



2024 ▶

# EAGLES CUP HANDBOOK

FOR THE PRIMARY INTERSCHOOL FOOTBALL COMPETITION





PREFACE	3	SPIRIT OF JUNIOR FOOTBALL IN WA	14
FOREWORD	4	VILIFICATION AND DISCRIMINATION	15
INTRODUCTION	4	CONCUSSION	17
INFORMATION	5	CODES OF CONDUCT	20
ABOUT FOOTBALL IN WA	6	SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY FOOTBALL	23
EAGLES CUP DIVISION COORDINATORS	7	CONTACTS	24
EAGLES CUP RULES	8	AFL SCHOOL AMBASSADOR PROGRAM	25
EAGLES CUP GUIDELINES FOR 2024	11	WEST COAST EAGLES SCHOOL PROGRAMS	26

**Teachers, check out the West Coast Eagles suite of education programs on our official website at [westcoasteagles.com.au/community/schools-and-education](https://westcoasteagles.com.au/community/schools-and-education)**

[westcoasteagles.com.au/community](https://westcoasteagles.com.au/community)

Show your students what Rick the Rock has been up to by following

 @ricktherockwce on Instagram





# WELCOME TO THE 2024 EAGLES CUP

The West Australian Football Commission's (WAFC) vision is to lead and engage all West Australians through a positive experience with Australian Rules football.

The WAFC sees the delivery of Australian Football as a partnership between schools and community clubs. School sport is integral to the health of the game in WA and in the education and development of all students.

The WAFC works closely with key advisory groups (Education Advisory Group/Primary School Football Advisory Committee/Secondary School Football Advisory Committee) in designing and implementing quality football education and participation programs.

We are fortunate to have wonderful program partners in the West Coast Eagles. We thank them for their continued support of school football.

The community football team at the WAFC looks forward to your continued enthusiasm for Australian Rules football and hopes you and your students enjoy participating in the various football competitions on offer.

On behalf of the WAFC, can I take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteers and staff who play a role in the delivery of school football in 2024. Your time, effort and passion is greatly appreciated by everyone in the football family.

**Regan Atkinson**  
Schools Specialist



# FOREWORD



Football has been a part of my life since I can remember. I was first exposed to the game in the backyard with my brothers and I immediately was attracted to the competitive nature that it presented. I instantly knew that I wanted to be an AFL player and was joined to the hip with football from then on.

Naturally, I then signed up to Whitford Junior Football Club, where I started learning the fundamentals of the game through my junior years and creating great relationships with teammates that I still hold dear to me today. Whilst playing at my local junior football club, I attended South Padbury Primary School where we played an Eagles Cup competition against surrounding primary schools in the area. I remember this being such a fun, enjoyable experience where I was able to play with my friends in a team environment.

I began taking my football more seriously and pursuing my dream of playing AFL as I moved into high school. I was selected to play for the West Perth Football Club development squad, which led to me trying out for the state programs. Whilst my football started to get more serious, I knew that my education was important, and I had to dedicate quality time to my schooling. I attended St Mark's Anglican Community School for my first few years of high school where I was able to play in the Eagles Schoolboys Cup with my school friends when I wasn't involved in my other football programs. Playing with my school friends was enjoyable and was a great reminder of the community connection that football brings.

In 2016, my AFL dream was realised when I was selected with pick 38 in the AFL draft to join the West Coast Eagles Football Club with my best friend, Jake Waterman. I appreciate the opportunity to play football for a living, but I never forget where I came from and the life lessons that I was taught during my schooling and junior football days. I believe it is important to continually reinforce the mental and physical benefits of participating in junior sport and the lessons that are taught around being a part of a team to help set individuals up to living a healthy, active life.

The Eagles Cup and Eagles Faction Footy programs are great programs for schools to introduce students to fun, engaging and competitive environments and the lessons learned around being part of a team.

All the best for the 2024 season. I look forward to seeing you at the footy!

**Josh Rotham**

West Coast Eagles

# INTRODUCTION

The Eagles Cup is a primary interschool football competition for year 5 & 6 students played during Term 2.

The competition uses modified rules to allow for maximum participation, enjoyment and skill development. The Eagles Cup involves schools of similar size and in close proximity to each other playing on a weekly basis (min 3 weeks) in a round-robin format.

Each WAFL district has a coordinator who organises and administers the competition.



## INFORMATION

Schools receive the following support as part of their involvement:

1. An Eagles Cup junior league match ball.
2. Eagles Cup participation certificates and Eagles posters.
3. Eagles Cup trophy for division winners.
4. Eagles Cup on-line handbook prior to the commencement of competition.





## ABOUT FOOTBALL IN WA

The West Australian Football Commission is the caretaker of football throughout the State and responsible for the overall development of the game.

The rich history of football in the community of Western Australia stretches back to 1895. Today it is the most popular sporting code in Western Australia with more than 330,000 active participants each weekend during the season. This is more than double any other sport. On top of this football clinics are provided to approx. 200,000 West Australian Children every year throughout our schools and communities across our state.

The WAFC plays an important role in funding the ongoing development of football in all communities. This ensures that football is the best resourced sporting code in the State and can have the most active role in building better communities through various development programs.

