

- b) Top-Up Players may be permitted to play with a WAFLW Club on a Temporary Registration by way of a Permit in accordance with [Rule 1.5](#)
  - c) Top-Up Players must be included on the WAFLW Club Top-Up Player List prior to playing a match, or the WAFLW Club must notify the WAFLW by email prior to the Player participating in the match and complete all relevant paperwork required.
  - d) Top-Up Players are permitted to play maximum of four (4) matches for any one WAFLW Club in a season as a Top-Up Player.
  - e) In order for a Top-Up Player to exceed the four (4) matches in accordance with (d), that Player must be included on the respective WAFLW Club Senior Player List or Rogers Cup List in accordance with Rule 2.
  - f) For the avoidance of doubt, matches calculated in accordance with (e) are inclusive of matches should the Player have previously been included on the Senior Points List.
  - g) Top-Up Players are not permitted to play in any WAFLW Finals Match.
- a) Any Player or WAFLW Club in breach of this Rule 2.8 may be penalised in accordance with [Rule](#)

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## 3 MATCHES

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### 3.1 WAFLW Matches

#### 3.1.1 Sanctioning of Matches

- a) No Club shall play in any match without the sanction of the WAFC.
- b) The programme of matches to be played by the Clubs in each year shall be submitted for the approval of the WAFC as requested by the WAFC Commission, ordinarily in or around mid-December. Such a programme shall consist of qualifying fixtures and a finals series.
- c) In the qualifying fixtures, each Club will play against each of the other Clubs as many matches as the programme will permit.
- d) The points awarded in the qualifying fixture shall be awarded as follows:
  - i. Four points will be counted for a win and two points for a draw
  - ii. No points are awarded for a loss; and
  - iii. In the event of any clubs gaining the same number of points at the conclusion of the qualifying fixtures the position of such clubs shall be determined by the percentage of points kicked for and against.
- e) At the conclusion of the season, the position of the Clubs shall be determined as follows:
  - i. the Clubs playing off for the Premiership in the Grand Final shall be placed, winner first and loser second;
  - ii. the loser of the Preliminary Final shall be placed third, and the loser of the First Semi-final shall be placed fourth; and
  - iii. the other Clubs shall be placed according to their relative positions on the Premiership Table at the conclusion of the qualifying round of matches.

#### 3.1.2 Fixturing of WAFLW Matches

- a) The fixturing of Matches will be determined by the WAFC, including details relating to the:
  - i. location of Matches;
  - ii. date of Matches;
  - iii. time of Matches;
  - iv. configuration of the Finals Matches;
- b) Where possible, WAFLW matches are to be played at a time suitable on either Saturday or Sunday afternoon in season.
- c) The WAFC will endeavor to fixture in the best interests of the WAFLW competition overall and will take into account a range of issues relating to fixturing including but not limited to:
  - i. The number of days rest between each match;
  - ii. Any clash with a WA based AFLW fixture
  - iii. Marketing and promotion of the game
  - iv. The best tv time slot
- d) Subject to approval of the WAFC, WAFLW Clubs may apply to the opposing Club for approval of an alternative time for the scheduling of the proposed match provided that the proposed alternative time:
  - i. complies with the fixturing aims of the WAFLW competition over a weekend;

- and
- ii. allows competing teams a minimum of five (5) days between games, for the avoidance of doubt, 5 days is calculated as the first day after the match and inclusive of the day of the next rounds fixture. Ie Monday-Saturday or Saturday-Thursday.
- e) Scheduled night games shall be approved by the WAFC. Deviation from commencement times outlined in accordance with a), b) or c) may be approved by the WAFC.
  - f) In the event that a Club objects to an application made in accordance with (d), the WAFC will make a determination.
  - g) Clubs must apply to the WAFC, fourteen (14) days prior to the amended fixture date for any change to the agreed fixture.

### **3.1.3 Playing Surface**

- a) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Rule 3.1.3 and the WAFL Venues Policy as set out in Schedule 5, the ground requirements are as stated in the Laws of Australian Football booklet, including but not limited to Rule 3.2.
- b) The minimum distance between the boundary line and the fence shall be five (5) metres.
- c) The area at (b) above must remain clear of any apparatus or object that could cause injury or obstruct any Players on the playing surface.

### **3.1.4 WAFL Venue Match Inspection**

- a) Not before one (1) month prior to the season commencing, each WAFLW Match venue may be inspected by the WAFC and/or an Independent Turf Consultant as approved by the WAFC.
- b) The WAFLW Clubs must bear any costs associated with the inspection of the venue for the purpose of this Rule 3.1.4.
- c) The Independent Turf Consultant must notify the WAFC of the condition of the ground, and formal approval must be granted by the WAFC to a WAFL Club prior to any Match being played at that WAFL Club's venue.
- d) In the event that any WAFLW Match venue undergoes any re-surfacing work during the season, the WAFL Club must advise the WAFC in writing (waflwoperations@wafc.com.au) and will be subject to processes set out in (a) – (c) above.
- e) WAFL Clubs that seek to play matches under lights must adhere to Schedule 6 and must provide a Light Lux Reading at the commencement of each season.
- f) By no later than one (1) hour before the first WAFLW Match of the day at the venue the competing teams' Authorised Official and/or Ground Manager are to inspect the match oval and complete the WAFL Ground Assessment Form on the Officials HQ App and advise the Match Umpires that the ground is in suitable condition to start the match.
- g) Subject to Rule 11.1.2 of the Laws of Australian Football and Rule 3.1.5, in consultation with the WAFC, the Match Umpires have the authority to cease the playing of a match if the ground or climatic conditions are such that it is considered unsafe to continue playing the match.

### **3.1.5 Terminated Matches**

- a) Matches may be terminated at any time by the WAFC, after having regard to the weather, structural damage, venue conditions, crowd safety threat, power or lighting failure or any other occurrence that, in the opinion of the WAFC poses a threat to the safety of Players, staff or spectators.
- b) Where a WAFLW Club has not complied with this Rule 3 or the WAFL Venues Policy contained at [Schedule 5](#) the WAFLW Club may be penalised in accordance with [Rule 11](#)
- c) The WAFC will make the decision to replay a match in consultation with both Clubs and with consideration given to the overall fixture.

### **3.1.6 Commencement of Matches**

- a) At all WAFLW Matches, unless otherwise specially arranged, a siren or other approved device shall be sounded when the Umpires enter the ground and when the game is started.
- b) The siren or other approved device shall be again sounded at the proper time for the termination and announcement of each quarter and at the end of the match.
- c) The WAFC shall determine the starting times of all games at the commencement of each season in consultation with WAFLW Clubs.

### **3.1.7 Playing Time**

- a) WAFLW League & Rogers Cup Matches must be played over four (4) quarters of twenty(20) minutes with no time on added.
- b) Time on will only be added in the event of a stretcher.
- c) For the avoidance of doubt, no time on shall be added for the Blood Rule.
- d) The breaks for all matches must be five (5) minutes ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ), fifteen (15) minutes ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) and five (5) minutes ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) time.
- e) In the event an ambulance is called and delays the start time of the following game, if the game is delayed for more than 30 minutes the game will be called off and the WAFC will determined if the game is to be re-scheduled or deemed a draw.

### **3.1.8 Clubs Not Ready for Start Play**

- a) Any WAFLW Club not ready to start play within fifteen (15) minutes after the time fixed for the commencement of the game, or to recommence play within:
  - i. thirty (30) minutes after the conclusion of the second quarter; or
  - ii. fifteen (15) mins after the scheduled start time of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quartersshall be deemed to have forfeited the match unless the WAFC are satisfied that the delay was unavoidable.
- b) All teams must move to position on the sounding of two (2) sirens as a part of the game start countdown of the sirens.
- c) Clubs who breach (b) above will be fined as follows:
  - i. League Matches will be \$20;
  - ii. League Finals \$100;per quarter on teams who do not break on the sounding of one (1) siren if the start time is delayed according to the timekeeper's report.
- d) Rogers Cup teams must follow the protocol as set out in (b) above although fines will not be

imposed in those grades during the home and away season.

- e) These fines are applied at the discretion of the WAFC.

### **3.1.9 Clubs Desiring to Abstain from Playing in a Match**

- a) No WAFLW Club shall abstain from playing in any official match without first obtaining the permission of the WAFC.
- b) Permission will only be granted in the most extreme circumstances (e.g. Death of a Player immediately prior to the game).
- c) Where permission is granted to abstain in accordance with (a), the WAFC may reschedule the match provided that:
  - i. the team asking to abstain from playing must make the decision of whether they will play; and
  - ii. the WAFC must determine the game time with consideration to the overall season fixture.
- d) Subject to Rule 3.1.10, where a game is not played, no premiership points or points for or against either team will be awarded for the game.

### **3.1.10 Penalties for Teams Forfeiting Matches**

- a) A team shall immediately be deemed to have lost the match and its opposition awarded the full match premiership points in the event that that team forfeits a match by:
  - i. having its numbers reduced to less than fourteen (14) Players through the implementation of the Order Off Rule or not being able to field a team; or
  - ii. through the application of [Rule 3.1.9](#)
- b) Each team will receive a score of 0 goals and 0 points and their percentage adjusted accordingly.
- c) Where a team is deemed to have deliberately caused a forfeit, the WAFC may fine the forfeiting team in accordance with [Rule 11](#)

### **3.1.11 Incomplete Matches**

#### **3.1.11.1 Terminated Matches**

- a) Matches may be terminated by:
  - i. the WAFC, after consultation with the home Club CEO (or an Authorised Officer of the Club), Umpires and visiting team, as a result of:
    - a. the weather;
    - b. structural damage;
    - c. crowd safety threat;
    - d. power or lighting failure; or
    - e. any other occurrence that, in the opinion of the WAFC, poses a threat to the safety to Players, staff or spectators, including in accordance with [Rule 3.1.5](#)
  - ii. the WAFC, after consultation with the home Club CEO (or an Authorised Officer of the Club), on compassionate grounds in the event of the death of a Player during the game. If the deceased Player is stretchered off then the game may continue at the WAFC discretion but if the circumstances are that death is obvious then the game should be stopped with the WAFC's approval. Note that

in the event of a tragedy prior to a game Clubs may request to abstain from playing under Rule 3.1.11.1 or 3.1.9.

- iii. The Umpires when a team is reduced to less than fourteen (14) Players through the use of the Order Off Rule 3.5.5
  - iv. the WAFC, after consultation with the home Club CEO (or an Authorised Officer of the Club), if for games that must run within a daily schedule:
    - a. an incident stops play so that play is not resumed within thirty (30) minutes of the stoppage as determined by the timekeepers at the Match; or
    - b. for games where a finishing time is not imposed at the discretion of the WAFC in consultation with the home Club CEO (or an authorised Officer of the Club).
- b) Games will not continue after a delay of thirty (30) minutes as a result of a stoppage caused by light/power failure (for a night game), injury or any other cause at the discretion of the WAFC. .

### **3.1.11.2 Consequences of a Terminated Match**

- a) Where a match is terminated in accordance with Rule 3.1.11.1, Clubs shall either continue the match at another time or replay the match.
- b) The WAFC will make the decision to continue or replay the match in accordance with (a) in consultation with both Clubs and with consideration given to the overall fixture.
- c) Where the game was terminated in the first half, the game may be replayed.
- d) Where a game was terminated in the second half then the half time score should stand and the game be continued from that point.
- e) Where it is not possible to replay or re-commence a terminated match in accordance with this Rule 3.1.11.2, then the game will be deemed to be terminated.
- f) Where a game is terminated in accordance with (e), and the stoppage occurred before half time, the result will be declared a draw and each team awarded two premiership points (with the respective scores at the time counting for the purposes of percentages).
- g) Where a game is terminated in accordance with (e) and the stoppage occurred after the half time break, the result will be declared on the basis of the score at half time (being the first point of the game where all things are deemed to be equal).
- h) Where a match is stopped during a day game, the teams must stay on the ground during the break unless directed to move.
- i) Where a stoppage occurs during a day game, non-playing staff, excluding medical staff and runners, are not permitted ground access during this break.

### **3.1.11.3 Procedures in the Event of Light Failure**

- a) In the event of one or more light towers ceasing to operate or the light intensity is reduced, the Field Umpire shall blow full time.
- b) Games may only be recommenced with reduced light where the lighting can be measurably proven to be within the WAFLW Lighting for Night Football Policy as set out in [Schedule 6](#)
- c) Upon the Field Umpire blowing full time the timekeepers shall stop time as per the normal time on procedures and record the exact time the game ceased.

- d) Umpires and Players must vacate the playing arena and move towards their respective change rooms.
- e) The No 1 Field Umpire, Home team CEO (or Authorised Officer of the Club), Football Manager or Team Manager of both competing teams and the Ground Manager, must meet immediately in the Umpires Room where the Home team CEO (or Authorised Officer of the Club), will contact the WAFC and will advise as to the ability to re-commence play.
- f) Where the game does not recommence within the thirty (30) minute period, the match shall be deemed incomplete and a decision shall be made in accordance with Rule 3.1.11.1(a)(iv).
- g) Where the game is able to recommence, the Field Umpire shall direct both teams to enter the playing arena to recommence the match provided that a ten (10) minute warm up period precedes the recommencement.
- h) Upon recommencing the match, the timekeepers must start time as per the normal procedure at the conclusion of time on.
- i) In the event of the match recommencing within the thirty (30) minute period, the Field Umpire shall start play from where the match ceased as a result of light failure.
- j) In the event of re-occurring light failure after the match has re-commenced, this Rule 3.1.11.3 applies per failure and the home team CEO (or Authorised Officer of the Club), in consultation with the WAFC, must decide on the appropriate course of action.
- k) Where a power failure has prevented a scheduled night fixture being able to commence after the additional thirty (30) minutes from start time, the game will be abandoned and rescheduled where possible.
- l) Where a lighting failure has occurred:
  - i. Clubs must notify all patrons at the game of what is happening by their PA system approximately every five minutes of the 30 minutes lights are out; and
  - ii. where the game is terminated, the home Club must notify patrons and thank them for their co-operation and attendance.

## 3.2 Naming Players in Football Budget

- a) Clubs must nominate up to thirty-five (35) Players from which their League will be selected and advise the WAFC of those Players and their respective jumper numbers, by 10:00am on the Wednesday of each week prior to the game for inclusion in that week's Football Budget via WAFL Online, unless otherwise advised by the WAFC.
- b) Any Club which plays a Player who is not included in its list of up to thirty-five (35) Players in accordance with (a) above or which plays a Player in its League Team in a Jumper number other than the one allocated to that Player in the Football Budget may be fined in accordance with [Rule 11](#)
- c) Where a WAFLW Player is a late inclusion in the Football Budget, then the prescribed form is to be used to notify the opposition, the WAFLW, Champion Data and the media.
- d) The late inclusion or exclusion of WAFLW or AFLW Players is not subject to penalty provided that:
  - i. notice is given on the Prescribed Form to the opposing team and the WAFLW no later than two (2) hours before the match.
  - ii. For the avoidance of doubt, if the WAFLW competition does not run parallel with the AFLW season, then all AFLW Players must be included in the initial

selection.

- e) Penalties may apply for a breach of this Rule in accordance with [Rule 11](#)

### 3.3 Naming Squads for the WAFL Website

- a) For all matches, Clubs must nominate a squad of no more than twenty-five (25) players for League and no more than twenty-six (26) for Rogers Cup from which their Team will be selected via WAFL Online in time for inclusion on the WAFL website by 8:00pm two days prior to the scheduled match. For the avoidance of doubt, the League (21) and Rogers Cup (22) players may be listed in position with an extended interchange bench.
- b) WAFLW Clubs must include available AFLW Players who have not been included as emergencies for the AFLW side and are likely to be available.
- c) Any Club which fails to comply with Rule 3.3 or which plays a Player who is not included in its list of twenty-five (25) for League or twenty-six (26) for Rogers Cup shall be fined.
- d) Clubs are only permitted to play the Players who have been included in its initial squad of 25 (League) or 26 (Rogers Cup) published on the WAFL Website in accordance with Rule 3.3, unless approved by no later than three (3) hours prior to the League match by the WAFC, in its absolute discretion without giving reasons.
- e) Penalties may apply for a breach of this Rule in accordance with [Rule 11](#)
- f) Players not nominated in accordance with Rule 3.3 may not be penalised where:
  - i. the non-nomination resulted from the late inclusion of AFLW Players where notice was given on the Form 20 Amendments to the Football Budget to all the relevant parties at least two (2) hours prior to the commencement of the match.
  - ii. during the season a Player is brought in from outside the twenty-five (25) and the named emergencies do not play in any grade; or
  - iii. in finals games, a Player is brought in from outside the twenty-five (25) and the named emergencies do not play when League and Rogers Cup teams are playing and also when League are playing.
- g) Where only the League Team is playing finals, then no Player can be brought into the side from outside the listed emergency Players without incurring a fine.
- h) In the event that an AFLW Player included in the nominated squad of twenty-five (25) is unavailable through injury or selection with their respective AFLW Club prior to the WAFLW match, then the WAFLW Club, must seek permission from the WAFC, and may have the discretion to include a Player outside of the nominated squad of twenty-five (25).
- i) Lists of twenty-six (26) Players for Rogers Cup matches are required for submission through WAFL Online according to the above conditions although fines do not apply.
- j) Clubs are required to update their squads displayed on WAFL Online by 4:00pm on the day prior to the scheduled match to include the twenty-one (21) players for League plus four (4) emergencies and twenty-two (22) players for Rogers Cup plus four (4) emergencies and remove any additional players.

### 3.4 Competition Footballs

- a) The type of footballs used in WAFLW games and the printing and advertising displayed on them is determined by the WAFC in consultation with the WAFLW Clubs.
- b) The WAFLW home Club must provide:

- i. three (3) new and one (1) near new (i.e. of good quality as a spare) approved brand footballs to be used in League Matches; and
  - ii. two (2) footballs, including one (1) good standard football, for Rogers Cup matches; and
  - iii. one (1) football to remain on the interchange bench with the umpires trainer to be used as a replacement football if required.
- c) The WAFC must provide footballs for:
  - i. all League Grade Finals; and
  - ii. Grand Finals for Rogers Cup.
- d) The graphic below describes the format, relevantly:
  - i. Panels 2 and 3 are for competition use only
  - ii. Panel 4 panel is for WAFLW Club legend; and
  - iii. Panel 1 is for Burley.
- e) Advertising not in accordance with (d) is not permitted on any football used for the purposes of any WAFLW match.
- f) The home club must supply one (2) bags to be located behind the goals, 1m inside the boundary fence whereby the footballs are stored during matches.
- g) Each club must supply and a ball steward in the League & Rogers Cup to retrieve the footballs and return them to the football bags during play. The ball steward must be positioned behind the goals at the end their club is defending, ie Backline.
- h) The Ball steward must not return the football to the player unless the player is outside the field of play. For the avoidance of doubt, this is the area between the boundary line fence and the goal line.
- i) Penalties may apply for a breach of this Rule in accordance with [Rule 11](#)

## 3.5 Match Procedures

### 3.5.1 Team Sheets

- a) Prior to the commencement of each game in any grade of the WAFLW competition, the participating teams' Managers shall present four (4) copies of the Official Team Sheet detailing:
  - i. the surname, first name, registration number and jumper number of each Player participating in the game to a maximum number of twenty-one (21) Players in the League team and twenty-two (22) Players in the Rogers Cup;
  - ii. which Players are starting the game as "interchange" Players by marking players with an '\*'
    - a. League: Maximum of five (5) players on the interchange
    - b. Rogers Cup: Maximum of six (6) players on the interchange;
  - iii. full names of the Coaches, Medical Officers, Runners, Stewards, Team Manager Official Team Runner, Interchange Steward, Chairman of Selectors, Coach, Doctor, Property Steward and Official Trainers or Water Carriers;
  - iv. the name and signature of the Team Manager;
- b) Full surname and first name must be spelled correctly and football web number and date of birth detailed on the sheet.
- c) **League:** Teams shall consist of twenty-one (21) named players, no more than sixteen (16) of whom shall take part in a match at any time.
- d) **Rogers Cup:** Teams shall consist of twenty-two (22) named players, no more than sixteen (16)



of whom shall take part in a match at any time.

- e) For All matches, a minimum of fourteen (16) players per team must be on the field for the commencement of any match.
- f) At the conclusion of the game the Team Manager must attend the Umpire's room, insert the goal kicking details on the Official Team Sheet.
- g) Upon being satisfied that the Official Team Sheet is accurate, the Number 1 Umpire must sign the Official Team Sheet and include it in the match papers to be delivered to the WAFC.
- h) Should any person who is known to be a Player or Official of a Club other than those registered on the Official Team Sheet enter the playing arena during the playing time of a League or Rogers Cup game, then that Club shall be fined for each such entry.
- i) The WAFLW clubs must remove players from Play HQ that didn't participate in the match and insert any player that has been manually added to the team sheet before 12:00pm on the first working day following the match.
- j) Penalties may apply for a breach of this Rule in accordance with [Rule 11](#)

### **3.5.2 Personnel on Playing Arena**

- a) Subject to (b) and (c), at grounds which have coach's boxes or dugouts, the Doctor, Interchange Players, Club Runner, Team Manager, Trainers and Water Carriers must use the facility provided.
- b) Players and Officials (all coaching staff, all medical staff, runners, water carriers, trainers, team managers) must remain behind and not enter the 'Boundary Line Exclusion Zone' in accordance with [Schedule 5](#) – WAFL Venues Policy during play in each quarter.
  - a. For the avoidance of doubt, Players may interchange through the 'interchange gate' but must remain inside the 'interchange holding area' until the player they are interchanging with exits the playing surface and enters the 'interchange holding area'. Umpires and WAFLW Match Officials may lodge a Notice of Investigation for any alleged breaches to be assessed and penalised at the absolute discretion of the WAFC.
- c) Doctor, Club Runner, Sports Trainers and Water Carriers need not use the Interchange Area if they wish to enter the arena, during the progress of the game.
- d) Trainers and Water Carriers may position themselves at intervals around the playing arena, provided they do not interfere with the functions of the Interchange Steward or other officials involved in the running of the match.
- e) At grounds that do not have coaches' boxes or dugouts, the above-mentioned personnel shall be seated between the boundary line and the fence at least ten (10) meters from the Interchange Area.
- f) Other personnel included on the Official Team Sheet are not permitted on to the Playing Surface, whilst the game is in progress.
- g) Penalties may apply for a breach of this Rule in accordance with [Rule 11](#)

### **3.5.3 Interchange**

- a) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Rule 3.5.3, the procedures for the interchange of Players is as stated in Law 7.2 of the Laws of Australian Football.
- b) Each competing Team Manager must provide the Ground Manager with four (4) copies of the completed Official Team Sheet for qualifying matches and twelve (12) copies for

League Grade Finals matches no later than thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled starting time.

- c) The Ground Manager will:
  - i. Be in position at the Interchange Area thirty (30) mins prior to the scheduled start time;
  - ii. remain in this position to receive the Official Team Sheets from the respective Team Managers; and
  - iii. from the Interchange Area distribute copies of the Official Team Sheets to:
    - a. The Field Umpires.
    - b. Team Manager/Football Manager of the opposition team; and
    - c. A representative of Champion Data and media.
- d) The Official Team Sheet must list the Players participating in the game including:
  - i. the five (5) Interchange Players in League & Reserves matches; or
  - ii. the six (6) Interchange Players in the Rogers Cup; and
  - iii. other Officials that are required to be listed on the Team Sheet.
- e) Interchange Players must be identified with an asterisk (\*) next to their name on the Official Team Sheet.
- f) The game must begin with the named Interchange Players off the field.
- g) Once the match has started, no interchange of Players will be permitted without the Interchange Program being updated with the jumper numbers of the Players being changed.
- h) For the avoidance of doubt, teams interchanging players during the intervals (quarter, half or three-quarter time), are required to cross through the "marked lines", and are included for the purposes of (g) above.
- i) Clubs must update the Interchange Program with such changes before play recommences.
- j) Players leaving and entering the playing surface other than through the Interchange Area, if replaced must not take further part in the match.
  - i. For the avoidance of doubt, Players who have left or entered the Playing Surface other than through the Interchange Area, if replaced, may not re-enter the Playing Arena for the duration of the Match.
- k) Where possible, Ground Managers who note a Player leaving the field outside the Marked Lines must notify the Team Manager of the team concerned.
- l) Players who do not leave or enter the playing arena via the Interchange Area shall not be permitted to return to the game.
- m) Should a WAFL Club send such a Player back onto the Playing Surface to play then that team may lose its score up to that point in the game.
- n) Where a Player is taken from the playing ground on a stretcher in accordance with Law 7.3 of the Laws of Australian Football, they may leave the field outside the marked lines of the Interchange Area but in the event that an injured Player taken from the ground later returns to the Playing Arena, they must do so through the Interchange Area.
- o) Players must not enter the Playing Arena during the course of the game other than through the Marked Lines of the Interchange Area.
- p) Players who are assisted from the Playing Arena not on a stretcher through the Marked Lines, provided the replacement Player does not go onto the field until the injured Player is over the boundary, may participate later if desired.
- q) Players who are not returning to participate in the remainder of a match must have their

number recorded.

- r) Should the Ground Manager observe the teams being lined up for the purpose of a team count, they should attend to assist the Field Umpire if required in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football.
- s) Penalties may apply for a breach of this Rule in accordance with [Rule 11](#)

### **3.5.4 Changes to the Official Team Sheet after Submission**

#### **3.5.4.1 For games outside of Finals**

- a) In Rogers Cup matches, changes may be made for Players injured or medically unfit to play up to the game start by the Team Manager who must notify:
  - i. the Match Umpires;
  - ii. the Ground Manager; and
  - iii. the opposition Team Manager.
- b) For League Matches the same process as set out in (a) must be followed on the basis that:
  - i. the Player to be replaced is injured or medically unfit to play after the Official Team Sheet has been submitted.
  - ii. the Player used as a replacement was selected in the Clubs initial twenty-five (25) chosen to play.
  - iii. The Ground Manager must be notified who will then notify the media and Champion Data.
- c) Penalties may apply for a breach of this Rule in accordance with [Rule 11](#)

#### **3.5.4.2 For games outside of Finals**

- a) Rule 3.5.4.1(a) applies to Rogers Cup for Finals Matches equally.
- b) Rule 3.5.4.1(b) applies to League Grade Finals Matches with the following additional provisions:
  - i. Where a Player is originally listed on the Official Team Sheet but is unable to play due to injury or being medically unfit, the Club or the Team's Medical Officer must supply a Doctor's Certificate to the WAFLW, which shall accompany the Official Team Sheet completed and lodged with the WAFLW by the Officiating Umpires or by no later than 10.00am on the first working day after the completion of the Match; and
  - ii. any injured or medically unfit Player who has been replaced under this Rule must immediately leave the Playing Arena and not sit on the Interchange Bench.
- c) Breaches of any of this Rule 3.5.4.2 must be noted to WAFLW Operations, Ground Manager & Field Umpires.
- d) Penalties may apply for a breach of this Rule in accordance with [Rule 11](#)

### **3.5.5 Order-Off Law**

#### **3.5.5.1 WAFLW local provisions**

- a) For the avoidance of doubt, Law 22.3 of the Laws of Australian Football relating to other Reportable Offences does not apply.
- b) The decision to order a Player off in accordance with Law 22.2 of the Laws of Australian Football is at the sole discretion of the Umpire.
- c) A Player who is reported by a Field Umpire under Law 22.2 of the Laws of Australian Football

may be ordered from the Playing Arena for the remainder of the match.

- d) A Player ordered off may be replaced immediately.
- e) A Field Umpire must signal that a Player has been ordered off, by pointing to the Interchange Area with an outstretched arm and showing a red card.
- f) Any Player ordered off must leave the Playing Arena immediately and proceed directly to the Ground Manager and into the changerooms.
- g) The Field Umpire will not accompany any Player who has been ordered off and the Team Manager will indicate by a reciprocal red card that the send-off is acknowledged.
- h) The Player may not return to the Playing Arena but he may be replaced immediately.
- i) In the event that any Player has been ordered off, the Ground Manager must inform both Team Managers of the send-off.
- j) In the event of a Player failing or refusing to leave the ground when ordered off:
  - i. the Player must be reported for misconduct;
  - ii. the match must terminate; and
  - iii. their team will be deemed to have forfeited.
- k) In the event that a team is reduced to less than fourteen (14) Players, as a result of a Player being ordered off, the match may continue at the discretion of the Field Umpire, who shall forward all details including the scores at the time, to the WAFC, which may confirm the result in accordance with the scorecards or determine a forfeit under the provisions of Law 11.2 of the Laws of Australian Football.

### **3.6.6 Blue Card – WAFL Local Provision**

- a) For the avoidance of doubt, Law 23 of the Laws of Australian Football relating to other Reportable Offences does not apply.
- b) The decision to order a Player(s) off in accordance with WAFC Blue Card Policy is at the sole discretion of the Umpire and to be applied for reportable offences that result in suspected head injury only.
- c) A Player (alleged offender) who is reported by a Field Umpire under the Blue Card Policy will be ordered from the Playing Arena for 15 minutes (including playing time and breaks).
- d) A Player (alleged victim) who is suspected of a head injury will be ordered off from the Playing Arena and required to complete a SCAT 5 test by a registered Health Practitioner and won't be permitted to return to the field unless medically cleared by a registered Health Practitioner after the elapsed 15 minutes.
- e) Player(s) ordered off may be replaced immediately.
- f) A Field Umpire must signal that a Player has been ordered off, by pointing to the Interchange Area with an outstretched arm and showing a blue card.
- g) Any Player ordered off must leave the Playing Arena immediately and proceed directly to the Ground Manager/ Blue Card Official and wear a blue vest for the entire 15 minutes period.
- h) The Field Umpire may accompany any Player who has been ordered off the field.
- i) The Player(s) may return to the Playing Arena after the expiring of 15 minutes they may be replaced immediately.
- j) In the event that any Player has been ordered off, the Ground Manager must inform both Team Managers of the send-off.
- k) In the event of a Player failing or refusing to leave the ground when ordered off:

- i. the Player must be reported for misconduct;
  - ii. the match must terminate; and
  - iii. the team will be deemed to have forfeited.
- l) An emergency field Umpire shall have the powers conferred on a Field Umpire under this Rule 3.6.5.3.

### 3.5.6 Protests

- a) Where the scores of a match are altered on a protest, the team with the highest score as a result of the protest hearing shall be awarded the full premiership points.
- b) Any alteration to the points scored "for and against" following a protest heard in accordance with (a) will be recorded accordingly.
- c) Where a team requests a head count and one team is found to have extra Players on the field the following process shall be followed:
  - i. the Umpires shall note the quarter, the time of the quarter and the game score at the point the game was stopped for the head count;
  - ii. should an extra Player be counted, the extra Player shall be removed from the field of play and the game shall continue with no alteration to the scores;
  - iii. every endeavor shall be made to determine the source and time of the error in order to evaluate the period of influence of the extra Player; and
  - iv. any subsequent decision on penalty will be made by the WAFC at its sole discretion.

## 3.6 Match Day Staff

### 3.6.1 Timekeepers

- a) Timekeepers will be Club personnel who on match day keep the game timing in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football as determined by the WAFC.
- b) Failure to provide a Timekeeper will be penalised under [Rule 11](#)

#### 3.6.1.1 Duties of Timekeepers

- a) The duties and responsibilities of Timekeepers are in accordance with Law 10 of the Laws of Australian Football, as applies to League and Rogers Cup matches.

| The Timekeeper shall sound the siren at the times and on the number of occasions as set out below:<br>AFL Laws of the Game 10 |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Start of the Match  | Number of Occurrences |
| Five (5) minutes prior to the scheduled starting time of the Match and as the umpires enter the Arena                         | Once                  |
| Two (2) minutes prior to scheduled starting time  | Twice                 |
| One (1) minute prior to scheduled starting time   | Once                  |
| Scheduled starting time (start of Match)  | Once                  |
| End of first quarter  | Once                  |
| Official quarter time allowance   | Five (5) minutes      |

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| <b>Start of the Second Quarter</b>               |                      |
| Two (2) minutes prior to scheduled starting time | Twice                |
| One (1) minute prior to scheduled starting time  | Once                 |
| Scheduled starting time (start of Match)         | Once                 |
| End of second quarter                            | Once                 |
| Official half time allowance                     | Fifteen (15) minutes |
| <b>Start of the third quarter</b>                |                      |
| Two (2) minutes prior to scheduled starting time | Twice                |
| One (1) minute prior to scheduled starting time  | Once                 |
| Scheduled starting time (start of Match)         | Once                 |
| End of third quarter                             | Once                 |
| Official three-quarter time allowance            | Five (5) minutes     |
| <b>Start of the final quarter</b>                |                      |
| Two (2) minutes prior to scheduled starting time | Twice                |
| One (1) minute prior to scheduled starting time  | Once                 |
| Scheduled starting time (start of Match)         | Once                 |
| End of final quarter                             | Once                 |

- b) Clubs that do not move to position when the siren is blown once by the Timekeeper to signal one minute prior to the commencement of the match shall be noted by the Timekeeper.
- c) Penalties may apply in accordance with Rule 3.1.8 and [Rule 11](#) in the event that a team is not ready to start play.

### 3.6.1.2 Disagreement between Timekeepers

- a) In the event of any disagreement between the two Timekeepers as to the length or variation of the time of any quarter such dispute shall:
  - i. in the case of the first or second quarters, be reported to the Field Umpire at the half time interval; and
  - ii. In the case of the third and fourth quarters, be reported to the Field Umpire at the conclusion of the game.
  - iii. For the avoidance of doubt, in the event of any such dispute the WAFC (Head of WAFL Competitions) shall be contacted immediately.
- b) The Field Umpires must note any disagreement in the Officials HQ Match Day Paperwork to the League.
- c) In the event of a protest on the result of the match on the grounds of an error in timekeeping, a copy of the report will be made available to the WAFC who shall adjudicate as to the result of the game.

### 3.6.1.3 Timekeepers Error

- a) Any Club may protest the result of a match to the WAFC on the grounds that the result was affected by an error in timekeeping.
- b) The WAFC will determine the impact of the error and make a determination with respect to the match result and/or any score adjustments.

### 3.6.2 Official Runner

- a) Each Club shall be entitled to use one (1) Runners in all grades.
- b) The Runner's role is solely to deliver messages from the coaching staff to Players on the Playing Arena.
- c) The Runner must immediately vacate the Playing Arena once the message has been delivered.
- d) The Runner must not interfere with the course of play.
  - i. For the avoidance of doubt, interfering includes standing in and filling a space at set plays.
- e) The Runner is not permitted to coach or remain on the Playing Arena barracking and will be asked to leave by any Umpire.
- f) In the event that a Runner remains on the Playing Arena contrary to the role, a free kick may be awarded against the team to which the Runner belongs at the spot of the infringement or where the ball is at that time, whichever is the greater penalty.
- g) Only one (1) Runner from each team is permitted entry to the Playing Arena at any one time.
- h) Access to and from the Playing Arena for the Runners must be directly in front of the Club's Interchange Bench.
- i) The Runner shall not have affixed any communication device.
- j) Ground Managers are to note any infringements relating to the interchanging of Runners to and from the Playing Arena on the Ground Managers Form.
- k) Field Umpires will note any infringements to this Rule 3.6.2 on the Official Team Sheet.
- l) A Runner must wear the required attire, as specified by the WAFC.
  - i. For the Avoidance of doubt, any undergarments worn by the runner must not protrude from the length of the sleeves or legs of the required attire unless approved in writing by the WAFC.
- m) Runners not adhering to (b) – (i) may be warned in the first instance and in the event that the Runner continues to act contrary to (b) – (l), the Runner must be reported to the WAFC via the Ground Managers Form. Clubs will be fined if Runners are reported in such instances in accordance with [Rule 11](#)
- n) A Runner must not engage in physical contact of any nature that may cause injury to any Player, Official or Umpire or initiate physical contact of any nature while on the Playing Arena.
- o) Runners must be reported in accordance with the procedure for Notice of Investigation or Report by an Umpire as detailed in the Laws of Australian Football by the Field Umpires for infringements of (n) above to be included in the Match Day Paperwork by way of a Notice of Investigation or Report.
- p) The WAFC in its absolute discretion, including referring to the Tribunal, shall determine any penalty following any report made in accordance with (m – no) above.
- q) Any penalties incurred by a Player acting as a Runner must be viewed as penalties against a Player in regard to the competition medals for fair play.
- r) Where a Runner uses foul or abusive language, a free kick may be awarded against the team to which the Runner belongs at the spot of the infringement or where the ball is at that time

or whichever is the greater penalty.

- s) A suspended Player, Club CEO, Football Operations Manager, Talent Manager, Authorised Officer or nominated Coach (in any grade of the club) may not act as a Club Runner, Trainer or Water Carrier.
- t) Clubs may apply for permission from the WAFC for any Authorised Official to act as a Runner under special circumstances via email to [wafwoperations@wafc.com.au](mailto:wafwoperations@wafc.com.au)

### **3.6.3 Umpires**

#### **3.6.3.1 Umpire Duties**

- a) The Number 1 Field Umpire must lodge with the WAFC within one (1) hour after the completion of the WAFLW match:
  - i. the Official Team Sheet and Match Results Form taken from each Team Manager at the conclusion of a game.
  - ii. such other remarks and observations as the Umpire may think proper to report;
  - iii. the official forms for reporting Players as prescribed in the Laws of Australian Football;
  - iv. any dispute reported to the umpire regarding the correctness of the time interval of any quarter
  - v. the official Timekeepers Sheet completed for that match;
  - vi. the Fairest and Best votes for Players participating in that game on the Officials HQ Match Day App.

#### **3.6.3.2 Scratch Matches**

- a) Where Umpires on the AFLW or WAFLW panel are required for any scratch match then they may be paid at a fee, arranged by the WAFC.
- b) Matches will be deemed to be official games and the Umpires will be required to observe all the Laws of Australian Football and report as required.
- c) Any reports or NOI's will be processed as per [Rule 5.3](#)

#### **3.6.3.3 Approaches to Umpires or Umpires Officials during a Game**

- a) WAFLW and WAFL Club Authorised Officials, Club President, Chief Executive Officer, Football Operations Manager(s), Talent Manager(s), Board members, Club Staff, Support staff or Coaches must not approach at any time, an Umpire or umpiring official officiating in a game.
- b) Captains or Players must not approach Umpires during the ¼, ½ or ¾ time breaks.
- c) Captains may talk to Umpires during the game but at suitable times convenient to both Player and Umpire.
- d) Penalties may apply for a breach of this Rule in accordance with [Rule 11](#)

#### **3.6.3.4 Restrictions on Umpires**

- a) No Field, Goal or Boundary Umpire for League Matches shall be eligible to play with any Club during the season for which he has received any payment as an Umpire.



- b) Penalties may apply for a breach of this Rule in accordance with [Rule 11](#)

### **3.6.3.5 Physical Contact with Umpires during Games**

The WAFLW wishes to promote and actively encourage a safe umpiring environment for all Umpires in WAFLW games and follows the Laws of Australian Football in the protection of Umpires.

Generally, a Player will be deemed negligent if the player makes contact with an Umpire when the Umpire is backing out of a centre bounce or field stoppage.

For contact made in other areas, the Tribunal must take into account the Laws of Australian Football and use its discretionary powers to determine any Player liability.

- a) Any Player who intentionally or carelessly makes contact with or strikes an Umpire will be reported under Law 21.2.2(a) of the Laws of Australian Football.
- b) The subsequent penalty for the Player will be at the discretion of the Tribunal, Match Review Panel or WAFC.
- c) A period of suspension is expected for a Player making forceful contact, particularly when the ball is bounced in the expected position and the Umpire moves along the expected exit path.

## **3.6.4 Trainers, Water Carriers, Club Doctors & Physiotherapists**

### **3.6.4.1 Water Carriers**

- a) Appointed Water Carriers must be at least 16 years of age.
- b) Official vests will be supplied by the WAFLW Club for the Water Carriers to wear.
- c) Water Carriers may wear Club casual shorts, polos and Club jackets under the official vest.
- d) Enclosed footwear (sneakers or joggers) must be worn at all times by Water Carriers.
- e) All Water Carriers must wear numbered uniforms and be included on the Official Team Sheet.
- f) A suspended player or suspended club official is not permitted to act as a water carrier.

### **3.6.4.2 Sports Trainers**

- a) People not accredited as Sports Trainers through Sports Medicine Australia (SMA) will be regarded as Water Carriers.
- b) Sports Trainers must be accredited through SMA to a minimum Level One standard and be at least 16 years of age.
- c) Re-accreditation for the purposes of (b) is required every three (3) years.
- d) A maximum of six (6) Water Carriers/Sports Trainers are permitted to officiate during any official WAFLW Match.
- e) Sports Trainers/ Water Carriers must wear the official vests as supplied by the WAFLW Club.
- f) Sports Trainers/ Water Carriers may wear Club casual shorts, polos and Club jackets under the official vest.
- g) Enclosed footwear (sneakers or joggers) are to be worn at all times by Sports Trainers.
- h) Head Trainers are required to wear number one (1) on their official vest.
- i) All Club Sports Trainers must be members of the West Australian Football Trainers Association (WAFTA) and shall have an appointed delegate at WAFTA Meetings.
- j) Membership fees are payable to WAFTA by the WAFL Club prior to May 30 each year.

