

## **WAFC POL.10: Competitions Policy**

### **POLICY BACKGROUND**

This policy documents the procedures involved in conducting Junior & Youth Competitions controlled by the West Australian Football Commission. The various sections of this policy have been divided up into the following sub-procedures for ease of access and editing:

### **WAFC POL.10:**

- A – Team Selection & Nominations
- B – Colours & Team Uniform
- C – Fixtures
- D – Transfers & Permits
- E – Results, Premiership Points & E-Points
- F – Match Forfeits

# WAFC POL.10A Competitions Policy: Team Selection & Nominations

## POLICY BACKGROUND

The West Australian Football Commission is committed to forming fair, even and competitive competitions that enable young players of all abilities to have fun, actively participate and improve their knowledge and skills of the game. The intent of this policy is to:

- a) clearly outline the team nomination process.
- b) provide guidance on how clubs can allocate players to teams in instances where there is more than one team in a year group.

## TEAM NOMINATIONS

The West Australian Football Commission will establish a date each year where clubs will submit team nominations for year groups in which they wish to field teams for the upcoming season. The WAFC shall consider all nominations and where possible shall include teams in competitions as nominated.

## RULES

1. TEAM NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS	
<b>1a</b>	Each team nomination should include the name and other relevant details of the following people: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. An accredited coach capable of teaching players the laws and skills of Australian Football in line with the Spirit of the Game and the WAFC's True Sport Codes of Conduct</li> <li>ii. A manager capable of assisting the coach by carrying out clerical and other duties relating to the efficient functioning of the team.</li> </ol>
2. ENTERING MULTIPLE TEAMS IN A DIVISION/YEAR GROUP	
If a club enters more than one team in a single division in any year group or has multiple teams in a year group, then the following is to apply.	
<b>2a</b>	Each team nominated by the respective club must be done so in such a way that each team is competitive within its nominated division.
<b>2b</b>	If a club has two teams in one division, it must be done so in such a way that each team is competitive within that division.
<b>2c</b>	If the teams are viewed to be uncompetitive by the WAFC within the first five rounds as per Rule 4 of this document, the WAFC has the power to direct the club to re-allocate players.
<b>2d</b>	If the club is directed to re-nominate the teams, the club will resubmit the teams and will be subject to further review by the WAFC.
<b>2e</b>	Specific competition rules regarding entering multiple teams in a division/year group can be found in the individual Competition Rules documents.
3. TEAM WITHDRAWALS	
<b>3a</b>	A Club which withdraws a team or teams from any competition without a reason acceptable to the WAFC, may be liable to a penalty. If a team is withdrawn from a competition after the commencement of a season, the WAFC shall determine how the fixtures will be re-organised and for which games premiership points will be awarded.

## WAFC POL.10A Competitions Policy: Team Selection & Nominations

### UNCOMPETITIVE TEAMS PROCESS

This process provides clubs a clear and transparent process for determining whether a team is uncompetitive under Rule 2 of this document, and how the WAFC will work with a club to rectify this.

### RULES

4. UNCOMPETITIVE TEAMS PROCESS	
4a	Prior to the season, the WAFC will formally notify any clubs if they believe a team may be deemed uncompetitive based on the previous year's results which will include a recommendation to re-allocate players across teams prior to the season beginning
4b	At any point across the first five rounds of the season, the WAFC may formally notify clubs if they believe a team may be deemed uncompetitive and provide a recommendation to re-allocate players across teams.
4c	For a team to be deemed uncompetitive they must meet the following criteria as a minimum. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Must have lost a minimum of three matches by 60 points or more across the first five matches.</li> <li>ii. A Competition Official must have attended two matches across the first five matches and have made an assessment that the team is uncompetitive within the context of the match at both matches.</li> </ol>
4d	If a team is deemed uncompetitive at the conclusion of Round 5, they will be requested to provide evidence to the competition that they have taken steps to improve the competitiveness of the team, including re-allocating players between teams within the club.
4e	If a team is deemed uncompetitive and the club refuses to re-allocate players after the completion of Round 5, that team will not be eligible to play for premiership points for the remainder of the season.

### TEAM ALLOCATION

There are various methods a club may choose to adopt when allocating players among two or more teams in a year group. The WAFC suggests that Clubs consider each of the below methods.

- **Even Teams:** Ensuring each team is of equal strength.
- **Friendship Groups:** Ensuring players are able to play with their close friends.
- **School Groups:** Ensuring players are able to play with their school friends.
- **Annual Rotation:** Ensuring players are able to experience playing with different players and are prepared for older year groups when there is an increased likelihood that teams will merge.