The WAFC is a not for profit sports association. It is incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act and governed by a volunteer board that oversees the operation of all football activities throughout the State.

The WAFC's role includes ownership of the State's two AFL teams - West Coast Eagles and Fremantle Football Club (Dockers), guiding the West Australian Football League (State league competition), overseeing community football, managing umpiring and football development through participation and the talent pathway. Most importantly the WAFC plays a key guidance role in the ongoing enhancement of the District Development model.

This results in a significant social benefit and the creation of better communities through the active promotion of the sport and its associated values of teamwork, responsibility, respect, leadership, commitment and community participation. Advocating healthy participation for every player, volunteer, official, administrator, coach, umpire and spectator is at the forefront of our strategic priorities.



# EAGLES CUP DIVISION COORDINATORS

## RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Liaise with schools within the division.
3. Send results to local Participation Officer who will liaise with winning schools around trophy presentations.
4. Notify winning school of presentation procedure.

Please contact local WAFC development staff member to inform them of your win, they will be able to advise of the trophy presentation process.



# EAGLES CUP RULES

## Junior Football Year 5 - Year 6 Competition Rules

All WAFC managed competitions are played as per the AFL Laws of the Game. The below modifications have been made to Year 5 & 6 competitions to assist players with skill development and develop an understanding of the game.

### COMPETITION RULES

1. MATCH OPERATIONS	
1a. Ground Size	As per 32.k Ground Size Summary; Year 5 – Year 6 competitions should be 90m – 110m (L) x 70m – 85m (W)
1b. Football	As per 35.4 Match Balls; <b>Female Year 5/6:</b> Size 2 synthetic football <b>Male Year 5:</b> Size 2 leather football <b>Male Year 6:</b> Size 3 leather football
1c. Player Numbers	As per 37.4 Match On-Field Equalisation; <b>All ages:</b> 15-a-side with Unlimited reserves
1d. Match Length	As per 34.a and 34.c Match Duration; 4x 15-minute quarters Breaks are 3 minutes, 8 minutes and 3 minutes





## COMPETITION RULES

2. GENERAL MATCH RULES	
2a. Start of Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ball-up in the centre of the ground between two (2) players of approximate equal size.</li><li>• Players are not permitted to take full possession out of a ruck contest.</li><li>• Maximum of three (3) players from each team are permitted within twenty (20) metres of ball up.</li></ul>
2b. Positions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Soft zone resets at each stoppage.</li><li>• No rucks or rovers</li><li>• Positions as per 37.7 Match On-Field Equalisation;<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 15-a-side: 3 groups of 5 (5x Defenders, 5x Mids/Wings and 5x Forwards)</li></ul></li></ul>
2c. Out of Bounds	<p><b>Last Possession Rule in place.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• From a kick or handball, a free kick is to be awarded to the nearest opponent.</li><li>• If a player runs the ball over the boundary line, a free kick is to be awarded to the nearest opponent.</li><li>• If the ball is off hands or a players body, a ball-up is to occur ten (10) metres in from the boundary line.</li><li>• If the Field Umpire has any doubt as to whose free kick it is, a ball-up is to occur ten (10) metres in from the boundary line.</li></ul>
2d. Scrimmage	Field Umpire to stop play and with the help of the Coaches, instruct players to return to their positions before throwing the ball up. This is to teach players the positions and reduce congestion
2e. Marking	A mark is to be awarded for any kick that travels a minimum of 10 metres
2f. Bouncing	Players are only permitted to bounce (or touch the ball on the ground) once before disposing of the ball.
2g. Kicking off the Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Players are not permitted to deliberately kick the ball off the ground or use their feet to control the ball whilst it is on the ground.</li><li>• Whereby the foot makes accidental contact to the ball, the umpire will call play on.</li></ul>
2h. Deliberate Rushed Behind	Deliberate rushed behinds will not apply at this level.
2i. Protected Area	The protected area at this level is (5) metres.
2j. 50m Penalties	Due to the reduced size of the playing field, the Field Umpire may award a twenty-five (25) metre penalty.
2k. Order-off Rule	To be applied as per the Red & Yellow card system.



3. CONTACT	
3a. Tackling	<p><b>Modified Wrap Tackle Rule:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Players may wrap both arms around an opponent.</li> <li>• Players may take their opponent to the ground by dropping their weight.</li> <li>• Strictly no slinging or bringing the opposition player to the ground in an aggressive manner.</li> <li>• Once tackled legally, players have three (3) seconds to dispose of the ball, or a free kick for <i>holding the ball</i> will be awarded.</li> </ul>
3b. High Contact	All high contact shall be paid as a free kick regardless if the ball carrier was responsible for the high contact via a shrug, drop, arm lift or duck.
3c. Bumping	Bumping is permitted as per AFL Laws of the Game.
3d. Smothering	Stealing or smothering the football whilst the opponent is in the process of kicking or has possession in general play is permitted.
3e. Shepherding	Players are permitted to block opponents and bump within five (5) metres of the ball.
4. COMPETITION RULES	
4a. Competition	As per section 42 Match Results: No match results, premiership points, ladders or finals.
4b. Awards	No awards (Best & Fairest etc) at this level.
5. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY	
5a. Player Movement	Players are not permitted to play for another team in the same age group.
5b. Age Dispensation	Play ups and downs are permitted as per section 6: Age Dispensation – Play Ups and 7: Age Dispensation – Play Downs.