### **3.6.4.3 Club Doctors & Physiotherapists**

- a) It is the responsibility of the home team to ensure that a Doctor is present at all WAFLW League iMatches.
- b) It is the responsibility of each team to ensure that a Physiotherapist is in attendance at all WAFLW matches.
- c) Doctors and Physiotherapists will be required to wear official vests supplied by their respective Club signifying their position. i.e. “Doctor” or “Physiotherapist”.
- d) Club Doctors and Physiotherapists may elect to wear the approved Sports Trainer uniform.
- e) For the purposes of calculating the number of Water Carriers/Sports Trainers in accordance with [Rule 3.6.4.2 \(d\)](#), Club Doctors and Physiotherapists are additional and as such, Clubs may have a total of six (6) people permitted out onto the Playing Arena who are Sports Trainers/ Water Carriers and an additional two (2) people who are Doctors or Physiotherapists.
- f) Penalties may apply for a breach of this Rule in accordance with [Rule 11](#)

### **3.6.4.4 Trainers / Water Carriers Procedures**

- a) Sports Trainers and Water Carriers must remain behind the Boundary Line while the game is in progress and enter the Playing Arena only when there is a clear break in play away from the Player/s.
- b) Sports Trainers and Water Carriers must not unnecessarily remain on the Playing Arena even though there is a clear break in play, with the exception of any instance where a Player is injured and requires the attention of the Sports Trainers and Water Carriers.
- c) Any sponsorship advertising on any part of a uniform must be approved by the WAFC.
- d) Sports Trainers entering the Playing Arena for the purpose of attending an injured Player must not interfere with the play in any way and must vacate the Playing Arena as soon as possible.
- e) Sports Trainers must not stand inside the 50 Metre Arc during a point kick in.
- f) In the event that a point kick in takes place while a Sports Trainer is required for the purposes of treating an injured Player inside the 50 Metre arc the Sports Trainer should notify the Umpire before the kick in occurs.
- g) A free kick may be awarded against the team to which the Sports Trainer in the event that permission is not received, and the Sports Trainer is deemed to be interfering with play.
- h) Sports Trainers must not stand inside the centre square during a centre bounce/ ball up after a goal is scored and at the start of a quarter.
- i) Penalties may apply for a breach of this Rule in accordance with [Rule 11](#)

### 3.7 WAFLW STYLE OF PLAY – ANTI-DENSITY RULES

In order to enhance the development of Players within the WAFLW League competition it is imperative that the individual philosophies of the coaches have an element of player and game development. Whilst we need to allow for individual philosophies based on the WAFLW Club's requirements and the coaches' experience and knowledge, the competition needs to ensure that there is a common set of agreed practices that will assist the individual Player and the competition to develop.

The following are therefore proposed in order to achieve the objective of enhanced Player and competition development and are aligned to the AFL National Talent Philosophy.

- To provide an environment that best develops and showcases each individual's talents regardless of shape or size.
- To reduce the density of player numbers around the football in order to provide an opportunity for the less physically developed players to showcase their skill set.
- Eliminate any form of "Full Ground Press" which doesn't allow forwards & defenders (Tall, Medium or Small) to develop their craft of leading to or defending the ball coming Inside 50.
- To promote and teach the art of one on one football to all underage players
- To continue to promote and harbor learning environments which encourage players to develop and showcase their repeatable skills (kicking, hand passing, decision making, marking, speed, lateral movement, etc.) without relying on their physical size.

#### 3.7.1 Anti-Density Rules

- a) The League Coaches and Players must abide by the following Anti-Density Rules at all times relating to b) and c).
- b) Centre Bounce Stoppage:
  - i. Five (5) forwards and Five (5) defenders must start inside each 50m arc; and
  - ii. One (1) forward and one (1) defender must start inside each goal square; and
  - iii. Wings must start around either side of the center square and teams aren't allowed to start both wings on same side. To aid with rotations the wing closest to interchange ideally is the last position filled.
  - iv. Should i) – iii) above not be adhered to the following in game penalties would apply:
    - a. One (1) warning per game and then a free kick will be given by the umpires if a team doesn't have five (5) players inside each forward 50, one (1) player inside each goal square and one (1) player on each wing.
    - b. The warning and free kick can be awarded concurrently.
- c) Around Ground Stoppages and Kick Ins:
  - i. Three (3) forwards (minimum) are to be inside their attacking half with one (1) forward (minimum) are to be inside 50; and
    - a. For the avoidance of doubt, two (2) players behind halfway and one (1) player inside 50.
  - ii. Defenders must abide by the above principles (Note: They don't have to play directly on each other, but three (3) players must start in their defensive half and one (1) must be inside their defensive 50); and
  - iii. Should i) – ii) above not be adhered to the following in game penalties would apply:

- a. One (1) warning per game and then a free kick plus 50m will be given by the umpires if a team doesn't have three (3) players (minimum) showing genuine intent to reset inside each attacking half with one (1) player (minimum) inside each 50m.
- b. The warning and free kick can be awarded concurrently.
- c. Due to rule changes which allow quicker play on's Anti-Density rules will still apply for Kick Ins. However, if the ball is kicked in quickly the umpire will call play on and it will be considered general play.
- d. For the avoidance of doubt, this rule does not apply for last possession between the arc's if a free kick is awarded, but does apply for boundary throw ins.

### 3.8 AFLW Player Rules

The WAFLW and AFLW seasons are not aligned across the same calendar months, so in order to maintain the competitive balance of the WAFLW competition and to enhance the development of WAFLW Players within the WAFLW League competition, it is imperative the competition balances the needs of the competition and the AFLW Clubs.

Respecting the balance between the competing priorities and the distribution of AFL Contracted players between the WAFLW clubs, the competition will impose rules to restrict the number of players playing in each match to provide opportunities for Primary Registered WAFLW players.

There are also restrictions on the AFLW contracted players seeking to transfer from their primary club to a destination club as an AFLW contracted player in accordance with Rule 1.1.1 h)

#### 3.8.1 AFLW Player Match Selection

- a) A WAFLW Club may have up to a maximum of two (2) AFLW Contracted Players from each WA AFLW Club at any one WAFLW Club for each match during the Home and Away season and Final Series.
  - i. A WAFLW Club may exceed the maximum total of two (2) AFLW contracted players from one (1) West Australian AFLW Club, if the combined total number of AFLW contracted players at the WAFLW club does not exceed four (4) players in any match.
  - ii. A WAFLW Club may not exceed the maximum total of four (4) AFLW contracted players, with a maximum of two (2) AFLW Contracted players from a WA AFLW Club in any match, or a combined total number of four (4) AFLW Contracted players. ie three from WCE AFLW club and one from FFC AFLW Club.
  - iii. For the avoidance of doubt, if the combined total number of players allocated in a match is going to exceed four (4) players, the two AFLW clubs must revert to a maximum of two (2) AFLW players.
  - iv. For the avoidance of doubt, any AFLW contracted player not from a West Australian based AFLW club will require approval from the WAFC – WAFL Operations.

## 4 FINALS

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### 4.1 Participation in Finals

There are restrictions placed upon the qualification of Players to play in grades below the highest grade that they have played in during the season.

This ensures that teams playing in Finals are representative of the team from the home and away season, that is, teams do not load their list with Players from higher divisions not ordinarily in the team.

This rule exists to promote an exciting and even finals series.

- a) Any player must have played a minimum of one (1) Home and Away match to qualify for finals in that grade.
- b) Any player is eligible to play in a higher grade if they have played a minimum of one (1) home and away match in a lower grade.
- c) AFLW Players must play two (2) WAFLW League home and away matches to qualify to play in a WAFLW League finals match.
- d) If any player has played in more than one (1) grade in the home and away season, there are conditions placed upon the player should that player seek to play in a lower grade in finals matches:
  - i. Where a player must have played five (5) qualifying games in the lower grade to be eligible to play in any finals match in that grade.
- e) The five (5) game rule will apply to:
  - i. Qualified WAFLW League Players to play Rogers Cup; Where a WAFLW Club's higher-grade team is playing in the finals, but not playing on the same weekend where lower grade teams are playing then the five (5) game rule shall always apply.
- f) Where a WAFLW Club's higher-grade team are playing on the same weekend, the five-game rule shall not apply:
  - i. Except when the opposition Rogers Cup team is a stand alone team, then players must qualify in accordance with e).
- g) For the purposes of "qualifying" games, a Player who plays in more than one (1) Grade for their Club during the same fixture will be credited only with one (1) game in the highest grade in which the player plays in that fixture.
- h) For the avoidance of any doubt, qualification games must be at the current club to be considered for finals eligibility purposes.
- i) Players who miss qualifying Matches through participation in the State 18's Programme will be credited (for the purposes of finals qualification only) for each Match missed.
- j) The Grade of Match allocated in accordance with will be the Grade played in the last Match played prior to the commencement of the State 18's Programme.
- k) Any Club that names a player on the Team Sheet knowing or intending that they will not play, or who seeks to manipulate the intent of Rule 4 will be investigated by the WAFC under [Rule 5.2](#) 'Behaviour Detrimental to Football', or any other applicable rule, and may be penalised at the absolute discretion of the WAFC.

## 4.2 Playing Time in Grand Finals

- a) WAFLW League Grand finals will be played over four (4) quarters of twenty (20) minutes duration with time on to be applied when:
  - i. the goal Umpire signals a Goal has been scored.
- b) For avoidance of doubt, this rule 4.2 only applies to WAFLW League and does not apply to WAFLW Rogers Cup.
- c) This rule may be implemented or repealed at the absolute discretion of the WAFC.

## 4.3 Drawn Matches in Finals

- a) In the event that scores are equal at the conclusion of any Finals Match in League or Rogers Cup Grades, the following applies:
  - i. for Rogers Cup grades, the siren will be held until the next score ('the Golden Score') and upon confirmation (i.e. all clear from Field Umpire and waving of the flag/s) of the 'Golden Score' the Timekeepers will sound the siren to complete the game;
  - ii. If the scores are not level, but a player is having a set shot, the timekeepers will sound the siren to end the match. If the match is then a draw from that set shot (goal or behind), then the umpires will bounce the ball in the middle of the ground and golden score rule will apply. Teams will kick in the same direction as the fourth quarter.
  - iii. for WAFLW League matches:
    - a. two (2) periods of five (5) minutes duration each will follow the conclusion of the matches normal time ('extra time');
    - b. in the event that the scores are level after the completion of the first two (2) periods of extra time then a second two (2) periods will be played;
    - c. in the first additional period teams shall kick to the opposite end to which they kicked in the final quarter;
    - d. where the score is level at the elapsed time, the Timekeepers will sound the siren, the Goal Umpires will consult with each other as to the correct score and confirm to the Field Umpires that the scores are level and signal to the timekeepers that the scores are correct;
    - e. on receiving confirmation that the scores are level, the Field Umpires shall advise both captains that two (2) additional five (5) minute periods shall be played;
    - f. extra time as at (iii)(b) will be played again until a result is reached in the form of one team achieving a higher score at the conclusion of an extra time period.
- b) The interval between the siren to conclude the fourth quarter and the commencement of the first period of additional time shall be six (6) minutes.
- c) Coaches are permitted to address teams during the interval between the siren to conclude the fourth quarter and the commencement of the first period of extra time.
- d) Sports Trainers, Water Carriers, Physiotherapists and Doctors are permitted to enter the

Playing Arena at the intervals and may attend their team in accordance with these Rules.

#### 4.3.1 Sirens for extra time

- a) Timekeepers must sound the sirens in accordance with the normal start of each quarter:

##### Start of the extra time

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Two minutes prior to the official start time | 2 sirens |
| One minute prior to official start time      | 1 siren  |
| Official start time                          | 1 siren  |

- b) At the conclusion of the first period of extra time, teams shall immediately change ends.
- c) Coaches and other Club staff are not permitted to enter the Playing Arena at the conclusion of the first period of extra time as teams change ends.
- d) Penalties may apply for a breach of this Rule in accordance with [Rule 11](#)

## 5 TRIBUNAL, DISCIPLINARY & DISPUTES PROCESSES

The WAFL MRP will assess the cases and determined offers as per the WAFL Tribunal Guidelines for the WAFLW Reserves & Rogers Cup Competitions.

All tribunal cases relating to the WAFLW Reserves and Rogers Cup competitions will be referred to the community football tribunal.

### 5.1 Independent Investigations Officer

The WAFC, WAFL Tribunal or the Arbitrator shall be entitled to exercise discretion to utilise the services of an Independent Investigations Officer to investigate any matter pertaining to these Rules.

### 5.2 Behaviour Detrimental to Football

- a) In this Rule 5, "official of a Club" includes any Director, committee member, employee, coach, team support person, or any person acting as or holding himself/herself out as the agent of a Club.
- b) Any statement, comment, act or omission by an official of a Club or a Player which does or is likely to:
  - i. damage the image of the WAFC, football in Western Australia, any WAFLW Club or a Player in the opinion of the CEO of the WAFC; or
  - ii. adversely affect the standing or reputation of the League or the League competition; or
  - iii. prejudice the good order, management, control or administration of football including but not limited to:
    - a. public criticism or perceived criticism of Umpires;
    - b. any deliberate act or omission in contravention of the Laws of Australian Football or these Rules;
    - c. failing to respond to any reasonable request by the WAFC;
    - d. the occurrence of a melee at a WAFLW Fixture including practice, pre- season, qualifying and finals matches;
    - e. any action or deed that may occur outside of the football environment that may affect the good standing and reputation of the WAFLW competition;

shall constitute an offence by the official or Player for which his Club or the Player may be liable.

#### 5.2.1 The process for the Implementation of a fine under this rule.

- a) The WAFC may, in its discretion, investigate any alleged breach of Rule 5.2
- b) Any Club or Person may request an investigation into an alleged breach of Rule 5.2, subject to Rule 5.2.1 (a)
- c) Any Club or Person requesting an investigation of an alleged breach of Rule 5.2 in accordance with Rule 5.2.1 b) must notify the WAFC within 48 hours of:



- i. witnessing the alleged breach; or
  - ii. becoming aware of the alleged breach.
- d) If the WAFC believes there are sufficient grounds to suspect a breach of Rule 5.2 following an investigation held in accordance with Rule 5.2.1 (a), the WAFC shall give notice to the Club concerned to attend a meeting where the Club may make a submission in response to the alleged breach.
- e) Any notice provided in accordance with Rule 5.2.1 (d) shall be given in writing, and fix a time and a place at which the Club may be heard at least 48 hours after the date of service of such notice.
- f) After the meeting held in accordance Rule 5.2.1 (d), if the WAFC is of the opinion that there has been a contravention of Rule 5.2, the WAFC shall impose on the Club the following penalties:
  - i. For a first offence, a fine of not less than \$500.
  - ii. For a second offence, a fine of not less than \$1,500.
  - iii. For a third offence, a fine of not less than \$3,000.
  - iv. If the perpetrator is a registered Player of the WAFLW competition the WAFC may also suspend or de-register the Player.
- g) The penalties enumerated above may be used as a guide, however the WAFC reserves the right to determine the final penalty at its absolute discretion.
- h) Notwithstanding the penalties enumerated under Rule 5.2.1 (f), or (g), the WAFC shall be entitled to remit either, in whole or in part, so much of any penalty as may be imposed on a Club, as the WAFC considers fair and reasonable in the circumstances.
- i) In the case of an offence subsequent to a third offence, the WAFC may impose such penalty as they determine in their absolute discretion, including but not limited to forfeiture of Premiership points in any competition administered by the WAFC.
- j) Any fine or other penalty imposed under Rule 5.2 will expire as at 12 months from the date of event or unless otherwise detailed by the WAFC and the club shall be deemed not to have previously committed an offence under Rule 5.2, with the intent that the next contravention of Rule 5.2 shall be deemed to be the clubs first offence.
- k) Any fine or other pecuniary penalty imposed under Rule 5.2 shall be deducted from the next dividend payable to the Club by the WAFC under arrangements that may exist from time to time.

## **5.2.2 Appeals procedure**

- a) Any Club aggrieved by a finding or penalty imposed under Rule 5.2 may appeal against such finding and/or penalty directly to the WAFL Arbitrator.
- b) To initiate an appeal, a Club must:
  - i. notify the WAFC in writing within seven (7) days of the date the penalty is imposed; and
  - ii. pay WAFC a deposit of \$00, which shall be refunded in the event of a successful appeal, or at the discretion of the WAFC.
- c) The WAFL Arbitrator shall not hear any appeal until the applicable fees have been received by the WAFC.
- d) The WAFL Arbitrator shall hear and determine the outcome of any appeal, and may:
  - i. dismiss the appeal;

- ii. set aside a finding of the WAFC and substitute its own finding;
  - iii. affirm the penalty imposed;
  - iv. set aside the penalty imposed and impose such penalty as the WAFL Arbitrator thinks fit including a determination of exceptional circumstance and imposing a penalty which is less than the prescribed minimum for such offence.
- e) At a hearing before the WAFL Arbitrator, the Club against whom the complaint is made may select a representative who has been appointed as such in writing under the hand of the President of the Club provided that such representative shall not be a legal practitioner.
- f) Subject to Rule 5.2.2 (e), the WAFL Arbitrator shall preside over the appeal in accordance with [Rule 5.15](#)
- g) The finding of the WAFL Arbitrator at this appeal shall be final and binding.
- h) Any action taken against a Club under this rule shall not prejudice or affect any action taken under the rules, By-laws or regulations of the league against the person for whom the Club is liable to be penalised under this rule.

## 5.3 Reporting Procedures

### 5.3.1 Umpire Report

- a) If an Umpire has a good faith belief that a Player or Official has committed a Reportable Offence during a Match, the Umpire shall inform the Person that they have been reported:
- i. at the time of the offence;
  - ii. before the commencement of the next quarter; or
  - iii. where the incident occurs in the final quarter, as soon as is reasonably possible after the completion of the final quarter.
- b) An Umpire may inform the captain, acting captain or official of the Club with which the reported Person is registered of the report, where it is impractical to inform the Person who has been reported.
- c) Apart from informing a Player or official of the report, an Umpire shall not speak with the reported Player or official or any other Player or official about the report which has been made.

### 5.3.2 Notice of Charge

- a) As soon as practical after the completion of the Match, the Umpire shall complete a Notice of Charge in the form prescribed. The Umpire shall:
- i. categorise the Reportable Offence having regard to the categories of Reportable Offences (and where applicable, the grading of a Reportable Offence), as set out in [Rule 5.15](#);
  - ii. include the Notice of Charge in the Match-day paperwork submitted to the WAFC at the completion of the Match; and
  - iii. retain a copy of the Notice of Charge.
- b) If no video or inconclusive video evidence exists of an incident related to a Notice of Charge, the matter shall:
- i. be referred directly to the WAFL Tribunal;
  - ii. the Player who has been reported shall attend the WAFL Tribunal hearing; and
  - iii. the WAFC shall fix and give notice to the reported Person's Club and any other Person or Club directly involved, of the date, time and place for the Tribunal

- hearing.
- c) If video evidence exists of an incident reported by an Umpire in accordance with (a), the matter shall be referred for review to the Match Review Panel in accordance with [Rule 5.6.1 \(a\)](#)
  - d) The Notice of Charge shall be provided by the WAFC to:
    - i. The Match Review Panel if video evidence exists of the Reportable Offence; or
    - ii. The WAFL Tribunal if no video evidence exists of the Reportable Offence.
  - e) The WAFC may, at their absolute discretion, investigate any Notice of Charge without vision and if satisfied, present that evidence to the MRP for consideration and decision.

## 5.4 Notice of Investigation

- a) The WAFC may, from time to time, be asked by a WAFLW Club or WAFLW Umpires to investigate particular incidents.
- b) Where an Umpire suspects that a Person has committed a Reportable Offence, the Umpire must, as soon as practical after completion of that Match and on the day of the Match:
  - i. complete a Notice of Investigation; and
  - ii. lodge a copy of the Notice of Investigation together with match-day paperwork with the WAFLW.
- c) Where a WAFLW Club suspects that a Person may have committed a Reportable Offence, the Club may:
  - i. submit a Notice of investigation to the WAFLW by emailing [waflwoperations@wafc.com.au](mailto:waflwoperations@wafc.com.au) by no later than 9am Monday following the Match. Notification will be sent to the Club on the first working day if a Notice of Investigation will proceed to Match Review Panel and/or WAFL Tribunal.
- d) Where a Player involved in a Match suspect that a Person may have committed a Reportable Offence, the Player shall only submit a Notice of Investigation through their WAFLW Club, in accordance with (c).
- e) Subject to (a) above, if video evidence of, or related to, an incident exists, the WAFC may refer a Notice of Investigation to the Match Review Panel in accordance with Rule 5.6.2
- f) Subject to (a) above, if no video or inconclusive video evidence of, or related to, an incident exists, the WAFC may:
  - i. withdraw the Notice of Investigation; or
  - ii. refer the Notice of Investigation directly (“direct referral”) to the WAFL Tribunal if the WAFC has a reasonable belief that a Reportable Offence has taken place.
- g) If the WAFC refers a Notice of Investigation directly to the WAFL Tribunal, the WAFC shall fix and give notice to the reported Person’s Club and any other Person or Club directly involved, of the date, time and place for the WAFL Tribunal hearing.
- h) If a Notice of Investigation proceeds to the WAFL Tribunal for hearing via Match Review Panel or direct referral by the WAFC in accordance with (e)-(f) above:
  - i. The matter shall be presented on the official investigation form;
  - ii. The WAFL Tribunal Secretary will submit:
    - a. the Notice of Investigation from the WAFL Club or WAFL Umpires; and
    - b. shall have no further input in the process.
  - iii. Any video evidence and/or evidence submitted by the Player subject to the Notice of Investigation and any witnesses shall be heard by the WAFL Tribunal in

determining the verdict and any subsequent penalty.

- i) Notwithstanding any of the above, the WAFC can initiate, investigate or dismiss a Notice of Investigation at any time.

## **5.5 Medical and Victim Impact Reports**

- a) All WAFLW Clubs must submit a Form 35 (Victim Impact Report) relating to any Notice of Charge or Notice of Investigation to the WAFC by:
  - i. no later than 9:00am on the Monday following the weekends the Match; or
  - ii. any other time otherwise agreed at the discretion of the WAFC.
- b) The WAFLW Club must provide a medical report for any incident resulting in any injury to the victim player and/or if a player has been required to complete a SCAT 5 test.
- c) The WAFC, in its discretion, may request a Medical Report resulting from any incident occurring during any Match.
- d) A Medical Report requested in accordance with (b) above, must be forwarded to the WAFC no later than Monday 12:00pm following the match.
- e) Any failure to submit a Form 35 (Victim Impact Report) in accordance with (a) or a medical report in accordance with (b) or (c) will be referred to the WAFC and may result in the imposition of a penalty upon the relevant Club.

## **5.6 Match Review Panel**

### **5.6.1 Composition of Match Review Panel**

- a) The WAFC may, from time to time, appoint persons to a body to be known as the Match Review Panel.
- b) Any person appointed to the Match Review Panel shall be:
  - i. a barrister or solicitor holding a current practicing certificate; or
  - ii. a person who possesses sufficient knowledge of Australian football, as determined by the WAFC.
- c) The Match Review Panel shall consist of:
  - i. a Chairperson (Chairperson of the Match Panel Panel); and/ or
  - ii. up to two (2) Appeal Panel members.
- d) The composition and members of the Match Review Panel shall be confirmed prior to the commencement of competition matches in any given season, with the exception of persons appointed to the Match Review Panel by the WAFC to fill any vacancies.
- e) A member of the Match Review Panel may resign by providing notice in writing to the WAFC.
- f) The WAFC may remove a person appointed to the Match Review Panel at any time in its absolute discretion.

### **5.6.2 Procedure of Match Review Panel**

- a) Any video footage captured by any WAFLW Club must be provided upon request to the WAFC for the purpose of reviewing that video evidence in relation to a Notice of Charge, Notice of Investigation or any other incident as determined by the WAFC.
- b) WAFLW Clubs must do everything in their power to reasonably seek and obtain any video evidence relating to a Notice of Charge, Notice of Investigation or any other incident referred by the WAFC from any person upon request by the WAFC.

- c) The Match Review Panel shall view all video evidence relating to a Notice of Charge, Notice of Investigation or any other incident referred by the WAFC, on the first working day following the match.
- d) The Match Review Panel, in its discretion, may:
  - i. refer to Medical and/or Victim Impact Reports provided in accordance with [Rule 5.5](#); and/ or
  - ii. contact the victim's Club and request information concerning the extent of any injury suffered by the victim during the course of the Reportable Offence; and/ or
  - iii. contact the Club or umpire whom the notice of charge or investigation was lodged by to gather evidence in relation to an alleged incident; and
  - iv. use such information to determine a penalty, if necessary, which is consistent with previous, similar Reportable Offences.
- e) In determining whether to issue a Notice of Charge and any related sanctions, the Match Review Panel must refer to [Rule 5.15.3](#) and [Rule 5.15.4](#)
- f) Subject to (e) above, the Match Review Panel may issue sanctions including, but not limited to:
  - i. reprimand;
  - ii. suspension.
- g) If the Match Review Panel determines that an incident under review in accordance with (a) is a Reportable Offence, the Match Review Panel shall issue a Notice of Charge to the charged Person and that Person's Club, as well as any other relevant Person involved in the incident.
- h) A Notice of Charge issued in accordance with (e) shall include:
  - i. a sanction;
  - ii. an early plea penalty offer, which may be accepted, in accordance with [Rule 5.6.3](#)
  - iii. unless the Reportable Offence is classified as a Direct Tribunal Offence, in accordance with Rule 5.15.4(5.15.4.1).
- i) The Match Review Panel, in its discretion, may amend, issue or dismiss a Notice of Charge, Notice of Investigation or any other incident referred by the WAFC.

#### **5.6.2.1 Appealing the Decision – Withdrawal of Charge**

- a) A Club may lodge an appeal with the WAFC if the Club feels that a report has been wrongly withdrawn by the Match Review Panel.
- b) Any Club may refer a protest regarding the non-passage of the report to the WAFL Tribunal by submitting:
  - i. a written notice to the WAFC together with the sum of \$500; and
  - ii. issuing a copy of the complaint to the opposing Club by 5pm on the day of the initial decision.
- c) Any protest made under this Rule shall be referred by the WAFC to the WAFL Tribunal.
- d) Both Clubs shall be expected to attend the WAFL Tribunal however the report may be heard at a later date but no later than 8pm on a Thursday night immediately following the fixture which gave rise to the Club lodging the complaint.
- e) The said sum of \$500 shall be forfeited to the league upon dismissal of the protest by the WAFL Tribunal. The said amount shall be refunded if the protest or charge is upheld.

### **5.6.3 Person may enter early plea**

- a) Subject to [Rule 5.6.5](#) where a Person has received a Notice of Charge relating to a Reportable Offence in accordance with [Rule 5.6.2 e\)](#) that Person may elect to plead guilty to the offence and accept the early guilty plea penalty offered by:
  - i. no later than 9:00am on the day immediately following receipt of the Notice of Charge; or
  - ii. any other time as agreed by the WAFC.
- b) The Football Operations Manager at the Club of the Charged Person shall be the contact in regard to any early penalty plea offers and any penalty accepted by them on behalf of the Charged Person is binding upon that Charged Person.
- c) If the Charged Person accepts an early guilty plea penalty in accordance with (a) above, that penalty shall be applied and the Notice of Charge will not be referred to the WAFL Tribunal.

### **5.6.4 Where early plea not available**

- a) Where the Match Review Panel or WAFC (as the case may be) determine, in its absolute discretion, that a Notice of Charge should be determined by the Tribunal without the Person having the option to enter an early plea, the Match Review Panel or WAFC shall provide written notification to that effect to the Person, in which case, the Person shall be dealt with by the Tribunal in accordance with Rule 5.6.5 (a)(iii). This written notification shall specify relevant particulars of the alleged offence, but if the Player is charged with a Classifiable Offence under [Rule 5.15](#), the written notification need not specify an offence classification under [Rule 5.15.3](#). In this instance the Tribunal will not be bound by the classification table in section [5.15.3](#) and will be at large in relation to penalty.

### **5.6.5 Persons who do not accept and early plea, other persons and other reportable offences**

- a) Subject to Rule 5.6.5 e), the WAFL Tribunal shall deal with the Notice of Charge where:
  - i. a Person does not elect to accept an early plea penalty in accordance with [Rule 5.6.3](#);
  - ii. a Person other than a Person is the subject of the Notice of Charge; or
  - iii. notification referred to in [Rule 5.6.4](#) has been given by the Match Review Panel or WAFC.
- b) Subject to 5.6.5 c), a Person who does not accept an early guilty plea penalty in accordance with (a)(i) shall not be entitled to any reduction in the penalty set out in the Notice of Charge, including but not limited to discounts based on the entering of the guilty plea.
- c) Should a Person plead guilty to a Reportable Offence subject to an alternative classification, and successfully contest the Notice of Charge at the Tribunal (such that the Tribunal determines to downgrade the charge), the Person will be entitled to receive a reduction in the sanction equivalent to the reduction obtained had the Player submitted an early guilty plea for that lesser offence.
- d) Upon receipt of the Notice of Charge, the WAFC shall fix and give notice to the reported Person's Club and any other Person or Club directly involved, of the date, time and place for the Tribunal hearing.
- e) The WAFC may vary the date, time and place of hearing by notice in writing to the reported Person's Club and any other relevant party.

- f) Despite the other provisions within the [Rule 5.6.5](#), where a Person does not elect to accept an early penalty plea, the WAFC may in its discretion apply a standard penalty without discount rather than directly referring the matter to a Tribunal hearing.
- g) Where the notification referred to in [Rule 5.6.4](#), has been given by the Match Review Panel or the Controlling Body, the Person the subject of the Notice of Charge shall be entitled to lodge a plea at the Tribunal hearing which may be considered by the Tribunal in the determination of any penalty.

### **5.6.6 Withdrawal of Charge**

- a) The Match Review Panel or the Reporting Officer as the case may be, may withdraw any Notice of Charge at any time prior to a Tribunal hearing by lodging a written notice with the Controlling Body.

### **5.6.7 Relationship to Laws of the Game**

- a) These Rules shall be read in conjunction with the Laws of the Game but to the extent of any inconsistency, these Rules shall prevail.

## **5.7 Changes to Notice of Charge**

- a) Any Notice of Charge may be amended by the WAFC at or before a WAFL Tribunal hearing.
- b) If the WAFC amends a Notice of Charge in accordance with (a) above, the WAFL Tribunal hearing on that amended Notice of Charge shall only proceed:
  - i. at the discretion of the WAFL Tribunal Chairperson; and
  - ii. where the facts relied upon are primarily the same as for the original charge. For example, an Umpire may make a mistake with the number of the Player.
- c) Where there is a procedural irregularity in the making of a charge or any other matter, the Tribunal shall still hear and determine the matter unless it is of the opinion that the irregularity has caused or may cause injustice if the matter was heard.
- d) Without limitation, the Chairperson may direct that a Notice of Charge be amended to ensure that a matter before the Tribunal is decided according to its merits and not on the basis of a technicality. The power to amend shall include the power to substitute another charge.
- e) A decision of the Tribunal is not invalid because of any defect or irregularity in, or in connection with, the appointment of a Tribunal member.
- f) The WAFL Tribunal may, in its discretion, find a Player guilty of a related or lesser Charge. For example, a Player could be found guilty of attempting to strike, kick or trip if found not guilty of striking, kicking or tripping.

## **5.8 WAFL Tribunals**

- a) The WAFC shall, from time to time, appoint persons to a disciplinary tribunal to be known as the WAFL Tribunal.
- b) Any person appointed to the WAFL Tribunal shall:
  - i. be a barrister or solicitor holding a current practicing certificate within an Australian jurisdiction; and/or
  - ii. possess sufficient knowledge of Australian football, as determined by the WAFC.
- c) The WAFL Tribunal Panel shall consist of:

- i. A Chairperson (Chairperson of the Tribunal Panel); and/or
  - ii. up to two (2) Tribunal Panel members.
- d) If the WAFL Tribunal consists of a Chairperson with one other person, either the Chairperson or the other person constituting the WAFL Tribunal must be a barrister or solicitor holding a current practicing certificate within an Australian jurisdiction.
- e) Except where the WAFC otherwise determines, a person shall not be appointed to the WAFL Tribunal if, in the twelve (12) months preceding the appointment, that person:
  - i. has been a member of a Board of Directors of a Club;
  - ii. has been a Coach or Assistant or Specialist Coach of a Club;
  - iii. has been a Person of a Club; or
  - iv. has been an employee of the WAFC or a WAFLW Club.
- f) A member of the WAFL Tribunal shall serve a term of twelve (12) months in that position, unless:
  - i. that member resigns by providing notice in writing to the WAFC; or
  - ii. that member is removed by the WAFC at any time in its absolute discretion.
- g) The WAFL Tribunal shall exercise the following functions and its decision shall be final:
  - i. Hear all reports in respect of offences under the Laws of Australian Football except to the extent that these Rules and Regulations refer those matters to the WAFC, WAFL Arbitrator or Match Review Panel.
  - ii. Re-open and re-hear any matter previously dealt with if the WAFL Tribunal in its discretion considers such a step justified;
  - iii. Hear and determine any Charge or Protest referred or lodged pursuant to the WAFL Tribunal jurisdiction granted under these Rules and Regulations;
  - iv. Impose such penalties authorised by these Rules and Regulations as it deems fit or it may give a caution. The range of penalties includes:
    - a. reprimand
    - b. suspension
- h) The Tribunal shall decide on the balance of probabilities whether a Reportable Offence or other charge against a Person has been sustained. (Standard of Proof).
- i) No Person appearing before the Tribunal shall bear an onus of establishing that an alleged offence has been committed.
- j) The decision of the Tribunal shall be determined in according to the opinion of the majority of the sitting Tribunal.
- k) The Tribunal may determine any matter in any such matter as it thinks fit.
- l) Subject to section 5.7 (m) where a charge is sustained in respect of a Reportable Offence, the Tribunal must apply the sanction applicable to the Reportable Offence as per [Rule 5.15.3](#) and [Rule 5.15.5.3](#) and complete the appropriate form.
- m) The Tribunal may determine the appropriate sanction in its absolute discretion, without having regard to the sanctions referred to in [Rule 5.15.3](#) and [Rule 5.15.5.3](#) where there are exceptional and compelling circumstances which make it inappropriate or unreasonable to apply those sanctions. Exceptional and compelling circumstances will exist where (at the discretion of the Tribunal):
  - i. a Player has a verifiable exemplary record;
  - ii. a Reportable Offence was committed in response to provocation;



- iii. a Reportable Offence was committed in self-defence; or
  - iv. there are multiple Reportable Offences arising from the same event or course of conduct.
- n) Where a charge is sustained in respect to a charge or matter not involving a Person or Reportable Offence, the Tribunal may, subject to any contrary provisions in any relevant Code, Policies, Rules and Regulations, impose such sanctions as it, in its absolute discretion, thinks fit.
  - o) The Tribunal is not obliged to give reasons for any decision made by it under these Rules.
  - p) Where a charge is sustained against a Person under the age of 16 years at the time of the Reportable Offence, the Controlling Body shall not publish the decision of the Tribunal in so far that it is viewable by the general public without the express permission of the Person charged and their parent/guardian except that, to ensure effective administration of Competitions, access to such decisions and related sanctions will be available to the Controlling Body, and League and Club administrators who have access to Competition records.

### **5.8.1 Reporting Officer**

- a) Subject to section 5.8.1 b), the Controlling Body may, from time to time and in its absolute discretion, appoint one or more Reporting Officers to:
  - i. advise the Tribunal of the particulars of the charge or matter before it;
  - ii. review Match footage;
  - iii. make submissions in relation to the charge or matter;
  - iv. respond to any matters put in defence;
  - v. ask questions of any Person appearing before the Tribunal;
  - vi. call any Persons to give evidence as the Reporting Officer may consider necessary or desirable in the interests of general justice and fairness; and
  - vii. address the Tribunal by way of summing up prior to any final submissions of the advocate of any Person charged or otherwise appearing to be dealt with by the Tribunal and prior to the Tribunal retiring to consider its finding.
- b) The Reporting Officer shall have the power to withdraw any charge or matter prior to or at any time during a hearing before the Tribunal.
- c) The Reporting Officer shall, with leave of the Tribunal, have the power to amend any charge or statement of any matter to be determined by the Tribunal prior to or at any time during a hearing before the Tribunal.

### **5.8.2 Timing and Location of the WAFL Tribunal**

- a) The WAFC shall, in all cases, be satisfied that the relevant Rules and Regulations have been complied with before submitting a Protest, Charge or any other matter for the hearing and determination of the WAFL Tribunal.
- b) The WAFL Tribunal shall meet to consider any Notice of Charge or Notice of Investigation at a time convenient to the WAFL Tribunal and any other parties involved, subject to its absolute discretion.
- c) Any WAFL Tribunal hearing convened in accordance with (b) shall be held:
  - i. by no later than 10pm on the Wednesday night following the event giving rise to the Notice of Charge or Notice of Investigation; or
  - ii. by no later than 8pm on the Thursday night immediately following the event

giving rise to the Notice of Charge or Notice of Investigation, if referred to the WAFL Tribunal in accordance with Rule 5.8

- d) The WAFL Tribunal shall meet to consider any matter other than a Notice of Charge or Notice of Investigation at a time convenient to the WAFL Tribunal and any other parties involved, so long as such a meeting shall be held within a reasonable time of the matter having been referred to the WAFL Tribunal.
- e) Any WAFL Tribunal hearing shall be held at a place designated by the WAFC unless the WAFL Tribunal dealing with that particular matter directs some other place of hearing and reasonable notice of such place is given to the parties involved.
- f) A WAFL Tribunal hearing may be adjourned to another time and place, reasonable notice of which shall be given to the parties involved.

### **5.8.3 Attendance at WAFL Tribunal hearing**

- a) A Person who has been summoned to attend a Tribunal hearing, and/or that Person's representative, must attend at the time and place and in the manner (including by video or telephone conferencing) notified on the Notice of Charge or other relevant notice.
- b) A Person or representative wishing to attend the Tribunal hearing via video or telephone conferencing must first seek the approval of the Controlling Body.
- c) An Umpire who lodges a Notice of Charge against any Player or Official of a Club shall attend the WAFL Tribunal hearing of that Charge.
- d) Any Person of any Club against whom a Notice of Charge has been lodged shall attend the WAFL Tribunal hearing of that Charge.
- e) Any Person of any Club against whom an offence has been committed in respect of which a Notice of Charge has been lodged shall attend the WAFL Tribunal hearing of that Charge.
- f) The WAFL Tribunal may, of its own motion, or at the request of any party to a matter before it, require the attendance at a WAFL Tribunal hearing of:
  - i. any Person of a Club; and/or
  - ii. any Umpire,and such Player, Official and/or Umpire shall attend as required.
- g) If one or more Persons does not attend the scheduled WAFL Tribunal hearing:
  - i. the WAFL Tribunal hearing may be postponed to another time, date and/or place; and
  - ii. the offending persons may be charged under [Rule 5.10](#)
- h) If a Person issued with a Notice of Charge or other relevant notice, or that Person's representative, fails to appear at a Tribunal hearing at the notified time and place, the Tribunal may proceed to hear and determine the charge or matter and any sanction, in the absence of that Person or that Person's representative.
- i) The WAFL Tribunal, in its discretion, may allow the attendance of other persons to witness the WAFL Tribunal procedures.

### **5.8.4 Evidence at WAFL Tribunal hearing**

- a) A WAFL Tribunal may, for its purposes, rely on such evidence as it thinks fit and in particular, may admit videos and other writings as well as verbal evidence.
- b) No member of the WAFL Tribunal may preview any video of incidents relating to a matter

- prior to a WAFL Tribunal hearing.
- c) Any Person required to attend a WAFL Tribunal hearing in accordance with Rule 5.8.3 shall give evidence if requested by the WAFL Tribunal.
  - d) Any Person required to attend before the Tribunal may request to adduce witness evidence at the Tribunal hearing, provided that such a request is submitted to the WAFC in writing by no later than 10.00am on the day after notification of the charge or matter (or such other time determined by the WAFC), and contains:
    - i. the name and address of the witness (plus their qualifications and experience, for expert witnesses only); and
    - ii. a summary of the substance of the evidence the Person proposed to adduce from the witness (including any expert witness).
  - e) Unless permission is granted by the Chairperson, a Person shall not adduce the evidence of a witness unless that Person complies with section 5.8.4 (d) above.
  - f) Only in exceptional and compelling circumstances, as determined by the WAFC in its absolute discretion will the Tribunal receive evidence from a Person who is not an Umpire or recorded on the Club official team sheet for a relevant Match.
  - g) Any video evidence which is not already in the possession of the Controlling Body must be submitted to the WAFC by Clubs at a time to be determined by the WAFC.