## WAFC POL.10A Competitions Policy: Team Selection & Nominations

### 5. ADOPT A CLUB MENTALITY OVER A TEAM MENTALITY

Clubs are encouraged to adopt a club mentality rather than an individual team mentality. This will encourage long-term friendships that extend beyond school groups and past teammates and minimises the impact of players having to move or merge teams during their Junior Football career.

The WAFC encourages teams from the same club, in the same year group to train together as one. The benefits of doing this include:

- Building a strong club culture
- Encouraging strong friendships between a larger group of players and parents making any regrade or reallocation of players less daunting for players and their families.
- Ability to run more effective training sessions with larger numbers at training, implementing a hub training model which keeps players engaged and exposes them to a variety of coaches and coaching styles.
- Sharing of resources – green space, coaches, equipment etc.

### 6. WHEN SHOULD CLUBS MERGE OR SPLIT TEAMS?

With a focus on participation, the WAFC looks to maximise the number of opportunities for as many young players as possible to play the game. As such, denying registrations and turning players away is discouraged, however the WAFC understands the complications involved when deciding whether to enter one or more teams in a year group. The below table will act as a guide to assist clubs in working through these decisions.

Year Group	1 Team	Requires Action	2 Teams	3 Teams
12-a-side Competitions	9 – 18 players	19 – 22 players	23 – 34 players	35+ players
15-a-side Competitions	12 – 23 players	24 – 28 players	29 – 46 players	47+ players
18-a-side Competitions	15 – 28 players	29 – 35 players	36 – 56 players	57+ players

#### Action Required

If a club sits within the above 'Requires Action' column for any of their year groups, the below options are available and should be considered:

#### 1. Recruitment:

Work together with WAFC district staff to recruit additional numbers in order to enter a second team.

#### 2. Utilising current WAFC Policies, Rules & Regulations:

Enter a second team and utilise current Junior Football Policies, Rules & Regulations to ensure sufficient numbers for a match, which includes:

- Play Ups - see WAFC Competition Rules Eligibility & Finals Qualification.
- Even Up – see WAFC POL.13D Game Day Even Up & Field Positions.

#### 3. Player Permitting:

The WAFC encourages local Junior Clubs to work together utilising Rotating Player Permits, which enables teams with excess players to temporarily permit their players to a nearby club to assist with teams who are low on numbers. This is a great way of ensuring players get maximum playing time and more opportunities to touch the football and further develop their skills rather than not playing or sitting on the bench.

#### 4. Team Mergers:

Work together with neighbouring clubs who may also be low on numbers in the same year group, to enter a merged team.

## 7. CONSIDERATIONS

### Deciding to split or merge teams

The below considerations must be made, particularly when numbers sit within the 'Requires Action' column in the above table:

- Entering one team with too many players results in excessive interchange sizes, reduced game time and fewer coaches per player.
- Entering a second team with too few players increases the number of coaches and volunteers required.
- Priority should be given to returning and new players over players transferring in from other clubs.

### Team Allocations

The WAFC suggests that clubs should endeavour to make their teams as even as possible, splitting players based on their skills, size, speed and overall ability. Please discuss with your WAFC Competition staff who can provide guidance as to the most suitable division for your teams.

- For clubs affected by PSA boarders, please ensure there are an equal number of boarders spread across the two teams.
- Upon request to the WAFC, Clubs will have the ability to make changes over the first two rounds of the Home & Away season, providing flexibility to get team balance right.
- After teams have been split, they are still encouraged to train together as per Rule 5 above.
- The WAFC encourages clubs to follow this process and reallocate players to a new team each season. The idea behind this is to promote players' individual development and allows them to experience the game playing with different teammates. It also promotes a club over team mentality where players are exposed to different coaches and coaching styles and encourages new friendships in both the player and parent groups.

# WAFC POL.10B Competitions Policy: Colours & Team Uniform



## POLICY BACKGROUND

Each Club shall nominate its colours and design of playing uniform.