## EAGLES CUP GUIDELINES FOR 2024

The competition shall be conducted over an agreed period depending on number of teams, during second term of the school calendar year. Teams competing in each district may be directed into divisions comprising anything from three (minimum) to eight teams in each division. The competition will be run on a round robin format. A minimum of three games per school must be played (**Metropolitan one day lightning carnivals DO NOT qualify as round robin fixtures**).

*Each division competing must appoint a coordinator. Division Coordinator responsibilities can be seen on page 10.*

### TEAMS

The team shall consist of up to a maximum of 15 players who take the ground at any one time and any number of reserves.

*\* Optional: Small sided games such as nine or twelve-a-side are recommended for smaller schools.*

### PLAYING TIME

The game shall consist of four quarters of no more than 15 minutes each. (Therefore time is optional up to a maximum of 15 minutes).



## SUGGESTED FORMAT FOR POINT SCORING AND GAMES

Teams participating shall receive points for the following criteria:

1. 3 points for a win.
2. 2 points for a draw.
3. 1 point for a loss.
4. Behaviour points, 2 points per team per game.
5. 2 points shall be deducted for misbehaviour by a player during the game.
6. 1 point shall be deducted from team if a player is sent off the field during the game. This concept shall apply for all games played.  
\*NO PERCENTAGE IS TO BE KEPT. IF A TIE OCCURS, THE SCHOOL THAT WON THE QUALIFYING GAME WINS THE TROPHY.

The following shall apply to all games:

1. Umpires to address both teams.
2. Shake hands prior to and after each game.
3. Player sent from ground for violation shall remain off for the duration of game but can be replaced.
4. **Players must be rotated and can't play in the same position all game.**
5. **All players to be given equal playing time, to ensure maximum participation.**

## PUBLIC LIABILITY

The WAFC has arranged public Liability Insurance for a sum insured of \$20,000,000 to cover its legal liabilities. The WAFC expects each school involved in Australian Football programs to maintain public liability insurance to sufficiently cover its legal liabilities. At its own discretion each school may want to consider purchasing personal accident insurance to protect against claims for non-Medicare medical expenses arising from this Australian Football program, or any other school program.

## MOUTH GUARDS

It is recommended that all players wear a mouth guard when either, training or playing Eagles Cup football.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In managing risk, consideration must be given to environmental factors and their impact on participants. Sometimes extreme weather conditions (e.g. heat, cold, rain, wind or lightning) make it best to postpone training and/or competition. The umpires, in consultation with the teachers, shall determine if a game should be delayed or abandoned due to inclement weather as per the AFL Laws of the Game and the AFL Junior Football Match Guide. Please also refer to the By-Laws section.

## PLAYER ROTATION POLICY – EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

The on-field rotation of players is a policy developed to enhance the participation and skill development of all players in NAB AFL Auskick (5-12 years) through to Youth participants (13-18 years).

The rotation of all players through a variety of positions in a game and season is designed to allow players to experience the skills and roles required in different positions, and to ensure all players are provided with equal opportunity.

The policy states that every player in a team should play at least half a game, and that no player should spend more than half a game in any one position. Further, every player should experience playing on each of the five lines of field position over a three match period.



The Australian Football Match Policy document clearly states that to ensure all players feel an essential part of the team, regardless of their age, size, sex, ability or the competition they are playing in, it is critical they have an equal amount of time on the field during the season. This will keep players in the game and reduce the likelihood of them leaving to pursue other sports. It also satisfies parents expectations that their child will be given a fair go. It is recommended that all coaches keep records of weekly game time of each player to ensure each has had equal time. There are also a number of IT programs or Apps available that can support coaches and teams in ensuring that all players play 50% game time.

*Note: players should be rotated through a variety of positions on the field in each line, not straight up and down the "spine" or only on the left or on the right side of the field. Coaches and Team Managers must ensure that this policy is adopted and relates directly to **BYLAW #1 – The Spirit of Junior Football**.*

***Coaches can be cited and/or deregistered for not adhering to this policy.***

#### **UMPIRES HANDSHAKE POLICY**

Coaches are expected to shake the hand of the match day umpires both pre and post game.

This mark of respect will reinforce our commitment to influencing positive game day environments, and stands as an excellent example of behaviour from the Coach to Players and Spectators. Coaches should also shake each other's hand both pre and post match.

# SPIRIT OF JUNIOR FOOTBALL

Every participant understands that Junior Football in Western Australia is delivered to the Community with the Spirit of the Game in mind.

**It is incumbent on every participant irrespective of their place in the game, to ensure that they will,**

- **Not focus on winning at all cost** and understand that the role of Junior Football is to foster the development of Junior Players, Volunteers, Umpires, Coaches and Officials. Learning to win and lose is part of the developmental journey of a participant but must remain secondary to the primary focus of junior player development.
- Maximise the enjoyment and development of junior footballers.
- Provide our children with a game environment that is safe, fun and fair.
- Ensure that the values which add to the spirit of our game, which include fairness, equality, respect and teamwork are encouraged and celebrated.
- Uphold, promote and protect the Rules, Laws, Codes, Policies and Spirit of the game.
- Not accept poor behaviours around our game and deter practices that undermine our games environments (Coaching, Playing, Volunteering, Spectating and Umpiring).
- Adhere to any directive issued by the games controlling bodies in the best interests of achieving the above.