### **5.8.5 Representation at WAFL Tribunal hearing**

- a) The WAFC may be represented by an advocate selected at their sole discretion at any WAFL Tribunal, including but not limited to a barrister, solicitor or agent.
- b) Except where otherwise determined by the WAFC and subject to section 5.8.5 (c), at any hearing before the WAFL Tribunal, a Person charged with a Reportable Offence must:
  - i. appear in person; and
  - ii. be represented by a barrister, solicitor or Club Officer.
- c) Where the Person charged with a reportable offence is under the age of 16 years at the time of the alleged Reportable Offence,
  - i. the person must be represented under section 5.8.5 c) ii) (and such representative must not be a parent or guardian of the Person); and
  - ii. a parent or guardian of the Person may attend any hearing before the WAFL Tribunal in place or in support of the Person.
- d) A Person other than a Person charged with a Reportable Offence, who is required to appear before a WAFL Tribunal hearing may be accompanied and represented at the proceeding by a representative of their Club or the organisation to which they belong.
- e) Where the Chairperson is of the opinion that a Person or representative of a Person appearing before the Tribunal has failed to observe directions of the Tribunal or otherwise acted in a contemptuous, irresponsible or discourteous manner, the Chairperson may dismiss the Person or Person's representative and, if appropriate, adjourn the proceedings to enable the Person to obtain fresh representation.

### **5.8.6 Procedure for Advocates**

- a) The duties of any Advocate appearing in accordance with Rule 5.8.5 shall perform the following duties:

- i. Arrange for the charged Player and/or Official, and any witnesses to be present at the WAFL Tribunal hearing at the time and location determined in accordance with [Rule 5.8.2](#);
  - ii. Prior to the WAFL Tribunal hearing, assist the charged Player and/or Official, and any witnesses to prepare their account of the incident;
  - iii. Make submissions on penalty if the Charge is upheld.
- b) An Advocate appearing in accordance with Rule 5.8.5 shall not be permitted to:
  - i. ask questions or cross-examine the Charged Player, Official, and any witness, including Umpires;
  - ii. make submissions as to guilt or otherwise.
- c) Any matter that an Advocate may think is relevant for the purpose of cross-examination of a witness is to be referred to the WAFL Tribunal Chairperson who, in their discretion, may raise the issue with the witness.

### **5.8.7 Structure of WAFL Tribunal hearing**

- a) Any hearing of the WAFL Tribunal shall consist of:
  - i. A full bench of the WAFL Tribunal;
  - ii. A WAFC representative;
  - iii. The reporting Umpires/s unless not required
  - iv. The Charged Person/s and their Club delegate;
  - v. Representatives of the Charged Person/s, including an Advocate;
  - vi. The Person offended against unless not required, and their Club delegate;
  - vii. Any other person invited to present by the Clubs provided they gain the permission of the WAFL Tribunal Chairperson, in conjunction with the WAFC.

### **5.8.8 Role of WAFC representative**

- a) The role of the WAFC representative in attendance at the WAFL Tribunal will be to:
  - i. Act as Secretary to the WAFL Tribunal; and
  - ii. Advise the WAFL Tribunal as to the prior record of the Charged Person and provide appropriate paperwork including the outcome of the Match Review Panel and available technical support for the operation of video evidence or teleconference calls.
  - iii. Advise on the Application of the penalty.

### **5.8.9 WAFL Tribunal penalties**

- a) The Classification Table provided under [Rule 5.15.3](#) shall be used to assess and deliver all penalties.
- b) The WAFL Tribunal may, in its discretion, determine penalties with regard to the following issues:
  - i. Careless acts will form the lower end of the penalty scale with penalties increasing as the intent increases;
  - ii. The degree of force used will influence the penalty with regard to any potential for injury; and
  - iii. The resulting injury will also be taken into account when determining the

penalty.

- c) All Persons and Clubs should note that penalties for acts deemed intentional shall be severe.
- d) Penalties issued for second or subsequent offences, particularly within the same season, will be greater than if it were a first offence.
- e) The WAFC will summon any Person who has been charged to appear before the WAFL Tribunal or has been sanctioned by the Match Review Panel for classifiable offences on three occasions in one season to explain their conduct at a meeting.
- f) If a Person is charged to appear before the WAFL Tribunal or has been sanctioned by the Match Review Panel for classifiable offences on at least three occasions in one season, the WAFC may, in its discretion, terminate that Person's registration with immediate effect.

### **5.8.10 Application of suspension**

- a) A Person who has been suspended or disqualified by the WAFL Tribunal, Match Review Panel and/or WAFC shall be ineligible for selection in an official WAFLW competition.
- b) Pursuant to (a) above, a Person who has been suspended or disqualified would be ineligible for interstate, intercity or special matches, nor would such suspension or disqualification be affected in any way by those matches.
- c) If Persons, particularly young Persons, are selected in competition/s other than the WAFLW competition, including but not limited to School or Representative team matches, these matches must be taken into account in the serving of the Person's suspension, provided these matches are brought to the attention of the WAFL Tribunal Chairperson at the WAFL Tribunal hearing.
- d) Where a suspension applies into WAFLW finals matches of the current season, the WAFL Tribunal Chairperson must indicate which matches will apply to serve the suspension, particularly where a Person's Club may be playing in a grade other than the Person's regular grade. Normally, if the playing history of a Player indicates that he does not usually play in the other grade, then that match would not count as a match in which to serve a suspension, be this a higher or lower grade.

### **5.8.11 Person Suspension**

- a) A Person who is suspended or disqualified by the Tribunal shall serve such suspension or disqualification in the grade in which the Person participated immediately prior to such suspension or disqualification.
- b) If any Person participates in another association whether affiliated or not, whilst still under suspension, that Person's original penalty will automatically be doubled.
- c) Unless otherwise specified by the WAFL Tribunal in exceptional circumstances, where a Person is suspended or disqualified by the tribunal, such suspension or disqualification shall apply to all Australian football competition matches, subject to Rule 5.8.11 e) below. For the avoidance of doubt:
  - i. a Person suspended in a previous season cannot serve their suspension in any pre-season fixtures or off-season fixtures;
  - ii. a Person suspended in a junior competition graduating to a senior competition shall serve their suspension in their new grade;
  - iii. a Person transferring from another league shall carry any suspension with them; and
  - iv. a Person suspended during a split round cannot serve their suspension in the same

round in another grade

- d) Unless otherwise specified by the Tribunal in exceptional circumstances, a suspended Person will not be eligible to play representative football if the representative fixture occurs while the Person is serving the suspension. If the suspended Person was selected in the representative team prior to being suspended then he the Person foregoes playing in the representative fixture if the fixture occurs during the time of the suspension. In this situation the representative fixture does not count as part of the suspension
- e) A Person suspended or disqualified by the Tribunal may still participate in practice/ training matches with his registered Club however such Matches will not be counted as a part of the Person's suspension or disqualification.
- f) Any Player who has been:
  - i. found guilty of a Reportable Offence; and
  - ii. served a suspension,  
shall be ineligible to win the Competition medals for best Player in any grade for the year in which they were suspended. Note, this provision relates exclusively to suspensions, and not fines.
- g) Where a suspension applies to finals matches during the current season, the WAFL Tribunal Chairperson must be specific as to which finals matches and grades will be included in the penalty.
- h) Law 22.4 of the Laws of the Game shall apply in relation to all Persons suspended by the Tribunal.

### **5.8.12 Guidelines for WAFL Tribunal Proceedings**

- a) A WAFL Tribunal hearing may proceed in accordance with the following guidelines:
  - i. The WAFL Tribunal Chairperson invites the Charged Person and their Advocate, and the Umpire making the charge with their Advocate, into the hearing. The only other person in the room should be the WAFL Tribunal Secretary unless other observers have been permitted entry in accordance with [Rule 5.8.3 i](#));
  - ii. The WAFL Tribunal Chairperson reads the Charge and asks for the Person's plea;
  - iii. The WAFL Tribunal Chairperson asks the Umpire/s to outline the Charge. The Umpire/s can be questioned by:
    - a. the WAFL Tribunal Chairperson; and
    - b. the Charged Person's Advocate through the chair;
  - iv. The WAFL Tribunal Chairperson views any video evidence. This will be supplied by the WAFC and will also include any circumstantial vision surrounding the incident, even if incident itself is not visible;
  - v. The Umpire/s may be asked to provide further evidence relating to the Charge;
  - vi. The Person offended against, as defined by Rule 5.8.7 (a)(vi), is invited into the hearing after the video evidence has been viewed;
  - vii. The WAFL Tribunal Chairperson asks for the version of events from the Person offended against or in the case of a guilty plea, the extent of that Person's injury caused by the Charged Person's action;
  - viii. The Person offended against can be questioned by:
    - a. the WAFL Tribunal Chairperson; and
    - b. the Charged Person's Advocate through the chair;

- ix. The Person offended against is asked to leave the hearing;
  - x. The WAFL Tribunal Chairperson asks for the Charged Person's evidence;
  - xi. The Charged Person's Advocate may call witnesses and offer other evidence if required. Witnesses can be questioned by those in attendance through the chair;
  - xii. The WAFL Tribunal Chairperson asks for summary comments from the Charged Person's Advocate;
  - xiii. The WAFL Tribunal Chairperson may ask all persons to leave the room;
  - xiv. The WAFL Tribunal deliberates and determines whether the Charge is sustained or dismissed;
  - xv. If previously asked to leave the room, the Charged Person returns to the room with their Advocate;
  - xvi. The WAFL Tribunal Chairperson seeks the Charged Person's history from the Charged Person's Advocate and any argument towards penalty. Information in relation to the application of the penalty should be taken at this time;
  - xvii. The WAFL Tribunal Chairperson confirms Charged Person's history from WAFL Tribunal Secretary;
  - xviii. The WAFL Tribunal Chairperson announces penalty.
- b) In the event that the Person offended against is to be dealt with pursuant to conduct under Rule 5.2; that Person shall be asked to remain outside of the hearing and be dealt with at the conclusion of that hearing.

## 5.9 General Conduct of Hearing

- a) Subject to these Guidelines, the Tribunal may regulate proceedings brought before it in such manner as the Chairperson thinks fit.
- b) Committee hearings shall be conducted with as little formality and technicality and with as much expedition as a proper consideration of the matters before it permits.
- c) The Committee is not bound by the rules of evidence or by practices and procedures applicable to Courts of Record and may inform itself as to any matter in any such manner as it thinks fit.
- d) The Chairperson may make any guidelines not inconsistent with these Guidelines that the Chairperson thinks appropriate for the practice and procedure of a hearing. Any such guideline shall be directory in nature and no decision of the Committee shall be invalidated by reason of a guideline not being followed.
- e) Subject to section 5.9 f), in accordance with natural justice principles the Committee shall:
  - i. provide any Person whose interest will be directly and adversely affected by its decision, a reasonable opportunity to be heard;
  - ii. hear and determine the matter before it in an unbiased manner; and
  - iii. make a decision that a reasonable Committee could honestly arrive at.
- f) Whilst the Committee will endeavour to hear and determine any charge or matter referred to it before the Person's Club is next scheduled to compete, to the extent that the rules of natural justice require that:
  - i. provide a Person be given adequate notice of or sufficient time to prepare for a hearing; or
  - ii. the Committee hearing be scheduled at a time which does not affect the

Person's or the Person's Club's preparation for the next scheduled Match, those requirements are expressly from these Guidelines.

## 5.10 Obligations of Persons Attending the WAFL Tribunal

- a) Any person shall be deemed to have failed in their obligation to the WAFL Tribunal in accordance with this Rule, if that person;
  - i. fails to attend a hearing of the WAFL Tribunal as required and does not show good cause for such failure; or
  - ii. Fails to fully cooperate with the WAFL Tribunal
  - iii. failed to truthfully answer any questions asked by the Reporting Officer or the Tribunal; or
  - iv. failed to provide any document in that Person's possession or control relevant to the matter to be determined by the Tribunal following a request by the Tribunal; or
  - v. makes any false or misleading statement or makes a statement or acts in a manner calculated to or which is likely to mislead; or
  - vi. acts in an unreasonable manner while attending a hearing of the WAFL Tribunal.

The Person shall be dealt with by the Tribunal as it, in its absolute discretion, thinks fit.

- b) Any person who fails to comply with Rule 5.10 (a) shall be guilty of misconduct and incur:
  - i. suspension or disqualification as a Player and/or official;
- c) A Person, as defendant or witness, may only be excused from attendance at the WAFL Tribunal under exceptional circumstances. Clubs should contact the WAFC to offer the circumstances and gain an exemption from attending in consultation with the WAFL Tribunal Chairperson. In such cases, a telephone link may be established by the Person unable to attend and the WAFL Tribunal as it sits.

## 5.11 Prohibited Conduct

- a) A Person who has been issued with a Notice of Charge, or any Person acting on behalf or in concert with a Person who has been issued with a Notice of Charge, shall not contact or procure another to contact a Person who is or ought reasonably to be regarded as a Person required to give evidence before the Tribunal, where that contact is intended to or may otherwise mislead the Tribunal or unfairly affect the conduct of the Tribunal hearing.
- b) No Person shall publicly comment on:
  - i. the contents of a Notice of Charge prior to the conclusion of any determination by the Tribunal and/or completion of the matter, as the case may be; or
  - ii. a Notice of Investigation and any matter touching upon or concerning an Investigation under these Guidelines, until completion of such investigation and/or relevant determination by the Tribunal,unless the Person establishes, to the reasonable satisfaction of the WAFC, that such public comment was not intended to influence or affect the conduct of the Tribunal hearing or the process of the investigation, as the case may be.
- c) A Person who contravenes this Rule shall:
  - i. be deemed to have engaged in conduct which is unbecoming and prejudicial to the interests of a just and fair hearing; and



- ii. be dealt with by the WAFC as it, in its absolute discretion, thinks fit.

## **5.12 Sanction on Club**

- a) In addition to any sanction or determination made in respect of a Person under section 5.11, the WAFC may impose a sanction on that Person's Club as they in their absolute discretion think fit, except where the Club satisfies the Tribunal that the conduct of the Person was not entered into with the consent, acquiescence or knowledge of the Club.

## **5.13 Criticism of Tribunal Decision**

- a) No Person or Club shall make any unfair, unreasonable or excessive public criticism of a Tribunal decision or of any Tribunal Member or any other matter touching or concerning the Tribunal or a determination made by it.
- b) The Controlling Body shall determine in its absolute discretion in any case, whether any public criticism is unfair, unreasonable or excessive.
- c) Where the WAFC determines that any public criticism is unfair, unreasonable or excessive, the WAFC may impose a sanction in its absolute discretion.
- d) Where a Person contravenes this Rule, the Person's Club may also be liable to a sanction at the discretion of the WAFC.

## **5.14 WAFL Tribunal Appeal Rules**

### **5.14.1 Composition of Appeal Panel**

- a) The WAFC shall, from time to time, appoint persons to a disciplinary tribunal to be known as the WAFL Appeal Panel.
- b) The Appeal Panel shall consist of:
  - i. a Chairperson (Chairperson of the Appeal Panel); and
  - ii. up to two (2) Appeal Panel members.
- c) Any person appointed to the WAFL Appeal Panel shall:
  - i. be a barrister or solicitor holding a current practicing certificate within an Australian jurisdiction; and/or
  - ii. possess sufficient knowledge of Australian football, as determined by the WAFC.
- d) If the WAFL Appeal Panel consists of at least two members, one of those members must be a barrister or solicitor holding a current practicing certificate within an Australian jurisdiction.
- e) Any Appeal Panel member, who has been appointed a member of the Tribunal Panel and who did not comprise the Tribunal for the matter that is subject of the appeal, shall be eligible for selection for the appeal hearing.
- f) Except where the WAFC otherwise determines, a person shall not be appointed to the WAFL Appeal Panel, in the twelve (12) months preceding the appointment, that person has been:
  - i. a member of a Board of Directors of a Club;
  - ii. a Coach or Assistant or Specialist Coach of a Club; or
  - iii. a Person of a Club; or
  - iv. an employee of the WAFC or a Club; or
  - v. serving on the WAFL Tribunal,

- g) A member of the WAFL Appeal Panel:
  - i. may resign by providing notice in writing to the WAFC; or
  - ii. may be removed by the WAFC at any time in its absolute discretion.

### **5.14.2 Representation**

- a) Subject to section 5.14.2 (b), at any hearing before the Appeal Board a Person must:
  - i. appear in person; and/or
  - ii. be represented by a barrister, solicitor or Club Officer on such terms, if any, as the Chairperson directs;
- b) Where the Person charged with a reportable offence is under the age of 16 years at the time of the alleged Reportable Offence,
  - i. the person must be represented under [section 5.8.5 c\) ii\)](#) (and such representative must not be a parent or guardian of the Person); and
  - ii. a parent or guardian of the Person may attend any hearing before the WAFL Tribunal in place or in support of the Person.
- c) Where the Chairperson is of the opinion that a Person or representative of a Person appearing before the Tribunal has failed to observe directions of the Tribunal or otherwise acted in a contemptuous, irresponsible or discourteous manner, the Chairperson may dismiss the Person or Person's representative and, if appropriate, adjourn the proceedings to enable the Person to obtain fresh representation.

### **5.14.3 Notice of Appeal**

- a) Except where otherwise determined by the WAFC, a Person found guilty of a Reportable Offence by the Tribunal, or the WAFC may only appeal to the Appeal Board in respect of a decision made by the Tribunal under these Rules on one or more of the following grounds:
  - i. that the decision was so unreasonable that no Tribunal acting reasonably could have come to that decision having regard to the evidence before it;
  - ii. the classification of the level of the offence was manifestly excessive or inadequate; or
  - iii. that the sanction imposed was manifestly excessive or inadequate, (each, a Ground)
- b) An appeal under these rules must be lodged with the WAFC by notice in writing from the Chief Executive Officer (or WAFLW Club President, if not integrated with a WAFL Club) of the Club of the Person against whom the penalty was imposed.
- c) An application for appeal must be:
  - i. lodged by no later than 5:00pm on the day following the decision of the WAFL Tribunal with a duly completed Notice of Appeal in the form prescribed by the WAFC; and
  - ii. accompanied by a \$1,000 bond, which will only be refunded if the appeal is upheld, and the penalty reduced.
- d) The WAFC shall fix a date, time and place for the hearing before the Appeals Panel, as soon as practicable after the lodgement of the application for appeal, and shall advise all parties interested in the appeal of those particulars
- e) The Appeal Panel may, at any time prior to the hearing, vary the date, time or place specified in the Notice of Appeal and upon doing so shall, as soon as practicable, provide all parties

interested in the appeal with written notice of such variation.

#### **5.14.4 Operation of WAFL Appeal Panel**

- a) The role of the WAFL Appeals Panel is to review a penalty imposed by the WAFL Tribunal.
- b) The WAFL Appeal Panel may, in its discretion, determine whether it is appropriate to:
  - i. reduce the initial penalty;
  - ii. overturn the initial penalty; or
  - iii. uphold the initial penalty.
- c) In order to succeed, the Appellant must satisfy the WAFL Appeal Panel that:
  - i. the type of penalty is wrong; or
  - ii. the amount or length of the penalty is manifestly excessive in the circumstances.
- d) The WAFL Appeal Panel shall exercise its discretion as to whether there is a need to reconsider the evidence given at the initial WAFL Tribunal hearing.
- e) The WAFL Appeal Panel shall not allow any new evidence to be given at the hearing of the appeal unless it is satisfied that such evidence was not reasonable available at the initial hearing before the WAFL Tribunal.
- f) The Appellant's Clubs is required to produce all evidence including video evidence upon which it proposes to rely at the appeal hearing.

## 5.15 Reportable Offences

### 5.15.1 Application

This section provides some guidelines as to the different categories of Reportable Offences and the appropriate sanctions and courses of action in respect of such offences.

These guidelines are designed primarily to be used by a Match Review Panel (or some other person or persons responsible for assessing a report or referral to determine the appropriate sanction or course of action prior to any Tribunal involvement) (Panel) at the discretion of that Panel.

Where there is no Panel, the Tribunal shall adopt these guidelines in assessing the particular alleged offence and appropriate sanctions for such an offence.

### 5.15.2 Classifiable Offences

#### 5.15.2.1 Which Reportable Offences are Classifiable Offences?

- a) Classifiable Offences are those Reportable Offences (specified in the table below) which may be graded by a Panel in order to determine an appropriate base sanction for that offence.

#### **Classifiable Offences**

Charging

Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact to the Eye Region

Forceful Front-On Contact

Headbutt or Contact Using Head

Kicking

Kneeing

Rough Conduct

Striking

Tripping

Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact to the Face

#### 5.15.2.2 Grading Classifiable Offences

- a) A Panel may grade Classifiable Offences in accordance with the tables contained in [Rule 5.15.3](#) and Rule 5.15.5.3
- b) A Panel may at its absolute discretion determine that the offence ought to be referred directly to the Tribunal on the basis that it is a Classifiable Offence which attracts a base sanction that the Panel finds inappropriate (see Direct Tribunal Offences as per [Rule 5.15.4](#)).

#### 5.15.2.3 Conduct (Intentional, Careless)

- a) **Intentional Conduct** - A Player intentionally commits a Classifiable Offence if the Player engages in the conduct constituting the Reportable Offence with the intention of committing that offence.
- b) An intention is a state of mind. Intention may be formed on the spur of the moment. The issue is whether it existed at the time at which the Player engaged in the conduct.
- c) Whether or not a Player intentionally commits a Reportable Offence depends upon the state

of mind of the Player when the Player does the act with which they are charged. What the Player did is often the best evidence of the purpose they had in mind. In some cases, the evidence that the act provides may be so strong as to compel an inference of what their intent was, no matter what they may say about it afterwards. If the immediate consequence of an act is obvious and inevitable, the deliberate doing of the act carries with it evidence of an intention to produce the consequence. For example, a strike will be regarded as Intentional where a Player delivers a blow to an opponent with the intention of striking them.

- d) The state of a Player's mind is an objective fact and has to be proved in the same way as other objective facts. The whole of the relevant evidence has to be considered. If the matter is heard by the Tribunal, the Tribunal will weigh the evidence of the Player as to what their intentions were along with whatever inference as to their intentions can be drawn from their conduct or other relevant facts. The Player may or may not be believed by the Tribunal. Notwithstanding what the Player says, the Tribunal may be able to conclude from the whole of the evidence that the Player intentionally committed the act constituting the Reportable Offence.
- e) **Careless Conduct:** A Player's conduct will be regarded as 'Careless conduct' where it constitutes a breach of the duty of care owed by the Player to all other Players.
- f) Each Player owes a duty of care to all other Players, Umpires and other persons (as applicable) not to engage in conduct which will constitute a Reportable Offence being committed against that other Player, Umpire or other person
- g) In order to constitute such a breach of that duty of care, the conduct must be such that a reasonable Player would not regard it as prudent in all the circumstances.
- h) A Player will be careless if they breach their duty to take reasonable care to avoid acts which can be reasonably foreseen to result in a Reportable Offence.

#### 5.15.2.4 Impact (Low, Medium, High or Severe)

- a) Consideration will be given as to whether the impact is Low, Medium, High or Severe. In determining the level of impact, regard will be had to several factors:
  - i. Firstly, consideration will be given to the extent of force and in particular, any injury sustained by the Player who was offended against. The absence of injury does not preclude the classification of impact as severe;
  - ii. Secondly, strong consideration will be given to the potential to cause injury, particularly in the following cases:
    - a) intentional strikes, such as those with a swinging clenched fist, raised forearm or elbow;
    - b) high bumps, particularly with significant head contact and/or Player momentum;
    - c) any head-high contact with a Player who has his head over the ball, particularly when contact is made from an opponent approaching a front-on position;
    - d) forceful round arm swings that make head-high contact to a Player in a marking contest, ruck contest or when tackling;
    - e) any contact that occurs when the victim Player should not reasonably expect or is not reasonably prepared for contact (i.e. contact off the ball);
    - f) any Dangerous Tackle; and
  - iii. Thirdly, consideration will be given not only to the impact between the offending Player and the victim Player, but also any other impact to the victim Player as a result of such impact.
- b) In the case of intentional strike, strong consideration will be given to the distance the incident occurs from the ball and the expectation of contact of the victim Player. In addition,

consideration will be given to the body language of the offending Player in terms of flexing, turning, raising or positioning the body to either increase or reduce the force of impact.

- c) It should be noted that Low impact (is the minimum impact required for a Classifiable Offence) and this requires more than just a negligible impact. The panel may however consider the potential to cause injury to upgrade the level of impact from negligible to a higher level of impact.

#### 5.15.2.5 Victim Impact

- a) In addition to the above, the following table provides a summary of applicable base level impact guidelines for Low, Medium, High & Severe Impact incidents:

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>Low</b>    | Minimal or no impact on the match - the Player continued to play the majority of the match and suffered no or minimal ongoing issues.  |
| <b>Medium</b> | Clearly some impact on the Player, and / or the Player left the field for a lengthy period of time, and/ or some possible lower level ongoing treatment(s) required.                                   |
| <b>High</b>   | Major impact on the Player, and / or the Player was unable to participate in the remainder of the game, and / or major ongoing issues that require medical intervention and / or may miss some matches |
| <b>Severe</b> | Major impact and serious injury to the Player, and / or likely to miss a significant number of matches   |

Note – These are base level impact guidelines. The impact can be raised under the potential to cause serious injury at the absolute discretion of the Match Review Panel or WAFL Tribunal.

#### 5.15.2.6 Contact (High/Groin, Body)

- a) High contact is not limited to contact to the head and includes contact above the shoulders.
- b) A classification of High contact may apply for a Careless or Intentional Dangerous Tackle (refer section 5.15.9.5(3) which has the potential for injury to be caused through dangerous high contact with the ground but where high contact does not actually occur.
- c) Contact to the Groin includes contact to the crease or hollow at the junction of the inner part of each thigh.
- d) Where contact is both High and to the Body, the Panel will classify the contact as High.
- e) Contact shall be classified as High or to the Groin where a Player's head or groin makes contact with another Player or object such as the fence or the ground as a result of the actions of the offending Player. By way of example, should a Player tackle another Player around the waist and as a result of the tackle, the tackled Player's head made forceful contact with the fence or the ground the contact in these circumstances would be classified as High, even though the tackle was to the body.

#### 5.15.2.7 Impact of a Bad Record on Classifiable Offences

- a) The sanction for Classifiable Offences will not usually be automatically increased where a Player has a bad record.
- b) However, where a Player has been found or pleaded guilty to two low-level

Classifiable Offences within a 12 month period (those Classifiable Offences with a base sanction of 1 match as per the classification table in section 6.15.3)

- i. any third or subsequent low-level Classifiable Offence within the same 12 month period (as at the date of the offence) will result in a base sanction of 2 matches, with the Player able to accept 1 match with an early guilty plea
- c) For the avoidance of doubt:
  - i. the Low-level Offences referred to in Rule 5.15.6 will not be affected by the above bad record provisions.
- d) A Panel also has the discretion pursuant to section 5.6.4 to directly refer a Player to the Tribunal in their absolute discretion, which includes as a result of a bad record. In this instance the Tribunal will not be bound by the classification table in section 5.15.3 and will be at large in relation to penalty. Evidence in relation to the record of a Player can be tendered to the Tribunal without the leave of the Chair.

#### **5.15.2.8 Reductions in base sanction for an early guilty plea**

- a) The base sanction for Classifiable Offences will be subsequently decreased where a Player submits an early guilty plea. As per the Classification Table in Rule 5.15.3:
  - i. An early guilty plea in respect of a Classifiable Offence with a fixed base sanction of two, three or four matches will result in a one-match reduction in the suspension; and
  - ii. An early guilty plea in respect of a Classifiable Offence with a base sanction of one match will result in a reprimand and/or fine.

#### **5.15.2.9 No Automatic reduction for Good Record**

- a) Players do not receive an automatic reduced base sanction for a good record. However, if a Classifiable Offence is contested or referred to the Tribunal, a Player with an exemplary record at senior level football could argue it constitutes exceptional and compelling circumstances, (which would make it inappropriate to apply the sanctions in section 5.15.3 to the determined classification). In such circumstances, the Tribunal would determine the appropriate sanction in its absolute discretion.

#### **5.15.2.10 Multiple Offences in a Single Match**

- a) Where a Player is found guilty of multiple Reportable Offences from a single match, the individual penalties are added together to form the final penalty to the Player.

### 5.15.3 Classification Table

a) A Panel may grade Classifiable Offences in accordance with the following table:

| Conduct     | Impact | Contact          | Base Sanction          | Early Guilty Plea |
|-------------|--------|------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Intentional | Severe | High/Groin/Chest | 5+ Matches or Tribunal | N/A               |
|             |        | Body             | 4+ Matches or Tribunal | N/A               |
|             | High   | High/Groin/Chest | 4 Matches              | 3 Matches         |
|             |        | Body             | 3 Matches              | 2 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                | Reprimand         |
| Careless    | Severe | High/Groin/Chest | 4+ Matches or Tribunal | N/A               |
|             |        | Body             | 3+ Matches or Tribunal | N/A               |
|             | High   | High/Groin/Chest | 3 Matches              | 2 Matches         |
|             |        | Body             | 2 Matches              | 1 Match           |
|             | Medium | High/Groin/Chest | 2 Matches              | 1 Match           |
|             |        | Body             | 1 Match                | Reprimand         |
|             | Low    | High/Groin/Chest | 1 Match                | Reprimand         |
|             |        | Body             | 1 Match                | Reprimand         |



## 5.15.4 Direct Tribunal Offences

### 5.15.4.1 Which Reportable Offences are Direct Tribunal Offences?

- a) Direct Tribunal Offences are those Reportable Offences (specified in the table below) which are referred by a Panel (or otherwise) directly to the Tribunal for determination without grading (i.e. without an assessment of the offence using the Classification Table):

#### **Direct Tribunal Offences**

Attempting to Strike an Umpire

Behaving in an Abusive, Insulting, Threatening or Obscene Manner Towards or in Relation to an Umpire

Eye Gouging

Intentional Contact with an Umpire

Spitting on Another Person

Spitting on or at an Umpire

Stomping

Striking an Umpire

Serious Misconduct

### 5.15.4.2 Determination of Direct Tribunal Offences

- a) The MRP will determine Direct Tribunal Offences (as with any other Reportable Offence) in accordance with Rule 5.9
- b) For Rogers Cup & Reserves, The Community Football Tribunal will determine the appropriate sanction for a direct to Tribunal offence within the standard range of penalties.

## 5.15.6 Low-level Offences

### 5.15.6.1 What Reportable Offences are Low-level Offences?

- a) Low-level Offences are the following low-level Reportable Offences which do not require classification:

| <b>Low-level Offences</b>  |
|--|
| Attempt to Strike / Kick / Trip  |
| Careless Contact with an Umpire  |
| Disputing Decision   |
| Instigator of a Melee  |
| Interfering with a Player Kicking for Goal   |
| Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact with an Injured Player   |
| Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact with an Umpire   |
| Engaging in a Melee  |
| Not Leaving the Playing Surface  |
| Obscene Gesture  |
| Pinching   |
| Prohibited Boots, Jewellery or Equipment   |
| Scratching   |
| Shaking Goal Post  |
| Spitting at Another Player   |
| Staging  |
| Striking   |
| Time Wasting   |
| Tripping   |
| Using Abusive, Insulting or Obscene Language Towards or in Relation to an Umpire                     |
| Using Abusive, Insulting or Obscene Language   |
| Wrestling  |
| Any Other Act of Low-Level Misconduct which is not a Classifiable Offence or Direct Tribunal Offence |

### 5.15.6.2 Sanctions for Low-level Offences

- a) Low-level Offences attract the base sanctions (with a reduced sanction for an early guilty plea) from WAFC as set out in the table below.
- b) A reference to second and subsequent Low-level Offences is a reference to a second or subsequent Low-level Offence occurring at any time in the previous 12 months (as at the date of the current offence).
- c) The second or subsequent Low-level Offence need not be the same offence as the first Low-level Offence.
- d) For the avoidance of doubt, a prior offence other than a Low-level Offence this will not count as a first offence for the purposes of the above table.

### 5.15.6.3 Table of Low-level Offences

a) The following tables of sanctions relate to Rule 5.15.5.

| First and Second Low-level Offences |                   | Third and Subsequent Low-level Offences |                   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| Base Sanction                       | Early Guilty Plea | Base Sanction                           | Early Guilty Plea |
| 1 Match                             | Reprimand         | 2 Matches                               | 1 Match           |

### 5.15.7 Competition Fairest and Best Eligibility

5.15.6.3.1 Players who serve a 1 Match sanction or greater are ineligible to win the Dhara Kerr, or Rogers Medals.

### 5.15.8 Grand Final

a) The Panel or Tribunal (as applicable) has the right to apply (in its absolute discretion) a loading of up to 100% for any Reportable Offence committed during a Grand Final. Reportable Offences

### 5.15.9 Reportable Offences

The Laws of Australian Football sets out a non-exhaustive list of specific Reportable Offences in Law 21.2.2 as well as providing for various categories of permitted contact which shall not constitute a Reportable Offence (for example legally using a hip, shoulder, chest, arms or open arms, providing the football is no more than five metres away, and contact which is incidental to a marking contest where a Player is legitimately marking or attempting to mark the football).

The Laws define certain offences such as Charging and Engaging in a Melee, however, they provide that in interpreting Reportable Offences, words, terms or phrases which are not defined in the Laws shall be given their ordinary meaning.

The following provides some further guidance in relation to what constitutes particular Reportable Offences.

#### 5.15.9.1 Striking, Kicking

- a) Striking and kicking are interpreted in accordance with their commonly understood meaning. A strike would usually be by hand, arm or elbow and would generally not apply to other contact using the body. A kick is generally applied to contact by foot or leg.
- b) Under the Classifiable Offences, a strike or kick requires more than negligible impact.
- c) Where a strike, for example, does not have more than negligible impact, it is still open to a Panel to charge a Player with Striking under the Low-Level Offences table where it is satisfied that notwithstanding the result, the intention was to commit a Reportable Offence.
- d) Where no contact is made, a Panel can charge a Player with an Attempt to Strike or Kick, which are also Low-Level Offences.

### 5.15.9.2 Classification of Certain Strikes

- a) For the purpose of these Rules, all Persons should note that the following factors are considered when determining the classification of a Striking offence:
  - i. **Intent:** Notwithstanding any other part of these Guidelines, the fact that an act of striking occurred behind play or off the ball or during a break in play or with a raised forearm or below is usually consistent with the strike being intentional.
  - ii. **Impact:** Notwithstanding any other part of these guidelines, any Careless or Intentional strike which is of an inherently dangerous kind and/or where there is a potential to cause serious injury (such as a strike with a raised elbow or forearm will usually not be classified as “Low Impact” even though the extent of the actual physical impact may be low. Such strikes will usually be classified at a higher level commensurate with the nature and extent of the risk of serious injury involved. Strong consideration will also be given to the distance the incident occurs from the ball and the expectation of contact of the victim Player.

### 5.15.9.3 Misconduct

Misconduct has a wide meaning and generally is any conduct which would be reasonably regarded as unacceptable or unsportsmanlike or where it has the effect or potential to prejudice the reputation of any person, Club or the WAFC or to bring the game of football into disrepute.

- a) Acts of Serious Misconduct will be referred directly to the Tribunal.
- b) Any other act of Misconduct will be subject to a Low-Level Offence to be determined by the Panel in its absolute discretion.

### 5.15.9.4 Forceful Front-On Contact

- a) Bumping or making forceful contact to an opponent from front-on when that opponent has their head down over the ball is a Reportable Offence. Unless Intentional, such actions will be deemed to be Careless, unless:
  - i. The Player was contesting the ball and did not have a realistic alternative way to contest the ball or;
  - ii. the bump or forceful contact was caused by circumstances outside the control of the Player which could not reasonably be foreseen.
- b) A Player can bump an opponent’s body from side-on but any contact forward of side-on will be deemed to be front-on.
- c) A Player with their head down in anticipation of winning possession of the ball or after contesting the ball will be deemed to have their head down over the ball for the purposes of this section.

### 5.15.9.5 Rough Conduct

- a) Rough Conduct is interpreted widely in relation to any contact which is unreasonable in the circumstances.
- b) It is a Reportable Offence to intentionally or carelessly engage in Rough Conduct against an opponent which in the circumstances is unreasonable.
- c) Without limiting the wide interpretation of Rough Conduct, particular regard shall be had to the following officially recognised forms of Rough Conduct.

| Form of Rough Conduct                       | Description   |
|---|---|
| <b>1. Rough Conduct (High Bumps)</b>        | <p>A Player will be guilty of Rough Conduct where in the bumping of an opponent (whether reasonably or unreasonably) the Player causes forceful contact to be made with any part of their body to an opponent's head or neck.</p> <p>Unless Intentional, such conduct will be deemed to be Careless, unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Player was contesting the ball and it was reasonable for the Player to contest the ball in that way; or</li> <li>• the forceful contact to the opponent's head or neck was caused by circumstances outside the control of the Player which could not be reasonably foreseen.</li> </ul> <p>In the interests of Player safety, the purpose of the rule dealing with high bumps is to reduce, as far as practicable, the risk of head injuries to Players and this purpose needs to be kept firmly in mind by all Players and will guide the application of the rule.</p> <p>For the purpose of these Guidelines, head clashes that result when a Player has elected to bump are circumstances that can reasonably be foreseen. Players will ordinarily be liable if they elect to bump if not contesting the ball.</p> |
| <b>2. Rough Conduct (Bumps to the Body)</b> | <p>It should be noted that even if the rule relating to high bumps does not apply (for example in the case of a bump to the body), a Player may still be guilty of Rough Conduct if their conduct was unreasonable in the circumstances. In determining whether any bump was unreasonable in the circumstances, without limitation, regard may be had to whether:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the degree of force applied by the person bumping was excessive for the situation;</li> <li>• the Player being bumped was in a vulnerable position; and</li> <li>• the Player could reasonably expect the contact having regard to his involvement in play or ability to influence the contest.</li> </ul>   |

**3. Rough Conduct  
(Dangerous Tackles)**

The application of a tackle may be considered Rough Conduct which is unreasonable in the circumstances. In determining whether the application of a tackle constitutes a Reportable Offence and whether the offence is Careless or Intentional, without limitation, regard may be had to the following factors, whether:

- the tackle consists of more than one action, regardless of whether the Player being tackled is in possession of the ball;
- the tackle is of an inherently dangerous kind, such as a spear tackle or a tackle where a Player is lifted off the ground;
- the Player being tackled is in a vulnerable position (for example, arm(s) pinned) with little opportunity to protect himself; or
- an opponent is slung, driven or rotated into the ground with excessive force.

**4. Rough Conduct  
(Contact Below the Knees)**

Under the Laws of Australian Football, it is prohibited to make contact with an opponent below the knees. Players who keep their feet are vulnerable to serious injury from opponents who lunge, dive or slide toward them and make contact below the knees. It is the purpose of these guidelines to protect such Players from the risk of foreseeable injury. A Player may be guilty of Rough Conduct if the Player makes contact below the knees of an opponent and does so in a manner which is unreasonable in the circumstances. It is not a defence that the Player who made the prohibited contact was contesting the ball or was first to the ball. The primary responsibility of Players with respect to contact below the knees is to avoid the risk of foreseeable injury. In determining whether any contact below the knees is unreasonable in the circumstances, regard may be had to:

- the degree of momentum and/or force involved in the contact;
- whether the Player causes contact below the knees by sliding with their foot, feet, knee or knees in front of him;
- whether the opposition Player was in a position that was vulnerable to contact below the knees (for example, standing over the ball or approaching from the opposite direction); and
- whether the Player making contact had any realistic alternative ways of approaching the contest or situation.

It should be noted that even where the contact is not made below the knees of the opposition Player but to another part of an opponent's body, a Player may still be guilty under the general definition of Rough Conduct for making unreasonable contact by sliding or dropping in to an opponent with their knees or feet first.