## RULES

<b>1. APPROVAL</b>	
<b>1a</b>	All designs must be approved by the WAFC.
<b>1b</b>	All Indigenous jumper design applications to the WAFC must include details of the artist, their community and the story behind the artwork. The application must also include approval from the artist giving permission for how the artwork, design or image can be used and if there are any limitations for its use.
<b>1c</b>	All teams representing a Club shall wear the playing uniform approved for that Club by the WAFC.
<b>1d</b>	Players not wearing the correct, approved uniform may be removed from the playing surface at the discretion of the field umpire or a WAFC Competitions staff member.
<b>2. JUMPER CLASHES</b>	
<b>2a</b>	If the WAFC deems that there is a clash, they shall request that the club determine another design within agreed design criteria.
<b>2b</b>	If the WAFC determines that there is a clash between two teams for a given match, then the Away Team must wear an alternative strip.
<b>3. COMPRESSION GARMENTS – Year 7 to Year 12 ONLY</b>	
<b>3a</b>	The wearing of full-length arm and leg compression garments must be approved by the WAFC Competition Team.
<b>3b</b>	The colour, length & style of compression undergarments (such as 'Skins' or 'Under Armour') shall be approved by the WAFC in line with the playing uniform.
<b>3c</b>	T-shirts and other non-compression garments are not permitted to be worn unless authorised by WAFC Competition Team.
<b>4. COMPRESSION GARMENTS – Year 3 to Year 6 ONLY</b>	
<b>4a</b>	Unless directed by the WAFC Competitions Team, competition participants may wear compression garments of any style, colour, or length.
<b>4b</b>	Long and short sleeve, non-compression t-shirts may be worn if the shirt does not have a hood.
<b>4c</b>	Players are not permitted to wear jumpers, jackets, or hooded garments under a football jumper during a match.
<b>5. TEAM OFFICIAL GARMENTS</b>	
<b>5a</b>	Team Officials are required to wear garments and/or vests as directed by the WAFC.

## WAFC POL.10C Competitions Policy: Fixtures

### POLICY BACKGROUND

Prior to the commencement of each football season the WAFC Competitions Team shall prepare a fixture list for all matches to be played in competitions under the control of the WAFC and to allocate grounds and times for such matters.

### RULES

<b>1. FIXTURES</b>	
<b>1a</b>	Any proposed amendment or alteration to the fixtures by clubs or teams shall be submitted in writing to the WAFC.
<b>1b</b>	Any re-fixturing that occurs after the commencement of the season will be at the discretion of the WAFC.
<b>2. RE-GRADING</b>	
<b>2a</b>	Re-grading will occur after Round 5 of all competitions if required.
<b>2b</b>	For re-grading to occur, any of the following criteria must be met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. A team shall be deemed uncompetitive in the division they are currently in, or</li> <li>ii. There must be a team that has demonstrated that they will be more competitive in another division.</li> </ul>
<b>2c</b>	Once re-grading occurs in a division, all the premiership points will be reset.
<b>3. FINALS</b>	
<b>3a</b>	Where possible, Grand Finals will be played on neutral grounds.
<b>3b</b>	If unforeseen circumstances disrupt finals, the Competition Team will determine how to proceed and whether games will be rescheduled.

## WAFC POL.10D Competitions Policy: Transfers & Permits

### POLICY BACKGROUND

All West Australian Football Commission competitions adhere to the AFL National Player Transfer Regulations. In addition to the national regulations, the below transfer and permit rules apply to all Junior & Youth Competitions under the control of the WAFC.

1. LOCAL TRANSFER RULES	
1a	At the full discretion of the WAFC Competitions Team, Teams can be penalised for exceeding 5 WAFL Development Squad players when transferring or permitting players in new players who are listed on WAFL Development Squad lists.
1b	If a club has more than 5 <i>homegrown</i> WAFL Development Squad players, no penalty will be considered unless further WAFL Development Squad players are transferred or permitted in.
1c	Penalties include but are not limited to Premiership Points and can be reviewed and applied at any stage of the regular season. Discretionary penalties are not automatically applied for breaching this policy and the WAFC will discuss all factors with clubs before a final determination is made.
2. PRIMARY REGISTRATION OF YOUTH PLAYERS	
2a	As per WAFCPOL.17: Primary Registration Policy, with the exclusion of WAFL / WAFL Club listed participants, registered players who turn 18 on or after July 1 of the given year should hold their Primary Registration with a Junior Club or a club that have teams registered in a Junior competition.
2b	Any players who turn 18 on or after July 1 who requests a transfer to a senior club are subject to approval by the WAFC.
3. TRANSFER REFUSAL	
3a	As per the AFL National Player Transfer Regulations, for avoidance of doubt, a transfer may only be refused on the following grounds; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The player is required to continue playing for the source Club (ie a permit is required to be submitted instead of a transfer)</li> <li>ii. The player is financial indebted to the source club as evidenced by proper financial records (ie outstanding fees)</li> <li>iii. The player is in possession of source club property that must be returned (ie playing jumper or equipment)</li> <li>iv. The player wishes to withdraw their transfer request and continue playing for the source club</li> </ul>

### SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

[AFL National Player Transfer Regulations \(2021\)](#)



# WAFC POL.10E Competitions Policy: Results, Premiership Points & E-Points

## PREMIERSHIP POINTS

Premiership Points and E-Points are awarded in all West Australian Football Commission run competitions in Year 7 and above.