# VILIFICATION AND DISCRIMINATION

Vilification to any degree is totally unacceptable at any level of football. All those involved in Community Football have the right to be involved in an environment that is free from vilification and/or harassment. The WAFC takes an extremely firm stance on eliminating this type of behaviour from the game.

This Policy applies to all persons involved in community football, including: players, coaches, team officials, club officials, league officials, volunteers, umpires, parents, guardians, spectators and sponsors.

AN ALLEGED INCIDENT	
<p>Conduct occurs that threatens, disparages, vilifies or insults another person on any basis, including but not limited to, a person's race/colour, religion/spirituality, nationality/ethnic origin, special ability/disability, sexuality, gender identity or other, for example body shaming, mental health, illness or disease etc.</p> <p>Vilified Player to advise their Team Official (Coach / Team Manager) of the alleged incident as soon as possible.</p>	Vilified Player
GAME DAY ACTION	
The clubs and individuals concerned will take immediate action to resolve the matter at the ground between the two teams concerned.	Team Managers
If the matter is resolved, it is the responsibility of both Team Managers to inform their respective Club President via a written report within 24 hours.	
If the matter cannot be resolved immediately, it is the responsibility of both Team Managers to inform their respective Club President of the issue immediately.	
CLUB ACTION	
If the matter is resolved on game day, a written report is required to be submitted by both Club Presidents to the WAFC within 24 hours post resolution.	Club Presidents
If the matter cannot be resolved on game day, the Club President of the complainant is required to submit a <b>Notice of Complaint</b> to the WAFC by 5pm on the next business day after the relevant Match.	
NOTICE OF COMPLAINT	
<p>A complaint may be lodged by a Person or a Club. A person is anyone who is reasonably connected to Australian Football (eg player, official, parent/guardian, spectator).</p> <p>Where a Person or Club is lodging a Complaint on behalf of the Offended Person, they should do so with the consent and support of that Offended person.</p>	Person or Club
If a Notice of Complaint is lodged by a Club in connection to a match, then the submission must be submitted by 5pm on the next business day after the relevant match.	Club

## NOTICE OF COMPLAINT

If a Notice of Complaint is lodged by a Club and not in connection with a match (ie via social media, at a club event, training etc), then it must be submitted no later than 30 days after the incident.

Club

If the Notice of Complaint is lodged by a Person for any incident, it must be submitted no later than 30 days after the alleged incident.

Person

All Notice of Complaints must be submitted via the online [WAFC Notice of Complaint - Prohibited Conduct \(Vilification & Discrimination\)](#) form.

Person or Club

## PUBLIC STATEMENT

No public statement (including via social media) is permitted by the clubs, players, umpires or any representative of the club(s) involved at any stage of the process.

All Parties

## WAFC RESOLUTION

Once a Notice of Complaint is received, the WAFC Head of Competitions will complete a preliminary assessment of the complaint to ensure it meets all requirements and is able to proceed. Further information from the complainant may be requested before a decision can be made.

The WAFC will investigate the matter and determine the appropriate next course of action. This may involve mediation, the issuing of a policy breach or referral directly to the Tribunal.

The WAFC will arrange for a mediation meeting between the individuals and clubs to be held at the earliest convenience. Mediation is a key resolution mechanism of complaints as it provides an opportunity for both parties:

- to be heard in a safe and professionally coordinated environment; and
- to reach an agreed resolution prior to the WAFC progressing to more formal outcomes.

Any matter which has not been resolved by mediation must have a Notice of Breach issued by the WAFC as per the AFL's National Policy. This Notice will include any sanctions that may be accepted under an Early Guilty Plea Offer. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following;

- a suspension from playing and/or officiating in matches;
- participation in a community program;
- participation in an education course;
- a public apology.

A response to an Early Guilty Plea Offer under a Notice of Breach must be received by the WAFC no later than 48 hours after receipt of the Notice of Breach. The Offending Person may accept the Early Guilty Plea Offer or may elect to contest the Notice of Breach. Where a person elects to contest the Notice, the matter will progress to Tribunal.

The Tribunal will hear the matter in accordance with the Guidelines, Policies, Rules and Regulations of the Competition.



# CONCUSSION

The West Australian Football Commission (WAFC) continues to prioritise the health and safety of all participants, and strongly encourages all leagues, clubs and teams to take a cautious approach to the management of concussion in Australian Rules Football.

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.
3. Referring the player to a medical doctor for assessment.

Any player who has suffered a concussion or is suspected of having a concussion must be medically assessed as soon as possible after the injury and must NOT be allowed to return to play in the same game/practice session.

There must 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. If in doubt, then sit them out.

## HEADCHECK CONCUSSION APP

The Headcheck Concussion App continues to help Trainers, Coaches and Parents/Guardians recognise the symptoms of a suspected concussion and its severity through a series of concise questions and observations to quickly identify whether a child's head injury requires an ambulance, hospital, or a GP visit.

The App also assists Parents/Guardians in managing their child's recovery program based on the symptoms displayed as well as guide the Parents/Guardians on their child's safe return to school, training, and games.