### 5.15.9.6 Contact with and Umpire

- a) Intentional Contact with an Umpire:
  - i. Contact with an Umpire that is aggressive, forceful, demonstrative or disrespectful will be deemed intentional and the Player will be directly referred to the Tribunal;
- b) Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact with an Umpire:
  - i. Where contact with an Umpire is not aggressive, forceful, demonstrative or disrespectful but could otherwise be regarded as intentional, it will be classified as Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact with an Umpire which is a Low-Level Offence.
- c) Careless Contact with an Umpire:

Contact with an Umpire by a Player will be regarded as careless when it constitutes a breach of the duty of care owed by the Player to the Umpire. Regard will be had to the following factors when determining if the contact is careless:

  - i. Whether contact occurs at a centre bounce or ball up;
  - ii. Whether the Player has set up behind the Umpire;
  - iii. Whether the Player has taken a path that intersects the Umpire's exit line from a stoppage;
  - iv. The force of the contact;
  - v. Whether the Umpire's decision making is impeded;
  - vi. Whether the Umpire goes to ground as a result of the contact;
  - vii. Any mitigating factors (effort to avoid contact, offline bounce or throw, pushed by opponent into Umpire's path etc).
- d) A player may also be charged with the offence of Careless Contact with an Umpire by directly pushing an opponent into an Umpire of their direct path.
- e) A charge of Careless Contact with an Umpire is a Low-Level Offence.

### 5.15.9.7 Melee

- a) Engaging in a Melee:
  - i. 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 is likely to bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute or prejudice the interests or reputation of the Controlling Body.
  - ii. The offence of Engaging in a Melee is a Low-Level Offence
  - iii. Regard will be given to the following factors when determining if a Player is charged with Engaging in a Melee:
    - The duration the Player is involved in the Melee;
    - The vigour applied by the Player;
    - Whether the Melee occurs at a break in play, particularly at quarter breaks and half time; and
    - Whether the Player contributed to an escalation of the Melee.
- b) Instigator of a Melee
  - i. Instigator of a Melee is defined as where the Player's conduct results in retaliatory action which leads to a melee.
  - ii. The offence of Instigator of Melee is in addition to the offence of Engaging in a Melee which may have the effect of a Player being found guilty of both offences.

#### **5.15.9.8 Staging**

- a) Staging can include but is not limited to excessive exaggeration of contact in an unsportsmanlike manner. Staging is a Reportable Offence as it may:
  - i. affect Umpires' decision-making.
  - ii. Incite a melee; and/or
  - iii. Not be in the spirit of the game (unsportsmanlike)

#### **5.15.9.9 Tripping**

- a) In determining whether a trip constitutes a Reportable Offence, regard will be had to how fast the opponent was moving, whether the trip was by hand or by foot/leg and whether contact was made with a swinging motion.
- b) To constitute a Classifiable Offence, Tripping requires more than negligible impact.
- c) Where a trip does not have more than negligible impact, it is still open to the Panel to charge a Player with Tripping under the Low-Level Offences table where it is satisfied that notwithstanding the result, the intention was to commit an act constituting a Reportable Offence.
- d) Where no contact is made, the Panel can charge a Player with Attempt to Trip, which is a Low-Level Offence.

### **5.16 Unpaid Fines**

- a) The WAFC will maintain a fine's register throughout each season and invoice Clubs on a monthly basis.

### **5.17 Club Making a Charge or Protest Against Another Club**

- a) Any Club may refer a protest or charge, Notice of Investigation or report any infringement of these Rules and Regulations or the Laws of Australian Football against any other Club or a Player, Official or a Member of another Club by:
  - i. written notice to the WAFC by 12pm on the first working day after the match; and
  - ii. to the Club, or the Club of the Player, Official or Member concerned by 5:00pm on the day of lodging such protest with the WAFC.

Note, a Notice of Investigation shall only be submitted to the WAFC in accordance with [Rule 5.4](#)

- b) Any Club making any protest or charge against another Club, or a Player, Official or Member of another Club or reporting any infringement of these Rules and Regulations or the Laws of Australian Football shall:
  - i. Forward the same with particulars in writing specifying the charge; and
  - ii. The sum of \$500 to the WAFC,by 12pm on the first working day after the date upon which the occurrence complained of took place together with a copy of the complaint to the opposing Club.
- c) If the protest is about an incident on the playing field during the course of a match, the Club should make submission to the WAFC on the official form, who will follow the process in accordance with [Rule 5.4](#)
- d) The WAFC may refer the Notice of Investigation to the WAFL Match Review Panel or WAFL Tribunal in accordance with the relevant provisions under [Rule 5.4](#)
- e) In the event the charge or protest submitted in accordance with this Rule is referred to the



WAFL Tribunal, any Club affected by this Rule shall be given at least nine (9) hours' notice to attend the WAFL Tribunal hearing, which shall be held by no later than 8.00pm on a Thursday night immediately following the fixture which gave rise to the Club lodging the charge or protest.

- f) The sum of \$500 submitted in accordance with (b)(ii) above shall be:
  - i. forfeited to the WAFC upon dismissal of the protest or charge; or
  - ii. refunded if the protest or charge is upheld or the WAFL Tribunal so directs.
- g) If the protest or charge against these Rules and Regulations or Laws of Australian Football do not involve a Reportable Offence, the protest or charge shall be determined by the WAFC and its decision can be appealed to the WAFL Arbitrator.

## **5.18 WAFL Arbitrator**

- a) The WAFL Arbitrator is empowered to arbitrate on any matter referred to them pursuant to these Rules.

### **5.18.1 Appeals to the WAFL Arbitrator**

- a) A Player and/or WAFLW Club may appeal to the WAFL Arbitrator to determine any dispute or question in relation to a Player's transfer from one WAFLW Club to another. The WAFL Arbitrator shall, in accordance with these Rules, make a determination as to the Player's eligibility for transfer and then, the transfer fee.
- b) A Club may appeal to the WAFL Arbitrator if they feel aggrieved by any decision of the WAFC.
- c) Any matter taken to the WAFL Arbitrator for determination (an "appeal") may only be heard if the appellant lodges a Form 9 (Notice of Appeal) with the WAFC, together with a \$500 fee, which may be refunded at the discretion of the WAFL Arbitrator.
- d) The appeal shall then be arranged for a date, time and place not later than 14 days after lodgement of the Notice of Appeal. All parties interested in the appeal shall be notified and entitled to appear.
- e) The WAFL Arbitrator shall regulate proceedings as he or she thinks fit and he or she shall confirm, reverse, modify or set aside any decision or act, or remedy any omission and make such orders and give such directions in the matter as he or she thinks fit.
- f) The decision of the WAFL Arbitrator in respect of any appeal brought before him or her shall be final and binding on all parties.

### **5.18.2 Action by WAFL Arbitrator in the Event of Honest Mistake**

- a) If, in the event of an appeal to the WAFL Arbitrator, the Arbitrator is satisfied that an honest mistake had been made, he or she may, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, rule that non-compliance with or contravention of these Rules did not occur.

## 6 AWARDS

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### 6.1 League Medals for Outstanding Play

#### 6.1.1 Fairest and Best Player Voting

- a) The voting for WAFLW League and Rogers Cup Competitions is done by the Number One Umpire in each grade.
- b) The Number One Umpire must award three (3) votes to the Player, who, in their opinion was the best Player on the ground, then 2,1 votes for the next best Players in order of performance.

#### 6.1.2 Ineligible Players Still Receive Votes

- a) For the avoidance of doubt, votes shall be awarded in accordance with [Rule 6.1.1](#) irrespective of whether such Players:
  - i. have been reported during the Match for which votes are to be awarded.
  - ii. have been found guilty of a Reportable Offence in a Match during that season

#### 6.1.3 Ineligibility

- a) Subject to Rule 6.1.4, Players in League, Reserves and Rogers Cup competitions are ineligible to win any medal in any Grade if:
  - i. they have been reported in any sanctioned game in the WAFLW season; and
  - ii. have subsequently found guilty and suspended by the WAFL Tribunal or Match Review Panel of a Reportable Offence in accordance with [Rule 5.15.7](#)

#### 6.1.4 Exception

- a) Players found guilty and suspended in pre-season games remain eligible to win the competition medals.
- b) Notwithstanding that a Player has been found guilty of a Reportable Offence in a home and away match, the Player shall remain eligible to receive the medal in that season if the sanction for the Reportable Offence is a reprimand or financial sanction only.

#### 6.1.5 League (Lou Knitter) and Rogers Cup Best on Ground Medal Voting

- a) For the Rogers Cup Best on Ground and Lou Knitter Medal in the League Grand Final:
  - i. the votes are cast by the Field Umpires, (1) WAFC Representative, and one (1) Media Representative selected by the WAFC.
  - ii. each of the three (3) voting slips rank the top three (3) Players in the game with three (3) votes going to the best Player in the opinion of the person casting the votes;
  - iii. the winning Player is the Player with the highest number of votes from the three (3) voting sheets; and
  - iv. where there are two (2) Players tie in the voting then the highest ranked Player according to the Umpire's votes shall be deemed to be the winner.

### **6.1.6 Eligibility**

- a) All Players entered on the Official Teams Sheet for the game are considered eligible to win the League (Lou Knitter) & Rogers Cup Medal.
- b) Players may be reported during the game and remain eligible to win the Lou Knitter & Rogers Cup Medal

## **6.2 Award Criteria**

### **6.2.1 Cath Boyce Rising Star**

- a) *The Cath Boyce Rising Star is voted by the WAFLW Club League Coaches, at the completion of the home and away season, and ratified by the WAFC. It is awarded to the best young player in the WAFLW League competition each season. To be eligible, players must meet the below criteria:*
  - i. *The player must be under 21 (as at 1<sup>st</sup> January in that current season's calendar year) and has played 7 or fewer League Games before the commencement of current WAFLW home and away season;*
  - ii. *The award winner is decided by the highest number of votes awarded by the WAFLW Club League Coaches and ratified by the WAFC.*
  - iii. *Should there be a tie, the winner will be decided on the highest number of 3 votes awarded.*
  - iv. *The player must not have been suspended during the current home and away season; and;*
  - v. *A player is only eligible to receive the Rising Star award once in their career.*
- b) *Process:*
  - i. *The WAFC will circulate a list of eligible players to WAFLW League coaches at the completion of the home and away season to be selected based on the above criteria.*
  - ii. *At the conclusion of the WAFLW League home and away, each WAFLW League coach will be required to award votes to the opposition players, from the list of eligible players, as follows:*
    - a. *Three (3) votes to the best performed player;*
    - b. *Two (2) votes for the second best performed player;*
    - c. *One (1) vote to the third best performed player.*
  - iii. *Coaches will be required to lodge their votes electronically via an online form created by the WAFC.*
    - a. *for the avoidance of doubt a WAFLW League coach may not lodge any votes for their own player(s).*

### **6.2.2 WAFLW Coach of The Year**

- a) The WAFLW Coach of the Year is awarded to the best performed coach through the WAFLW Season, as voted by their peers.
- b) The WAFLW Coach of the Year will be awarded to the coach with the most votes.
- c) At the conclusion of the WAFLW League Home and Away, each WAFLW League coach will be

required to award votes to rival coaches as follows;

- i. Three (3) votes to the best performed coach;
  - ii. Two (2) votes for the second best performed coach;
  - iii. One (1) vote to the third best performed coach.
- d) For the avoidance of doubt, a WAFLW League coach may not lodge any votes for themself.

## 7 ZONES



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The geographic area of Western Australia will be divided into discrete areas and allocated to the WAFLW Clubs. Players who reside in these areas will be bound to the WAFLW Club in accordance with Rule 1.2.1. This is designed to give benefit to WAFLW Clubs who assist in the development of their Zoned Players.

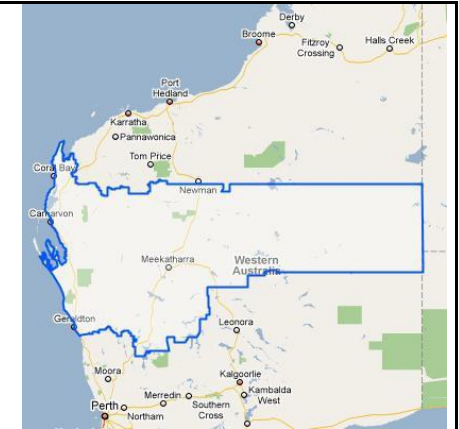
### 7.1 WAFL Club Districts / Zones

- a) The WAFC may, from time to time, as the circumstances shall require, define and delineate zones and the boundaries thereof and may alter or vary such zones or add new zones.
- b) In the year of a zone change only Players who are listed in the WAFLW Under 16's championships teams are eligible to be registered with a WAFL Club, should the zone change affect their zone status where all such Players remain zoned to their original Club.
- c) Any other Player who changes zone is automatically be zoned to their newly zoned Club immediately.

## 7.2 Country Zone Boundaries

| Zone                         | Shires  |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>CLAREMONT</b>             |   |
| <p><b>Southern Zone</b></p>  | <p>Shires of Cranbrook, Tambellup, Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Kent, Lake Grace, Ravensthorpe, Plantagenet, Denmark, Albany plus the Town of Albany. The postcode of Walpole is also zoned to Claremont as they play in the Great Southern Football League.</p>  |
| <p><b>Kimberley Zone</b></p> | <p>Shires of Wyndham-East Kimberley, Ngaanyatjarraku, Derby-West Kimberley, Broome, and Halls Creek.</p>    |
| <b>EAST FREMANTLE</b>        |   |

Shires of Mullewa, Greenough (including the City of Geraldton), Chapman Valley, Shark Bay, Northampton, Murchison, Cue, Sandstone, Mt Magnet and Yalgoo.



**EAST PERTH**

Shires of Busselton, Boyup Brook, Bridgetown – Greenbushes, Manjimup, Nannup, Kojanup and Augusta – Margaret River. The postcode of Walpole is zoned to Claremont as they play in the Great Southern Football League. Kojanup is zoned to East Perth as they play in the Lower South West Football League.



**PEEL THUNDER**

**South-West Zone**

Shires of Capel, Dardanup, Collie, Donnybrook-Balingup and Harvey.

**PERTH**

Shires of Beverley, Quairading, Kellerberrin, Tammin, Cunderdin, York, Northam, Toodyay, Goomalling, Dowerin, Wyalkatchem, Wongan-Ballidu, Victoria Plains, Gingin, Dandaragan, Moora, Dalwallinu, Perenjori, Coorow, Carnamah, Three Springs, Mingenew, Morawa, Irwin plus the Town of Northam.

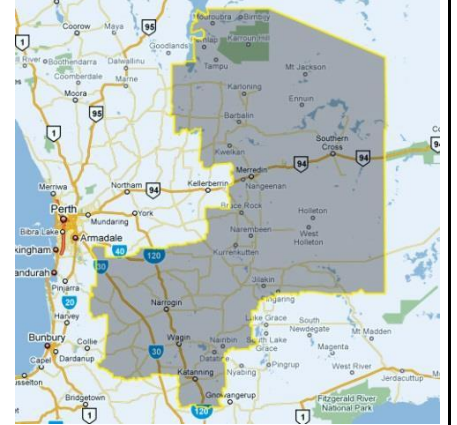
The post code of Wundowie is zoned to Swan Districts as they play in the Hills Football League.  
The post code of Kalannie is zoned to West Perth as they play in the Eastern Districts Football League.



### SOUTH FREMANTLE

#### Eastern Zone

Shires of Boddington, Wandering, Brookton, Pingelly, Wickpin, Cuballing, Williams, West Arthur, Wagin, Narrogin, Dumbleyung, Katanning, Woodanilling and Broomehill plus the Town of Narrogin.





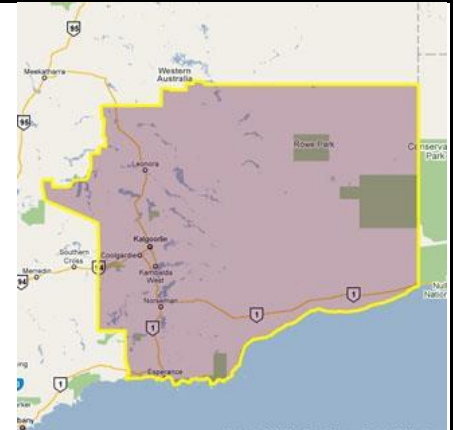
South Fremantle Cont.  
Gascoyne/Central  
Zone

The Shires of Exmouth, Carnarvon, Upper Gascoyne, Meekatharra, and Wiluna



**SUBIACO**

Shires of Esperance, Coolgardie, Dundas, Menzies, Leonora, Laverton and the City of Kalgoolie/Boulder.



**SWAN DISTRICTS**

**Southern Zone**

City of Bunbury plus the localities of Gelorup and Dalyellup within the Shire of Capel.  
The post code of Wundowie is also zoned to Swan Districts as they play in the Hills Football League.

**Pilbara Zone**

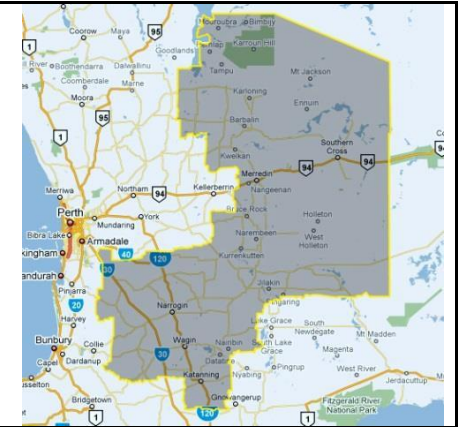
The Shires of Ashburton, Roebourne, Port Hedland and East Pilbara.




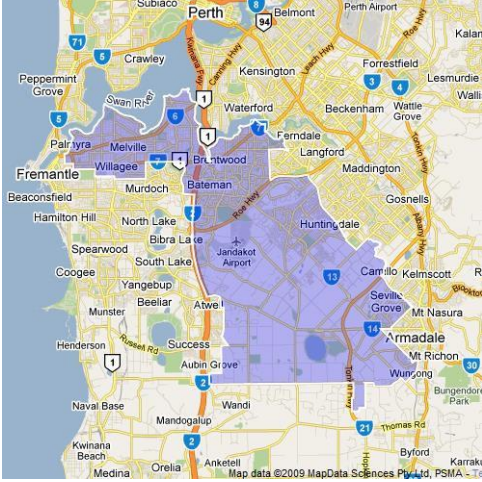
**WEST PERTH**

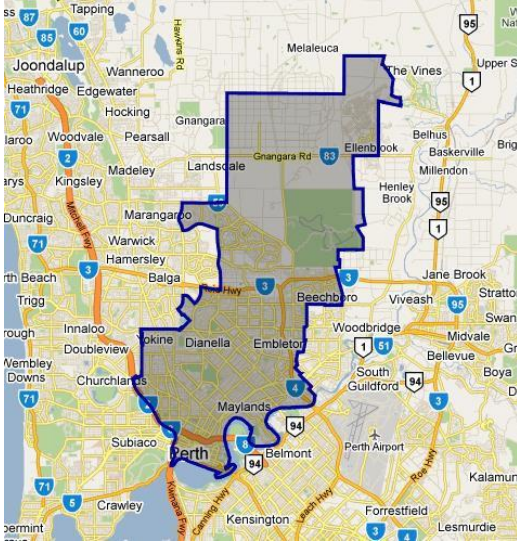
Shires of Mount Marshall, Koorda, Mukinbudin, Trayning, Nungarin, Westonia, Yilgarn, Merredin, Bruce Rock, Corrigin, Narembeen, Kondinin and Kulin.

The post code of Kalannie is also zoned to West Perth as they play in the Eastern Districts Football League.

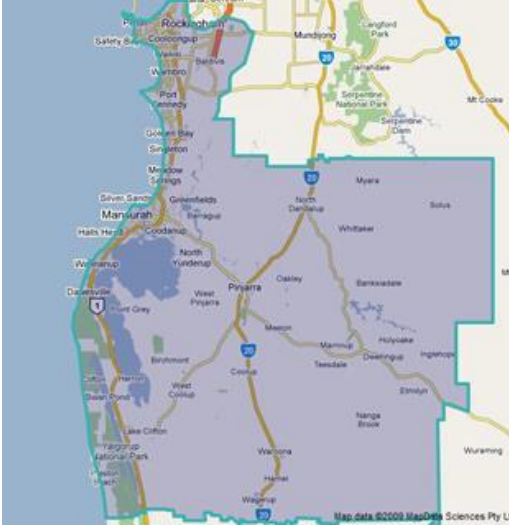



### 7.3 Metropolitan District / Zone Boundaries

| Zone                         | Boundaries   | Map  |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| <p><b>CLAREMONT</b></p>      | <p><b>Western boundary:</b> Indian Ocean Coastline from North Mole (Fremantle) to the northern boundary of the locality of North Beach near Hale St.</p> <p><b>Northern boundary:</b> The northern and then eastern border of the locality of North Beach and then Trigg to its junction with Karrinyup Rd. The northern border follows Karrinyup Rd until its junction with Huntriss Road.</p> <p><b>Eastern boundary:</b> Follow Huntriss Road south until the junction with Scarborough Beach Road. Follow this in an Easterly direction until the intersection with Leige Street. Follow Leige Street until the juncture with Pearson Street. Follow Pearson Street around Herdsman Lake to where it becomes Flynn Street and joins with Selby Street. South on Selby Street to the intersection with Grantham Street. Follow Grantham Street East (Lake Monger Drive) until the intersection with the Mitchell Freeway. South along the Mitchell freeway to the Narrows bridge.</p> <p><b>Southern boundary:</b> Swan River from the Narrows Bridge to the Indian Ocean Coastline at North Mole (Fremantle).</p>  |   |
| <p><b>EAST FREMANTLE</b></p> | <p><b>Western Boundary:</b> North from the intersection of Anketell Road and the Kwinana Freeway to Gibbs Road. East to the intersection with Beenyup Road. Follow Beenyup Road North until the juncture with Tapper Road. Follow Tapper Road North to Armadale Road. West along Armadale Road to the intersection with the Kwinana. North on Freeway until South Street. Then West along South Street to Murdoch Drive. North along Murdoch Drive and then West along Leach Highway excluding the localities of Kardinya and Winthrop. Follow the Western border of the locality of Winthrop South along North Lake Rd to its junction with Garling St. Follow Garling St West to Stock Rd. Then follow Stock Rd North to Sainsbury Rd, then West along Sainsbury Rd to its intersection with Carrington St. Follow Carrington St North to the intersection with High St, then West to the intersection with Stirling Highway. North along Stirling Highway to Marmion Street then continue West along Marmion following the Southern boundary of the locality of East Fremantle and then North along the same boundary following East Street to the Swan River.</p> <p><b>Northern Boundary:</b> River from western boundary of the Town of East Fremantle to the juncture of the Canning River and the eastern border of the locality of Riverton.</p> <p><b>Eastern Boundary:</b> From the juncture of the Canning River and the Eastern border of the locality of</p> |  |

|                          |  |  |
|--------------------------|--|--|
|                          | <p>Riverton South to the juncture of the localities of Riverton, Ferndale and High Road being the Northern border of the locality of Parkwood. Exclude the locality of Parkwood by following High Rd and Willeri Drive and then the Southern border of the locality of Parkwood, along the Roe highway, to its intersection with Nicholson Rd. Then South along Nicholson Road and its continuation to Garden Street and continue across in a straight line from Garden Street to Holmes Street. At the juncture with Southern River Road, travel South West to the intersection with Ranford Road. Continue South along Ranford Road until the intersection with Tonkin Highway. Continue South until the intersection with Rowley Road.</p> <p><b>Southern Boundary:</b> Head west on Rowley Road until the juncture with the Kwinana Freeway</p>  |  |
| <p><b>EAST PERTH</b></p> | <p><b>Western Boundary:</b> Mitchell Freeway from the Swan River to to its intersection with Lake Monger Drive. Head West along Lake Monger Drive (turning into Grantham Street) to the intersection with Selby Street. Head North until Flynn Street. Follow Flynn Street West (turning into Pearson Street) until the juncture with Liege Street. Head North until the intersection with Scarborough Beach Road. Travel west until the intersection with Huntriss Road. Travel North on Huntriss until the intersection with Karrinyup Road. Turn East and follow Karrinyup Road to the Intersection with the Mitchell Fwy. Follow the Mitchell Fwy South until the juncture with Scarborough Beach Rd. East along Scarborough Beach Rd and Green Street to its junction with the locality of Joondanna. Follow the Western and then Northern aspects of the border of the locality of Joondanna to its intersection with Wanneroo Rd. Follow Wanneroo Road North to Morley Drive. The boundary then moves East along Morley drive to the junction of the Nollamara locality and then North along the common Nollamara and Dianella locality boundaries. Follow the Southern boundary of the locality of Mirrabooka along Reid highway to Alexander Drive then North to its intersection with Hepburn Ave.</p> <p><b>Northern Boundary:</b> Follow the boundary of Cullacabardee North to the Northern boundary of the locality of Lexia. Continue North then East along the Northern boundary of Lexia to the boundary of the locality of Ellenbrook, follow this boundary North and then continue East along the Northern boundary of Ellenbrook.</p> <p><b>Eastern Boundary:</b> South along the Eastern boundary of the locality of Ellenbrook to Gngangara Rd, follow Gngangara road East to the intersection of West Swan Road. Continue South along West Swan Road until the intersection with Benara Road. Follow Benara Rd West to its intersection with the Eastern border of the city of Morley. Follow the Eastern border of Morley and Bayswater South to the Swan River.</p> <p><b>Southern Boundary:</b> Swan River west to the Narrows Bridge.</p> |  |



|                            |  |  |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| <p><b>PEEL THUNDER</b></p> | <p><b>Western Boundary:</b> Indian Ocean coastline from the northern boundary of the City of Bunbury to the juncture where Patterson Road (Railway Terrace) intersects with Rockingham Beach Road and the Indian Ocean.</p> <p><b>Northern Boundary:</b> From the coast follow Railway Terrace (turns into Patterson Road) to the intersection with Goddard Street. From Goddard Street head West on to Dixon Road to the juncture of Dixon Road, Gilmore Avenue and Mandurah Road. Follow Mandurah Road to the intersection of Fifty Road. Follow Fifty Road to Baldivis Reserve. The Boundary Fence of Baldivis Reserve remains in the Peel Thunder zone. Travel south along Baldivis Road to the intersection with Safety Bay Road. Travel East on Safety Bay Road until it intersects with Kwinana Fwy. Travel South on Kwinana Fwy until the intersection with the Southern Boundary of the State Electorate of Baldivis (South Metropolitan) to where it connects at the southern point with the shire of Serpentine/Jarrahdale and then east along the northern boundary of the Shire of Murray.</p> <p><b>Eastern Boundary:</b> South along the eastern border of the Shires of Murray, Waroona, Harvey, Collie and Donnybrook/Balingyup.</p> <p><b>Southern Boundary:</b> The southern boundary of the Shires of Collie, Donnybrook and Balingyup, Dardanup and Capel to the coast.</p> <p><b>EXCLUSION:</b> The City of Bunbury and the localities of Gelorup and Dalyellup are zoned to Swan Districts.</p> |   |
| <p><b>PERTH</b></p>        | <p><b>Western Boundary:</b> North along Kargotich Road to the intersection with Thomas Road. East on Thomas Road until the juncture with Tonkin Hwy. Travel North on Tonkin Hwy until the intersection with Ranford Road. North along Ranford Road until the juncture with Southern River Road. Head East along Southern River Road until the intersection with Holmes Street. North West along the southern border of Huntingdale along Garden Street and its continuation, Nicholson Road. From Nicholson Rd follow the southern border of the locality of Parkwood and then its western border following Willeri Drive. Continue along the northern border of the locality of Parkwood to the common border of the localities of Ferndale and Riverton. Follow this border north to the Canning River.</p> <p><b>Northern Boundary:</b> The southern bank of the Swan River between the Narrows Bridge and the north boundary of the City of Belmont.</p> <p><b>Eastern Boundary:</b> Follow the North East boundary of the City of Belmont and City of Canning south to its juncture with the City of Gosnells north east boundary. Continue south along this border to its juncture with the City of Armadale.</p> <p><b>Southern Boundary:</b> From the eastern juncture of the City of Gosnells and the City of Armadale, west</p>  |  |

along the southern boundary of the City of Gosnells until its juncture with Albany Hwy. South along Albany Hwy to the intersection with Railway Avenue and Westfield Road, follow this west until intersection with Champion Drive. Follow Champion Drive south until Williams Road intersection. Follow Williams Road to Seville Drive, and onto Armadale Road. Follow Armadale Road West to the intersection with Eighth Road. Follow this South East along the eastern border of Haynes and Brookdale, across Forrest Road and joining with Tijuana Road. Follow Tijuana Road to Harber Drive and follow this east to the intersection with Wungong Road to its intersection with Eleventh Road. Follow Eleventh Road south easterly until the juncture with the South Western Hwy. Follow this south until the intersection with Abernethy Road. Turn West and then turn South on Soldiers Road. Turn West on Mead Street, and follow this until the intersection with Warrington Road. Follow Warrington Road South until the juncture with Orton Road. Turn East and follow the drainage line until it connects with Soldiers Road (-32.236611, 116.002836). Follow Soldiers Road in a southerly direction until the train line intersects just south of Bishop Road. Follow the train line north until it intersects with Bishop Road. This area incorporates Court Grammar School. Follow Bishop Road in a Westerly direction until the intersection with Kargotich Road.

**SOUTH FREMANTLE**

**Western Boundary:** The South side of the Swan river the boundary follows the Indian Ocean Coastline from the Swan River junction with the City of Fremantle to the Southern border of the Suburb of East Rockingham, From the coast follow Railway Terrace (turns into Patterson Road) to the intersection with Goddard Street. From Goddard Street head West on to Dixon Road to the juncture of Dixon Road, Gilmore Avenue and Mandurah Road. Follow Mandurah Road to the intersection of Fifty Road. Follow Fifty Road to Baldivis Reserve. The Boundary Fence of Baldivis Reserve remains in the Peel Thunder zone. Travel south along Baldivis Road to the intersection with Safety Bay Road. Travel East on Safety Bay Road until it intersects with Kwinana Fwy. Travel South on Kwinana Fwy until the intersection with the Southern Boundary of the State Electorate of Baldivis (South Metropolitan) to where it connects at the southern point with the shire of Serpentine/Jarrahdale

**Northern Boundary:** Along the Southern bank of the Swan River at Fremantle North East to the Eastern border of the City of Fremantle at East Street. South along this border following East Street to Marmion Street then West along Marmion Street following the Fremantle locality boundary to Stirling Highway. Follow Stirling Highway South to High street and then East along High street to Carrington Street. South on Carrington St to Sainsbury Rd, then East along Sainsbury St to Stock Rd. South on Stock Rd following the Western border of the locality of Willagee to Garling St, then East along Garling St following the Southern border of the locality of Willagee to North Lake Rd. Then follow the Willagee boundary North along North Lake Rd to Leach Highway. The boundary continues East along the Winthrop locality boundary first East and then South along Murdoch Drive. From Murdoch drive continue East along South Street to the Kwinana Freeway following the locality boundary of Murdoch to the Kwinana Freeway.



Continue South along the Kwinana Freeway to its juncture with Armadale Rd. Turn East and follow Armadale Road until the intersection with Tapper Road. Head South until the intersection with Gibbs Road. Follow Gibbs Road until the Kwinana Freeway. Turn South until the juncture with Rowley Road. Follow Rowley Road East along the Northern borders of the localities of Wandi, Oakford to the intersection at Kargotich Road. Follow Kargotich Road South to the intersection with Bishop Road. Turn West and follow Bishop Road to the intersection with the rail line just prior to Soldiers road. Follow the trainline in a southerly direction until it intersects with Soldiers Road. Turn North on Soldiers Road until you reach the drainage line (-32.236611, 116.002836). Follow the Drainage line West until it meets the intersection of Orton Road and Warrington Road. Follow this North until the intersection with Mead Street. Follow Mead Street West until the intersection with Soldiers Road. Follow this North to the intersection with Abernethy Road. Head West on Abernethy Road until the juncture with South Western Highway. Head North until the intersection with Eleventh Road. Turn on to Wongong Road until you reach the intersection with Harber Drive. Continue North along the boundary of the localities of Brookdale along Harber Drive, Tijuana Cres. and Eighth Rd to its intersection with Armadale Rd. Follow Armadale Rd East along the Southern border of the locality of Seville Grove following Braemore St and Williams Rd until Champion Dve, then North along Champion Dve to Westfield Road. Follow Westfield Road East until Albany Hwy. North on Albany Hwy until the Northern border of Kelmscott. Follow the northern border of Kelmscott, and then Roleystone and Karragullen and then Leslie.

**Eastern Boundary:** The common boundaries of the Shires of Armadale/York, Armadale/Beverley, Armadale/Wandering and Serpentine-Jarrahdale/Wandering.

**Southern Boundary:** The southern border of the shire of Serpentine/Jarrahdale.



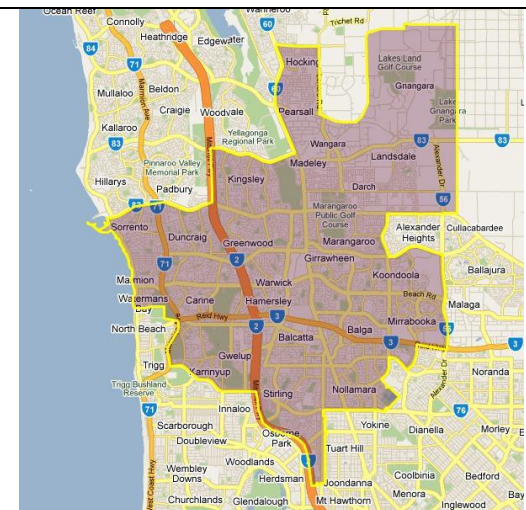
**SUBIACO**

**Western Boundary:** Indian Ocean Coastline from the Northern border of the locality of North Beach to the Western extension of Hepburn Avenue.

**Northern Boundary:** From the coast, East along Hepburn Ave to the Mitchell Freeway. North on the Mitchell Freeway to Whitfords Avenue and then East to Wanneroo Road. Follow Wanneroo Rd North around the localities of Pearsall and Hocking to the intersection of Lenore Rd and Elliot Road. Follow Lenore Road north (turns into Franklin Road) until Rousset Road. Head north on Rousset Road to the intersection with Townsend Road. Follow the extension of Townsend Road as the northern border of Jandabup.

**Eastern Boundary:** From the North Eastern corner of the locality of Jandabup South to the Southern border of the locality of Landsdale at Hepburn Ave. Follow Alexander Drive South to Reid Hwy, then the Southern border of the locality of Mirrabooka to Morley Dve. The boundary then goes west along Morley Drive to Wanneroo Rd, then South to its junction with the locality boundary for Tuart Hill and Joondanna.

**Southern Boundary:** locality of Osborne Park. The boundary follows the Eastern and Southern aspects of this locality to its junction with the Mitchell Freeway. The Southern boundary then continues south along the Mitchell Freeway to its intersection with Karrinyup Drivel. Head West along Karrinyup Rd to Marmion Ave. The boundary continues north along Marmion Avenue and then follows the Southern aspect of the locality of Waterman’s Bay to the coast.

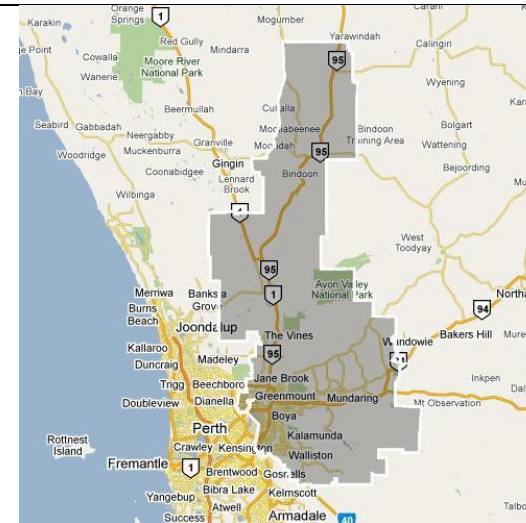


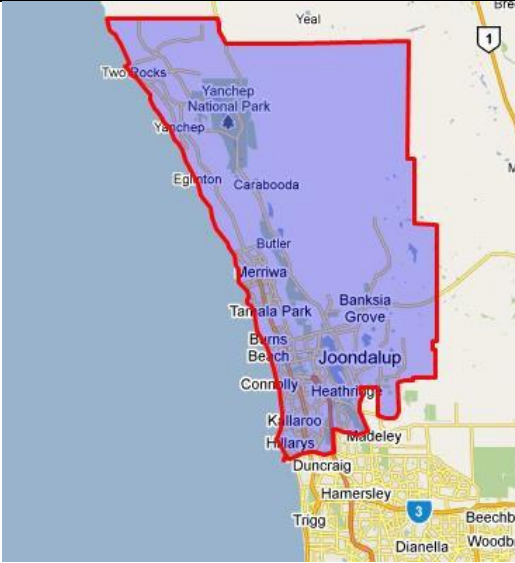
**SWAN DISTRICTS**

**Western Boundary:** From the juncture of the City of Armadale and Gosnells and the Shire of Kalamunda, North West along the North Eastern border of the City of Gosnells. Further North West along the borders of the City of Canning and Belmont to the Swan River. The boundary continues to the Northern side of the Swan River then South West along the Swan River following the locality border of Bassendean and Ashfield. The boundary then moves North West following the Ashfield border and then the West side of the City of Bassendean, around the West boundary of the localities of Eden Hill and Kiara to Benara Rd. East along Benara Rd to the intersection with West Swan Road. Travel north on West Swan Road to the intersection with Gngangara Road. Follow this West to Henley Brook Avenue then follow the Eastern and Northern border of Ellenbrook to its intersection with the locality of Lexia. Follow the Northern border of Lexi West to its juncture with the West side of the City of Swan. Follow the Western boundaries of the City of Swan until the intersection with the state electorate of Moore (Agricultural).

**Northern Boundary:** The boundary of the state electorate of Moore (Agricultural).

**Eastern Boundary:** The southern boundary between the State Electorate of Moore and to the shire of



|                          |  |   |
|--------------------------|--|---|
|                          | <p>Toodyay, the City of Swan and Toodyay, Mundaring and Northam and Mundaring and York to its junction with the City of Armadale.</p> <p><b>Southern Boundary:</b> Westward along the southern boundary of the Shire of Kalamunda from the point adjoining the Shire of York to the juncture of the Shires of Kalamunda, Gosnells and Armadale.</p>  |   |
| <p><b>WEST PERTH</b></p> | <p><b>Western Boundary:</b> Indian Ocean Coastline from Hepburn Avenue to the northern boundary of the City of Wanneroo.</p> <p><b>Northern Boundary:</b> From the coast along the Wanneroo - Gingin boundary to the Shire of Chittering boundary.</p> <p><b>Eastern Boundary:</b> South along the common boundary of the Shires of Wanneroo/Chittering and Wanneroo/Swan to the North East corner of the locality of Jandabup.</p> <p><b>Southern Boundary:</b> West from the juncture of the locality north east boundary of Jandabup following the Northern boundary of Jandabup (Townsend Road) to its intersection with Rousset Road. South West along Rousset Road to Franklin Road. Follow Franklin Road South where it becomes Lenore Road. South on Lenore Road to the intersection with Elliot Road. Head west on Lenore Road (the northern boundary of Hocking) until the intersection of Wanneroo Rd. Continue South along Wanneroo Rd to Whitfords Avenue, then West along Whitfords Avenue to the Mitchell Freeway. South along the Mitchell Freeway to Hepburn Avenue. Continue West along Hepburn Avenue to the coast.</p> |  |

## 8 ROGERS CUP COMPETITION

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The Rogers Cup is an age restricted competition. The aim of the Rogers Cup competition is to develop young footballers to the maximum of their ability.

To achieve their potential, Players are to be coached in such a way that develops:

- The skills, physical attributes and football knowledge, and the
- Personal characteristics and self-esteem of each Player.

The WAFLW believes that the above development can be maximized in an environment that:

- Emphasises individual Player development rather than team success
- Emphasises individual contribution as an essential component in a team environment
- Considers the Players' long term participation in football at a variety of levels
- Promotes a balanced approach to the Players' lifestyles.

The Rogers Cup competition aims to prepare Players for progression to senior WAFLW or AFLW football. Players are therefore to be coached in a manner that physically and mentally prepares all Players to successfully make this transition.

The Rogers Cup via the conduct and coaching of the competition prepares and encourages Players not progressing to WAFLW senior football to continue playing football at a level commensurate to the Player's ability, i.e. Amateurs, Country Football, Metro Football League etc.

### 8.1 Rules Relating to the Rogers Cup Competition

- a) Subject to (b – e), Players must be reaching a minimum of 16 years of age and a maximum of 18 years of age in the calendar year to play in the Rogers Cup Competition.
- b) Players may be permitted to play in the Rogers Cup Competition if they are reaching 19 years of age in the calendar year and meet the following requirements:
  - i. Clubs are only permitted to play a maximum of four (4) players turning 19 years of age in the current seasons calendar year in any Rogers Cup match.
  - ii. The player(s) are listed on the Rogers Cup List.
- c) Clubs are only permitted to list a maximum of eight (8) players turning 19 years of age in the current season's calendar year on the Rogers Cup Points List. All other players not listed on the Rogers Cup List will be automatically eligible for transfer.
- d) Non-District Players recruited to WAFL Clubs in their 19<sup>th</sup> year are eligible for consideration in accordance with b) of this Rule 8.1
- e) Players may be permitted to play in the Rogers Cup Competition if they are reaching 15 years of age in the calendar year and meet the following requirements:
  - i. Clubs are only permitted to play a maximum of three (3) players turning 15 years of age in the current season's calendar year in any Rogers Cup match.
    - a. Perth FC may play a maximum of six (6) players turning 15 years of age in the current season's calendar year in any Rogers Cup match.
  - ii. The player(s) are listed on the Rogers Cup List.