### RULES

1. PREMIERSHIP POINTS	
1a	Four Premiership Points are to be awarded to the winning team of a Home & Away match.
1b	Two Premiership points are to be awarded to each team in a drawn Home & Away match
1c	If a winning team's margin exceeds 60 points (10 goals) the team will only be credited with a maximum of 60 points (10 goals) winning margin.
1d	Where equality in total premiership points occurs at the conclusion of the qualifying round (Home & Away season), the position of a team shall be decided by E-points and then percentage.
1e	If uneven matches are played, a match ratio shall apply to the premiership table. Match Ratio is calculated by the number of wins divided by the number of games played multiplied by 100.

## E-POINTS

The purpose of the E-Point system is to weight game day behaviour with the same importance as winning a match and reward teams for displaying positive game day behaviour. The system deters players, coaches, and parents from engaging in negative game day behaviour prior to it taking place. The E-Point model is applied to all competitions from Year 7 and above.

### RULES

2. E-POINTS	
2a	A maximum of four E-Points will be awarded per team per game for each completed regular season match. The team's behaviour (including that of players, team officials, support staff or spectators) will determine if any of these E-Points will not be awarded.
2b	For every Yellow Card received by a participating team on game day, 1 less E-Point will be awarded and the penalised club may be liable for a financial fine.
2c	For each Red Card received by a participating team on game day 2 less E-Points will be awarded and the penalised club may be liable for a financial fine.
2d	Any team who has a player, parent/spectator or official who is issued a prescribed penalty with a base sanction of one match or more will receive 2 less E-Points for each person charged.
2e	Any team who has a code of conduct, policy or bylaw breach relating to inappropriate game day behaviour will receive up to four (4) less E-points awarded. This is at the sole discretion of the WAFC.
2f	If any breach occurs during a break of play or after the final siren, the number of E-points not awarded may be doubled as the umpire does not have the ability to award a free kick.
2g	During Finals, the WAFC can substitute financial fines in the place of E-Point penalties.
2h	If regrading occurs, a team's E-Points will be carried forward.

## WAFC POL.10F Competitions Policy: Match Forfeits

### RULES

<b>1. FORFEITURE OF MATCHES</b>	
<b>1a</b>	For any Year 3 to 6 matches with insufficient numbers (listed per 1b below), Clubs are encouraged to play a game with any available players and utilise the even-up principle to ensure players and umpires are still provided with a modified game day environment to develop skills and in-play decision making.
<b>1b</b>	In a competition playing for premiership points, a match shall be deemed a forfeit if at the start of the match either team consists of less than: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 players (18-a-side competitions)</li> <li>• 10 players (15 or 16-a-side competitions)</li> <li>• 7 players (12-a-side competitions)</li> </ul>
<b>1c</b>	Where a team fails to appear or forfeits a match, full premiership points (4) and E-Points (4) shall be awarded to the team receiving the forfeit.
<b>1d</b>	A team receiving a forfeit will be credited with a score of 60 points 'for' and zero points 'against' on the competition ladder.
<b>1e</b>	A team giving the forfeit will be credited zero (0) premiership points and zero (0) E-points on the competition ladder. If the WAFC believes a genuine attempt has been made to reschedule the game then the team giving the forfeit may be credited with zero (0) premiership points and four (4) E-points on the competition ladder.
<b>1f</b>	In the event of a forfeit, both Clubs involved shall advise the WAFC in writing of the date of the match and include the reasons for the forfeit.
<b>1g</b>	Players for the team receiving the forfeit shall be credited as having played that game for the purposes of finals eligibility and historical records. Players for the team that forfeited the match will not be credited as having played the match.
<b>1h</b>	Should a team play in ineligible player or utilise an ineligible official, that team will forfeit the game.
<b>2. PAYMENT OF UMPIRES</b>	
<b>2a</b>	If a team forfeits and provides less than 24 hours notice to the WAFC Competition Team Leader or Administrator, that team is required to pay 100% of umpires' fees for the match, as per WAFC Pol.11 'Umpire Fees'.
<b>2b</b>	No payment of umpires is required if more than 24hrs notice is provided to the WAFC.