The Headcheck Concussion App can be downloaded for free on both Apple and Android devices. For more information about the app, please visit [www.headcheck.com.au](http://www.headcheck.com.au)

## MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR SUSPECTED CONCUSSION

1. Assess for presence of any concussion symptoms or signs (e.g., stunned, confusion, memory problems, balance problems, headache, dizziness, not feeling right).
2. Implement first aid management protocol, including cervical spine immobilisation.
3. Remove from the ground and assess using pocket CRT (Concussion Recognition Tool).
4. Presence of any factors for urgent hospital referral (e.g., confusion, vomiting, worsening headache).  
If yes – Call for an ambulance and refer to hospital. If no – Do not allow player to return to play. Refer to a medical doctor for assessment.

## REPORTING AND RECORD KEEPING

All confirmed and suspected concussions are to be reported to the WAFC as soon as possible but ideally no later than 9am on the Monday following a match.

This report is to be completed on the following link - <https://wafootball.forms-db.com/view.php?id=740175>

A relevant medical report that clears a player to allow the player to return to contact / collision training and matches must also be supplied to the Competitions Team before the player resumes training post 14 days of being symptom free.

All medical reports will be confidentially held by Competition staff and not shared with other parties.

## RETURN TO TRAIN AND PLAY PROCEDURE

The West Australian Football Commission (WAFC) aligns to the national concussion guidelines released by the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) and the Australian Sports Commission (ASC). A minimum requirement for returning to full training and playing matches is outlined in these Concussion Guidelines as per the diagram on the following page. Players must follow the graded loading program and supply a medical certificate to local Competition Administrators before returning to full training and playing games.

A more conservative approach should be adopted for any player who has had a history of concussion or if there is any reoccurrence of symptoms.

The referenced 21 days is not a standard *wait and play*, it is the minimum requirement, and all concussions should be treated as unique and assessed independently with players following the graduated return to play process, and not be fixed on a set number of days to safely return.

## MULTIPLE CONCUSSIONS IN A SEASON

Following any concussion, a player must receive a medical clearance to Return to Play as per the National Community Concussion Guidelines.

If a player receives a **second** concussion in a season, then the player must be assessed by a doctor or medical practitioner who specialises in concussion management, and be medically cleared by them in order to Return to Training or Play.

The WAFC can assist clubs and families in identifying doctors who specialise in the field of concussion.

If a player receives a **third** concussion within a season (combined across any competition i.e., club, school, AFL9's, etc) then it is highly recommended by the WAFC, that the player does not play for the remainder of the season, and should continue to be assessed / monitored by a medical specialist in Concussion Management.



There are a number of resources available to assist Clubs with the Management of Concussion, including:

- **Match Day Head Injury and Referral Form –**  
[https://play.afl/sites/default/files/2023-10/matchdayheadinjury\\_form\\_final%20%281%29.pdf](https://play.afl/sites/default/files/2023-10/matchdayheadinjury_form_final%20%281%29.pdf)
- **Concussion Recognition Tool –**  
<https://sma.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Concussion-Recognition-Tool-CRT6.pdf>
- **Return to Play Medical Clearance Form –**  
[https://www.concussioninsport.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/1133929/Concussion-referral-and-return-form.pdf](https://www.concussioninsport.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/1133929/Concussion-referral-and-return-form.pdf)
- **Return to Learn –**  
[https://www.concussioninsport.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/1133471/RETURN-TO-LEARN.pdf](https://www.concussioninsport.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/1133471/RETURN-TO-LEARN.pdf)  
2024 WAFC JUNIOR FOOTBALL POLICIES RULES & REGULATIONS – Version 1 75
- **Concussion Education Course (15 minutes) –**  
The WAFC strongly recommends that all parents, coaches, volunteers and players undertake the online concussion education course. <https://www.connectivity.org.au/courses/sport-related-concussion-course/>
- **Australian Concussion Guidelines for Youth and Community Sport –**  
[https://www.concussioninsport.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/1133994/37382\\_Concussion-Guidelines-for-community-and-youth-FA-acc.pdf](https://www.concussioninsport.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/1133994/37382_Concussion-Guidelines-for-community-and-youth-FA-acc.pdf)

In relation to these protocols, a **Health Care Practitioner (HCP)** refers to a Specialist Sports Doctor / Physician, a General Practitioner (GP), or a AHPRA registered health care practitioner with appropriate training and experience in concussion assessment and management.

It is imperative that all clubs, volunteers, parents, coaches and players take a cautious approach to the management of a concussion, and that players work through each of the steps of a graduated return to play process.

Under-reporting of concussions, or the downplaying of the symptoms of a concussion, has the potential to put the player at greater health risk.

**“Everyone has a responsibility to report a suspected concussion”**

# CODES OF CONDUCT

The major objective of Junior Football is to provide an opportunity for all children to play Australian Football in a safe environment designed to maximise the acquisition of skill and provide enjoyment (Fun). The following Codes of Conduct, if followed by all people involved in our junior game, should ensure the fulfilment of this important objective. The West Australian Football Commission Football Affairs Committee strongly advises that all persons involved be issued with copies of the appropriate code of conduct. WA Football supports acts of sportsmanship (hand shaking etc) between players, coaches, administrators, umpires etc.