- f) Players are subject to the Rule 1 and their eligibility for transfer applies in accordance with Rule 1.4
- g) Players who miss qualifying games through participation in the National 16's and National 18's Competition's will be credited (for the purposes of finals qualification only) for each game missed.
- h) The grade of game allocated in accordance with g) above will be the grade played in the last game played prior to the commencement of the programme.
- i) Should a Rogers Cup Match be played under special circumstances approved by the WAFLW a minimum of two (2) field, two (2) boundary and one (1) goal Umpire from the WAFLW panel are to be appointed to officiate the game, unless otherwise determined by the WAFC
- j) Penalties may apply for a breach of this rule in accordance with [Rule 11](#)
- k) The WAFC reserves the right to amend the provisions of any Rules applied to the Rogers Cup Competition from time to time at its absolute discretion.
- l) The WAFC may, in its absolute discretion without giving reasons:
  - i. adjust the number of players permitted to play in a match or be listed in their 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> year for a WAFLW Club based on an individual club circumstance.

## 8.2 Rogers Cup List

- a) Each WAFLW Club must include the names of all Rogers Cup Registered or Zoned Players on a Rogers Cup List. The Rogers Cup List is comprised of a minimum of 25 players and a maximum of 40 players.
- b) Players may not participate in any WAFLW League grade match unless they are included on the WAFLW Club Senior Players List.
- c) All Players included on the Rogers Cup List must satisfy the requirements of registration as stipulated in Section 1: Rules Relating to Registration to be eligible to play in the WAFLW.
- d) For the avoidance of doubt, a Zoned Player may be added to the Rogers Cup List for the purpose of listing the player by emailing [wafwoperations@wafc.com.au](mailto:wafwoperations@wafc.com.au) with the players details. A player's particulars must include, first name, surname and date of birth.
- e) Players included on the Rogers Cup List registered under Type 1 Game Permit or Type 2 Season Permit will be regarded as a registered member of their respective WAFLW Club should they choose to transfer between WAFLW Clubs.
- f) Players included on the Rogers Cup list regarded as listed Players may not be approached by any other WAFLW Club until the year they turn 19 years of age or older or are no longer eligible for Rogers Cup.
- g) At the completion of the season, all Players not eligible for Rogers Cup in the following season must be moved to the WAFLW Senior Players List. Players who are 19 years of age (Jan1 – Dec31) will be regarded as a Listed player for the purpose of this rule and will need to be moved to the Senior Player list.
- h) Players elevated to the senior list will only be protected if they are a listed on the Protected players list defined in section Rule 1.2.3 Listed Players.
- i) WAFLW Clubs acting contrary to this Rule 9.2 will be penalised in accordance with [Rule 11](#)
- j) The WAFC reserves the right to amend the provisions of this Rule applied to the Rogers Cup Competition from time to time.

### 8.3 Rogers Cup List Amendments

- a) Eligible Players may be added or removed from a WAFLW Club Rogers Cup List at any time through submissions available using the WAFL Online Administration system or by notice in writing to the WAFC by an Authorised Officer of the WAFLW Club.
- b) The WAFC reserves the right to approve or deny any proposed amendments to a WAFLW Club Rogers Cup List, subject to the registration requirements set out in Rules 1 and 2.
- c) Where the addition of a Listed Player to a Rogers Cup Colts List will exceed the maximum forty (40) Players, the Player change will not be accepted by the WAFC and the WAFLW Club will be advised.
- d) Players who are transferred from the WAFLW Club in accordance with [Rule 1.4](#) will be removed from the respective WAFLW Club Rogers Cup List by the WAFC on completion of the transfer.

### 8.4 Long Term Injury List

- a) Each WAFLW Club may list additional Rogers Cup Players on the WAFLW Club Long Term Injury List as Long Term Injured Players (LTIP). LTIP are defined as Players that are not able to play matches for an extended period of time due to injury.
- b) A maximum of two (2) Rogers Cup Players may be added to the Long-Term Injury List at any one time.
- c) The inclusion of a Rogers Cup Player on the Long Term Injury List requires submission of the Notification of Long Term Injury (Form 8b) to the WAFC.
- d) The WAFLW Club Authorised Officer, a WAFLW Club Medical Officer and the Injured Rogers Cup Player must all sign the form submitted in accordance with (c) above.
- e) The WAFLW Club Authorised Officer must include supporting evidence detailing the nature of the injury when submitting the form in accordance with (c) above.
- f) The WAFC will include the Player on the WAFLW Club Long Term Injury List upon receipt of the documentation required by (c)-(e) above for a period of no less than six (6) weeks and no more than twelve (12) calendar months.
- g) An LTIP may be included on the WAFLW Club senior list or Rogers Cup List at any point after the 6-week minimum time limit is complete.
- h) An LTIP shall be regarded as a Listed Player in accordance with Rule 1.2.3.
- i) An LTIP shall not be permitted to play in WAFLW matches in any grade. Any LTIP in breach of this rule may be penalised in accordance with [Rule 11](#)
- j) The WAFC reserves the right to amend the provisions of this Rule and Rule 2.4 as applied to the Rogers Cup Competition from time to time.

## 8.5 Talent Development Philosophy

In order to enhance the development of youth Players within the Rogers Cup competition it is imperative that the individual philosophies of the coaches are development focused. Whilst we need to allow for individual philosophies based on the WAFLW Club's requirements and the coaches' experience and knowledge, the competition needs to ensure that there is a common set of agreed practices that will assist the individual Player and the competition to develop.

The following are therefore proposed in order to achieve the objective of enhanced Player and competition development and are aligned to the AFL National Talent Philosophy.

- To provide an environment that best develops and showcases each individual's talents regardless of shape or size
- To reduce the density of player numbers around the football in order to provide an opportunity for the less physically developed players to showcase their skill set.
- Eliminate any form of "Full Ground Press" which doesn't allow forwards & defenders (Tall, Medium or Small) to develop their craft of leading to or defending the ball coming Inside 50.
- To promote and teach the art of one on one football to all underage players
- To continue to promote and harbor learning environments which encourage players to develop and showcase their repeatable skills (kicking, hand passing, decision making, marking, speed, lateral movement, etc.) without relying on their physical size

### 8.5.1 Anti-Density Rules

- a) The Rogers Cup Coaches and Players must abide by the following Anti-Density Rules at all times relating to b) and c).
- b) Centre Bounce Stoppage:
  - v. Five (5) forwards and Five (5) defenders must start inside each 50m arc; and
  - vi. One (1) forward and one (1) defender must start inside each goal square; and
  - vii. Wings must start around either side of the centre square and teams aren't allowed to start both wings on same side. To aid with rotations the wing closest to interchange ideally is the last position filled.
  - viii. Should i) – iii) above not be adhered to the following in game penalties would apply:
    - a. One (1) warning per game and then a free kick will be given by the umpires if a team doesn't have five (5) players inside each forward 50, one (1) player inside each goal square and one (1) player on each wing.
    - b. The warning and free kick can be awarded concurrently.
- c) Around Ground Stoppages and Kick Ins:
  - i. Three (3) forwards (minimum) are to be inside their attacking half with one (1) forward (minimum) are to be inside 50; and
    - a. For the avoidance of doubt, two (2) players behind halfway and one (1) player inside 50.
  - ii. Defenders must abide by the above principles (Note: They don't have to play directly on each other but three (3) must start in their defensive half and one (1) must be inside their defensive 50); and
  - iii. Should i) – ii) above not be adhered to the following in game penalties would apply:
    - a. One (1) warning per game and then a free kick plus 50m will be given by the umpires if a team doesn't have three (3) players (minimum) showing genuine

intent to reset inside each attacking half with one (1) players (minimum) inside each 50m.

- b. The warning and free kick can be awarded concurrently.
- c. Due to rule changes which allow quicker play on's Anti-Density rules will still apply for Kick Ins. However, if the ball is kicked in quickly the umpire will call play on and it will be considered general play.
- d. For the avoidance of doubt, this rule does not apply for last possession between the arc's if a free kick is awarded, but does apply for boundary throw ins.
- e.

### **8.5.2 Anti-Density Philosophy**

- a) The Rogers Cup Coaches and Players must abide by the following Anti-Density Philosophy at all times relating to:
  - b) Guiding Principles:
    - i. Teams are not permitted to have a 6th defender (including a Ruck) setting up behind the ball at Around Ground Stoppages with the only exception being Inside 50 stoppages (see below);
    - ii. At Inside 50 stoppages to reduce numbers around the stoppage, teams have the flexibility to pull players clear. Some examples of this would be a Ruck who sits behind the ball allowing a Tall Forward to take the ruck contest or Midfielders who come out to allow Forwards to go in
    - iii. The fifth forward can be inside or outside stoppage but cannot set up behind ball. The defender playing on the 5th forward can make a decision on whether he follows this player or sets up elsewhere
    - iv. No Midfielder (including wings) should roll off from the stoppage to provide an outnumber behind the ball. Players should be encouraged to get back by work rate rather than positioning
    - v. Should i) – iv) above not be adhered to the following post game penalties would apply:
      - a. Should continual breaches in a match occur the Rogers Cup Coach may be subject to sanction under these Rules and Regulations and/or the AFL Codes of Conduct at the absolute discretion of the WAFC.

## 9 STATE ACADEMY

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### 9.1 WAFC Selection Committee

- a) An initial training squad will be selected by the WAFC Selection Committee with WAFLW clubs being consulted regarding the selection of players.
- b) The final decision in relation to selection will be made by the WAFC Selection Committee
- c) The selection committee will:
  - i. select a squad for the commencement of the WAFC State program;
  - ii. adhere to the WAFC State Academy Selection Policy; and
  - iii. adhere to the AFL Talent Departments recommendations outlined in the AFL Championship Rules and Regulations.

### 9.2 Age Qualifications – 18’s National Championships

- a) Subject to (d), Players in their 18<sup>th</sup> year and 17<sup>th</sup> year in the year of the National Championship shall be eligible to participate in the 18’s National Championships.
- b) Players must be registered with a WAFLW Club.
- c) A copy of the Player’s birth certificate may be required for the purpose of verifying a Player’s age to participate in the National Championships
- d) An allowance of 19-year-old Players maybe selected for the 18’s National Championship Matches subject to consideration by the AFLW and a representation of AFL Clubs.

### 9.3 Selection of State Players

- a) A WAFLW Club must ensure it adheres to and supports the selected Player’s requirements in
- b) accordance with this Rule 9.2
- c) All Players selected for the State Academy are required to:
  - i. act in accordance with the WAFC State Athlete Agreement;
  - ii. train with the WAFC State Academy on the dates outlined in the program unless a Player has been selected for WAFC League duties for the upcoming WAFLW round, in which he will be released from one State training session in that week;
  - iii. participate in all WAFC State Academy Trial and Championship matches as outlined in the program upon selection by the Selection Committee; and
  - iv. Be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 in accordance with the AFL Vaccination Policy.
- d) All Players selected in the National 18’s Championships must complete:
  - i. the Athlete Agreement form;
  - ii. the Medical Screening with a General Practitioner; and
  - iii. an ECG Screening; and
  - iv. the AFL Screen Questionnaire

### 9.4 State Player Availability

- a) Players not selected in the final playing squad of 23 during 18’s Championship rounds may be available for Club duties.
- b) Players not selected in the final playing squad of 23 squad during the 18’s Championship are able to attend training with the respective WAFLW Club on the Wednesday, Thursday or



Friday, but are only required to participate in 1 additional training session on either the Thursday or Friday. Players who are injured or in rehabilitation will be required to attend all State training sessions.

- c) Players not selected may be required as an emergency to be on standby due to unforeseen circumstances which may rule out the Player for Club duties in those rounds.
- d) Notification in relation to release in accordance with b) will be distributed on Thursday of that week by the WAFC Talent Specialist.

## **9.5 State Academy WAFLW League Commitment**

- a) Players regularly involved in a WAFLW Club's League Team:
  - i. will be released from one State training session each week to train with their respective WAFLW Club;
- b) Prior to any State 16's or 18's National Championship game there will be a 10-day preparation window whereby the state program (including training sessions) will take priority over any WAFLW commitments.

## **9.6 Key dates & Program Overview**

- a) All WAFLW Clubs must adhere to all aspects of the WAFC State Academy program.

## **9.7 Responsibilities of WAFLW Clubs**

- a) On request by the WAFC State Academy, WAFLW Clubs must allow State Players during all WAFLW Fixtures to be monitored with State GPS units.
- b) During WAFC State Academy Program WAFLW Clubs must:
  - i. disclose all personal information that may be relevant to Player participating in the WAFC State Academy Program;
  - ii. supply Senior Listed Players as well as arrange a WAFLW venue if requested by the WAFLW State Academy for an intra-squad trial match on a fixtured bye where all reasonable match day expenses will be incurred by the WAFC;
  - iii. at the request of the WAFLW State Academy make available WAFLW venues for home Championship matches where all match day expenses will be incurred by the WAFC.
- c) Following the conclusion of the National 18's Championship;
  - i. the WAFC State Academy must recommend a Player's availability based on medical advice, and player loading for the next available game. After this it will then be the WAFLW Clubs medical staff who will make the final call on a Player's availability for selection; and
  - ii. WAFLW Clubs must release Players for a one on one meeting with the WAFC State Academy. Player reports to be sent to Clubs within 2 weeks.

## **9.8 Responsibilities of WAFC**

- a) The WAFC will:
  - i. incur all reasonable expenses for home Championship matches by the host WAFLW Club;
  - ii. organise and supply all Umpires for trial matches against WAFLW Club teams;

- iii. organise and supply all Umpires for trial matches against WAFLW Club teams;
- iv. prior to the commencement of the WAFLW State program liaise with relevant WAFLW League Coach and FOM regarding individual training program of a Player(s) in consideration for WAFLW League football; and during the State Academy program:
  - a. assist in covering medical expenses incurred by a WAFLW Players representing the State Academy; and
  - b. if the Player is a National Academy Member the costs incurred will be 33% each (between AFLW/WAFLW/WAFC) of the medical expense.

## **9.9 AFLW Requirements**

### **9.9.1 National Academy Players**

- a) WAFLW Clubs must adhere to the implementation and management of the Individual Development Plan process developed by the AFLW for their respective Player(s).
- b) WAFLW Clubs must support and report in accordance with AFLW established individual development plans for National Academy Players, including coaching, wellbeing, game schedule and medical. If the plan is not adhered to, the AFLW and State have the authority to remove the Player from the National or State Academy.

### **9.9.2 WA Talented Player Program**

- a) Players selected in the WA Talent Player Program will be required to participate in various training sessions as proposed in the WA Talented Player Program Schedule unless outlined in 9.3 c) i.

### **9.9.3 AFL Talent Database (Smarterbase)**

- a) All State Players eligible for the AFLW National Draft in any given year are to be reported on in full at a date/s determined by the AFLW on the relevant database completing all required fields outlined by the AFLW Talent Department.

## **10 STATE TEAMS**

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### **10.1.1 State Coach**

- a) The positions of State Coach, coaching support staff, runners and Chairman Of Selectors will be offered to the person or persons deemed to be most suitable by the WAFC.

### **10.1.2 Players Withdrawing Without Notice**

- a) Any Player who has been selected in any interstate or other combined league match and who shall fail to play without having given at least 24 hours' notice to the WAFC shall be disqualified from playing in any league match for such period as the Protests and Disputes Tribunal shall determine.

### **10.1.3 Injured Players**

- a) Any State Player who is selected in the squad and is then declared unfit by the WAFL League Medical Officer shall not be eligible to play for her Club whilst the State team is on tour, unless he is declared fit by the WAFL League Medical Officer.

### **10.1.4 Attendance**

- a) Any State Player selected in the squad is to make themselves available to attend each session as requested by the WAFL. WAFL Clubs are to ensure 100% attendance of their players at all sessions unless the player is subject to medical treatment.

### **10.1.5 State Game Umpires**

- a) The WAFL, with agreement from the other States, will supply two (2) Field Umpires (plus emergency), 1 boundary Umpire (plus emergency), and 1 Goal Umpire (plus emergency) for all Home state Games. 1 Field, 1 Boundary and 1 Goal Umpire will come from the travelling State.
- b) When playing away the WAFL will supply one (1) Field, one (1) Boundary and one (1) Goal Umpire for the game.

# 11 PENALTIES

- a) Penalties are imposed at the sole discretion of the WAFC and penalty amounts may be amended from time to time at the discretion of the WAFC.

| Rule    | Description of Rule  | Penalty                                      |
|---------|--|--|
| 1.1.1   | Registration Process   | Up to \$3000                                 |
| 1.1.2   | Player and Club Education  | \$500  |
| 1.1.7   | Licence and Funding Agreements<br><b>Breach of Funding Agreement</b> |  |
|         | First minor breach   | 4 premiership points; and<br>Up to \$3,000   |
|         | First serious breach   | 8 premiership points; and<br>Up to \$10,000  |
|         | Second and subsequent minor breach                                   | 12 premiership points; and<br>Up to \$20,000 |
|         | Second and subsequent serious breach                                 | 16 premiership points;<br>And Up to \$50,000 |
|         | <b>Breach of Licence Agreement</b><br>First minor breach             | 4 premiership points; and<br>Up to \$5,000   |
|         | First serious breach   | 8 premiership points; and<br>Up to \$10,000  |
|         | Second and subsequent minor breach                                   | 12 premiership points; and<br>Up to \$20,000 |
|         | Second and subsequent serious breach                                 | 16 premiership points; and<br>Up to \$50,000 |
| 1.2.1   | Zoned Players  | Up to \$25,000                               |
| 1.2.3.1 | Notice of Player Discussion  | Up to \$5,000                                |
| 1.2.3.2 | Permission to Train  | Up to \$5,000                                |
| 1.2.3   | Listed Players   | Up to \$5,000                                |

|                             |   |  |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| <b>1.5</b>                  | Permits   |  |
|                             | Match day permit used in the WAFLW League regular season game.                        | \$500                                  |
|                             | Match day permit used in the WAFLW League regular season game.                        | \$2000                                 |
|                             | Match day permit used in the WAFLW League finals game.                                | \$2000                                 |
|                             | More than four (4) match day permits used per Player prior to June 30.                | \$500                                  |
|                             | More than three (3) match day permits used per Player after June 30.                  | \$500                                  |
|                             | More than three (3) match day permits used per Player after June 30 in a WAFLW Final. | \$2000                                 |
|                             | More than six (6) match day permits used out of WAFLW prior to June 30.               | \$200                                  |
|                             | More than zero (0) match day permits out of WAFLW post June 30.                       | \$200                                  |
|                             | More than one (1) match in any league over the duration of weekend or long-weekend    | \$250 per Player                       |
| <b>1.1.9</b>                | WAFLW League Team Bye (Home and Away)   | Up to \$500                            |
| <b>1.1.10 (c)(i)</b>        | Player Ineligibility – Major Breach   | Up to \$5,000                          |
| <b>1.1.10 (c)(ii)</b>       | Player Ineligibility - Intermediate Breach  | Up to \$1,000                          |
| <b>1.1.10 (c)(iii)</b>      | Player Ineligibility -Minor Breach  | Up to \$500                            |
| <b>1.6</b>                  | Failure to attend Meetings  | \$100                                  |
| <b>2.1</b>                  | Senior Players List   | \$500                                  |
| <b>2.2</b>                  | Supplementary List  | up to \$5,000                          |
| <b>2.3</b>                  | Long Term Injury List   | up to \$5,000                          |
| <b>2.7</b>                  | Remunerations   | Up to \$10,000                         |
| <b>2.8</b>                  | Top-Up Players  | Up to \$5,000                          |
| <b>3.1.5</b>                | Terminated Matches  | at the absolute discretion of the WAFC |
| <b>3.1.9(a) or (b)</b>      | Clubs Desiring to Abstain from Playing in a Match                                     | \$5,000                                |
| <b>3.1.10</b>               | Penalties for Teams Forfeiting Matches  | Up to \$5,000                          |
| <b>3.2(a)</b>               | Naming Players in Football Budget   | \$100                                  |
| <b>3.2(b) or (d)</b>        | Naming Players in Football Budget   | \$100                                  |
| <b>3.3(a) – (d)</b>         | Naming Squads for the WAFL Website  | \$250                                  |
| <b>3.3(e)</b>               | Naming Squads for the WAFL Website  | \$500                                  |
| <b>3.3(g) or (h)</b>        | Naming Squads for the WAFL Website  | \$500                                  |
| <b>3.5.1(a) – (b)</b>       | Team Sheets   | \$500                                  |
| <b>3.5.1(c) - (h)</b>       | Team Sheets   | \$100                                  |
| <b>3.5.2(a) - (g)</b>       | Personnel on Playing Arena  | \$200                                  |
| <b>3.5.3(a) – (g)</b>       | Interchange of Reserves   | \$300                                  |
| <b>3.5.4.1a)(i) – (iii)</b> | For games outside of Finals   | \$50                                   |
| <b>3.5.4.1(b)(i)</b>        | For games outside of Finals   | \$300                                  |
| <b>3.5.4.1(b)(ii)</b>       | For games outside of Finals   | \$1,000                                |
| <b>3.5.4.1(b)(iii)</b>      | For games outside of Finals   | \$300                                  |
| <b>3.5.4.2(b)(i) – (ii)</b> | Finals Games  | \$1,000                                |
| <b>3.5.4.2(c)</b>           | Finals Games  | \$200                                  |
| <b>3.6.1</b>                | Timekeepers   | \$500                                  |
| <b>3.6.2(a) – (m)</b>       | Official Runner   | \$200                                  |
| <b>3.6.3.3(a) – (c)</b>     | Approaches to Umpires or Umpires Officials during a Game                              | \$1000                                 |
| <b>3.6.3.4(a)</b>           | Restrictions on Umpires Participating as Players                                      | \$100                                  |

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| <b>3.6.4.3(a)</b>              | Club Doctors & Physiotherapists                       | \$500                                  |
| <b>3.6.4.5(a) - (c)</b>        | Trainers / Water Carriers Procedures                  | \$100                                  |
| <b>4.2.1(a) – (c)</b>          | Sirens for extra time                                 | \$1,000                                |
| <b>8</b>                       | Rules Relating to the Rogers Cup Competition          | up to \$5,000                          |
| <b>Schedule 4</b>              | Bleeding & Blood Borne Infection Policy               | \$200                                  |
| <b>Schedule 5</b>              | Venues Policy   | at the absolute discretion of the WAFC |
| <b>Schedule 7</b>              | Uniform Policy  | \$1,000                                |
| <b>Schedule 11</b>             | Broadcasting Policy                                   | up to \$50,000                         |
| <b>All Rules and Schedules</b> | Any other Rule or Schedule without penalty prescribed | at the absolute discretion of the WAFC |

## 12 DEFINITIONS

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In these Rules and Regulations, unless there is something in the subject or context inconsistent therewith, the following expressions have the following meanings:

| Term                                     | Definition   |
|--|--|
| <b>50 Metre Arc</b>                      | the line in the shape of an arc at each end of the playing surface to show the distance to the centre of the goal line is 50 metres as set out in <a href="#">Schedule 5</a> (WAFL Venues Policy)  |
| <b>AFL</b>                               | Australian Football League   |
| <b>AFLW</b>                              | Australian Football League Women's.  |
| <b>AFLW Club</b>                         | Club that competes in the AFLW competition   |
| <b>AFL Coaching Accreditation</b>        | the minimum level of accreditation required to coach Australian football   |
| <b>AFLW Game</b>                         | a match played as part of the AFLW season  |
| <b>AFL National Transfer Regulations</b> | the National Player Transfer Regulations enforced by the AFL operating as an agreement between and amongst all football bodies across Australia and elite, State, Territory and community-based Leagues  |
| <b>AFLW Player</b>                       | a current Player drafted, listed and contracted to the AFLW Club.  |
| <b>Appeals Panel</b>                     | the Appeal Panel appointed in accordance with <a href="#">Rule 5.14</a> responsible for the administration of these Rules  |
| <b>Authorised Officer</b>                | a nominated Club person who has the authority to represent the Club. An Authorised Officer may include but is not limited to President, Chief Executive, Football Operations Manager and any other employee holding a position delegated with responsibility to act on the Clubs behalf.   |
| <b>Bench Area</b>                        | the bench area as set out in <a href="#">Schedule 5</a> (WAFL Venues Policy)   |
| <b>Blood Rule</b>                        | the Blood Rule as set out in the infectious diseases provision contained in the AFL Laws of Australian Football  |
| <b>Boundary Line</b>                     | the white line marked on the ground to identify the playing surface as set out in <a href="#">Schedule 5</a> (WAFL Venues Policy)  |
| <b>Broadcasting Rights</b>               | means any exploitation of any audio or visual media, including but not limited to:<br>a) electronic, wireless or optical communication, whether in existence or not at the time of the introduction of this rule, whether broadcast or not, whether incorporated into the broadcast signal or not, to a device or combination of devices capable of receiving and displaying television programs, including datacasting; |

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|                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b) free to air television and radio broadcasting and subscription television and radio broadcasting;</li> <li>c) in flight, ship at sea and other forms of transport rights;</li> <li>d) digital terrestrial television, cable and satellite audio visual broadcasting;</li> <li>e) electronic, wireless or optical communication whether in existence or not at the time of the introduction of this rule, using protocols whether in existence or not at the time of the introduction of this rule including internet protocol, television, streaming, the hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP), secure hypertext transfer protocol (HTTPS), file transfer protocol (FTP), the wireless application protocol (WAP) and short message service (SMS) over cellular and networks (and other wireless or cellular networks as may be implemented); and</li> <li>f) digital platforms including online mobile and social media.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Calendar Year</b>             | the period from January 1st to December 31st (inclusive)   |
| <b>Classification Table</b>      | Means the table(s) under <a href="#">Rule 5.15.3</a>   |
| <b>Club</b>                      | a Club which is a member of the WAFLW or of an association affiliated with the League.   |
| <b>Club Doctor</b>               | a person licensed to practice medicine   |
| <b>Club Official</b>             | <p>a person engaged by a WAFLW Club:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) to work with, treat, advise or assist a Player or the football department of a Club in relation to participation in or preparation for the AFLW Competition and does so on an ongoing or regular basis;</li> <li>(b) to work with, treat, advise or assist a Player or the football department of a Club in relation to participation in or preparation for the AFLW Competition and does so on the premises of the Club; or</li> </ul> <p>to at any time undertake official duties for the Club in connection with the playing of a Match.</p>  |
| <b>Club of Origin</b>            | is defined by the first senior Club to which a Player was registered   |
| <b>Club Sponsor</b>              | a person, firm or organization who provides goods or services to a WAFLW Club  |
| <b>Coach</b>                     | Means the coach of a Team.   |
| <b>Community Football League</b> | any of the Perth Football League, the Metro Football League or the West Australian Country Football League.  |



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| <b>Competition</b>                        | means the WAFLW competition, conducted by the WAFC   |
| <b>Country Zone</b>                       | in respect of each Club, the country district allocated to that Club pursuant to <a href="#">Rule 7</a>  |
| <b>Country Club</b>                       | a Club which is a member of an association which is affiliated with the WACFL  |
| <b>Destination Club</b>                   | the Club to which a Player is being transferred  |
| <b>District Club</b>                      | a Club which is affiliated with any League which is not recognised as the State League   |
| <b>Equivalent Offer</b>                   | in respect of a Player wishing to transfer from one WAFLW Club to another, an offer in writing made by the Primary Club to the transferring Player, no less favourable to the transferring Player than that stated to be offered by the Destination Club |
| <b>Fairest and Best Player</b>            | a Player awarded the fairest and best Player award in accordance with Rule 6.1   |
| <b>Field Umpire</b>                       | person(s) who officiate and have full control of a match as approved by the WAFC.  |
| <b>Finals</b>                             | Means WAFLW Finals games.  |
| <b>Finals Matches</b>                     | a series of matches played at the conclusion of the home and away season to determine a premiership team.  |
| <b>Five (5) Game Rule</b>                 | the Five (5) Game Rule as set out in <a href="#">Rule 4</a>  |
| <b>FOM</b>                                | Football Operations Manager  |
| <b>Football Budget</b>                    | the publication used to display team lists for each round of the season  |
| <b>Football Year</b>                      | the period from the day after the last Grand Final to be played in any of the competitions conducted by WAFLW in any year to the day of the last such Grand Final in the following year  |
| <b>Funding Agreement</b>                  | the WAFL Club Funding Grant Agreement between the WAFC and a WAFLW Club, as amended from time to time  |
| <b>Game Day Permit</b>                    | Means a match day permit as described in <a href="#">Rule 1.5.1</a>  |
| <b>Grand Final</b>                        | final match played to determine a premiership team in accordance with these Rules  |
| <b>Home and Away Match</b>                | matches played between two WAFLW Clubs before the finals series  |
| <b>Independent Investigations Officer</b> | person(s) who are appointed by the WAFC to investigate any matter  |

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| <b>Individual Development Plan</b> | a written program developed for the improvement of a Player  |
| <b>Ineligible Player</b>           | a Player who plays in any grade whilst not registered, without a weekly permission form or whilst under suspension   |
| <b>Inter-Club Match</b>            | involvement in any match activity between two (2) or more WAFLW Clubs  |
| <b>Interchange Area</b>            | the area marked on the boundary line through which Players may enter and leave the playing surface as set out in <a href="#">Schedule 5</a> (WAFL Venues Policy)   |
| <b>Interchange Player</b>          | the Player(s) of a team who are not on the playing surface but who are listed on the team sheet and available to replace a Player on the playing surface           |
| <b>Laws of Australian Football</b> | the overarching rules used to describe the rules of the game of Australian rules football as they have evolved and adapted since 1859 as amended from time to time |
| <b>League Grade</b>                | the level of competition in which a WAFLW League team participates   |
| <b>League Match</b>                | any game at the direction of, or in any competition conducted by, the WAFLW which the League Team of the WAFLW Club participates; or any interstate game           |
| <b>League Team</b>                 | a team fielded by a Club in the first twenty-one (21) Player competition conducted by the WAFLW including all persons selected as interchange Players in such team |
| <b>Licence Agreement</b>           | the Licence Agreement between the WAFC and a WAFLW Club, as amended from time to time  |
| <b>Listed Player</b>               | a listed Player who is listed on the WAFLW Senior Players List or a Rogers Cup player who is listed on the Rogers 35 list.   |
| <b>Local District Player</b>       | a Player who resides in the WAFL Club zone, both metro and country, and has been living in that address for greater than 18 months.                                |
| <b>Long Term Injury List</b>       | a list of Players as provided by WAFLW Clubs who are unable to play due to their injury status under <a href="#">Rule 2.3</a>                                      |
| <b>Long Term Injury Player</b>     | a Player who is not able to play matches for an extended period of time due to injury as listed on the Long Term Injury List under <a href="#">Rule 2.3</a>        |
| <b>Lou Knitter Medal</b>           | the medal awarded to the Player adjudged best on ground in the WAFLW League grand final.   |
| <b>Match Review Panel</b>          | the match review panel appointed in accordance with <a href="#">Rule 5.6</a>   |
| <b>Marked Lines</b>                | any line as set out in <a href="#">Schedule 5</a> (WAFL Venues Policy)   |
| <b>Metropolitan</b>                | in respect of each Club, the metropolitan district allocated to that Club  |
| <b>Minimum Age Criteria</b>        | the minimum age required to participate in any WAFLW competition as determined by Rule 1.1.4   |

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| <b>National Championships</b>                | AFL/AFLW endorsed national championship for Players  |
| <b>Non-Zoned Player</b>                      | a Player that does not reside in the WAFLW Club zone   |
| <b>Notice of Player Discussion (Form 10)</b> | Official form that must be lodged to the WAFLW and Primary Club within 24 hours of the discussion with a listed Player   |
| <b>Number One Umpire</b>                     | the senior Umpire appointed to officiate the match   |
| <b>Official</b>                              | A coach, team official or umpire   |
| <b>Official Team Sheet</b>                   | Official form that discloses Players and officials participating in a match  |
| <b>Order Off Rule</b>                        | the Order Off Law as set out in the AFL Laws of Australian Football  |
| <b>Oval Perimeter Fencing</b>                | Oval fencing serves to define the area of play, assist to manage spectators, protect playing surface against vehicle access and provide opportunity for match day promotion.       |
| <b>Permanent Residence</b>                   | the address listed as the electoral address of the Player (or parents of Player) concerned   |
| <b>PFL</b>                                   | Perth Football League  |
| <b>Play HQ</b>                               | Means the database system used to manage the WAFLW Competition including registrations, transfers, fixtures & team sheets.   |
| <b>Player</b>                                | a person who shall have been permitted to be registered to play with a Club which is a member of the WAFLW, or is bound to a Club through zones                                    |
| <b>Player List</b>                           | a list of Players setting out Players who are eligible to play only with that WAFLW Club as listed, unless transferred to another Club pursuant to these Rules                     |
| <b>Point Point Category</b>                  | categories assigned to a Player based on their playing history   |
| <b>Player Point Value</b>                    | the value assigned to a Player based on their Point Category   |
| <b>Playing arena</b>                         | the area including the Playing Surface and area between the perimeter fence and boundary line as set out in <a href="#">Schedule 5</a> (WAFL Venues Policy)                        |
| <b>Playing Surface</b>                       | the field of play inside the boundary line, goal line and behind line, excluding the area between such lines and the perimeter fence as set out in Schedule 5 (WAFL Venues Policy) |
| <b>Premiership Table</b>                     | the official record of games played, recording the wins, losses, draws, premiership points and percentage  |

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| <b>Primary Club</b>                        | the Club under in which a Player’s primary registration is current   |
| <b>Protected Player</b>                    | A list of players in accordance with <a href="#">Rule 2.5</a>  |
| <b>Registration Form</b>                   | the official form to register Players in the WAFLW competition as provided by the WAFC   |
| <b>Registered Player</b>                   | a Player who is permitted to play in the WAFLW competition   |
| <b>Registration Process</b>                | the process set out in Rule 1.1.1  |
| <b>Reportable Offence</b>                  | an action of a Player or official defined as a reportable offence in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football                                   |
| <b>(Reserve or Enclosed Venue Fencing)</b> | Reserve fencing is required at State League venues to control crowd access and management, including collection of entrance fees                       |
| <b>Reserves Grade</b>                      | the level of competition in which a WAFLW Reserves team participates   |
| <b>Reserves Match</b>                      | any game at the direction of, or in any competition conducted by, the WAFLW which the Reserves team of the WAFLW Club participates                     |
| <b>Reserves Team</b>                       | a team fielded by a Club in the Reserves Grade competition conducted by the WAFLW, including all persons selected as interchange Players in such team  |
| <b>Rogers Cup Team</b>                     | a team fielded by a Club in a competition in which all members are registered Players aged between the minimum for a WAFLW Player and 18 years of age. |
| <b>Rogers Cup Grade</b>                    | the level of competition in which a Colts Team participates  |
| <b>the Rules</b>                           | these WAFLW Rules and Regulations as amended from time to time   |
| <b>Season Permit</b>                       | Means a local interchange permit as described in <a href="#">Rule 1.5.2</a>  |
| <b>Senior List</b>                         | a list of registered Players eligible to play in the WAFLW League or Reserves.   |
| <b>SMA</b>                                 | Sports Medicine Australia  |
| <b>Sports Trainer</b>                      | a person who is trained in sports first aid and has the accreditation required by Rule 3.7.4.2   |
| <b>State</b>                               | any of the States and Territories of the Commonwealth of Australia   |
| <b>State Game</b>                          | WAFLW League match between two states.   |
| <b>Supplementary List</b>                  | a list of Players who have transferred from the WAFLW Club to a senior community Club that are still considered as a listed Player.                    |

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| <b>Supplementary List Player</b>   | a Player who is listed on the Supplementary List.  |
| <b>Support Staff</b>               | all development and other grade coaches, skills and assistant coaches, physical education instructors and assistants, training and property staff, doctors, team managers, team selectors, team runners, interchange stewards, statisticians, and all other persons involved in assisting the Club's teams to compete on the field |
| <b>Team</b>                        | A League Team, Development Team or Rogers Cup Team   |
| <b>Team Manager</b>                | the person appointed by a WAFLW Club to manage the Rogers Cup, Development Team or League team as applicable   |
| <b>Temporary Club</b>              | the Club for which a Player competes temporarily under a permit granted in accordance with <a href="#">Rule 1.5</a>  |
| <b>Temporary Registration</b>      | a temporary registration granted as part of a permit granted in accordance with <a href="#">Rule 1.5</a>   |
| <b>Timekeeper</b>                  | the person(s) appointed by the relevant controlling body to measure or record the amount of time in a match  |
| <b>Timekeepers Sheet</b>           | the official form used by the timekeeper to record the timings for the match   |
| <b>Training</b>                    | involvement in any team activity or any activities supervised by any member of the coaching staff at a Club  |
| <b>Transfer</b>                    | movement of a Player from a Primary Club to a Destination Club   |
| <b>Transfer Application Period</b> | the period of time in which a Player can be transferred being between Nov1 – Nov 30 and 1 Feb and 30 June  |
| <b>Tribunal</b>                    | a body established and constituted by the WAFC to hear and determine charges brought before it under these Rules   |
| <b>WA State Academy</b>            | WAFC state program to develop under 16's and 18's Players for a national carnival  |
| <b>WACFL</b>                       | West Australian Country Football League  |
| <b>WAFC</b>                        | West Australian Football Commission  |
| <b>WA AFLW Clubs</b>               | West Coast Eagles and Fremantle Dockers (those Clubs in AFLW based in WA)  |
| <b>WAFL</b>                        | the West Australian Football League  |
| <b>WAFLW</b>                       | the West Australian Football League Women's  |
| <b>WAFL Arbitrator</b>             | a person appointed by the WAFC to arbitrate on any matter referred to him pursuant to these Rules  |

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| <b>WAFLW Club</b>               | a State League Club issued with a licence from the WAFC   |
| <b>WAFL Club Zone</b>           | a geographical area (metro and regional) aligned to a WAFLW Club  |
| <b>WAFL Online</b>              | the online Sports management system for the WAFL competition  |
| <b>WAFL Report Review Panel</b> | an independent panel responsible for reviewing reports and notice of investigations pursuant to the Laws of Australian Football |
| <b>WAFL Tribunal</b>            | the disciplinary tribunal of the WAFL   |
| <b>WAFL Website</b>             | the official website of the West Australian Football League ( <a href="http://www.wafl.com.au/">www.wafl.com.au/</a> )          |
| <b>WAFTA</b>                    | West Australian Football Trainers Association   |
| <b>Water Carrier</b>            | an individual who is permitted to carry water on the field of play during a WAFLW match   |
| <b>Written Notice</b>           | a letter or email to the WAFC   |
| <b>Zoned Player</b>             | an individual who resides in the geographical boundary of the WAFLW Club  |
| <b>Zone</b>                     | the geographic area allocated to a WAFLW Club as defined in <a href="#">Rule 7</a>  |

## 13 SCHEDULES

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### Schedule 1 Heat Policy

Heat-related stress can lead to impaired player performance (eg dizziness, headaches, collapse and illness). In its extreme form, heat can be life threatening. Preventing heat stress and injury maintains optimum performance and improves recovery. To prevent heat stress, careful planning and preparation is required in accordance with this Schedule 1.

A number of management strategies to minimise any potential heat injury have been identified over recent seasons. The recommended prevention methods that follow are a result of experience gained from the AFL Preseason, AFLW Season, WAFLW Preseason, WAFLW Season and early season Premiership rounds.

**Overarching message of Strip/ Soak/ Fan any person suspected of any heat stress and where possible Immerse/ Cover and Call an ambulance if no improvement after 2 mins.**

The WAFC will assess the heat stress risk by reviewing information provided by the Bureau of Meteorology. Heat stress management strategies should also be applied at all training sessions. The WAFC, at its absolute discretion, can implement parts or the policy in full.

The WAFC will monitor weather conditions in the lead up to each match. Where the bureau of Meteorology forecast is for excessive heat (wet bulb global temperature reading 28 or higher) or with an ambient temperature between 33-37 degrees (with consideration to the humidity that exceeds 50%) the WAFC will implement the Heat Policy. The WAFC may postpone or cancel matches if the ambient temperature is 38 degrees or higher (with consideration to the humidity exceeding 30% or higher), the heat policy may be enacted.

The WAFC will contact the clubs concerned in the lead up to the match to ensure there is adequate preparation for match day.

