

CIRCULAR



Subject: F-GRADE

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Audience: Club Committee, WAAFL Board Members

Summary:

The WAAFL seeks expressions of interest from clubs who may consider fielding a team in a new F-Grade for 2018. Resulting from this feedback, the WAAFL will then make a final decision by December 2017 to implement the grade (or not) for 2018.

Action:

Expressions of interest close 1st October 2017.

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At the Club President's workshop in June 2017 the introduction of a F-Grade was presented.

F-Grade is in response to changing player habits and availability - with a shorter season, shorter quarters and less players on a team – all aimed at encouraging players to keep playing at their local amateur club and to create a pathway to Masters football.

Who can play F-Grade?

- F-Grade may assist one team clubs establishing a 2nd team.
- C4 clubs who may not be competitive may field an E-grade team and a 2nd team in F-grade.
- Existing clubs struggling to field a 3rd team may choose F-Grade as a better option for its players.

Provisional competition structure

- Ladder, best and fairest, finals and premiership awarded.
- 9 to 12 round season (May to August), dependent on final team nominations.
- 4 x 15 minute quarters.
- 16-a-side on the field (up to 22 listed players).
- Club appointed field and goal umpires.
- No boundary umpires; honour system (out by foot - kick in, out by hand - ball up).
- Coach, trainer required.
- F-Grade players can primarily only play F-Grade. Once a player plays in 3 higher grade matches in the season, that player cannot return to F-Grade.
- Colts aged players will not be permitted to play in F-Grade as they are encouraged to play colts.

At this point, the WAAFL seeks expressions of interest from clubs who may consider fielding a team in F-Grade for 2018. Resulting from this feedback, the WAAFL will then make a final decision by December 2017 to implement the grade (or not) for 2018.

If a F-Grade is confirmed for 2018, complete rules and formal team nominations will be requested from all clubs in December 2017 with final team nominations closing in February 2018.

We encourage clubs to discuss widely amongst its players of the concept.

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