## RED FLAG – Game Environment Filter

Protecting and enhancing our Game Environment will always be a strategic focus for Football. In 2016, we will see the ongoing enhancement of a Game Environment Filter, **RED FLAG**. This will assist in monitoring all football segments, and the standard of the environment and the spirit in which they are played. To this end an online filter has been developed whereby key football stakeholders are able to identify and bring to the attention of governing bodies any undesirable behaviours and actions that may breach any of the Codes of Conduct or By-Law 1 “The Spirit of Junior Football”.

The Red Flag notification is completed online with confidentiality assured within the process. Issues that are flagged that require official intervention will be overseen by the WAFC Participation Manager in consultation with the specific League Officials and WAFC District/Regional Staff. The Red Flag filter will apply to everyone involved in Football from coaches, spectators, and players to volunteers and Club Administrators.

Club Presidents, District Officials, Umpires and WAFC Game Development Staff will have authority to access the filter via a special password and link. Please contact the WAFC Participation Manager Troy Kirkham to secure your access.

## ADMINISTRATOR AND VOLUNTEER CODE OF CONDUCT

- ALL administrators and volunteers must understand and adhere to BYLAW #1 ‘**The Spirit of Junior Football**’.
- Remember that children participate for enjoyment and play down the importance of rewards.
- Publicly encourage rule changes which will reinforce the principles of participation for fun and enjoyment.
- Ensure that rules, equipment, length of games and training schedules take into consideration the age, ability and maturity level of participating children.
- Ensure that adequate supervision is provided by qualified and competent coaches and officials capable of developing appropriate sports behaviour and skill technique.
- Provide clinics aimed at improving the standards of coaching and officiating, with an emphasis on appropriate behaviour and skill technique.
- Modify rules and regulations to match the skill level of children and their needs.
- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound officiating principles and the principles of growth and development of children.
- Ensure that parents, coaches, sponsors, trainers and participants understand their responsibilities regarding fair play.
- Ensure that your behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sporting behaviour.
- Actively promote Positive Game Day Environments with Junior Football and the importance of E-Point structures to the game.
- Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
- Ensure promotion, well-being and safety of umpires and encourage good sportsmanship before, during and after matches.
- Ensure positive player/umpire relationships are continually developed.
- Ensure that equal opportunities for participation in sports are made available to all children, regardless of ability, size, shape, gender, age, disability or ethnic origin.

## COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

- ALL coaches must understand and adhere to **BYLAW #1 'The Spirit of Junior Football'**.
- Ensure that players are involved in a positive environment where skill learning and development are priorities and are not overshadowed by a desire to win.
- Be always supportive and refrain from any form of personal abuse or unnecessary physical contact with the players in your care.
- Stress and monitor safety always.
- In recognising the significance of injury and sickness, you will seek and follow the physician's advice concerning the return of injured, concussed, or ill players to training.
- Keep informed regarding sound principles of coaching and skill development, and of factors relating to the welfare of your players.
- Be reasonable in the demands you make on the time commitments of the players in your care, having due consideration for their health and well-being.
- Have due consideration for varying maturity and ability levels of your players when designing practice schedule, practice activities and involvement in competition.
- Abide by and teach the AFL Laws of the Game and the Rules of your Club, District and League/Association.
- Display and always teach appropriate sporting behaviour, ensuring that players understand and practise fair play.
- Reject the use of performance enhancing substances in sport and abide by the guidelines set forth in the AFL Drug Policy.
- Display and foster respect for umpires, opponents, coaches, administrators, other officials, parents, and spectators.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all individuals within the context of your involvement in Australian Football, including refraining from any discriminatory practices based on race, religion, ethnic background, or special ability/disability.
- Avoid overplaying the talented players aiming to maximise participation and enjoyment for all players regardless of ability. When responsible for players in the 5-18-year-old age group, strive to ensure that all players gain equal playing time.

*Note: This True Sport Coaches Code of Conduct is to be signed and adhered to as part of the accreditation requirements of the AFL & WAFC. Coaches should be aware that, in addition to this Code, they may be obliged to sign a further Code of Conduct/Ethics with their Club and/or League or State Sports Association.*

## SPECTATORS & PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT

- ALL parents and spectators must understand and adhere to **BYLAW #1 'The Spirit of Junior Football'**.
- Encourage children to participate in sport and have fun. Although remember this is about their ambition, and not yours.
- Remember that children play organised sports for fun. They are not playing for the entertainment of spectators, nor are they mini adults. Let them have fun and enjoy their junior sport experience.
- Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches, managers and helpers. Put your hand up to volunteer yourself.
- Encourage your child to play multiple sports—they do not need to specialise and play one sport all year round
- Encourage children to always participate according to the rules.
- Encourage players to follow the rules and the umpire's decisions.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a game.
- Remember that children learn best from example. Applaud good plays by both teams.
- If you disagree with an official, raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official's judgment and honesty in public.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not swearing, using derogatory language, harassing players, coaches, umpires or volunteers.