The WAFC will make this decision prior to 5pm on the Thursday before the match utilizing the BOM 3-day forecast. A decision to postpone or cancel matches may be made up until the day before the scheduled match. Should the Heat Policy be enacted, and the temperature forecast be adjusted below the Heat Policies range (as above) the extra player will remain in place however, other match conditions may be retracted. A decision will be made at the absolute discretion of the WAFC.

Should a match be postponed, the competition will reschedule the matches during the bye weekends. Should a match not be able to be postponed or played at a later date, it will be declared a draw. Should a club abstain from playing in a sanctioned match it will be deemed a forfeit.

It will be the Home Team's responsibility for the following should The Heat Policy be implemented:

- Supply a minimum of 1 x bags of ice per team at all times. Should clubs require more, please liaise with the home club or make other arrangements.

- Provide at a 2 x minimum pedestal fans for each team
- Ensure complete shade in for the bench.

### **Players / Umpires**

Players have a responsibility to ensure that the impact of environmental factors such as extreme heat is not exacerbated by their own conduct. Accordingly, the following general guidelines should be followed:

- Ensure adequate fluid intake prior to game and during game (500-700mls per quarter);
- monitor hydration;
- notify medical and coaching staffs when effected by heat or when performance is noticeably effected;
- Use water and electrolyte drinks;
- use pre-game, game and post-game cooling strategies;
- do not play in the heat with an illness; and
- Apply 50+ sunscreen in sunny conditions.

### **Clubs Responsibility**

All Clubs competing in a competition administered by the Football Body should monitor environmental factors such as extreme heat both in Matches and at any Australian Football training session administered by the Club. The Club should assess the heat stress risk by reviewing information provided by the Bureau of Meteorology.

Heat stress management strategies should also be applied at all training sessions administered by the Club.

The following general guidelines should be followed:

- Use cooling aids – ice vests, spray bottles, sponges, fans (in rooms and on interchange bench) and shade;
- Mandatory reporting of incidents of heat stress illness in all players to the Football Body;
- Use a Club official to be delegated the primary responsibility of monitoring and manage players for heat stress issues as they arise during a Match;
- Provide adequate fluids in appropriate bottles;
- Ensure trainers are fit enough to access as many Players as possible during the game;
- Provide facilities for player cooling – shade, air conditioning, sprays and fans whether training or playing;
- Coordinate training times outside extreme conditions;
- Include additional Player(s) to squad (Approval by the WAFC).

### **Coaches**

- Rotate Players regularly, especially running players, through interchange bench

### **Medical**

- Identify “at risk” players and monitor their core temperatures, physical and mental performance and hydration state;
- Do not play Players suffering from a febrile illness, vomiting or diarrhea;
- Weigh Players before the game, half time and at the end of the game to identify fluid replacement requirements;
- avoid adrenaline-like medication;
- if required, provide thermometers (including rectal), equipment for resuscitation and intravenous fluid replacement;
- if playing in potentially difficult circumstances delegate management of heat stress and illness to one (1) responsible medical officer;
- have adequate medical equipment available for managing heat stress conditions;



- report all cases of heat stress and heat stress illness in training sessions and games to the WAFC;
- provide player education on the issue and how the club will manage such circumstances.

**Overarching message of Strip/ Soak/ Fan any person suspected of any heat stress and where possible Immerse/ Cover and Call an ambulance if no improvement after 2 mins.**

## **WAFC**

Where possible, the WAFC should schedule Matches as much to avoid extremes of heat and allow for increased recovery from those conditions.

- Schedule games to avoid hot conditions where possible (e.g. Pre-season games – night or twilight or early morning) particularly night games in Feb/March/April.
- Ensure venues provide change rooms with cooling facilities e.g. Fans, air conditioning.
- Increase the number of water carriers to run fluids in high-risk conditions (up to an extra three water carriers per side)
- Increase the number of runners from one (1) to two (2) Runners
- Increase the length of intervals to enable teams to leave the field for the shade of the rooms at each change in high risk conditions i.e. An additional 3 minutes for ½ time and/or 2 minutes for ¼ and ¾ time.
- Provide extra field and boundary Umpires for February and March games (Pre-season competition) in high to extreme risk conditions (where possible)
- Consider postponing or rescheduling games in extreme risk conditions.

## **Additional Resources for Clubs**

Sports Medicine Australia: <https://sma.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/beat-the-heat-2011.pdf>

Sports Medicine Australia: <https://sma.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/SMA-Extreme-Heat-Policy-2021-Final-1.pdf>

## Schedule 2 Vilification and Discrimination

### 1. Prohibited Contact

No Person shall act towards or speak to any other person in a manner, or engage in any other conduct which threatens, disparages, vilifies or insults another person or group of persons on any basis, including but not limited to, a person's race, religion, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity.

### 2. AFL Vilification & Discrimination Panel

#### a. Appointment by AFL

The AFL may, from time to time, appoint persons to the AFL Vilification and Discrimination Panel.

#### b. Qualifications of panel members

The AFL Vilification and Discrimination Panel will consist of a panel of persons who:

- i. meet the Tribunal qualification requirements specified in Rule 6.8 and
- ii. in the opinion of the AFL:
  1. have demonstrated knowledge and skills in the resolution of vilification and discrimination matters;
  2. possess sufficient knowledge of Australian Football; and
  3. are sufficiently qualified to competently perform the role of AFL Vilification and Discrimination Panel member.

#### c. Function

The function of the AFL Vilification and Discrimination Panel is to provide expert assistance to the AFL and other Controlling Bodies in respect of the conciliation process under Section 10.

#### d. Levy of Fee

A Controlling Body may levy a fee for the administration of a conciliation under Section 10 including the involvement of the AFL Vilification and Discrimination Panel (with the fee amount to be determined by the Controlling Body).

### 3. Preliminary conciliation process

- a. Where Schedule 18.2(a)(i) or Schedule 18.2(c)(i) applies in relation to an alleged breach of Schedule 2.1, the AFL or WAFC (as applicable) must as soon as practicable:
  - i. inform the person alleged to have breached Schedule 2.1 (Contravening Person) of the alleged breach and provide that person with an opportunity to respond to the complaint;
  - ii. use reasonable measures to establish the facts of the alleged Policy Breach;
- b. If, following completion of the steps in Schedule 2.3(a), the AFL or WAFC (as applicable) is reasonably satisfied that a breach of Schedule 2.1 may have occurred, it will arrange for the complaint to be conciliated and take all steps necessary for the complaint to be conciliated.
- c. The AFL or WAFC will determine the arrangements for the conciliation, including appointment of a conciliator and the date, time and place/forum (e.g. in person or virtually).
- d. Where the WAFC arranges to hold a conciliation, it must inform the AFL prior to the conciliation and, in consultation with the AFL, appoint a conciliator. The relevant WAFC may, by written notice, request the assistance of an AFL Vilification and Discrimination Panel member to conduct the conciliation and the AFL may, subject to the availability of the AFL Vilification and Discrimination Panel, arrange for that requested assistance.
- e. Persons entitled to attend a conciliation are as follows:
  - i. person(s) vilified;

- ii. the **Contravening Person**;
- iii. other person(s) directly involved in the complaint whom in the reasonable opinion of the AFL or WAFC ought to attend the conciliation;
- iv. where the alleged breach of Schedule 2.1 was not about or did not directly impact a specific person or persons (e.g. the prohibited conduct vilified a group of persons generally without specifying any individual), a representative of that group may attend the conciliation at the invitation of the AFL or WAFC for the purpose of providing a victim impact statement and more generally to provide the perspectives of that group of vilified persons in the conduct of the conciliation;
- v. conciliator; and
- vi. where a Person involved in a conciliation is under the age of eighteen (18) years:
  - 1. the Person must always be represented by a Club Officer (and such representative must not be a parent or guardian of the Person); and
  - 2. All conciliation participants are discouraged from having a legal practitioner as their support person or in any other capacity in conciliation.
- vii. All conciliation participants are permitted and encouraged to have a support person present at the conciliation. Support persons will not be advocates or actively participate in the conciliation.
- viii. All conciliation participants are discouraged from having a legal practitioner as their support person or in any other capacity in conciliation.

#### **4. Agreed outcomes at conciliation**

- a. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Rules and Regulations, the conciliation participants will be at liberty to consider and agree to any outcome or sanction including but not limited to any of the following (or a combination of them):
  - i. suspension of a Contravening Person from playing and/or officiating in Matches at any level;
  - ii. if reasonably practicable, attendance at or participation in a community service program by the Contravening Person;
  - iii. the provision of a public apology or apologies by a Contravening Person
- b. For the avoidance of doubt:
  - i. the person(s) vilified, the Contravening Person and the AFL or WAFC must all agree to any outcome or sanction;
  - ii. the conciliation participants may not agree to any outcome that binds or sanctions any Person that is not a conciliation participant;
  - iii. the effect of any suspension agreed under Schedule 2.4(a)(i) will be the same as a suspension under Rule 6.
- c. In their consideration of agreed outcomes and sanctions, the conciliation participants should have regard to the following:
  - i. the nature of the Policy Breach and all the circumstances in which it was undertaken including the setting (e.g. during the course of a Match, during the course of an official or unofficial Club activity, in a public place, in a private setting);
  - ii. the extent to which the Policy Breach caused offence or hurt to the vilified person or others (e.g. was it undertaken in an aggressive or threatening way, did it offend or hurt a large number of people);
  - iii. whether there have been previous instances of Policy Breaches by the Contravening Person;
  - iv. whether the Contravening Person has received any relevant training and education

#### **5. Confidentiality and public statement**

- a. Subject to Schedule 2.5(b):

- i. the particulars of a complaint and the conciliation shall at all times remain confidential; and
  - ii. a person shall not publicly comment on or disseminate to any person information concerning a complaint or conciliation at any time prior to, during or after the conciliation.
- b. Where a complaint is resolved by conciliation, any public statement (including any apology) made concerning the complaint and its resolution shall be agreed upon by the parties.

## 6. Unsuccessful conciliation

Where the AFL or WAFC (as applicable) is of the opinion that the matter has not been resolved by conciliation, the AFL or WAFC must:

- a. complete a Notice of Breach and issue it to the Contravening Person and the Contravening Person's Club;
- b. provide the person(s) vilified and that person's Club (if applicable) with a copy of the Notice of Breach; and
- c. proceed to deal with the matter under Schedule 18.5 (Early Guilty Plea – Policy Breach).

### ***Vilification Process prior to Schedule update (up to 2023) :***

- a) *No Player in his capacity as a Player of a WAFL Club or, in the course of carrying out his duties or functions as or incidental to a Player of a WAFL Club or any Director, Officer, Servant or agent of a WAFL Club (including without limitation any coach, assistant coach, trainer, medical officer, runner or person entitled to enter the arena during the course of or prior to or during a break in play in any match) shall act towards or speak to any other person in a manner, or engage in any other conduct which threatens, disparages, vilifies or insults another person ("the person vilified") on the basis of that person's race, religion, colour descent or national or ethnic origin, sexual preference, orientation or identity, special ability or disability. The scope of this rule does not exclude incidents off the playing arena.*
- b) *In the event that it is alleged that a person has contravened Schedule 2 a WAFL Umpire, WAFL Club or WAFL Player may, by 5.00 pm on the first working day following the day on which the contravention is alleged to have occurred, lodge a complaint in writing to the WAFC.*
- c) *The WAFC will put in place a conciliation meeting and all WAFL Clubs and individuals concerned must attend. This process must be private and no public statement is allowed by the WAFL Clubs, Players or any representative of the WAFL Club(s) involved and must be within three (3) working days of the incident.*
- d) *The WAFL Tribunal will hear the evidence at the conciliation meeting and can:*
  - i. *Determine that there is no case to answer.*
  - ii. *Mediate and assist in resolving the issue.*
  - iii. *Refer the case to the WAFL Tribunal*

*If the matter is referred to the WAFL Tribunal and found guilty the following guidelines are used for penalty:*

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <i>1st Offence</i> | <i>Player to be suspended for a minimum of three (3) playing dates.</i> |
| <i>2nd Offence</i> | <i>Player to be suspended for a minimum of six (6) playing dates.</i>   |

*3rd Offence*

*Player to have his registration revoked to play in the WAFL competition as determined by the WAFC and must make written application to the WAFC to have his registration re-instated.*

## Schedule 3 Working with Children Policy

The Working with Children Policy sets out the screening process for people in the WAFLW who work, coach, supervise or have regular unsupervised contact with people under the age of 18 years. In accordance with the Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004, WAFLW Clubs must ensure that any person in child-related work have an Assessment Notice in the form of a WWC Card following completion of a Working with Children Check.

### Purpose of Working with Children Check

The Working with Children Check (WWC Check) is a compulsory and rigorous criminal record check for certain people who carry out 'child-related work' in WA. A person is in 'child-related work' if the usual duties of their work involves, or is likely to involve contact with a child in connection with specified categories of work (see the website below for further details) It includes child-related work carried out by paid employees, volunteers, unpaid people and the self-employed.

Parents volunteering in connection with their child's activity are exempt (although this does not apply to overnight camps); however they should still be required to complete the non-WWC Check screening process. There are other exemptions, for example volunteers under 18 years old. Further details about exemptions can be found on the website [www.checkwwc.wa.gov.au](http://www.checkwwc.wa.gov.au). Only those in child-related work under the Act may apply.

Applicants will be issued with either:

- An Assessment Notice in the form of a WWC Card enabling them to be in all types of child-related work for three years unless there are new offences of concern.
- An Interim Negative Notice, which prohibits them from child-related work until a final decision is made on their application.
- A Negative Notice, which prohibits them from child-related work.

There are set obligations and strong penalties for non-compliance including for WAFLW Clubs, whether they be an employer or volunteer co-coordinator of those people who are working with children.

### WAFLW Club obligations

Every WAFLW Club is required to:

- a) Identify positions that involve working, coaching, supervising or regular unsupervised contact with people under the age of 18 years.
- b) Obtain a completed Member Protection Declaration (MPD) (available via WAFL Online) from all people who are identified in the above step and keep it in a secure place.
- c) Provide an opportunity for a person to give an explanation if a MPD isn't provided or it reveals that the person doesn't satisfactorily meet any of the clauses in the MPD. The WAFC will then make an assessment as to whether the person may be unsuitable to work with people under the age of 18 years. If unsatisfied the WAFC will not permit the appointment of that person to the role/position.
- d) Where possible, check a person's referees (verbal or written) about his/her suitability for the role.

- e) Ask the people identified in step 1 to sign a consent form for a national police check.
- f) Possibly request (or ask the person to request) a national 'Part Exclusion' police check from Western Australia police. This check excludes irrelevant records. If the police check indicates a relevant offence, the WAFC will provide an opportunity for the person to give an explanation, and then the WAFC will make an assessment as to whether the person may pose a risk to or be unsuitable to work with people under the age of 18 years. If unsatisfied the WAFC will not will not permit the appointment of that person to the role/position.
- g) Make an assessment as to whether the person may be unsuitable to work with people under the age of 18 years if the person does not agree to a national police check after explaining why it is a requirement under our policy. If unsatisfied, the WAFC will not will not permit the appointment of that person to the role/position.
- h) Decide whether to offer the person the position taking into account the result of the police check and any other information the Club has available to it. Where it is not practical to complete the police check prior to the person commencing in the position, WAFLW Clubs must arrange for the check to be completed as soon as possible, and if necessary, act immediately on the outcome.
- i) Protect the privacy of any person who is checked and maintain confidentiality of any information obtained through the checking process.
- j) Return information collected during screening (such as a completed MPD form, police records and referee reports) to the relevant person if that person is not appointed to the position, or otherwise be destroyed within twenty eight (28) days of the date of the decision or the expiry of any appeal period, unless within that time the person requests that the documents be returned to them. For appointed persons, information will be kept on file in a secure location.

## **Schedule 4 Bleeding & Blood Borne Infection Policy**

- a) The WAFLW follows the AFL policy in this area.
- b) Any Club not adhering to the policy set out in the Laws of Australian Football may be fined in accordance with [Rule 10](#)



## Schedule 5 WAFL Venues Policy

The WAFL Venues Policy is developed in conjunction with the AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines, whereby state league competitions are defined. These AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines should be used to inform the provision and development of venues, facilities and amenities. The Guidelines outline the preferred facility requirements for competition, training and programming activities that may take place at the venue, specifically minimum standards to facilitate State League Football.

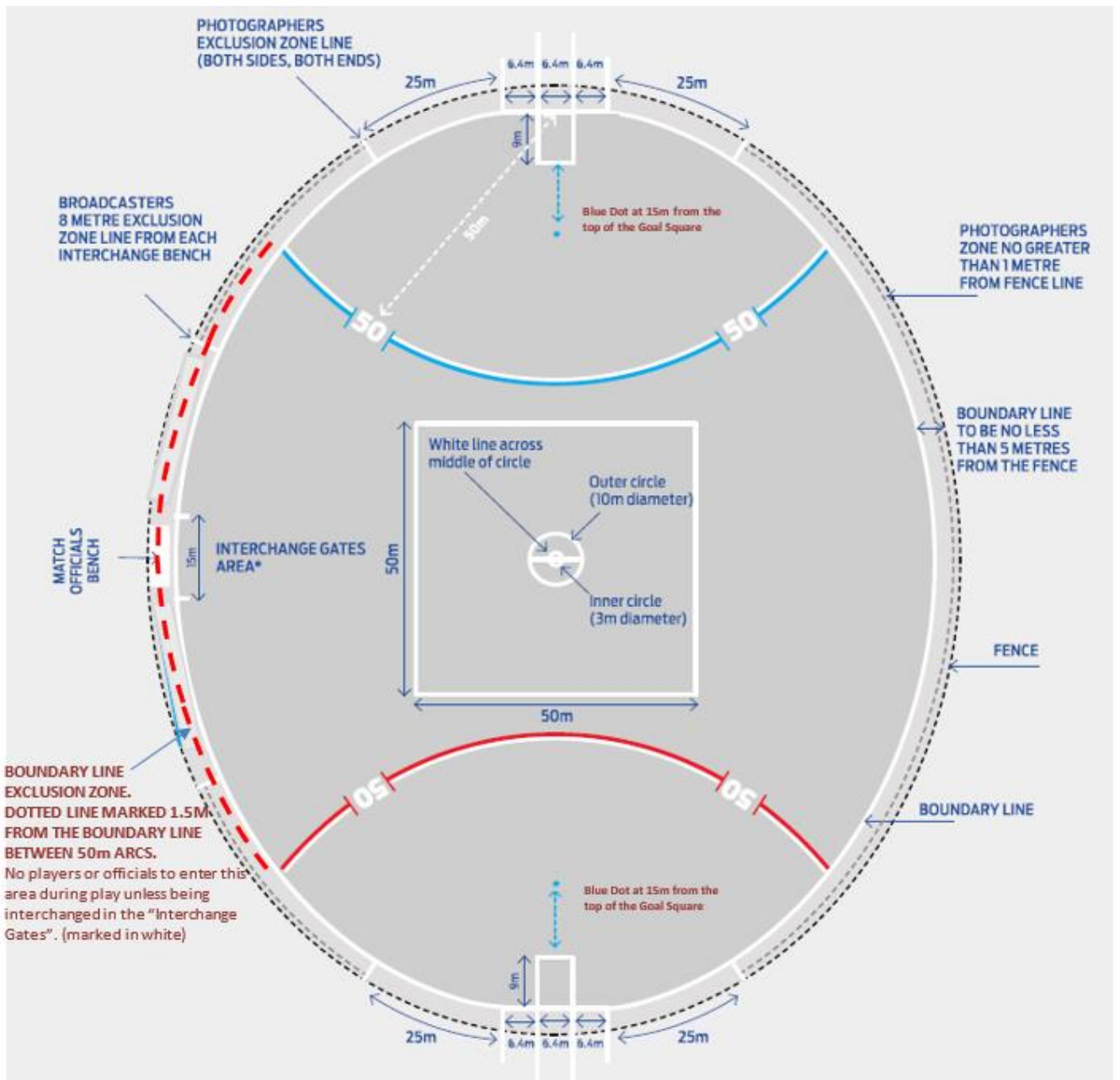
The information presented within the guidelines refers to the **typical minimum levels** of provision recommended for each venue type and its defined use for Australian Football as defined below:

- They primarily service State League and elite underage competitions and are viewed as second tier competition venues
- Used for high performance training and community competition finals, they are maintained to a showcase level, offering higher standards of amenities with perimeter and reserve fencing and the capacity to cater for larger crowds.
- There is a growing need for State Level facilities to provide year-round football activity for talent and pathway training and programming.

The WAFC, specifically WAFL Operations, is required to be involved in all aspects of the planning and execution of a new facility. Should any deviation occur from the current guidelines, the WAFC has the final decision on what is considered the minimum standard at that given time and can operate outside of the minimum standards guidelines, acting in the best interests for football.

Link to [AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines](#)

- a) At WAFL venues the Playing Arena set out in the diagram below shall apply, as extracted from the Laws of Australian Football:



- b) The Playing field preferred oval dimensions shall be oval in shape at least 150 metres in length and 110 metres in width (unless otherwise approved) – for new developments the preferred playing dimensions are 165m (length) and 135m (width) and marked in accordance with Law 3.2 (b) of the Laws of Australian Football as follows:
- i. A white line shall be marked on the ground to identify the Playing Surface.
  - ii. This white line shall be drawn in the shape of an arc from the behind post at one end of the Playing Surface to the behind post at the other end of the Playing Surface.
  - iii. The white lines which are drawn are called the Boundary Lines.
- c) In accordance with Law 3.5 of the Laws of Australian Football, the following areas shall be marked on the Playing Surface:
- i. Located in the centre of the Playing Surface, the centre square is to be 50 metres long and 50 metres wide.
  - ii. The Centre Circle is to be 3 metres in diameter and an outer circle 10 metres in diameter which shall:
  - iii. be located in the middle of the Centre Square; and
  - iv. both be divided into two semicircles, by drawing a straight line parallel with each goal line; and

- v. in the event of adverse weather conditions the home Club have the option of a secondary centre circle which is off the cricket pitch table but still remains within the original centre square;
  - vi. An Interchange Area, which shall be 15 metres wide;
  - vii. A Goal Square at each end of the Playing Surface;
  - viii. The Goal Line and Behind Line; and
  - ix. A Fifty-Metre Arc at each end of the Playing Surface.
- d) In accordance with the Laws of Australian Football the following requirements shall apply for the Goal Area:
- i. Two (2) Goal Posts located 6.4 metres apart and shall be placed at each end of the playing ground; and
  - ii. Two (2) Behind Posts shall be placed at a distance of 6.4 metres from each goal post and in a straight line with them; and
  - iii. Two (2) lines shall be drawn at right angles to the goal line for a distance of nine metres from each post. The outer end of these lines shall be connected by a straight line. These lines shall be marked in white and known as the kick off lines.
- e) In accordance with the Laws of Australian Football the following requirements shall apply for the dimensions and covering of goal and behind posts:
- i. the goal posts are to be tapered and be a minimum length of 12 metres out of the ground (preferred is greater than 12 metres - AFL is 15 metres out of the ground);
  - ii. the diameter of the base is to be 115mm, or as determined by constructions specifications;
  - iii. the diameter of the top is to be 90mm, or as determined by constructions specifications;
  - iv. the point posts are to be tapered and a minimum length of 8 metres out of ground (preferred is two thirds the height of the goal posts - AFL is 10 metres out of the ground) with the following dimensions;
  - v. the diameter of the base is to be 75mm, or as determined by constructions specifications; and
  - vi. the diameter of the top is to be 55mm, or as determined by constructions specifications.
  - vii. goal and behind post padding (wrap arounds) with the following dimensions

- viii. Minimum length of 2.5 metres (preferred is 3 metres)
  - ix. Thickness of 35mm (preferred is 50mm)
  - x. Width to suit post diameter
  - xi. Padding to have threaded cord and/or Velcro holding padding secure to post
  - xii. Made from high impact foam padding covered in white waterproof material
  - xiii. Flag Holders (attached to Goal Posts)
  - xiv. The Flag Holders are to be made of PVC, and capped at the bottom
  - xv. The diameter of the Flag Holder is to be 50mm
  - xvi. The length of the Flag Holder is to be 500mm
  - xvii. The flag holders are to be attached to the Goal Posts at a height of 600mm from the ground
- f) The ground must be fully enclosed to effect entry and exit points. Turnstiles or other appropriate measures should be installed to ensure that accurate crowd attendance figures are recorded. (Reserve or Enclosed Venue Fencing)
- g) Playing Arena Fencing should be approximately 900mm high with mesh in-fill, white pickets or similar and allow adequate run-off distance from the playing field boundary line (minimum boundary run-off of 5.5m).
- h) Adequate gates/access for maintenance and emergency vehicles, Players and officials is required.
- i) Every WAFL Venue must provide bench seating in the Interchange Bench area to each of the competing teams in accordance with the following requirements:
- i. bench seating is to be a minimum of six (6) metres long to cater for up to twelve (12) people;
  - ii. each bench is to be covered with roof or canopy for protection against the weather, should have at least three fixed sides to provide shelter and not impede viewing– preferably made from a clear Perspex material to aid spectator viewing. Both benches are to be sufficient distance from the fence line to prevent any contact with the football public.
  - iii. the location of the benches should be on centre wing – ideally on the western side of the oval (or side not facing the sun) to reduce sun glare, a sufficient distance apart, so there is no contact with opposition team;
  - iv. Interchange benches should be located outside the minimum oval run-off area, but may form part of the boundary fence (ensuring any part of the structure does not impeded on or into the field of play).
  - v. the provision of water and power to interchange areas is required to provide enhanced benefits and functionality and support boundary-side technology use by coaching personnel.
  - vi. Umpires/officials box should be located between the two interchange benches and be a similar construction.
  - vii. the interchange gate markings are to be outlined by the home team prior to the game and must be within 10 meters of the interchange benches for both Clubs.
  - viii. The use of plastic cones to mark the interchange area is strictly prohibited.
  - ix. Player and Umpire races; designed to separate spectators, teams and umpires when entering and exiting the field of play.

- x. Player races should be at least 20m apart from each other and provide a direct path from player change rooms to field of play.
  - xi. A separate race for umpires to enter the field of play directly from the umpires' amenities is desirable.
- j) The minimum requirements for change rooms at all WAFL Venues are as follows:
- i. separate change rooms for each competing Club;
  - ii. changeroom size of not less than 75 m<sup>2</sup> (preferred is 75-95 m<sup>2</sup>);
  - iii. floors must be carpeted or, alternatively, heavy industrial non-slip matting should be used;
  - iv. player amenities (Wet areas) of not less than 35m<sup>2</sup>;
  - v. bathroom and shower floors are to be safe for all Players and staff to walk on with any type of footwear;
  - vi. a recommended minimum of thirty (30) lockers to be available for use by Players/team staff;
  - vii. Bench seating to be provided in front of lockers;
  - viii. a minimum of five (5) lockable shower cubicles per amenity area ;
  - ix. a minimum of five (5) pan toilet cubicles per amenity area;
  - x. all toilet cubicles should provide sanitary bins and lockable doors to support inclusive use.
- k) All WAFL venues must provide sufficient area for Players to stretch and exercise in preparation for the game.
- l) All WAFL venues should provide a Trainers Room at a minimum size of 20m<sup>2</sup>.
- m) All WAFL venues should provide a Doctors Room at a minimum size of 15m<sup>2</sup>
- n) All WAFL venues should provide a First Aid/Medical Room at a minimum size of 15m<sup>2</sup> containing the following features:
- i. relevant phone numbers of Ambulance, Relevant hospitals, emergency centres and other medical emergency contacts;
  - ii. at least four (4) massage tables are to be provided for the purpose of rub downs and strapping.
  - iii. flexible or mobile light examination couch;
  - iv. power points;
  - v. sink with hot and cold water, central nozzle and lever taps (to scrub for sterile procedures);
  - vi. sharp disposable containers with wide mouth access so syringes and needles can be disposed of;
  - vii. disposal unit for bloodied dressing;
  - viii. rubbish bins;
  - ix. soap dispenser above or near sink;
  - x. hand towel dispenser or loose paper leaves dispenser near sink; and
  - xi. Jordan Frame/Ferno Scoop stretcher.
- o) A separate room with toilet facilities allowing for privacy must be available for the purpose of drug testing.
- p) A separate lock-up room must be provided for storage of player's personal belongings is preferable, or alternatively a secure area within the change rooms. This area can also be utilised for the distribution of all Players' uniforms, boots etc.

- q) A room/area separate from the change rooms (preferably theatre style) is to be provided with accommodates up to 30 Players/officials providing privacy for the Coach to address the Players. Where this is not possible there must be adequate room and equipment for a Coach to address the Players.
- r) A covered coaches box suitable for accommodating at least seven (7) persons shall be provided for each participating team positioned as near as practicable to the interchange area.
- s) Both the Home and Visiting Coaching Boxes must have a suitable telephone / wireless communication device from the Coaches Box to the interchange bench.
- t) Races shall be provided for the Umpires and both teams and must be manned and closed when Players are to enter or leave the arena. Spectators should not enter race area. A stretcher is to be provided in each Player's race.
- u) A room of at least thirty (30m<sup>2</sup> – 40m<sup>2</sup>) must be provided to the Umpires for their use and have the following features:
- Umpire change rooms should accommodate for all genders using and sharing the space concurrently. All personal changing is recommended to take place within designated ensuite cubicle areas.
  - To better cater for this, it is recommended that any new or redeveloped umpire amenities are designed with individual ensuite cubicles that contain a shower, change space, pan toilet and hand basin. Providing pan toilet cubicles separate to shower cubicles may also be considered to increase flexibility of use.
  - The inclusion of an umpires briefing room or area for umpire panel discussions (pre, during and post match) is preferred and strongly encouraged.
    - i. at least four (4) lockable amenity ensuite cubicles;
    - ii. minimum of fourteen (14) hooks;
    - iii. at least one (1) rub down table;
    - iv. mirror;
    - v. lights; and
    - vi. Umpires must not be required to enter either team's change rooms to use their facilities.
- v) An appropriate viewing area with a clear unobstructed view of the entire ground is to be provided for Competition Statisticians, Broadcasters (Television, Live Stream, Radio and Print Media).
- w) All Venues must allocate an elevated position in the centre of the ground (on the northern or western wing depending on ground orientation) with a minimum number of seats and benches for commentators with unrestricted view of the ground. It is particularly important that the camera and commentary position be located right on centre wing.
- x) All Venues must allocate an elevated position in the centre of the ground, which is undercover with a clear unobstructed view of the entire ground (on the northern or western wing depending on ground orientation) for Vision Capture (Broadcast and Match Capture);
- i. The WAFL's official broadcaster/s will require access to both ground level and elevated locations around the Venue to position cameras and associated equipment.
  - ii. The number of camera positions required will depend on the nature of the

- Match and will be advised by the WAFL.
- iii. The camera area must be suitable for the camera operators to set up their cameras appropriately and to be able to pan the cameras without any obstructions.
  - iv. Typical camera positions for Matches include the following:
    - a. Camera 1 – Main camera position (centre wing);
    - b. Camera 2 – Main camera position (centre wing);
    - c. Camera 3 – 25 metre low left;
    - d. Camera 4 – 25 metre low right;
    - e. Camera 5 – Behind Goals
    - f. Interchange bench cameras;
  - y) A suitable separate area shall be provided under cover to accommodate the timekeepers who shall be separated from the press/media area. This area should be centrally located to the oval.
  - z) All WAFL Venues shall have a public address system that is audible in all parts of the ground capable of accommodating spectators.
  - aa) A time clock must be provided at all WAFL Venues. (exemptions may be requested for regional fixtures)
  - bb) All WAFL venues should have access to defibrillator.
  - cc) All WAFL venues are to have an AFL approved siren, and an emergency siren/bell shall be provided to cover any failure of the main unit. The venue must be able to test all sirens individually prior to game day.
  - dd) A scoreboard must be provided at all venues.
  - ee) For the avoidance of doubt, WAFL Venues should adhere to the benchmark standards within the AFL Venue Guidelines.
  - ff) Any breach of this schedule or any policy contained in these Rules may be penalised in accordance with Rule 14 or at the absolute discretion of the WAFC .

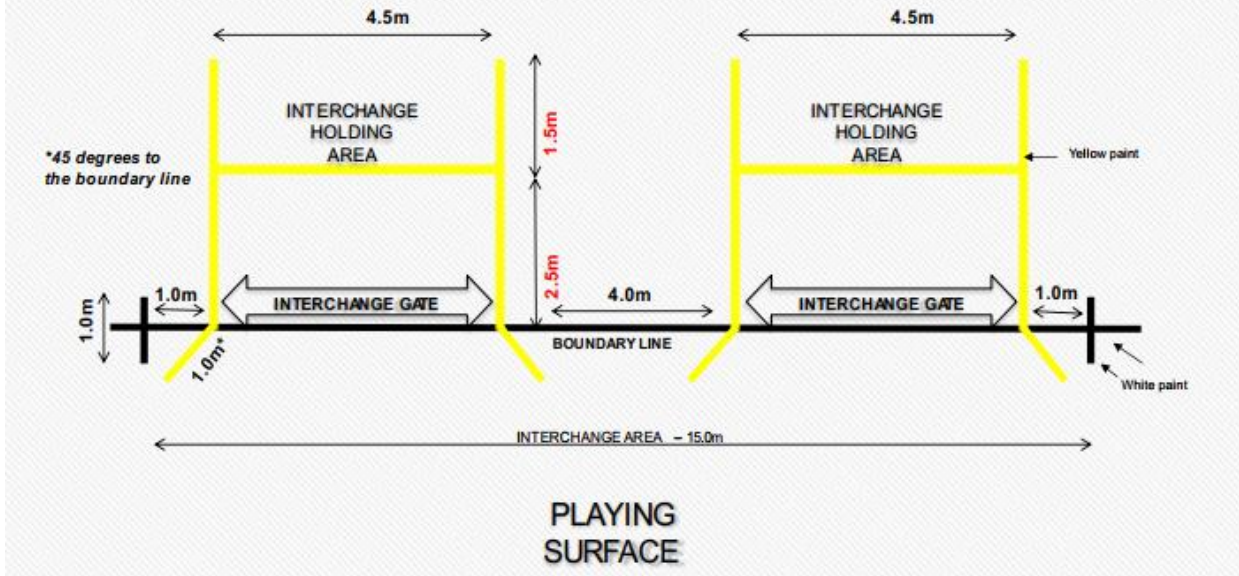
### **Boundary Line Exclusion Zone**

The following requirements will apply to all venues approved for WAFLW matches.

- i. A white dotted line must be marked 2.5m from the boundary line between the 50m arcs on the side of the ground where the interchange gates are located.
- ii. This marked line should intersect with the 2.5m 'Interchange Gates' markings.
- iii. No Players or Officials may enter this area during play unless being interchanged in the 'interchange gates' as per Rule 3.6.2 b).

### **Interchange Gates**

## AFL Interchange Gate Markings



### Synthetic Turf

- There should be clearance of at least 1.5 metres of natural turf between any synthetic turf and the boundary line (unless otherwise approved)
- The synthetic turf must be provided and installed by a WAFC or AFL approved supplier. The synthetic turf must be tested to meet the performance standards and have certification from the AFL Synthetic Turf Program.



## Schedule 6 Lighting for Night Football Policy

### Minimum Standards

- a) The following lighting standard is the recommended minimum for the conduct of games for the WAFLW competition under lights:

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Maintained illuminance       | 500 lux (horizontal)   |
| Minimum uniformity ( $U_2$ ) | 0.5  |
| Insurance                    | All Clubs are advised to notify their insurer that night football is to be played at their venue |

- b) In the event a ground has existing lighting the following minimum standard may apply, however the Club is expected to make every endeavour to achieve the standard as detailed above. Between the months of April to October, or otherwise determined by the WAFC, the WAFC may not sanction a night game below the standard detailed below:

|                              |                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Maintained illuminance       | 200 lux (horizontal) |
| Minimum uniformity ( $U_2$ ) | 0.5                  |

### Maintained Illuminance

- a) The maintained illumination within the playing arena, on a horizontal plane at ground level, allows for depreciation of the lumen output of the lamp and an accumulation of dirt on the floodlights.
- b) It is necessary to make an adjustment to the installed level to determine the maintained illuminance.
- c) Although the depreciation of the lamp lumen output will depend on the lamp selected, a depreciation factor of approximately 0.8 would apply.
- d) Technical data from the selected lamps will allow specific calculations to be made.

### Uniformity

- a) The distribution of light across the playing surface should be reasonably uniform. The calculation of uniformity is normally undertaken as part of a computer program, but may be defined as:

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Uniformity ( $U_2$ ) | $E_{\min}/E_{\text{ave}}$  |
| Where                | $E_{\min}$ is the minimum value of the calculation or measurement grid<br>$E_{\text{ave}}$ is the average illuminance of the calculation or measurement grid |

### Measurements

- a) All measurements should be undertaken by an approved contractor who must present a recent calibration certificate for the meters used in obtaining the measurements. Measurements must be undertaken as per AS 2560.

### **Australian Standard 2620.2.3 – 1986**

- a) The WAFL lighting standards have been developed using the standards set by AS 2560 as a guide.
- b) From a Player comfort point of view the standards described in AS 2560 are at the lower end of the scale.
- c) WAFL standards have been increased accordingly and have been based on other successful installations around Australia.

## **Schedule 7 Uniform Policy WAFLW teams**

### **Application of Licence Agreement**

- a) Nothing in this Uniform Policy shall in any way undermine the terms of the Licence Agreement as applied to the relevant WAFLW Club.
- b) The WAFLW Club must fulfil all obligations set out in the Licence Agreement so far as they apply, including but not limited to those obligations relating to sponsors and advertising when applying this Uniform Policy.

### **Club Jumper Design & Colours**

- a) Every Club upon admission to the League by the WAFC shall apply for and obtain permission of the WAFC to use the colours, uniform and design in which the Club proposes to play. This uniform, when approved, shall be registered in the minutes of the WAFC Football Affairs meetings.
- b) Any Club desiring to vary or alter its colours, uniform or design shall first apply for and obtain the permission of the WAFC to make such variation or alteration and when approved the same shall be registered by the same process, provided always that notice of such change of colours or alteration of design is given to the League not later than the first day of December in the preceding year to that in which such change is to be effected.
- c) Registration of such colours, uniform and design by Clubs shall give such Clubs the exclusive right to such colours, uniform and design as against any other Club subsequently attempting to register the same colours, uniform and design.
- d) The materials used and the manufacturing process of Club uniforms must be approved by the WAFC, who will have regard to the product license agreements from time to time in force. Any variation to the approved material or manufacturing process must be approved by the WAFC.
- e) All jumpers must adhere to the agreed WAFLW Jumper template. (see below).
- f) The WAFC may involve a competition apparel sponsor. If so then all Clubs must comply with the sponsorship requirements.
- g) The WAFC may also, on behalf of the Clubs and to be agreed by the Clubs, sell advertising on the jumpers, shorts or socks. All Clubs must comply with correct competition sponsors badges on their uniform.
- h) All sponsorships and apparel advertising must be agreed to by the WAFC. The WAFC may make decisions in this regard on behalf of the Clubs.
- i) The following guidelines cover advertising space on jumpers. Clubs must also obtain approval for the type of sponsor from the WAFC prior to any new sponsors' logos being displayed on Club Uniform.
- j) Any breach of this Uniform Policy may be penalised in accordance with [Rule 10](#)

### **Club Shorts**

- a) Players are permitted to wear their Club uniform coloured shorts, in accordance with b), at all games.
- b) Club shorts colours are:

|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| Claremont       | Navy   |
| East Fremantle  | Blue   |
| East Perth      | Blue   |
| Peel Thunder    | Navy   |
| Perth           | Black  |
| South Fremantle | Red    |
| Subiaco         | Maroon |
| Swan Districts  | Black  |
| West Perth      | Blue   |
- c) Any Club whose Players to take the field in a uniform which does not comply with these requirements commits an offence in each match in which such uniform is worn.
- d) Undershorts may be worn by a Player provided that the material is of a neutral beige colour only, unless the WAFC has approved a Player to wear an alternative colour, and does not contain any Sponsor Advertising.

### **Club Socks**

- a) Players must wear their Clubs agreed coloured socks. These socks may have a sponsor's badge/logo on them. All changes to sock designs and or sponsor logos must be approved by the WAFC.
- b) Players socks must be the minimum approved length as determined by the WAFC.

### **Club Sock Advertising Space**

- a) No restriction on Logo size and can be placed anywhere but must be endorsed by the WAFC.
- b) Clubs may utilise the opportunity of using body transfers to promote sponsors. Transfers must be no larger than 5cm x 5cm (or equivalent) and are subject to approval by the WAFC.

