



Year 3/4 Male & Female.	Rationale
1. Female football moves to 15 a-side.	Moving to 15 a-side aligns all competitions throughout the pathway of junior football. General feedback from clubs was that the numbers are there to support 15 a-side in this age group.
2. Non WAFC appointed and trained Umpires must be 18 years of age or older and comply with WWC.	Adults are required in this role to help promote the safe match day environment. Emotional maturity is required in a potentially volatile situation and untrained, underaged participants is less likely to be aware of the appropriate responses to manage on field issues.
3. Clear definition that all Assistant Coaches MUST be qualified, as per Head Coaches.	Clarification only on the previous, unchanged rule.
4. Confirmation and clarity that no more than 5 non-playing people may be in the Coach's Box on game day, as per specific roles outlined.	Clarification only on the previous, unchanged rule.
5. Team Runners MUST be 18 or older.	A Runner's purpose in circumstances where a player needs to be removed should only be entrusted to an adult. Emotional maturity is required in a potentially volatile situation and underaged participants are less likely to have such maturity.
6. 1 st Aid course clarified by Australian Standard Course number.	Clarification of requirements, as per AFL National Policy.
7. Removal of information regarding Umpire's requirements for match day.	Information not required as it will be covered in Umpire's handbook.





FOOTBALL COMMISSION INC.

Year 5/6 Male & Female.	Rationale
1. Maximum number of players on the bench reduced to 5. Exemptions may be granted upon request to have 7 players on the bench.	Extended benches were trialed on the back of 2020 season, affected by Covid-19 with the intent of increasing participation due to unknown number of team nominations. Consistent feedback from Coaches was that managing 7 players equal game time was extremely challenging therefore we have returned to 5 person benches with the option to maintain 7 if the club prefers it. To gain an exemption and have 7 players, teams must apply to the WAFC and engage the discussion around supporting equal game time and <i>Spirit of the Game</i> .
2. Non WAFC appointed and trained Umpires must be 18 years of age or older and comply with WWC.	Adults are required in this role to help promote the safe match day environment. Emotional maturity is required in a potentially volatile situation and untrained, underaged participants is less likely to be aware of the appropriate responses to manage on field issues.
3. Clear definition that all Assistant Coaches MUST be qualified, as per Head Coaches.	Clarification only on the previous, unchanged rule.
4. Confirmation and clarity that no more than 5 non-playing people may be in the Coach's Box on game day, as per specific roles outlined.	Clarification only on the previous, unchanged rule.
5. Team Runners MUST be 18 or older.	A Runner's purpose in circumstances where a player needs to be removed should only be entrusted to an adult. Emotional maturity is required in a potentially volatile situation and underaged participants are less likely to have such maturity.
6. 1 st Aid course clarified by Australian Standard Course number.	Clarification of requirements, as per AFL National Policy.
7. Removal of information regarding Umpire's requirements for match day.	Information not required as it will be covered in Umpire's handbook.





FOOTBALL COMMISSION INC.

Year 7/8 Male.	Rationale
1. Maximum number of players on the bench reduced to 5. Exemptions may be granted upon request to have 7 players on the bench.	Extended benches were trialed on the back of 2020 season, affected by Covid-19 with the intent of increasing participation due to unknown number of team nominations. Consistent feedback from Coaches was that managing 7 players equal game time was extremely challenging therefore we have returned to 5 person benches with the option to maintain 7 if the club prefers it. To gain an exemption and have 7 players, teams must apply to the WAFC and engage the discussion around supporting equal game time and <i>Spirit of the Game</i> .
2. Zone resets 5 – 3/2 – 5	Definition given to zone setups. Competition staff engaged with Talent and Coaching Departments to determine best layout of zones. The importance of having wings to clear the ball away was identified as important in game development, supporting players looking to use peripheral targets and creating space to reduce congestion around center bounces.
3. Non WAFC appointed and trained Umpires must be 18 years of age or older and comply with WWC.	Adults are required in this role to help promote the safe match day environment. Emotional maturity is required in a potentially volatile situation and untrained, underaged participants is less likely to be aware of the appropriate responses to manage on field issues.
4. Clear definition that all Assistant Coaches MUST be qualified, as per Head Coaches.	Clarification only on the previous, unchanged rule.
5. Confirmation and clarity that no more than 5 non-playing people may be in the Coach's Box on game day, as per specific roles outlined.	Clarification only on the previous, unchanged rule.
6. Team Runners MUST be 18 or older.	A Runner's purpose in circumstances where a player needs to be removed should only be entrusted to an adult. Emotional maturity is required in a potentially volatile situation and underaged participants are less likely to have such maturity.
7. 1 st Aid course clarified by Australian Standard Course number.	Clarification of requirements, as per AFL National Policy.
8. Removal of information regarding Umpire's requirements for match day.	Information not required as it will be covered in Umpire's handbook.
9. Players granted a temporary, single age group play-up, are permitted to play for multiple teams but only for a combined total of 4 games.	Although temporary playups are acceptable, participants are not to play more than 4 games in a higher age group unless approved by the WAFC. The significant penalty for playing a 5th game is as per <i>an ineligible player</i> , which results in a forfeit. Temporary playups remove opportunities for existing players and any evidence to support player development is anecdotal.





FOOTBALL COMMISSION INC.