## PLAYER'S CODE OF CONDUCT

- ALL players must understand and adhere to **BYLAW #1 'The Spirit of Junior Football'**.
- Play for the "fun of it" and not just to please parents and coaches.
- Play by the rules.
- Be a good sport. Applaud all good plays whether they are by your team, opponent, or the other team.
- Be prepared to take responsibility for your actions.
- Work equally hard for yourself and for your team. Your team's performance will benefit so will you.
- Never argue with an umpire or an official. If you disagree, discuss the matter with your coach or teacher after the game.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other players, or provoking an opponent is not acceptable.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully, or take unfair advantage of another teammate or player.
- Avoid using derogatory language or swearing.
- Cooperate with and support your coach, teammates, and opponents. Without them there would be no competition.

## RUNNER CODE OF CONDUCT

- ALL runners must understand and adhere to **BYLAW #1 'The Spirit of Junior Football'**.
- The runner must be clearly identified.
- The runner's name must be entered on team sheets.
- The runner should be an adult.
- No abusive language or swearing.
- Always support the decision of the umpires and never question decisions.
- Deliver message and leave the ground immediately. Your role is not to coach or direct players. Do not remain on the ground. The game is for the kids, not you.
- Water carriers are not permitted in Junior Community Football in Western Australia unless explicitly permitted by WAFC Community Football staff in circumstances of extreme heat.
- If WAFC staff permit water carriers, items 1a to 4b are applicable and as per 4c, water carriers must deliver water then immediately leave the ground. The water carriers shall be identified with a fluorescent vest or appropriate shirt that is approved by the umpires prior to the game starting and must have their names included on the team sheets. ALL runners must understand and adhere to **BYLAW #1 'The Spirit of Junior Football'**.

## UMPIRES CODE OF CONDUCT

- ALL umpires must understand and adhere to **BYLAW #1 'The Spirit of Junior Football'**.
- Ensure that the "spirit of the game" for children is not lost by using common sense and not over emphasizing errors.
- Publicly encourage rule changes which will reinforce the principles of participation for fun and enjoyment.
- Modify rules and regulations to match the skill level of children and their needs.
- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound officiating principles and the principles of growth and development of children.
- Ensure that your behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sporting behaviour. Actions speak louder than words.
- Compliment all participants on their efforts.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous in calling all infractions.
- Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
- Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender.



## SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY FOOTBALL

The WAFC sees the delivery of Australian Football as a partnership between schools and community groups.

Schools recognise that sport is an aspect of the school curriculum and is an integral part of an individual's development.

Community groups recognise the school system as an integral and positive part of football development and assist and encourage participation.

Schools and community groups/clubs should establish links to promote continuity of delivery. AFL School Ambassadors will be appointed in every school to facilitate the effective implementation of school football programs.

The use of existing school facilities by community groups is encouraged.

Schools should be receptive to interaction with community groups within and outside of school hours.



## CONTACTS - METRO

DISTRICT	NAME	EMAIL	MOBILE
<b>CLAREMONT</b> Participation Officer	Alex Zulberti	azulberti@wafc.com.au	0404 714 790
<b>EAST FREMANTLE</b> Participation Officer	Jordan Handcock	jhandcock@wafc.com.au	0435 746 880
<b>EAST PERTH</b> Participation Officer	Lewis Daisley	ldaisley@wafc.com.au	0416 607 060
<b>PEEL</b> Participation Officer	Kayleigh Richardson	krichardson@wafc.com.au	0419 956 389
<b>PERTH</b> Participation Officer	TBC		
<b>SOUTH FREMANTLE</b> Participation Officer	Olivia Hampton	ohampton@wafc.com.au	0413 555 858
<b>SUBIACO</b> Participation Officer	Corey Dullard	cdullard@wafc.com.au	0439 528 777
<b>SWANS</b> Participation Officer	Josh Embry	jembry@wafc.com.au	0487 710 873
<b>WEST PERTH</b> Participation Officer	Mitch Gupanis	mgupanis@wafc.com.au	0423 855 877

## CONTACTS - REGIONAL

DISTRICT	NAME	EMAIL	MOBILE
Goldfields	Gemma Harrison	gharrison@wafc.com.au	0417 179 463
Great Southern	Jaxon Liddelw	jliddelw@wafc.com.au	0401 539 948
Kimberley	Eamon Rice	erice@wafc.com.au	0439 660 746
Mid West	Grady Tomelty	gtomelty@wafc.com.au	0455 777 103
Midlands	Glen Collins	gcollins@wafc.com.au	0417 920 817
Pilbara	Vicki Agnew	vagnew@wafc.com.au	0455 661 633
South West	Nathan Douch	ndouch@wafc.com.au	0400 361 188
Wheatbelt	Paul Reid	preid@wafc.com.au	0419 859 576



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### TEACHERS FREE

- State-wide Competitions
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- Cross-Curricular Lessons
- Resources
- Clinics
- Subsidies
- Professional Development

Regan Atkinson, Schools Specialist, [ratkinson@wafc.com.au](mailto:ratkinson@wafc.com.au), 9287 5590





# WEST COAST EAGLES SCHOOL PROGRAMS

## EAGLES ROCK MY SCHOOL

Eagles Rock My School program is a two-part values-based program for primary students in year's K – 6 that has delivered key messages of respect, healthy lifestyle choices and striving to achieve your best to students all over WA.