### **Other Apparel**

- a) No Player shall wear any cap or hat during the course of a Match.
- b) Undershorts may be worn by a Player provided that the material is of a neutral beige colour only, unless the WAFC has approved a Player to wear an alternative colour and does not contain any Sponsor Advertising.
- c) All bandages elasticised or otherwise shall be of soft material and neutral beige coloured.
- d) Gloves approved by the WAFC may be worn provided that all Sponsor Advertising has been removed from the gloves. No gloves other than those approved by the WAFC shall be worn during a Match.
- e) Armbands may be worn provided they are black in colour, and with no sponsorship or branding unless otherwise approved by the WAFC at its discretion.
- f) Any apparel that is attached to a Player's boots as an addition to the boot must first be approved by the WAFC at its discretion.
- g) Approval must be sought from the WAFC prior to Players wearing wristbands during a Match.

- h) Headbands worn during a Match must be unobtrusive and hair or Club colour.
- i) Bobby pins are not permitted to be worn during a Match.
- j) Metal studs on boots are not permitted to be worn during a Match.
- k) No words that are offensive or prejudicial to the interests of the WAFC are permitted to be written on any uniform, bandages or skin of any Player or Person during a Match.
- l) It will be the sole discretion of the WAFLW to allow or disallow the use of any other apparel not addressed in these schedules.
- m) Any breach of this schedule or any policy contained in these Rules may be penalised in accordance with [Rule 10](#) or at the absolute discretion of the WAFC .

**On field Apparel Guidelines** (table below)



# 2024 APPAREL GUIDELINES

## WAFL WOMEN'S LEAGUE

| KEY             | PROPERTY   | ASSET OWNER                        | DIMENSIONS   | 2024 PARTNER       |
|-----------------|--|------------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| <b>GUERNSEY</b> |  |                                    |  |                    |
| A               | Manufacturer Mark  | Apparel Manufacturer               | Max width 5 cm<br>Total max 15 cm <sup>2</sup>   | Sekem or ISC       |
| B               | Competition Naming Rights Partner. Front chest right       | WAFC                               | Max width 11 cm  |                    |
| C               | Competition Foundation Partner Front chest left            | WAFC                               | Max width 11 cm per logo (70 cm <sup>2</sup> per logo)<br>Total max C, D & E (all 3 logos) 210 cm <sup>2</sup> | West Coast Eagles  |
| D               | Competition Principal Partner Front chest left             | WAFC                               | Max width 11 cm per logo (70 cm <sup>2</sup> per logo)<br>Total max C, D & E (all 3 logos) 210 cm <sup>2</sup> | Fremantle Dockers  |
| E               | Club Partner 1 Front chest left                            | Club                               | Max width 11 cm per logo (70 cm <sup>2</sup> per logo)<br>Total max C, D & E (all 3 logos) 210 cm <sup>2</sup> |                    |
| F               | Club Partner 2 Front stomach                               | Club                               | 1 partner<br>Max 375 cm <sup>2</sup><br>Max height 15 cm<br>Recommended use: 30 cm x 12.5 cm or 25 cm x 15 cm  |                    |
| G H I           | G: Club Logo<br>H: WAFL Retro Logo<br>I: Manufacturer Logo | Club / WAFC / Apparel Manufacturer | Total max 9 cm x 5 cm<br>G / H: 3 cm width<br>I: 6 cm width  | Sekem or ISC       |
| J               | Club Partner 3 Upper back                                  | Club                               | 1 logo only<br>Shoulder width<br>Max 8 cm high   |                    |
| K               | Competition Major Partner Lower back                       | WAFC                               | 1 logo<br>27 cm wide x 12.25 cm high   | Sullivan Logistics |

NB: Playing numbers must remain as shown with the WAFL retro logo placed inside rear jumper numbers. WAFL retro logo must remain in centre chest



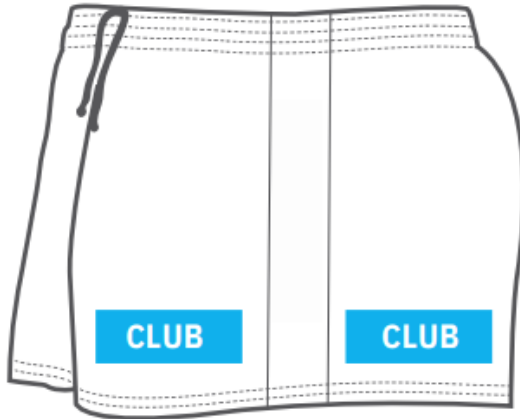


# 2024 APPAREL GUIDELINES

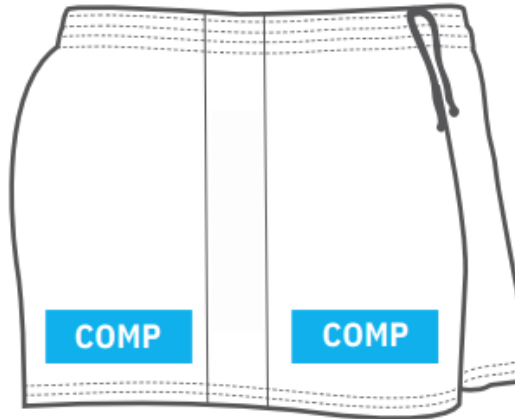
## WAFL WOMEN'S LEAGUE

| KEY           | PROPERTY              | ASSET OWNER | DIMENSIONS                              | 2024 PARTNER |
|---------------|-----------------------|-------------|---|--------------|
| <b>SHORTS</b> |                       |             |   |              |
| Front Right   | Competition Partner 1 | WAFC        | Max width 12 cm, max 70 cm <sup>2</sup> | Channel 7    |
| Back Right    | Competition Partner 2 | WAFC        | Max width 12 cm, max 70 cm <sup>2</sup> |              |
| Front Left    | Club partner 1        | Club        | Max width 12 cm, max 70 cm <sup>2</sup> |              |
| Back Left     | Club partner 2        | Club        | Max width 12 cm, max 70 cm <sup>2</sup> |              |

LEFT LEG



RIGHT LEG





# 2024 APPAREL GUIDELINES

## WAFL WOMEN'S ROGERS CUP

| KEY             | PROPERTY   | ASSET OWNER                        | DIMENSIONS   | 2024 PARTNER |
|-----------------|--|------------------------------------|--|--------------|
| <b>GUERNSEY</b> |  |                                    |  |              |
| A               | Manufacturer Mark  | Apparel Manufacturer               | Max width 5 cm<br>Total max 15 cm <sup>2</sup>   | Sekem or ISC |
| B               | Competition Naming Rights Partner. Front chest right       | WAFC                               | Max width 11 cm  |              |
| C               | Club Partner 1<br>Front chest left                         | Club                               | Max width 11 cm per logo (70 cm <sup>2</sup> per logo)<br>Total max C, D & E (all 3 logos) 210 cm <sup>2</sup>   |              |
| D               | Club Partner 2<br>Front chest left                         | Club                               | Max width 11 cm per logo (70 cm <sup>2</sup> per logo)<br>Total max C, D & E (all 3 logos) 210 cm <sup>2</sup>   |              |
| E               | Club Partner 3<br>Front chest left                         | Club                               | Max width 11 cm per logo (70 cm <sup>2</sup> per logo)<br>Total max C, D & E (all 3 logos) 210 cm <sup>2</sup>   |              |
| F               | Club Partner 4<br>Front stomach                            | Club                               | 1 partner<br>Max 375 cm <sup>2</sup><br>Max height 15 cm<br>Recommended use: 30 cm x 12.5 cm or<br>25 cm x 15 cm |              |
| GHI             | G: Club Logo<br>H: WAFL Retro Logo<br>I: Manufacturer Logo | Club / WAFC / Apparel Manufacturer | Total max 9 cm x 5 cm<br>G / H: 3 cm width<br>I: 6 cm width  | Sekem or ISC |
| J               | Club Partner 5<br>Upper back                               | Club                               | 1 logo only<br>Shoulder width<br>Max 8 cm high   |              |
| K               | Competition Naming Rights Partner. Lower back              | WAFC                               | 1 logo<br>27 cm wide x 12.25 cm high   |              |

NB: Playing numbers must remain as shown with the WAFL retro logo placed inside rear jumper numbers. WAFL retro logo must remain in centre chest



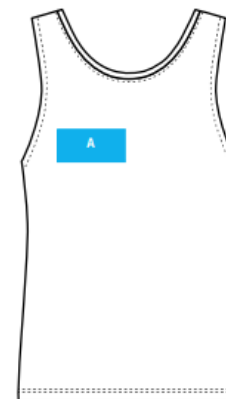
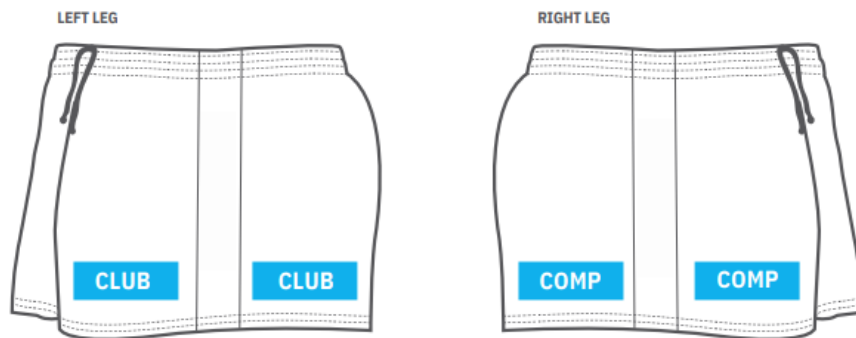




# 2024 APPAREL GUIDELINES

## WAFL WOMEN'S ROGERS CUP

| KEY           | PROPERTY              | ASSET OWNER | DIMENSIONS                              | 2024 PARTNER |
|---------------|-----------------------|-------------|---|--------------|
| <b>SHORTS</b> |                       |             |   |              |
| Front Right   | Competition Partner 1 | WAFC        | Max width 12 cm, max 70 cm <sup>2</sup> |              |
| Back Right    | Competition Partner 2 | WAFC        | Max width 12 cm, max 70 cm <sup>2</sup> |              |
| Front Left    | Club partner 1        | Club        | Max width 12 cm, max 70 cm <sup>2</sup> |              |
| Back Left     | Club partner 2        | Club        | Max width 12 cm, max 70 cm <sup>2</sup> |              |



### OFF-FIELD (UPPER BODY ONLY)

| KEY   | PROPERTY     | ASSET OWNER | DIMENSIONS      |
|---|--------------|-------------|-----------------|
| <b>TRAINING SHIRTS / SINGLETS / JUMPERS / JACKETS</b> |              |             |                 |
| A   | Club Partner | Club        | Max width 11 cm |

NB: No other WAFL partner branding requirements for off-field / training apparel. Club may utilise any other positions

Approval for all short logos must be sought from the WAFC.

### **Club Football Boots**

- a) Football Boots must be worn when playing in the WAFLW and form a part of the official uniform.

### **Umpires Uniform**

- a) The standard Umpire's (field and boundary) uniform is a predominantly green shirt worn with grey shorts and Green socks.
- b) The standard Umpire's (Goal) uniform is a predominately green shirt worn with black pants.

## Schedule 8 Concussion Policy

The WAFLW Competition will be guided by the AFL Concussion Management Policy “AFL Concussion Guidelines for Australian Football.

<https://www.afl.com.au/clubhelp/policies/health-and-safety/concussion-management>

Below is an excerpt from the AFL and AFLW Concussion Guidelines which the WAFL and WAFLW have adopted.

Purpose:

1. To protect the acute and long-term welfare of all players.
2. To provide best practice guidelines for the diagnosis and management of concussion

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; and
3. Referring the player to a medical doctor for assessment
4. Where there is no medical doctor present to assess the player, or the diagnosis of concussion cannot be ruled out at the time of injury, the player must NOT be allowed to return to play in the same match / training session.

Any player who has suffered a concussion or is suspected of having a concussion must be medically assessed as soon as possible.

There should 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.

These guidelines outline the important steps for return to play following concussion including:

1. A brief period of complete physical and cognitive rest (24-48 hours).
2. A period of symptom-limited activity (e.g., reading, walking) to allow full recovery.
3. A graded loading program (with monitoring).
4. Clearance by a medical doctor (prior to returning to competitive contact sport / full contact training sessions).

Players should not enter the graded loading program until they have recovered from their concussion. Recovery means that all concussion-related symptoms and signs have fully resolved (for at least 24 hours) at rest and with activities of daily living, and they have successfully returned to work or school, without restrictions.

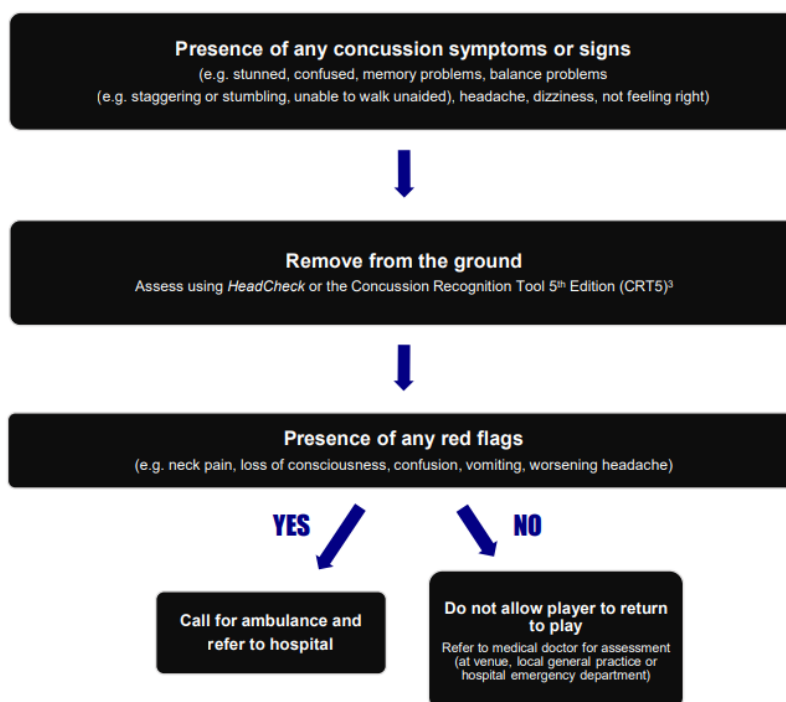
The earliest that a player may return to play (once they have successfully completed a graded loading program and they have obtained medical clearance) is on the 12<sup>th</sup> day after the day on which the concussion was suffered.

[Management-of-Sport-Related-Concussion-in-Australian-Football \(25-April-2021-FINAL\).pdf](#)

- a) A Player suspected of having suffered a head injury/concussion or is knocked unconscious shall:

- i. Be assessed by any member of the team’s medical personnel using the Concussion Recognition Tool (CRT5), preferably within 10 minutes of the incident.
- b) Any Player who FAILS the CRT5 assessment:
  - i. Is not permitted to return to the playing surface.
  - ii. Shall have their names notified to the field Umpires, who will record the Player’s name in the match report, which is then submitted to the WAFLW.
- c) A Player whose name is submitted to the WAFLW as having FAILED the CRT5 is NOT permitted to play in the WAFLW until their Club receives a Medical Certification clearing the player to play.
- d) In following the AFL and AFLW guidelines, the earliest that a player can return to play after a concussion is on the 12<sup>th</sup> day after the day on which the concussion was suffered.
- e) A Player who suffers a concussion should on the day of the match:
  - i. NOT consume alcohol and keep well hydrated.
  - ii. NOT drive a motor vehicle.
  - iii. NOT be left alone, and be woken every 2-3 hours during the night to ensure they are well.
  - iv. Seek IMMEDIATE medical attention if they:
    - a. Are unconscious for more than 5 minutes.
    - b. Develop visual disturbance.
    - c. Are confused.
    - d. Develop nausea/vomiting.
    - e. Have a headache not responding to Paracetamol or Ibuprofen.

### Management of Concussion on the day of Injury



**Figure 1. Summary of the management of concussion in Australian Football.**

Note: For any player with loss of consciousness, basic first aid principles should be used (i.e. airways, breathing, CPR). Care must also be taken with the player’s neck, which may have also been injured in the collision. The unconscious player must not be moved by anyone other than a medical professional or ambulance officer. An ambulance should be called, and these players transported to hospital immediately for further assessment and management.

# CONCUSSION RECOGNITION TOOL 5<sup>©</sup>

To help identify concussion in children, adolescents and adults



## RECOGNISE & REMOVE

Head impacts can be associated with serious and potentially fatal brain injuries. The Concussion Recognition Tool 5 (CRT5) is to be used for the identification of suspected concussion. It is not designed to diagnose concussion.

### STEP 1: RED FLAGS – CALL AN AMBULANCE

If there is concern after an injury, including whether ANY of the following signs are observed or complaints are reported, then the player should be safely and immediately removed from play/game/activity. If no licensed healthcare professional is available, call an ambulance for urgent medical assessment:

- Neck pain or tenderness
- Double vision
- Weakness or tingling/burning in arms or legs
- Severe or increasing headache
- Seizure or convulsion
- Loss of consciousness
- Deteriorating conscious state
- Vomiting
- Increasingly restless, agitated or combative

#### Remember:

- In all cases, the basic principles of first aid (danger, response, airway, breathing, circulation) should be followed.
- Assessment for a spinal cord injury is critical.
- Do not attempt to move the player (other than required for airway support) unless trained to do so.
- Do not remove a helmet or any other equipment unless trained to do so safely.

If there are no Red Flags, identification of possible concussion should proceed to the following steps:

### STEP 2: OBSERVABLE SIGNS

Visual clues that suggest possible concussion include:

- Lying motionless on the playing surface
- Slow to get up after a direct or indirect hit to the head
- Disorientation or confusion, or inability to respond appropriately to questions
- Blank or vacant look
- Balance, gait difficulties, motor incoordination, stumbling, slow laboured movements
- Facial injury after head trauma



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### STEP 3: SYMPTOMS

- Headache
- "Pressure in head"
- Balance problems
- Nausea or vomiting
- Drowsiness
- Dizziness
- Blurred vision
- Sensitivity to light
- Sensitivity to noise
- Fatigue or low energy
- "Don't feel right"
- More emotional
- More irritable
- Sadness
- Nervous or anxious
- Neck pain
- Difficulty concentrating
- Difficulty remembering
- Feeling slowed down
- Feeling like "in a fog"

### STEP 4: MEMORY ASSESSMENT

(IN ATHLETES OLDER THAN 12 YEARS)

Failure to answer any of these questions (modified appropriately for each sport) correctly may suggest a concussion:

- "What venue are we at today?"
- "Which half is it now?"
- "Who scored last in this game?"
- "What team did you play last week/game?"
- "Did your team win the last game?"

### Athletes with suspected concussion should:

- Not be left alone initially (at least for the first 1-2 hours).
- Not drink alcohol.
- Not use recreational/prescription drugs.
- Not be sent home by themselves. They need to be with a responsible adult.
- Not drive a motor vehicle until cleared to do so by a healthcare professional.

The CRT5 may be freely copied in its current form for distribution to individuals, teams, groups and organisations. Any revision and any reproduction in a digital form requires approval by the Concussion in Sport Group. It should not be altered in any way, rebranded or sold for commercial gain.

**ANY ATHLETE WITH A SUSPECTED CONCUSSION SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY REMOVED FROM PRACTICE OR PLAY AND SHOULD NOT RETURN TO ACTIVITY UNTIL ASSESSED MEDICALLY, EVEN IF THE SYMPTOMS RESOLVE**

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Phases of Rest, Recovery and Return to Play following Concussion.

| Focus  | Goal   | Requirements to move to next stage   |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Rest</b>  |  |  |
| Rest   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help speed up recovery</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete physical and cognitive rest in the first 24 – 48 hours</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Recovery</b>  |  |  |
| Symptom limited activity   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two days of activities that do not provoke symptoms</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No concussion-related symptoms at rest or with physical or brain activity for at least 1 day and the player has successfully returned to work/school</li> <li>• The player should also have a medical clearance (e.g. physiotherapist, sports trainer, first aider) to confirm that the player has had no concussion-related symptoms for at least 1 day</li> </ul> |
| <b>Graded Loading – individual program</b>   |  |  |
| Light / moderate aerobic exercise  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Light / moderate aerobic exercise (e.g. walking, jogging, cycling at slow to medium pace)</li> <li>• No resistance training</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remain completely free of any concussion-related symptoms</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Recovery day</b>  |  |  |
| Sport-specific exercise  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased intensity (e.g. running at an increased heart rate) and duration of activity</li> <li>• Add sports specific drills (e.g. goal kick, stationary handball)</li> <li>• Commence light resistance training</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remain completely free of any concussion-related symptoms</li> <li>• The player should also have a medical clearance (e.g. physiotherapist, sports trainer, first aider) to confirm that the player has had no concussion-related symptoms for at least 1 day</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Recovery day</b>  |  |  |
| <b>Graded Loading – full team training</b>   |  |  |
| Limited contact training   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Return to full team training – non-contact except drills with incidental contact (incl. tackling)</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remain completely free of any concussion-related symptoms</li> <li>• Player confident to return to full contact training</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Recovery day</b>  |  |  |
| <i>Clearance by a medical doctor is required before returning to the final full contact training session and competitive contact sport</i> |  |  |
| Full contact training  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full team training</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remain completely free of any concussion-related symptoms</li> <li>• Player confident to participate in a match</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Recovery day</b>  |  |  |
| <b>Return to Play</b>  |  |  |



## Schedule 9 WAFLW Social Networking Policy

### 1. AFL commitment to online safety

The AFL has signed the [Online Safety Statement of Commitment](#) alongside 23 other major sporting organisations from around Australia to actively support the work of the Commonwealth Government eSafety Commissioner to help keep all Australians, from grassroots to professional athletes, team members and officials, safe online.

### 2. What is Social Media?

Social Media includes:

- a. external and internal social networking sites (e.g. Facebook, Bebo, LinkedIn, MySite, WhatsApp, Tinder and Yammer);
- b. video and photo sharing websites (e.g. Instagram, SnapChat, TikTok, Flickr, YouTube, Periscope);
- c. micro-blogging sites (e.g. Twitter);
- d. weblogs, including corporate or personal blogs, or blogs hosted by traditional media publications (e.g. 'comments' or 'your say' features on newspaper websites);
- e. forums and discussion boards (e.g. Whirlpool, Yahoo! Groups or Google Groups);
- f. online encyclopaedias (e.g. Wikipedia);
- g. instant messaging (including SMS);
- h. podcasting; and
- i. any other website or application that enables users to create and share content or participate in social networking.

### 3. AFL statement on Social Media

- a. It is important to understand that content posted on Social Media can have serious ramifications for the Person involved, the AFL and other Controlling Bodies, their people, commercial partners or other related organisations and individuals. Comments may be mistakenly attributed to the AFL or other Controlling Body in some circumstances. It is therefore important that a Person always think twice before posting.
- b. Before using Social Media, the AFL encourages all Persons to ask themselves the following questions:
  - i. Am I revealing any sensitive or confidential information?
  - ii. Would I want my Coach, team, family or friends to see this?
  - iii. Will I regret my actions?
  - iv. Could this negatively impact the reputation of the AFL, other Controlling Body or a Club?
  - v. Could this be seen as inappropriate, discriminatory, defamatory or in breach of any laws?

### 4. Behavioural standards on Social Media

When using Social Media, a Person must:

- a. respect the privacy of others;

- b. ensure that content published is factually accurate;
- c. be polite and respectful with others; and
- d. adhere to the terms of use of the relevant Social Media, as well as copyright, privacy, defamation, contempt of court, discrimination, harassment and other applicable laws.

## 5. Prohibited conduct on Social Media

When using Social Media, a Person must not:

- a. post or engage with (e.g. like, comment on, share, forward) material that is offensive, obscene, disparaging, defamatory, threatening, harassment, bullying, discriminatory, homophobic, hateful, racist, sexist, infringes copyright, constitutes a contempt of court, breaches a court suppression order, or is otherwise unlawful;
- b. talk negatively about a Controlling Body, its employees, its competitors, corporate partners, broadcast partners, sponsors, or customers/fans or any other related organisation;
- c. represent a personal view as that of a Controlling Body;
- d. bring a Controlling Body's brand and reputation into disrepute;
- e. post or release any Controlling Body information or material (including images or video) prior to its official launch or announcement by the Controlling Body in the public domain;
- f. plagiarise or breach copyright of another person;
- g. access, download or transmit any kind of sexually explicit material (including child pornography), violent and/or graphic images (without medical purpose);
- h. access, download or transmit information on the use and construction of weapons, explosives and/or other tools of violence or terrorism;
- i. breach the reasonable expectation of privacy of a person; or
- j. access to the computing resources of a Controlling Body without the prior consent of the Controlling Body

## 6. Official Social Media engagement

Before engaging in Social Media as a representative of a Controlling Body, a Person must be formally authorised to do so by the relevant Controlling Body.

Any breach of this schedule or any policy contained in these Rule may be penalised in accordance with [Rule 10](#) or at the absolute discretion of the WAFC .

*Previous social media policy for reference.*

- a) *Any Person who is found to have engaged in or is suspected of engaging in the unacceptable use of Facebook, Twitter, YouTube or any other social networking site, including blogs, in connection with the game of Australian Football in any way, may be dealt with by the WAFLW as it deems fit, notwithstanding the behaviour did not occur on the playing field.*
- b) *Without limiting the operation of this Rule, unacceptable use may involve the Person:*
  - i. *Criticising Umpires, Players or any other person involved in Australian Football;*
  - ii. *Engaging in bullying behaviour including but not limited to name-calling or making condescending, offensive (including racist or sexist) or abusive remarks about any person; or*
  - iii. *Engaging in any other behaviour which the WAFLW reasonably determines, in its absolute discretion,*



*to have breached this policy.*

- c) It is not relevant that the person making the remarks was not aware that the content could or would be made publicly available.*
- d) This Schedule 9 is to be interpreted and applied broadly.*

## **Schedule 10 Protective Equipment Policy**

### **a) Laws of the Game**

- i. Law 9 of the Laws of the Game regulates the management and use of Protective Equipment in Australian Football.
- ii. Schedule 12 is supplementary to Law 9 of the Laws of the Game and aims to assist Controlling Bodies to apply Law 9 of the Laws of the Game and regulate the use of Protective Equipment

### **b) Categories of Protective Equipment**

- i. Protective Equipment will be categorised as follows:
  - a. Category 1 Protective Equipment
  - b. Category 2 Protective Equipment; and
  - c. Category 3 Protective Equipment
- ii. The three (3) categories of Protective Equipment are defined in Schedule 12

### **c) Using Protective Equipment**

- i. During a match, a Player may use:
  - a. Category 1 Protective Equipment: no prior notification, inspection or approval is required;
  - b. Category 2 Protective Equipment: inspection of Class 2 Protective Equipment by relevant Controlling Body required prior to the relevant Match;
  - c. Category 3 Protective Equipment: prior approval of the WAFC required in accordance with Schedule 12 c) ii)
- ii. The WAFC may only grant approval under Schedule 12 c) i.c. following a physical inspection of the Category 3 Protective Equipment. To assist the WAFC with its assessment, Players are encouraged to provide medical certification from a Qualified Medical Practitioner which outlines the clinical need for the Category 3 Protective Equipment and confirms that it does not pose any unreasonable safety risk to the Players or other Person's.
- iii. Any approval granted in respect of Category 3 Protective Equipment may be withdrawn by the WAFC at any time.

### **d) Prohibited protective equipment**

- i. Equipment with any of the following characteristics will not be classified as Protective Equipment and must not be approved by the WAFC:
  - a. Equipment made with metal;
  - b. Equipment with an exposed hinge;
  - c. Equipment with an exposed point, strap or edge;
  - d. Equipment with sharp edges;
  - e. Equipment made with hard plastic (other than Thermoplastic where there is sufficient exterior padding)

### **e) Mouthguards**

- i. Mouthguards have a definite role in preventing injuries to the teeth and face and for this reason they are strongly recommended at all levels of football. Mouthguards should be worn for all Matches and contact training sessions.

- ii. Dentally fitted laminated mouthguards offer the best protection and should be used by all the Players. “Boil and Bite” type mouthguards are not as effective and, in rare cases, can dislodge during play and block the airway.

**f) Spectacles**

- i. Players who wish to wear spectacles during Matches and training sessions should wear spectacles with plastic frames and lenses. A band must also hold the spectacles on securely.

**g) Category 1 Protective Equipment**



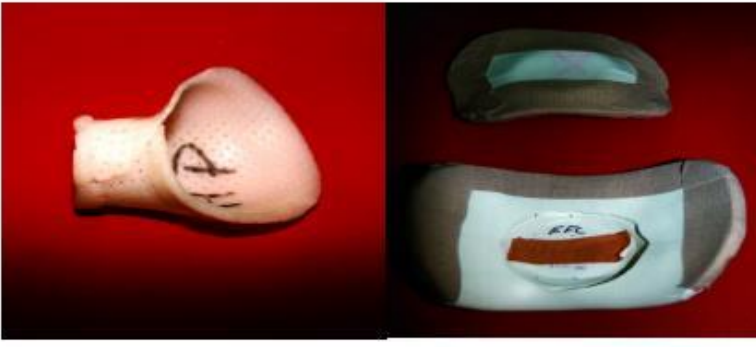
Category 1 Protective Equipment includes:

| Protective Equipment         | Guidance notes  |
|------------------------------|---|
| Mouthguard                   |   |
| Thigh padded shorts          | Example – rhino shorts  |
| Shin guard                   | A shin guard is defined as a guard that protects the shin, is below the standard sock and not designed for any other function |
| Ankle brace                  |   |
| Simple Neoprene only devices | No straps or exposed plastic or metal   |
| Breast protection            | Example – Boob Armour, Zena Z1  |

**h) Category 2 Protective Equipment**

Category 2 Protective Equipment includes:

| Protective Equipment   | Guidance notes   |
|------------------------|--|
| Shoulder guards        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thermoplastic AC joint</li> <li>• No edges exposed</li> </ul>   |
| Arm guards             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thermoplastic material with exterior padding &gt; 3mm</li> <li>• Surgical foam or Neoprene</li> <li>• No edges or straps exposed</li> <li>• Minimum thickness as clinically indicated</li> <li>• All appliances to be neoprene covered</li> </ul>   |
| Hand and finger guards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thermoplastic material</li> <li>• Not beyond end of the finger but acceptable if contoured around distal end of finger and this is clinically indicated</li> <li>• Covered by tape</li> <li>• No exposed edges and material thickness as indicated below:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Finger = 1.6mm thickness</li> <li>○ Thumb = 3mm thickness</li> <li>○ Metacarpal = 3mm thickness</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Refer to images below:</li> </ul> |

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
|                              |  <p>ORFIT FINGER SPLINT                      ORFIT FINGER SPLINT</p>  <p>ORFIT THUMBGUARD                      ORFIT THUMBGUARD</p>  <p>ORFIT THUMBGUARD                      RIB GUARDS</p> |
| Trunk guards                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thermoplastic material</li> <li>• Covered by foam rubber or Neoprene</li> <li>• No edges</li> <li>• 3.2mm maximum thickness</li> </ul>  |
| Hip, pelvis and thigh guards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neoprene</li> <li>• Soft padding (foam rubber)</li> </ul>   |

## 7. Category 3 Protective Equipment

Category 3 Protective Equipment includes any protective equipment other than Category 1 Protective Equipment and Category 2 Protective Equipment. Category 3 Protective Equipment may include:

- i. knee braces (other than simple Neoprene only devices);
- ii. helmets;
- iii. gloves;
- iv. shoulder pads;

- v. back supports; and
- vi. arm guards

## 8. Materials approved for use

The following materials are approved materials for Protective Equipment:

| Material              | Guidance notes  |
|-----------------------|---|
| Neoprene              |   |
| Thermoplastic         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preference low temperature thermoplastic:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Aquaplast</li> <li>○ ORFIT</li> <li>○ Braceform</li> <li>○ Polyflex II</li> <li>○ Orthoplast</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Maximum thickness is 3.2mm</li> <li>• Together with padding as specified in this Appendix</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: The WAFC and AFL's preference is products made from thermoplastic.</i></p> |
| Foam / rubber padding | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leukofoam</li> <li>• Neoprene</li> </ul>   |

## 9. Rules relating to Protective Equipment

- i. Players, Runners, Water Carriers and Trainers / Medical are not to wear jewellery including wrist bracelets. Medical bracelets are permitted however they must be taped and marked 'MEDIC'.
- ii. No Sponsor Advertising shall be placed or displayed on any item of Protective Equipment.
- iii. A field Umpire may order from the Playing Surface a Player who:
  - a. wears or uses Protective Equipment in a Match which has not been approved by the WAFC; or
  - b. is wearing or using an approved item of Protective Equipment, if they are satisfied that such Protective Equipment has, during the Match, become dangerous or increased the risk of injury to the Player wearing or using the Protective Equipment or the other Players competing in the Match.
- iv. Where a Player is ordered from the Playing Surface under this Regulation:
  - a. an Interchange Player may replace the Player ordered from the Playing Surface; and
  - b. the Player ordered from the Playing Surface may only re-enter the Playing Surface if he or she is no longer wearing or using the Protective Equipment or the Umpire is satisfied that the Protective Equipment is no longer dangerous.
- v. Where a Player refuses to or does not immediately leave the Playing Surface when ordered to do so by a field Umpire, the following shall apply:
  - a. the field Umpire shall warn the Player that a free kick will be awarded and that he or she may be reported if he or she does not leave the Playing Surface;
  - b. if the Player still refuses to leave the Playing Surface, the field Umpire shall

award a free kick to the Player of the opposing Team at a point nearest to where the warning was given or where the football is at the time, whichever is the greatest penalty against the offending Player's Team; and

- c. if the Player still refuses to leave the Playing Surface:
  - i. the field Umpire shall report the Player for misconduct in failing to follow a direction of an Umpire;
  - ii. the Match shall immediately end and the reported Player's Team shall forfeit the Match; and
  - iii. the Laws of Australian Football shall apply concerning the forfeiture of the Match.
- vi. It will be the sole discretion of the WAFL to allow or disallow the use of any other protective gear not addressed in these schedules.
- vii. Any breach of this schedule or any policy contained in these Rule may be penalised in accordance with [Rule 10](#) or at the absolute discretion of the WAFC .

## Schedule 11      Broadcasting Policy

- a) Nothing in this Broadcasting Policy shall in any way undermine the terms of the Licence Agreement as applied to the relevant WAFLW Club.
- b) The WAFLW Club must fulfil all obligations set out in the Licence Agreement so far as they apply, including but not limited to in relation to sponsors and advertising when applying this Broadcasting Policy.
- c) No Club shall grant any Broadcasting Rights in respect of a WAFLW match to a third party.
- d) In the event that a Club breaches this Policy, the following penalties will apply:
  - i. any Club breaching Schedule 12 in respect of a WAFLW Match will lose all premiership points and these will be awarded to the opposition team, where applicable;
  - ii. any Club breaching Schedule 12 will record a match score of zero (0) points for and maintain the original opposition's score as their points against, however the team in opposition will maintain the original match percentage (the scores stand);
  - iii. individual Player statistics for the match will stand as recorded, meaning all Players receive a match credit for games totals. Match statistics are included in Player tallies and any reports to be assessed by the WAFL Tribunal stand;
  - iv. a fine of \$50,000 may be imposed by the Board of the WAFC.
- e) All matches (including broadcast matches) will be captured by a contractor approved by the WAFC. The vision will be made available to clubs by the first working day following the match.
- f) The vision capture of any match by a third party, other than the approved WAFC contractor, will require a written application and approval by the WAFC. Should the approval be granted to capture match footage of any grade, then all vision files must be provided to the WAFC upon request or by the first working day of the match.
- g) Should approval be granted to a third party to capture any match, this will be subject to the home team approving that there is space available at the venue to capture the match. It is the responsibility of the third party to contact the Home Club direct. Priority will be given to WAFC approved media outlets.
- h) Any breach of this schedule (e-g) or any policy contained in these Rule may be penalised in accordance with [Rule 10](#) or at the absolute discretion of the WAFC .

## Schedule 12 Assessment Criteria for WAFL Playing Surface

In regard to the assessment and suitability of regional sports fields for WAFL football the following minimum requirements are recommended. All WAFLW Matches must be played at WAFL Venues, unless agreed by the WAFC.

### **Turf Cover**

In terms of turfgrass coverage, ideally there will be a complete coverage of grass across the field. The loss or thinning of the grass coverage must not result in surface instability, loss of traction or excessive hardness. Any unstable or aesthetically poor areas due to a loss of turfgrass coverage must be replaced with an appropriate turf replacement product that has sufficient stability to allow immediate play following laying.

### **Levelness of the surface**

Playing surfaces must be level or even in that there are no sharp changes in levels that will affect footing. This includes but not exclusive to; holes, localised depressions, cracks, gaps between turf rolls and elevation changes between cricket wickets and the outfield.

There should be no obvious depressions in the surface. Of most concern are the depressions where there is a sudden or sharp drop such as what will occur with a hole. A hole, in the WAFL's opinion, is a depression greater than about 10cm x 10cm in area and greater than about 2-5cm in depth with sharp or well defined sides.

Holes must be repaired with a turf block using a "turf doctor" or similar device that provides a turf block that is 15cm x 15cm in area and about 20cm in depth. Repair with specialist thick turf that is a minimum of 5cm thick and 200cm x 100cm (2m x 1m) in area, is also permissible.

Under no circumstances should holes be filled with loose sand.

Slight undulations that occur over a metre or more are generally of no concern.

### **Surface stability**

Ideally there will be good footing or surface "grip" and no loose turf sods (particularly where new turf sods have been laid). It is important to note that the nature of the sport and the foot wear the players wear is such that some turf/grass dislodgement is always a possibility.

### **Irrigation**

The selected field must be irrigated and there must be a high degree of uniformity in water distribution. That is, there must not be dry areas and wet areas across the surface.

The selected fields must not be affected by water restrictions as this is the main tool in controlling the quality and condition of the turf and surface hardness.

### **Sprinklers**

Sprinklers must not protrude above the soil level, in fact ideally about 10-15mm below, and the area surrounding the sprinkler must be level. If the sprinklers are lower than 15mm below the surface the void must be filled with crumbed rubber. Sprinklers must have rubber or soft tops and where value boxes occur within 5.5 metres of the boundary fence line they must be covered with an AFL approved synthetic turf.

### **Surface hardness**

Surface hardness must be monitored using the Clegg Impact Soil Tester (CSIT) using the 2.25kg hammer with a drop height of 455 mm.

The hardness of the surface as measured by the first drop of the CIST will ideally be within the preferred



range (Table 1) when undertaken at 20 locations across the outfield.

Any areas of synthetic turf within 5.5 metres of the boundary line must also conform to the standards of natural turf for surface hardness. If areas are unacceptably hard that must be rectified by either replacing or rejuvenating the synthetic turf with an AFL approved product.

**Table 1: Classifications for surface hardness using the 2.25 kg Clegg Impact Soil Tester**

| Performance Indicator        | Unacceptably Low | Low Normal | Preferred Range | High Normal | Unacceptably High |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Surface Hardness (gravities) | <30              | 31 – 55    | 56 – 75         | 76 – 120    | >120              |

### Traction

Surface traction will be measured by using the studded boot device at 13 locations across the field, although only 12 are taken if there is a cricket wicket table present. The traction device consists of a central component which is a 150 mm diameter horizontal disc into which six (6) football studs (15 mm long) are fitted equidistant from the central vertical shaft. The disc is weighted with 40 kg and is dropped onto the playing surface from a height of 50 mm to ensure stud penetration. The torque required for the rotating disc to tear the turf is measured with an industrial torque wrench.

The traction of the surface should be within the preferred range (Table 2) and have a low variability (i.e. low standard deviation from the mean). Any areas of synthetic turf within 5.5 metres of the boundary line must also conform to the standards of natural turf for surface traction. If areas are unacceptably high they must be rectified by either replacing or rejuvenating the synthetic turf with an AFL approved product.

**Table 2: Classifications for surface hardness using the Studded Disc Apparatus**

| Performance Indicator | Unacceptably Low | Low Normal | Preferred Range | High Normal | Unacceptably High |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Traction (Nm)         | <20              | 21 – 39    | 40 – 55         | 55 – 74     | >75               |

### Surface consistency

This is an all-encompassing overview of the field where we look for inconsistencies in turf cover, firmness, stability and levelness.

### Cricket wickets

Cricket wickets on grounds used for WAFL & WAFLW football may present a difference in soil type, clegg hammer readings and turfgrass coverage compared to the remainder of the field.

Cricket wickets must meet the following minimum criteria;

1. There must not be a sharp drop or distinct change in levels between the edge of the wicket table and the surrounding outfield. The transition from the wicket table onto the outfield should be no more than 1:40 or 75 mm over 3.0 metres (McIntyre and McIntyre, 2001).
2. The preparation of wickets for play generally results in a diminished turfgrass coverage. The last used wicket strip should have at least 2 weeks (preferably longer) recovery before being used for football Matches. The hardness (measured using the Clegg Impact Soil Tester) of this strip must be no greater than that for the remainder of the wicket table and as similar as possible to the outfield. It should be noted that at some major venues that host both AFL football and first class cricket fixtures, including Sheffield Shield and International fixtures, may not be able to have a complete grass coverage because of the overlap between of seasons/fixtures. The onus will be on the venue to ensure that the surface hardness of the wicket table though meets the necessary criteria outlined in Table 1.