Year 9/10 Male.	Rationale
1. All conferences to play 15 a-side in Y10.	2021 trialed 15 a-side and 18-a-side in Y10 Competitions. Data collected indicated a bigger drop off in participants in 18 a-side competitions.
2. Maximum number of players on the bench reduced to 5. Exemptions may be granted upon request to have 7 players on the bench.	Extended benches were trialed on the back of 2020 season, affected by Covid-19 with the intent of increasing participation due to unknown number of team nominations. Consistent feedback from Coaches was that managing 7 players equal game time was extremely challenging therefore we have returned to 5 person benches with the option to maintain 7 if the club prefers it. To gain an exemption and have 7 players, teams must apply to the WAFC and engage the discussion around supporting equal game time and <i>Spirit of the Game</i> .
3. Zone resets 5 – 3/2 – 5	Definition given to zone setups. Competition staff engaged with Talent and Coaching Departments to determine best layout of zones. The importance of having wings to clear the ball away was identified as important in game development, supporting players looking to use peripheral targets and creating space to reduce congestion around center bounces.
4. Non WAFC appointed and trained Umpires must be 18 years of age or older and comply with WWC.	Adults are required in this role to help promote the safe match day environment. Emotional maturity is required in a potentially volatile situation and untrained, underaged participants is less likely to be aware of the appropriate responses to manage on field issues.
5. Clear definition that all Assistant Coaches MUST be qualified, as per Head Coaches.	Clarification only on the previous, unchanged rule.
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7. Team Runners MUST be 18 or older.	A Runner's purpose in circumstances where a player needs to be removed should only be entrusted to an adult. Emotional maturity is required in a potentially volatile situation and underaged participants are less likely to have such maturity.
8. 1 st Aid course clarified by Australian Standard Course number.	Clarification of requirements, as per AFL National Policy.
9. Removal of information regarding Umpire's requirements for match day.	Information not required as it will be covered in Umpire's handbook.
10. Players granted a temporary, single age group play-up, are permitted to play for multiple teams but only for a combined total of 4 games.	Although temporary playups are acceptable, participants are not to play more than 4 games in a higher age group unless approved by the WAFC. The significant penalty for playing a 5th game is as per <i>an ineligible player</i> , which results in a forfeit. Temporary playups remove opportunities for existing players and any evidence to support player development is anecdotal.





FOOTBALL.COMMISSION INC.

Year 11/12 Male.	Rationale
1. Non WAFC appointed and trained Umpires must be 18 years of age or older and comply with WWC.	Adults are required in this role to help promote the safe match day environment. Emotional maturity is required in a potentially volatile situation and untrained, underaged participants is less likely to be aware of the appropriate responses to manage on field issues.
2. Clear definition that all Assistant Coaches MUST be qualified, as per Head Coaches.	Clarification only on the previous, unchanged rule.
3. Confirmation and clarity that no more than 5 non-playing people may be in the Coach's Box on game day, as per specific roles outlined.	Clarification only on the previous, unchanged rule.
4. Team Runners MUST be 18 or older.	A Runner's purpose in circumstances where a player needs to be removed should only be entrusted to an adult. Emotional maturity is required in a potentially volatile situation and underaged participants are less likely to have such maturity.
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8. Restrictions on number of players that can be move through teams when a higher team is on a bye or receiving a forfeit.	Alignment to rules as per Senior football competitions.
9. Clarification that if a club has multiple teams and is likely to forfeit, the lowest graded team must forfeit, and players are to be pushed up.	Alignment to rules as per Senior football competitions.





FOOTBALL COMMISSION INC.

Year 7/8 Female.	Rationale
1. Standalone rules introduced, aligning closer to Male rules.	Rule alignments supported by a coaching focus on Female skill development. With 34.69% of new participants in past 2 years (2020/2021), not all rules are able to be aligned yet to ensure a safe game day environment. WAFC coaching team to focus on coaches of female teams to fast-track player skill development (tackling & ball release). WAFC Junior Competition Team to monitor games closely in 2022 for skill progression and in collaboration with PFL Staff will discuss aligning all rules by 2023 if game day safety and new participation rates are significantly lower, with attention to % of junior players having completed 2 full WAFC Community seasons.
2. Maximum number of players on the bench reduced to 5. Exemptions may be granted upon request to have 7 players on the bench.	Extended benches were trialed on the back of 2020 season, affected by Covid-19 with the intent of increasing participation due to unknown number of team nominations. Consistent feedback from Coaches was that managing 7 players equal game time was extremely challenging therefore we have returned to 5 person benches with the option to maintain 7 if the club prefers it. To gain an exemption and have 7 players, teams must apply to the WAFC and engage the discussion around supporting equal game time and <i>Spirit of the Game</i> .
3. Zone resets 5 – 3/2 – 5	Definition given to zone setups. Competition staff engaged with Talent and Coaching Departments to determine best layout of zones. The importance of having wings to clear the ball away was identified as important in game development, supporting players looking to use peripheral targets and creating space to reduce congestion around center bounces.
4. Non WAFC appointed and trained Umpires must be 18 years of age or older and comply with WWC.	Adults are required in this role to help promote the safe match day environment. Emotional maturity is required in a potentially volatile situation and untrained, underaged participants is less likely to be aware of the appropriate responses to manage on field issues.
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