## EAGLES FACTION FOOTY (WCE SUPPORTED PROGRAM)

Eagles Faction Footy is a primary school, intra-school program which offers boys and girls of all ages the opportunity to learn the skills of footy in a safe, fun environment with friends from their own school faction.

For more info or to register please contact  
WAFC Schools Specialist - [wafotball.com.au/schools/programs](http://wafotball.com.au/schools/programs)

## EAGLES CUP (WCE SUPPORTED PROGRAM)

Eagles Cup is Western Australia's premier Primary inter-school competition for Year Four to Six students. The competition uses special modified rules to allow for maximum participation, enjoyment and skill development where the emphasis is on playing for fun in a social school environment.

For more info or to register please contact  
WAFC Schools Specialist - [wafotball.com.au/schools/programs](http://wafotball.com.au/schools/programs)

## JUNIOR SOAR/INSIGHT

The program is designed to educate and foster the development of skills, knowledge, and strategies for upper primary aged students. Junior Insight will focus on the development of young males while Junior SOAR aims to engage female youth with the aim of educating around various football topics, on and off the field.

## EAGLES IN THE AIR

The Eagles in the Air program utilises video conferencing to provide students at remote community schools with improved access to education, delivered directly from West Coast Eagles players as role models. The video interactions provide education on topics important to the football club such as nutrition, preparation for elite performance, goal setting and resilience.

## CALTEX ALL STARS

All Stars program is a football-based program designed to provide inclusive education to students with disabilities, with an aim to build self-confidence, resilience, football skills and provide links to community football.

## ALL PROGRAMS DELIVERED FREE TO YOUR SCHOOL!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
PRIMARY SCHOOLS & INCLUSION MANAGER  
BRADD DALZIELL - [BRADD@WCE.COM.AU](mailto:BRADD@WCE.COM.AU)





# OUR REGIONAL FOOTPRINT

- 1 PERTH (WHADJUK NOONGAR)**  
Metro
- 2 PORT HEDLAND (KARRIERARRA)**  
Pilbara - Claudia Bailey - [claudiab@wce.com.au](mailto:claudiab@wce.com.au)
- 3 BUSSELTON (WARDANDI NOONGAR)**  
South West - Mark Nicaski - [markn@wce.com.au](mailto:markn@wce.com.au)
- 4 ALBANY (MENANG NOONGAR)**  
Great Southern - Brad Nisbett - [bradj@wce.com.au](mailto:bradj@wce.com.au)
- 5 KALGOORLIE (WONGATHA)**  
Goldfields - Gabby Moran - [gabbym@wce.com.au](mailto:gabbym@wce.com.au)



- 6 NEWMAN (NYIYAPARLI/MARTU)**  
Pilbara - Brendon Daily - [brendond@wce.com.au](mailto:brendond@wce.com.au)



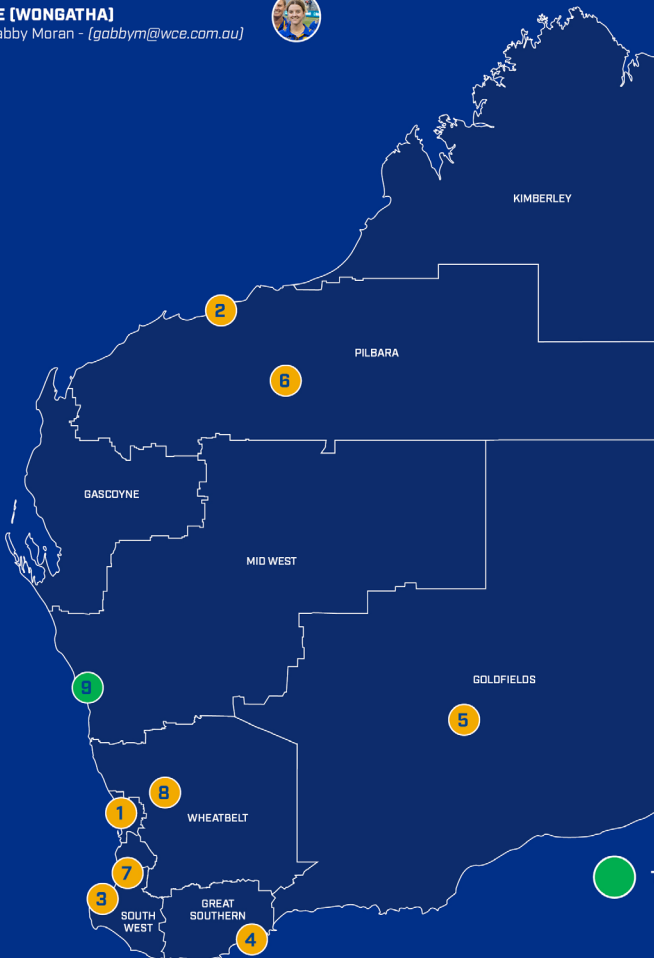
- 7 BUNBURY (WARDANDI NOONGAR)**  
South West - Mel Toia - [melaniet@wce.com.au](mailto:melaniet@wce.com.au)



- 8 NORTHAM (BALLARDONG NOONGAR)**  
Wheatbelt - Trey Ruscoe - [treyr@wce.com.au](mailto:treyr@wce.com.au)



- 9 GERALDTON (YAMATJI)**  
Mid West



 TO BE APPOINTED