### **Artificial Wickets**

Artificial wickets will be covered with turf so that a flat, even and solid surface is produced. The new turf must be fixed and allow no greater movement than the surrounding surface.

Where this cannot be achieved the artificial surface **must**

1. be removed; and
  2. **Not be** covered with rubber matting as this may shift during play.
-

**VENUE MANAGERS INSPECTION**

Venue:

|                           | 24 Hours | 48 Hours |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|
| Rainfall/ Irrigation (mm) |          |          |
| Training/ Matches (hrs)   |          |          |

|                | Clegg Drop 1 |
|----------------|--------------|
| Location 1     |              |
| Location 2     |              |
| Location 3     |              |
| Location 4     |              |
| Location 5     |              |
| Location 6     |              |
| Location 7     |              |
| Location 8     |              |
| Location 9     |              |
| Location 10    |              |
| Cricket wicket |              |

|                | Clegg Drop 1 |
|----------------|--------------|
| Location 11    |              |
| Location 12    |              |
| Location 13    |              |
| Location 14    |              |
| Location 15    |              |
| Location 16    |              |
| Location 17    |              |
| Location 18    |              |
| Location 19    |              |
| Location 20    |              |
| Cricket Wicket |              |

**General Comments**

|  |
|--|
|  |
|--|

**Activity scheduled between inspection and Match Day(s)**

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Training         |  |
| Curtain Raisers  |  |
| Turf Maintenance |  |
| Other Events     |  |
| Other            |  |

## Schedule 13 Lightning Policy

### 1. AS1768-2007 – Lightning Protection

The Football Body should comply with AS1768-2007, entitled The Lightning Protection Standard, published on 10 January 2007 (Lightning Standard). While the Lightning Standard will not necessarily prevent damage or personal injury due to lightning, it will reduce the probability of such damage or injury occurring.

### 2. 30/30 Safety Guideline

In the absence of specific information from weather radar, a lightning location system, or a specialised warning device then the 30/30 Safety Guideline should be used.

According to the 30/30 Safety Guideline, when lightning is considered to be a possible or actual threat to an Australian Football Match the following procedures are applicable:

- a) The observation of approaching storm clouds, the first flash of lightning or clap of thunder, no matter how far away should heighten lightning awareness. The level of risk depends on one's location (direction and distance) relative to the storm cell and the direction in which the storm system is traveling.
- b) A simple method of determining the distance to the storm cell is to measure the time elapsed from when the lightning flash is observed and when the associated clap of thunder is heard.
- c) Light travels faster than sound. Assuming that the light from the flash reaches the observer instantaneously, and knowing that sound takes approximately three (3) seconds to travel one (1) kilometre, the distance can be determined by using the following rule:
  - i. Distance (in Km) = Time from observing the flash to hearing thunder (in 3 seconds)
- d) It is important to remember that lightning may be obscured by clouds so it must be assumed that when thunder is heard, lightning is in the vicinity. In such cases, careful judgment must be used to determine whether a threat exists
- e) The first part of the "30/30" rule is a guide to the postponement or suspension of activities. Most experts agree that the accepted "safe" distance from lightning is greater than 10km. This means that as the time interval between observing the flash and hearing the thunder approaches 30 seconds, all those in exposed areas should be seeking or already inside safe shelters. A storm cell with lightning activity within 10km constitutes a threat.
- f) The second part of the 30/30 rule provides the criteria for the resumption of activity which is applicable to decisions made with BOM access as well. Here, it is recommended that people wait a minimum of 30 minutes after the last sighting of lightning or sound of thunder. This figure is based on the observation that the typical storm moves at about 40km/h. Thus, waiting 30 minutes allows the thunderstorm to be about 20km away, minimising the likelihood of a nearby lightning strike.
- g) It is important to emphasise that blue skies and lack of rainfall are not adequate reasons to breach the 30 minute minimum return-to-activity rule.

### 3. General Lightning Safety Guideline

- a) Prior to Match Day
  - i. where weather forecasts provide important warning of possible thunderstorm activity the Football Body should monitor weather forecasts commencing Tuesday prior to scheduled Matches using the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) website. Note should be taken off any warnings posted;
  - ii. The Football Body should continue to monitor the BOM site in the days leading up to the match.

- b) Match Day
  - i. Increased awareness of lightning risk should continue on the Match Day until the activity has finished.
  - ii. Teams and officials should proceed to the venue unless otherwise directed.
  - iii. If lightning is predicted within no less than 10km of the match venue at the scheduled starting time the game commencement time may be delayed by up to 60 minutes.
  - iv. This decision to delay or suspend play as well as resume play will be made by the Umpire based on information obtained from the BOM and discussions with the Clubs.

#### **4. Club Responsibility**

All Clubs competing in a competition administered by the Football Body should monitor environmental factors such as lightning both in Matches and at any Australian Football training session administered by the Club. The Club should assess the lightning risk by reviewing information provided by the BOM.

- a) The following general guidelines should also be followed:
  - i. If a lightning threat emerges, the nominated Club Official must contact all relevant coaching, rehabilitation and training staff and provide updates on a regular basis.
  - ii. A decision to delay, suspend or resume training should be made in consultation with relevant coaching and administration staff.
  - iii. If players are training when the lightning threat becomes real then they should leave the training venue immediately and take shelter inside a building or metal framed car. They should not shelter under or near trees.
  - iv. Once the storm's path has been reassessed, there must be a minimum of 30 minutes elapsed before returning to training.
  - v. When there is no access to the BOM, the "30/30" rule serves as a guide for the suspension and subsequent resumption of activities.

## **Schedule 14      Pregnancy Policy**

- a) The WAFLW follows the AFLW policy in this area.
- b) The AFLW Policy can be found here [AFLW Community Football Female Policy](#)

## **Schedule 15      Gender Diversity Policy**

- a) The AFLW follows the AFL National Diversity Policy in this area
- b) The Policy can be found here [National Gender Diversity Policy](#)
- c) AFL Gender Diversity Policy FAQ's can be found [AFL GDP FAQs](#)
- d) **AFL Gender Diversity Policy (Elite Football) - [Application Form](#)**

## Schedule 16 Injury Management

### 1. AFL/ WAFC Statement on Injury Management

- a. The AFL and WAFC expects that Matches at all levels are played in a safe environment. To ensure the prevention of, and prompt attention to, injuries in Australian Football, it is important that adequate and timely first aid is delivered. Sports trainers and first aid providers play a key role in player preparation and safety at all levels.
- b. It is important that sports trainers and first aid providers are well trained in the first aid needs relevant to Australian Football at the level at which they are involved.
- c. A sports trainer or first aid provider involved with a Club should have a clear understanding of the role and importance of injury prevention and immediate emergency and injury management in Australian Football.

### 2. Minimum requirements

- a. Unless otherwise notified by the WAFC, each Club must ensure that at each Match or training session:
  - i. at least one person with Appropriate Minimum Qualifications (see Schedule 16, 3) for the relevant level of Australian Football is in attendance; and
  - ii. an appropriately stocked first aid kit and adequate sport-specific rescue/transport equipment (e.g. stretcher and neck brace) are available
- b. Where the minimum requirements specified in Schedule 16.2 (a) are not met, the Match or training session may be postponed, rescheduled or cancelled and must not commence until such time as the minimum requirements are met.

In addition to the minimum requirements, the AFL strongly recommends that each Club has a defibrillator available at each Match or training session.

### 3. Appropriate Minimum Qualifications

- a. Unless otherwise notified by the WAFC, for the purposes of these Rules and Regulations, Appropriate Minimum Qualifications means the minimum qualifications set out in the following Table:

| <b>Appropriate Minimum Qualifications</b> |                               |                                  |  |  |  |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <b>Level (Age)</b>                        | <b>AFL/AFLW</b>               | <b>State League</b>              | <b>Senior (18+)</b>                    | <b>Youth (13-17)</b>                   | <b>Auskick/Junior (5-12)</b>                         |
| Recommended                               | Level 2 Sports Trainer or QMP | Level 2 Sports Trainer and QMP   | Sports Trainer (Level 1 or 2) or QMP   | Sports Trainer (Level 1 or 2) or QMP   | Sports Trainer (Level 1 or 2) or QMP                 |
| Minimum                                   | Level 2 Sports Trainer or QMP | Sports Trainer (Level 2) and QMP | Sports Trainer (Level 1) or QMP or ERC | Sports Trainer (Level 1) or QMP or ERC | Sports Trainer (Level 1) or QMP or ERC or First Aide |

- b. The terms specified in Table 1 have the following meanings:
  - i. ERC means a person who has completed an AFL-approved Emergency Response Coordinator Course which is current and up to date;
  - ii. First Aider means a person who has obtained a nationally accredited first aid certificate which is current and up-to-date and includes assessed competencies HLTAID003 (Provide First Aid);
  - iii. Level 2 Sports Trainer means a person who has completed a Controlling Body-approved Level 2 Sports Trainer Course which is current and up to date;
  - iv. Level 1 Sports Trainer means a person who has completed a Controlling Body-

approved Level 1 Sports Trainer Course which is current and up to date;

- v. Qualified Medical Professional (QMP) means a qualified doctor, paramedic, physiotherapist, osteopath, chiropractor, registered nurse or firefighter with Emergency Management Competency and appropriate first aid competencies.

#### **4. Approved Courses**

- a. Where a person completes a Controlling Body-approved Level 2 Sports Trainer Course or AFL-approved Emergency Response Coordinator Course that person will achieve Emergency Management Competency.

#### **5. Emergency Management Competency**

For the purposes of these Rules and Regulations, Emergency Management Competency means proficiency in the following areas:

- a. emergency planning including:
  - i. ensuring access to a telephone and calling an ambulance if required;
  - ii. venue access for emergency vehicles; and
  - iii. access to appropriate and adequate first aid equipment and supplies
- b. understanding emergency response priorities and applying emergency procedures including the DRSABCD procedure (Danger, Response, Send for help, Airway, Breathing, and CPR and Defibrillation);
- c. assessment of injured participants including:
  - i. application of STOP (Stop, Talk, Observe, Prevent) and TOTAPS (Talk, Observe, Touch, Active movement, Passive movement & Skills);
  - ii. immediate management of severe injuries and life-threatening medical emergencies, including:
    - 1. spinal & neck injuries;
    - 2. intracranial (brain) injuries & concussion (definition, causes, signs and management);
    - 3. unconscious casualties;
    - 4. airway/respiratory distress such as choking, airway obstructions & asthma;
    - 5. management of open wounds and application of the blood rule; and
    - 6. soft tissue injury management and application of RICER (Rest, Ice, Compression, Elevation, Referral) with no harm;
    - 7. Compression, Elevation, Referral) with no harm;
- d. on-field and off-field communication including:
  - i. liaising with Umpires, other Football Officials, Qualified Medical Professionals and parents/guardians;
  - ii. visible and clearly understood signals used for emergency and injury management;
  - iii. encouraging teamwork; and
  - iv. record keeping; and
- e. transporting injured participants including lifts, carries and use of an appropriate stretcher (pole and scoop).



## Schedule 17 Safeguarding Children and Young People

### 1. AFL commitment to safeguarding Children and Young People

All Children and Young People, regardless of their gender, race, religious beliefs, age, disability, sexual orientation, or family or social background, have equal rights to protection from Child Abuse. The AFL is committed to promoting and protecting the safety and wellbeing of all Children and Young People.

### 2. WAFC commitment to safeguarding Children and Young People

- a. To support the AFL's commitment under Schedule 11.1, the WAFC will commit to the following:
  - i. the WAFC will have zero tolerance for Child Abuse;
  - ii. the WAFC will seek to provide an environment in which all Children and Young People feel supported and respected;
  - iii. the WAFC will recognise the particular needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People, LGBTIQ+ Children and Young People, Children and Young People from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and Children and Young People with a disability and will implement culturally appropriate practices and procedures to address those needs;
  - iv. the WAFC will consider the opinions of Children and Young People and use their opinions to inform the development of policies and procedures in relation to the protection of Children and Young People;
  - v. the WAFC will engage with Children and Young People and their parents/guardians about safeguarding practices and help empower them to speak up when they see or hear something that makes them feel unsafe and ensure that relevant information and resources are accessible to them; and
  - vi. in the event a concern or allegation is raised in relation to Child Abuse or any other inappropriate behaviour towards a Child or Young Person that has occurred while a Child or Young Person is under the WAFC's care, the WAFC will ensure it is treated seriously, in a culturally sensitive manner and fully investigated in accordance with this Rule and any other related policies or procedures and relevant legislation.
- b. The WAFC and Club must ensure that it complies with all statutory requirements in respect of safeguarding Children and Young People, including ensuring all relevant Persons who work with Children and Young People have complied with their working with children obligations applicable to their State or Territory.

### 3. Behavioural standards

- a. A Person must:
  - i. treat all Children and Young People with respect;
  - ii. wherever possible ensure that another adult is present when working near or with Children and Young People;
  - iii. use disciplinary strategies that are fair, respectful and appropriate to the developmental stage of the Children or Young People involved;

- iv. wherever possible ensure that all email, text messages and other forms of communication sent to a Child or Young Person are copied to their parent/guardian;
  - v. ensure that approval has been obtained from a Child or Young Person and their parent/guardian prior to any photograph or film being taken of a Child or Young Person;
  - vi. ensure that any photograph or film taken of a Child or Young Person is taken in circumstances that are directly relevant to the Child's or Young Person's participation in a WAFC program and the Child or Young Person is appropriately dressed and posed;
  - vii. immediately report any concern for the safety or wellbeing of a Child or Young Person, or a suspected breach of this Schedule 11, in accordance with these Rules.
- b. A Person must in the course of their employment or engagement by the WAFC:
- i. ensure that all Children and Young People are appropriately supervised while participating in a WAFC program while respecting the privacy of Children and Young People;
  - ii. limit all interactions with Children and Young People to the confines of official duties;
  - iii. use best endeavours to complete a risk assessment for any WAFC program that involves Children or Young People prior to carrying out that WAFC program;
  - iv. immediately disclose any charges or convictions affecting their suitability to engage with Children and Young People to WAFC senior management.

#### **4. Prohibited conduct**

- a. A Person must not:
- i. engage in any form of sexual behaviour with or in the presence of Children or Young People;
  - ii. engage in any other form of behaviour that may reasonably be considered to be Child Abuse;
  - iii. initiate unnecessary physical contact with a Child or Young Person, or do things of a personal nature for them that they can do themselves;
  - iv. take disciplinary action involving physical punishment or any other form of treatment that could reasonably be considered as degrading, cruel, frightening or humiliating;
  - v. use language or behaviour towards Children or Young People that is inappropriate, harassment, abusive, sexually provocative, intended to humiliate or culturally inappropriate;
  - vi. consume alcohol, drugs or tobacco when working with any Children or Young People; or
  - vii. use a computer, mobile phone, video camera, camera or Social Media to exploit or harass Children or Young People, or access child exploitation material.
- b. A Person must not in the course of their employment or engagement by WAFC:
- i. give a gift to a Child or Young Person engaged in a WAFC program, activity or service without the permission of WAFC senior management and the Child's or

Young Person's parent/guardian;

- ii. transport any Children or Young People without the permission of WAFC senior management and the Child's or Young Person's parent/guardian;
- iii. arrange contact, including online contact, with Children or Young People outside of the WAFC's programs, activities or services.

## **5. Reporting procedures**

- a. If a Person believes that a Child or Young Person is in imminent risk of Harm or immediate danger, that Person must report the situation directly to the police – CALL '000'.
- b. If a person (including a Person (as defined) or member of the public) believes that a Person has committed a breach of Schedule 11, that person must:
  - i. contact the relevant WAFC immediately; and
  - ii. as soon as practicable, submit a written complaint to the AFL under Schedule 18.1(a)
- c. When the WAFC is notified by a reporting person of an alleged breach of Schedule 11, the WAFC must use best endeavours to ensure the reporting person submits a written complaint to the AFL under Schedule 18.1(a) and support the reporting person to do so.
- d. For the avoidance of doubt, once a written complaint is received by the WAFC under Schedule 18.1(a) it will then be processed under the applicable provisions of Rule 6, including an assessment of the written complaint under Schedule 18.1(a)

## Schedule 18 Rules and Regulations Breaches

### a) Making a complaint

#### i. Written complaint by person

Subject to Schedule 18.1(b), if a Person considers that another Person has committed a Policy Breach, the first Person may submit a written complaint to:

- i. the WAFC (other than the AFL) by submitting a Complaint Submission Form to WAFC; OR [Guidance note: If complaint submitted to WAFC, refer to Schedule 18.2(c).
- ii. the AFL via the AFL's electronic complaint submission platform; or [Guidance note: If complaint submitted to AFL, refer to Schedule 18.2(a).]
- iii. otherwise in the manner specified by the AFL or WAFC from time to time.

#### ii. Time limitation

- i. Subject to Schedule 18.1(b)(ii), a written complaint under Schedule 18.1(a) must be submitted as soon as practicable but no later than 30 days after the alleged incident except that a written complaint which relates to an alleged breach of Schedule 17 (Safeguarding Children and Young People) may be submitted at any time after the alleged incident.
- ii. If a Club (including a Club Officer) considers that a Person has committed a Policy Breach in connection with a Match, that Club must, by no later than 5:00pm on the next business day after the relevant Match or such other time as the relevant Controlling Body determines, submit a written complaint in accordance with Schedule 18.1(a)

[Guidance note: Clubs are held to a higher standard. Clubs must submit a complaint in relation to a suspected Rule Breach during a Match, whereas an ordinary person may choose to do so but within the time parameters stated.]

#### iii. Levy of fee

A Controlling Body may levy a fee for the administration of a written complaint (with the fee amount to be determined by the Controlling Body), which may be refunded if the Controlling Body determines that the Person who is the subject of the written complaint may have committed a Policy Breach.

#### iv. Withdrawal of complaint

A complaint submitted in accordance with Schedule 18.1(a) cannot be withdrawn by the submitting party after it has been submitted, unless otherwise approved by the WAFC.

### b) Assessing and investigating a complaint

#### i. AFL assessment following receipt of complaint

- i. Subject to Schedule 18.2(a)(ii), as soon as practicable after the AFL receives a written complaint under Schedule 18.1(a)(ii) or from a Controlling Body under Schedule 18.2(c)(i)(A), the AFL must undertake an assessment of the alleged Policy Breach set out in the written complaint and following its assessment, the AFL may:
  - A. investigate the matter in accordance with Schedule 18.2(b); or
  - B. delegate the matter to the WAFC to be dealt with in accordance with Schedule 18.2(d); or
  - C. refer the matter to a government authority (including the police); or

- D. refer the matter to the WAFC to be assessed as an alleged Reportable Offence in accordance with Rule 6.
    - ii. As soon as practicable after the AFL receives a written complaint under Schedule 18.1(a)(ii) which relates to an alleged breach of Schedule 2.1 (Vilification and discrimination – Prohibited conduct), the AFL must undertake an assessment of the alleged breach of Schedule 2.1 and following its assessment, the AFL must either:
      - A. undertake the preliminary resolution process set out in Schedule 2.3; or
      - B. delegate the matter to the WAFC to be dealt with in accordance with Schedule 18.2(d).
  - ii. **AFL investigation**
    - i. Except where prohibited by law, the AFL may investigate and deal with any matter in connection with these Rules and Regulations and the National Community Policy Handbook including to:
      - A. use reasonable measures to establish the facts of the alleged Policy or Rules and Regulations Breach (including by interviewing any relevant Person and taking witness statements);
      - B. determine all questions arising or objections made in relation to an alleged Policy or Rules and Regulations Breach;
      - C. refer any matter concerning an alleged Policy or Rules and Regulations Breach for hearing and determination, in whole or in part, by a body or person appointed by the AFL;
      - D. stand down any Person subject to any action specified under Schedules 18.2(a) to 18.2(e) (including any investigation or associated Tribunal or Appeal Board hearing) from participating in or in connection with a Competition;
      - E. consider external expert advice regarding cultural or religious matter or other relevant lived experience;
      - F. exercise any other powers conferred by these Rules and Regulations or Policy Handbook; and
      - G. delegate any of its powers under the Policy Handbook.
    - ii. If the AFL elects to investigate a matter under the Community Football Policy Handbook, the AFL must give written notice to the Person(s) the subject of the investigation.
    - iii. On completion of an investigation under this Schedule 18.2(b), the AFL must proceed with the matter in accordance with Schedule 18.3(a).
  - iii. **WAFC assessment following receipt of complaint**
    - i. Subject to Schedule 18.2(c)(ii), as soon as practicable after the WAFL receives a written complaint under Schedule 18.1(a)(i), the WAFC must undertake an assessment of the alleged Breach set out in the written complaint and following its assessment, the Controlling Body may:
      - A. escalate the written complaint to the AFL on behalf of the relevant Person in accordance with Schedule 18.1(a)(ii) and notify the relevant Person(s) of that escalation; or
      - B. procure the relevant Person to submit their written complaint to the

AFL in accordance with Schedule 18.1(a)(ii); or

- C. investigate the matter in accordance with Schedule 18.2(e); or
- D. complete a Notice of Breach; or
- E. refer the matter to a government authority (including the police); or
- F. refer the matter for assessment as an alleged Reportable Offence in accordance with Rule 6.

ii. As soon as practicable after a Controlling Body receives a written complaint under Section 23.1(a)(i) which relates to an alleged breach of Schedule 2.1 (Vilification and discrimination – Prohibited conduct), the WAFC must undertake an assessment of the alleged breach of Schedule 2.1 and following its assessment, the WAFC must either:

- A. undertake the preliminary resolution process set out in Schedule 2.3; or
- B. escalate the written complaint to the AFL on behalf of the relevant Person in accordance with Schedule 18.1(a)(ii) and notify the relevant Person(s) of that escalation.

#### **iv. Controlling Body assessment following delegation by AFL**

As soon as practicable after the AFL delegates a matter to a Controlling Body under Schedule 18.2(a)(i)(B), the Controlling Body must undertake an assessment of the alleged Policy Breach set out in the written complaint and following its assessment, the Controlling Body may, having regard to the AFL's findings including any recommendations (if any):

- i. where the written complaint relates to an alleged breach of Schedule 2.1 (Vilification and discrimination – Prohibited conduct), undertake the preliminary resolution process set out in schedule 2.3; or
- ii. investigate the matter in accordance with Schedule 18.2(e); or
- iii. complete a Notice of Breach.

[Guidance note: This Section only applies where the AFL delegates a matter to the WAFC once the AFL has assessed the matter itself. With any delegation the AFL may provide recommendations as to the appropriate course of action.]

#### **v. WAFC investigation**

- i. If the WAFC elects to investigate a matter under Schedule 18.2(c)(i)(C) or 18.2(d)(ii), the WAFC must:
  - A. notify the Person(s) the subject of the investigation as soon as practicable; and
  - B. use reasonable measures to establish the facts of the alleged Rules and Regulations or Policy Breach (including by interviewing any relevant Person and taking witness statements).
- ii. The WAFC may engage a third party, appropriately qualified investigator to assist with an investigation.
- iii. On completion of its investigation, a Controlling Body must proceed with the matter in accordance with Schedule 18.3(b).

#### **vi. State Football Body stand down rule**

A State Football Body may stand down any Person subject to any action specified under Schedule 18.2(a) to 18.2(e) (including any investigation or resulting Tribunal or Appeal

Board hearing) from participating in or in connection with a Competition.

**vii. Vexatious complaints**

A Person (including a Disciplinary Officer or Club) must not knowingly submit a complaint that is untrue, vexatious or malicious.

**viii. Cooperation with investigation**

A Person the subject of an investigation under this Schedule 18.2 and other Persons relevant to an investigation must:

- i. co-operate with the investigation;
- ii. answer questions and provide statements truthfully during the investigation;
- iii. not make any false or misleading statement or act in a manner calculated to or which is likely to mislead.

**ix. Investigations involving minors**

Where a Person involved in an investigation under this Schedule 18.2 is under the age of eighteen (18) years then during the investigation that Person must always be supported by:

- i. a parent or guardian of the Person; and
- ii. where possible, a Club Officer

[Guidance note: It is critical that all minors are always supported by an adult if they are the subject to or involved in any investigation.]

**x. Confidentiality**

- i. Subject to Schedule 18.2(j)(ii), a Controlling Body must use reasonable endeavours to keep confidential any information obtained under Schedule 18.2.
- ii. Information obtained under Schedule 18.2 may be used or disclosed by the WAFC in connection with investigations under these Rules or the Policy Handbook and in reporting any reasonable suspicion of criminal conduct to relevant authorities. Without limiting the foregoing, the WAFC may disclose such information to the public where it is reasonable to do so in the interests of the open administration of AFL and State Football Body disciplinary processes provided that no information that identifies a person will be disclosed other than a person's name and information about their participation in a Competition.

**c) Decision following investigation**

**i. AFL decision following investigation**

- i. On completion of an investigation under Schedule 18.2(b), the AFL may:
  - A. deliver its findings (including any recommendations) to the relevant Controlling Body and direct that Controlling Body to make a determination in accordance with Schedule 18.3(b); or
  - B. impose a sanction on any Person who has committed a Breach on any terms and conditions, including to reprimand, suspend or deregister a Person; or
  - C. deal with the matter in such other manner as the AFL sees fit which may include the AFL attempting to conciliate or mediate the matter or issuing a warning letter or dismissing the matter altogether.

- ii. All decisions of the AFL, including in connection with an alleged Policy Breach, are final and subject only to any rights of appeal provided by law.

**ii. Controlling Body decision following investigation**

- i. On completion of an investigation under Schedule 18.2(e) or as soon as practicable after a direction from the AFL under Schedule 18.3(a)(i)(A), the WAFC may, having regard to the AFL's findings including any recommendations (if any):
  - A. complete a Notice of Breach; or
  - B. deal with the matter in such other manner as the WAFC determines which may include the WAFC attempting to conciliate or mediate the matter or issuing a warning letter or dismissing the matter altogether.
- ii. On completing a Notice of Breach under Section 23.3(b)(i)(A), a Controlling Body may elect to refer the Notice of Breach directly to the Tribunal (to be determined under Rule 6) without prescribing a sanction.

**iii. Appealing Controlling Body decision**

A decision by a Controlling Body under Schedule 18.3(b)(i)(B) may be appealed in accordance with Rule 6.14.

**d) Issuing or withdrawing Notice of Breach**

**i. Issuing Notice of Breach**

If the WAFC completes a Notice of Breach under Schedule 18.3(b)(i)(A) then the WAFC must:

- i. issue that Notice of Breach to the charged Person and that Person's Club (if applicable); and
- ii. provide the other Person and that Person's Club (if applicable) with a copy of the Notice of Breach.

**ii. Completing a Notice of Breach**

A Notice of Breach must:

- i. categorise the alleged Policy Breach;
- ii. set out the sanction prescribed by the WAFC (for example, a reprimand, suspension or Deregistration) unless the matter is referred directly to the Tribunal in which case no prescribed sanction is required; and
- iii. include the details set out in the form of the Notice of Breach.

**iii. Withdrawal of Notice of Breach**

A Controlling Body may withdraw a Notice of Breach completed under Schedule 18.3(b)(i)(A) at any time prior to a Tribunal hearing.

**e) Early Guilty Plea – Policy Breach**

**i. Person may enter Early Guilty Plea**

Subject to Schedule 18.5(c), where a Person has been issued a Notice of Breach, that Person may enter an Early Guilty Plea in relation to the Breach and accept the Early Guilty Plea penalty prescribed by the Controlling Body in the Notice of Breach or elect to contest the Notice of Breach, by no later than 48 hours after receipt of the Notice of Breach, or such other time as the WAFC determines.

**ii. Proceed to Tribunal hearing**



- i. If a Person elects to contest a Notice of Breach issued under Schedule 18.5(a) then the WAFC must refer the matter to the Tribunal and that Person will not be entitled to any reduction to the sanction available with the Early Guilty Plea penalty.
- ii. If a Person fails to respond to a Notice of Breach issued under Schedule 18.5(a) then the WAFC may:
  - A. refer the matter to the Tribunal to be dealt with in accordance with Rule 6 and that Person will not be entitled to any reduction to the sanction available with the Early Guilty Plea penalty; or
  - B. apply the Early Guilty Plea penalty without referring the matter to the Tribunal.

**iii. Early plea not available**

If a Notice of Breach is referred directly to the Tribunal in accordance with Schedule 18.3(b)(ii), the relevant Person may not enter an Early Guilty Plea.

## Schedule 19 Deregistration

### 1. Disciplinary History

- a. The Disciplinary History of a Player or Football Official will apply in respect of all Competitions. For the avoidance of doubt, all Players and Football Officials moving from one Club and/or Controlling Body to another do so on the basis that their Disciplinary History will continue to apply and will not be erased or amended.
- b. During the Transfer process, the Disciplinary History of a Player will be automatically sent to the Destination Controlling Body via the Competition Management Platform.
- c. Where a Football Official transfers to or registers with a Controlling Body, the following will apply:
  - i. the Source Controlling Body (if applicable) will use reasonable endeavours to disclose that Football Official's Disciplinary History to the Destination Controlling Body; and
  - ii. upon request by a Destination Controlling Body, the Source Controlling Body (if applicable) will provide that Person's Disciplinary History to the Destination Controlling Body.
- d. Club imposed penalties will not be included on the Disciplinary History of a Person

### 2. Criteria for Deregistration – Reportable Offences

#### a. Suspension threshold

- i. Subject to Schedule 19.6(b), a Player or Football Official shall be automatically Deregistered and, not allowed further registration with any Club or Controlling Body if the Player or Football Official has been suspended for a total of sixteen (16) matches (or greater) as a Player and/or Football Official (including during an AFL/AFLW Competition career, subject to Schedule 19.2(c)) as a result of Reportable Offences (**Reportable Offences Suspension Threshold**).
- ii. For the avoidance of doubt:
  - A. a Player or Football Official may apply for re-registration in accordance with Schedule 19.8;
  - B. the Reportable Offences Suspension Threshold relates to suspensions imposed as a result of Reportable Offences; and
  - C. any suspension or sanction imposed on a Player or Football Official in relation to a Policy Breach will not count in relation to the Reportable Offences Suspension Threshold.

#### b. Suspensions attained once 16 years or older apply

Only suspensions, sanctions and Citation Notices relating to Reportable Offences or Policy Breaches committed by a Player or Football Official after attaining the age of 16 years will count for the purposes of this Schedule 19.

#### c. AFL/AFLW Competition Career

Any suspension served by a Player or Football Official during their AFL/AFLW Competition career shall carry over and apply to Tier 1 and Tier 2 Competitions except that the total suspension period shall be reduced by 25% for the purposes of this Schedule 19 (to the decimal point).

*[Guidance note: For example, if a Player is suspended for six (6) matches whilst playing in the AFL/AFLW Competition, only four and one half (4.5) matches shall carry over for the purposes of this Schedule 19. For the avoidance of doubt, the 25% discount will not apply to any suspension imposed on an AFL/AFLW Listed Player for a*

### **3. Criteria for Deregistration – serious or cumulative sanctions**

- a. In addition to any sanction imposed on a Player or Football Official under Rule 6 of these Rules, the AFL or relevant State Football Body may determine to Deregister that Player or Football Official if the AFL or relevant State Football Body (in consultation with the AFL) is satisfied that the Policy Breach or Reportable Offence and sanction imposed, when assessed together with the factors in Schedule 19.3(b), warrants Deregistration.
- b. If the AFL or relevant State Football Body establishes that a Player or Football Official has contravened the rules of a sport other than Australian Football (Contravention) and is reasonably satisfied that such Contravention warrants deregistration when assessed together with the factors in Schedule 19.3(c), then the AFL, or relevant State Football Body with the prior approval of the AFL, may determine to Deregister that Player or Football Official.
- c. In making a determination under Schedule 19.3(a) and 19.3(b), the AFL or relevant State Football Body (as applicable) will have regard to the following factors:
  - i. the nature and seriousness of the Policy Breach, or Reportable Offence or Contravention;
  - ii. the Disciplinary History of the Player or Football Official;
  - iii. the health and safety of other Persons; and
  - iv. any other matter considered relevant by the AFL or relevant State Football Body.

### **4. Criteria for Deregistration – Coach citations**

- a. Without limiting Schedule 19.2, 19.3 or 19.5, where a Coach is issued with three Citation Notices the AFL or Controlling Body may determine to Deregister that Coach. [Guidance note: Refer to Section 5.4. Coaches Section]
- b. For the avoidance of doubt, a Coach may be Deregistered under Schedule 19.2, 18.3, 19.4 or 19.5.

### **5. Criteria for Deregistration – Serious Criminal Offence by Coach or Umpire**

- a. If the AFL becomes aware of information regarding a Coach or Umpire which the Controlling Body or AFL reasonably considers gives rise to an inference that the Coach or Umpire may have committed a Serious Criminal Offence, then the Controlling Body or AFL may request additional information (including a current National Police Check) or clarification from the Coach or Umpire.
- b. If:
  - i. a Coach or Umpire does not within a reasonable period comply with a request by the Controlling Body or AFL under Schedule 19.5(a); or
  - ii. following its assessment of the information or clarification provided under Schedule 19.5(a) or the provision of verified information from the police, the Controlling Body or AFL is satisfied that a Coach or Umpire has committed a Serious Criminal Offence,then the Controlling Body or AFL may Deregister that Coach or Umpire.
- c. In making a determination under Schedule 19.5(b), the Controlling Body or AFL will have regard to the following factors:
  - i. the nature of the Serious Criminal Offence;

- ii. the Disciplinary History of the Coach or Umpire, including in respect of Reportable Offences and any Policy Breaches committed by the Coach or Umpire;
- iii. the health and safety of other Persons; and
- iv. any other matter considered relevant by the AFL or relevant State Football Body.

## **6. Deregistration – general provisions**

### **a. Effect of Deregistration**

- i. If a Player or Football Official is Deregistered that Player or Football Official cannot:
  - A. register to play Australian Football for a Club or participate in a Competition; or
  - B. officiate or act as a Football Official for a Club or Competition; or
  - C. be entered on a team sheet
- ii. For the avoidance of doubt:
  - A. if a Player is Deregistered, that Player will also be prohibited from being a Football Official in any Competition; and
  - B. if a Football Official is Deregistered, that Football Official will also be prohibited from being a Player in any Competition.
- b. Should a Player or Football Official receive a sixteen (16) match (or greater) suspension as a “first offence” it shall be at the discretion of the AFL or relevant State Football Body (in consultation with any other relevant Controlling Body) as to whether or not that Player or Football Official will be Deregistered following suspension.

## **7. Notice of Deregistration**

### **a. Deregistration Warning – Reportable Offences only**

Where a Player or Football Official has served a total of ten (10) matches of suspensions as a Player or Football Official in respect of Reportable Offences, the relevant Controlling Body will use reasonable endeavours to notify the Player or Football Official and their Club in writing that the Player or Football Official faces the risk of Deregistration should the Player or Football Official incur further suspensions resulting in that Player or Football Official meeting the Reportable Offences Suspension Threshold (Deregistration Warning). A Deregistration Warning should be in the form of the Deregistration Warning template, or such other form approved by the Controlling Body.

### **b. Controlling Body obligations**

- i. The relevant Controlling Body will provide written notification of a Deregistration under Schedule 19.2 to the Player or Football Official and their Club and the relevant State Football Body (if applicable).
- ii. The AFL or relevant State Football Body (as applicable) will provide written notification of a Deregistration under Schedule 19.3, 19.4 or 19.5 to the Player or Football Official and their Club and any other relevant Controlling Body.
- iii. A central database of all Deregistered Players and Football Officials will be maintained by the AFL and State Football Bodies via the Competition Management Platform.

**c. Club obligations**

- i. Each Club will at all times strive to ensure its Players and Football Officials do not risk Deregistration and implement measures (such as anger management training) to achieve this objective.
- ii. Upon receipt of a Deregistration Warning or written notification of a Deregistration under Schedule 19.7(b), a Club must use its best endeavours to confirm that its Player or Football Official has received such notice and promptly acknowledge to the relevant Controlling Body the steps taken by the Club to obtain this confirmation.

**d. Commencement of Deregistration**

- i. A Deregistration under Schedule 19.2 will commence on the date on which the most recent suspension of the Player or Football Official ends (being the suspension which resulted in that Player or Football Official being Deregistered).
- ii. A Deregistration under Schedule 19.3, 19.4 or 19.5 will commence on the date of notification of Deregistration by the AFL or State Football Body in accordance with Schedule 19.7(b)(ii).
- iii. A Player or Football Official will be categorised as deregistered in the Competition Management Platform (as distinct from Deregistration as defined in this Policy) at the time that the Player or Football Official receives a sanction which results in Deregistration.

**8. Application for re-registration**

- a. Subject to Schedule 19.8(e) and 19.8(f), a Deregistered Player or Football Official may, by written application to the relevant State Football Body in the form prescribed by that State Football Body, apply for re-registration no less than 12 calendar months after the date on which their Deregistration commenced (Re-Registration Application). The relevant State Football Body may levy a fee for the administration of a Re-Registration Application.
- b. Following receipt of a Re-Registration Application, the relevant State Football Body will convene a panel of at least three members (Re-Registration Panel) and arrange a hearing of the Re-Registration Panel to consider the Re-Registration Application (Re-Registration Hearing)
- c. The Re-Registration Panel must comprise of persons who in the opinion of the State Football Body possess sufficient knowledge of Australian Football and are sufficiently qualified to competently perform the role of Re-Registration Panel member.
- d. In respect of a Re-Registration Hearing, the following provisions apply:
  - i. a Re-Registration Hearing will be heard at the date, time and place/forum notified by the State Football Body;
  - ii. prior to the Re-Registration Hearing, the relevant Controlling Body will provide the Re-Registration Panel with a list of the suspension(s) of the Deregistered Player or Football Official, the grounds for those suspension(s) (i.e. the relevant Reportable Offence or Policy Breach) and any other relevant details regarding the deregistration of the Player or Football Official;
  - iii. the Deregistered Player or Football Official, their Club and the relevant Controlling Body may make brief submissions to the Re-Registration Panel regarding the Re-Registration Application;

- iv. the Re-Registration Panel may either approve or reject a Re-Registration Application provided that the Re-Registration Panel must not approve a Player's or Football Official's Re-Registration Application unless the panel is reasonably satisfied that:
  - A. the Player or Football Official is genuinely rehabilitated and committed to ongoing rehabilitation; and
  - B. the Player or Football Official is unlikely to re-offend; and
  - C. the Player or Football Official does not pose an unacceptable risk to other Persons;
- v. the Re-Registration Panel may not approve a conditional re-registration in respect of a Player or Football Official (for example, allow re-registration as a particular kind of Football Official);
- vi. the Re-Registration Panel:
  - A. may regulate any Re-Registration Hearing in such manner as the Re-Registration Panel determines; and
  - B. is not bound by the rules of evidence or by practices and procedures
  - C. applicable to a court of law and may inform itself as to any matter in such manner as it determines; and
- vii. the decision of the Re-Registration Panel shall be final and binding.
- e. A Player or Football Official may only submit one (1) Re-Registration Application per 12 month period.
- f. If a State Football Body considers that exceptional and compelling circumstances exist which may reasonably justify a Re-Registration Panel considering a Re-Registration Application prior to the end of the 12-month period specified in Schedule 19.8(a), then the State Football Body may, with the prior approval of the AFL Head of Community Football (or their nominee), waive a portion of that 12-month period and arrange an early Re-Registration Hearing.
- g. For the avoidance of doubt:
  - i. a Re-Registration Hearing is an application for re-registration only and is not a review or appeal of any previous sanctions;
  - ii. there is no review or appeal process in relation to a Deregistration;
  - iii. if a Player or Football Official is re-registered and subsequently receives a suspension as a result of a Reportable Offence or Policy Breach, that Player or Football Official will be permanently Deregistered from participating in any Competition as a Player or Football Official with no further right of appeal or right to apply for re-registration.

## Schedule 20 Serious Criminal Offences

The following offences are considered Serious Criminal Offences for the purposes of these Rules and Regulations:

- a) offences relating to assault and/or violence in relation to a child, whether physical, sexual and/or emotional;
- b) offences relating to violence or of a violent nature;
- c) offences relating to culpable and/or dangerous driving that can attract a detention or custodial sentence;
- d) offences relating to drug trafficking, abuse or supply;
- e) offences relating to the exploitation of children;
- f) offences relating to theft, felony and/or related offence of property or person;
- g) offences relating to fraud and/or any activity related to fraudulent behaviour; and
- h) offences relating to embezzlement or any impropriety relating to monies or property.

