

2023 WAFC Year 3 & 4 Competition Rules



BACKGROUND

All competitions managed by the West Australian Football Commission are played as per the AFL Laws of Australian Football. The below modifications have been made to Year 3 & 4 competitions to assist junior players with skill development and develop an understanding of the game. Coaches must endeavour to coach players within the spirit that these rules were intended (refer to WAFC Junior & Youth Rules & Regulations, Rule 1 – Spirit of Junior Football.)

Please note that where mixed year group competitions are played, the competition rules of the lower year group shall be applied.

COMPETITION RULES

1. MATCH OPERATIONS	
1a. Ground Size	As per WAFC POL.13A – ‘Ground Preparation’, ground sizes for Year 3 – Year 4 competitions should be 80m – 100m (L) x 50m – 75m (W)
1b. Football	Year 3: Size 1 synthetic football Male Year 4: Size 2 synthetic football Female Year 3/4: Size 1 synthetic football
1c. Number of Players	15-a-side The below rules apply to both Male and Female 15-a-side formats: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. No ruck or roversii. Unlimited reservesiii. Numbers on the field should always be even. *Children born after 30/06/2015 are not permitted to play in Year 3 competitions
1d. Match Length	4x 15-minute quarters.
2. GENERAL MATCH RULES	
2a. Start of Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Ball-up in the centre of the ground between 2 players, approximately of equal size.ii. Players are not permitted to take full possession out of a ruck contest.iii. Maximum of 3 players from each team permitted within 20 metres of ball up.
2b. Positions	Soft zone resets at each stoppage: 15-a-side: 5 lines of 3 (i.e., FF, HF, C, HB, FB) and as per WAFC POL.13D ‘Game Day Even Up & Field Positions’ Policy.
2c. After a Goal	After a goal, a ball-up should occur in the centre of the ground as per 2a. The umpire shall select different players to contest the centre ball-up each time.
2d. Out of Bounds	Last Possession Rule: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. From a kick or handball, a free kick is to be awarded to the nearest opponent.ii. If a player runs the ball over the boundary line, a free kick is to be awarded to the nearest opponent.iii. If the ball is off hands or a player’s body, a ball-up is to occur 10 metres in from the boundary line.

	<p>iv. If there is any doubt as to who's free kick it is, a ball-up is to occur 10 metres in from the boundary line.</p>
2e. Scrimmage	Umpire to stop play and with the help of the coaches, instruct players to return to their positions as per 2b before throwing the ball up. This is to teach players the positions and reduce congestion.
2f. Marking	A mark is to be awarded for any reasonable attempt at catching the ball, regardless of distance covered.
2g. Bouncing	Players are only permitted to bounce (or touch the ball on the ground) once before disposing of the ball.
2h. Kicking off the Ground	Players are not permitted to deliberately kick the ball off the ground or use feet to control the ball whilst it is on the ground. Whereby the foot makes accidental contact to the ball, the umpire will call play on.
2i. Protected Area	The protected area at this level is 5 metres.
2j. 50m Penalties	Due to the reduced size of the playing field, umpires may award a 25-metre penalty.
2k. Order-off Rule	To be applied as per the Red & Yellow card system.
3. CONTACT	
3a. Tackling	<p>Modified Wrap Tackle Rule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Player may wrap both arms around an opponent and hold feet. ii. Players must not drop to ground. iii. Strictly no slinging or bringing the opposition player to ground. iv. Grabbing the arm is not permitted. v. Once tackled legally, players have 3 seconds to dispose of the ball, or a free kick for <i>holding the ball</i> will be awarded. vi. If the player being tackled deliberately goes to ground, a free kick for <i>holding the ball</i> will be awarded to the tackling player.
3b. Bumping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Strictly no bumping. ii. When in possession of the ball, no fending, pushing off or barging.
3c. Smothering	Strictly no smothering, stripping, or stealing of the ball.
3d. Shepherding	Players are not permitted to push, shoulder, or block an opponent who is not in possession of the ball.
4. COMPETITION RESULTS	
4a. Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. No match results. ii. No premiership points. iii. No ladders iv. No finals
4b. Awards	No awards (Best & Fairest etc) at this level.
5. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY	
5a. Temporary Play Ups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. If a child is born after 30/06/2015, they are not permitted to play in Year 3 or older competitions. ii. Please see 'WAFC Competition Rules – Eligibility & Finals Qualification'
5b. Player Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Players are not permitted to play for another team in the same age group.