

## CLUB CIRCULAR - 45, 2020/06/26

**Subject:** 2020 WA Junior Footy Rules and Regulations

**Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**From:** James Hunt  
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**West Australian Football Commission**

**Audience:** Junior Club Presidents

Summary:	Club Action:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>This communication provides an update on key changes/information regarding rule changes and dates for the 2020 Junior Football Season.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Circulate Rule Changes to committees, volunteers, parents, and players.</li><li>Ensure Team Managers &amp; Coaches discuss and understand new rules.</li></ul>

### Season Dates & Fixturing

- Recommence Competitions Weekend July 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>
- Season Finale Weekend September 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>
- 11 rounds for all Competitions

### Regrading

There will be no regrading for Community Football in 2020

### 11<sup>th</sup> Round

Years 3 – 6 will have Round 11 fixtures created on the Monday following the Round 8 games. Fixtures will be created to allow similar skilled sides to play each other.

Years 7 – 12 will have Round 11 fixtures created on the Monday following the Round 10 games. Games will be created based on ladder position. i.e. 1 vs 2 (for Premiership), 3 vs 4 (for 3<sup>rd</sup> place) and so on.

If a side is not able to be scheduled a Round 11 fixture within their own division, WAFC staff will endeavour to provide a non-compulsory, cross-conference game against a similar positioned side.

Venues for all Round 11 games are to be decided by WAFC Conference Teams in consultation with all other football leagues and affiliations in Perth. Being a higher ranked side may not equal a home game and in many cases, the WAFC will utilise neutral venues.

### Eligibility

Due to the reduced number of games, all by-laws that refer to Player Eligibility Requirements, i.e. qualifying games, will be adjusted to reflect 50%. If necessary, the number will be rounded up.

For the avoidance of doubt, 6 games will be reduced to 3 games. 5 games will also be reduced to 3 games.

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## **Rules & Regulations**

The final Junior and Youth Competition Rules and Regulations are being updated to reflect these changes. These will be uploaded onto [Club Hub](#) before Round 1 and will be communicated to clubs via their conferences.

This Circular can be utilised to confirm changes to volunteers and officials until the documents are uploaded.

## **Game Duration**

In line with the AFL, WAFL and PFL competitions, game time will be also be reduced in 2020 Community Games. Game lengths have been shortened to reflect the interruption to player preparation and to minimise the effects of fatigue injuries.

This will also support the efforts with game change overs and social distancing requirements.

**Year 3 - Year 6: 4x 15-Minute Quarters**  
**Male Year 7 - Year 9: 4x 15-Minute Quarters**  
**Female Year 7 - Year 12: 4x 15-Minute Quarters**  
**Male Year 10, 11/12: 4x 18-Minute Quarters**

## **Bench Numbers**

An easing of restricted bench numbers will occur in 2020.

The 50% game time rule still applies.

- Year 3 through Year 6 remains the same (unlimited bench)
- Year 7 through Year 12 – Maximum of 7 players on the bench. This applies to Male and Female competition.

## **Last Possession**

All junior leagues and competitions will trial the Last Possession Rule and there will be no requirement to appoint boundary umpires.

The WAFC is excited to trial a rule that has been used in other competitions across Australia, and the 2020 season provides us an ideal opportunity to undertake this pilot.

The home team will be required to place soft cones around the boundary line perimeter and players should be reminded to “play the whistle”.

## **Exemption:**

Year 11/12 Competitions have the option to utilise Boundary Umpires at the discretion of the Conference Team and will still utilise the Last Possession Rule. This will be communicated directly from your Conference.

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### **Water Carriers**

Due to Covid-19 we now have new restrictions in place regarding the sharing of water bottles. Due to this restriction, the potential for a simple mistake to result in players sharing bottles and most importantly to reduce the impact this will have on our club volunteers, **Water Carriers ARE NOT permitted on the field during play in 2020.**

Players should be encouraged to:

- Hydrate before and after games as per normal.
- Locate their personal drink bottle by utilising the interchange during the game.
- Utilise their own water bottle at  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{3}{4}$  time.

### **Match Day Officials**

2020 will now introduce a simplified match day volunteer structure. This includes removing several 'traditional' football roles and the combining and simplifying of other match day requirements.

A Match Day Official (MDO) is still a required role for Game Day and is to be provided by the Home side.

**Coaches Box** - Maximum of 5 people performing the following roles:

- Head Coach
- Assistant Coach / Runner\*
- Medical Trainer
- Team Manager

*\*Where the Assistant Coach is unable to perform the duties of Team Runner an additional volunteer may be appointed to perform the duties of Runner.*

*This role MUST NOT carry out the duties of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Coach.*

### **Timekeeper Area**

- Timekeeper / Scorer\*\*
- Interchange Officer\*\*
- Team Manager

*\*\*Interchange Officer and Scorer duties are only required in Year 7-12 games.*

The Team Manager is permitted in both the Coaches Box and Timekeeper area as required.

Both sides will still be required to provide a Goal Umpire if one is not provided by the competition. Home side will still be required to provide a Field Umpire if one is not provided by the competition.

The Home side MUST provide a Timekeeper, but opposition sides are encouraged to provide a 2nd Timekeeper.

Years 7-12: Timekeeper(s) also keeps score, confirming with Goal Umpires at the breaks.

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### **Handshake Policy**

The Handshake Policy will continue to exist in principle, but participants are not required to physically shake the hand of the umpire. A preferable option is to discuss the positive game day environment and reflect on the positives of football.

### **Registrations, Permits and Transfers**

The existing AFL National Player Registration Transfer Regulations remain unchanged although the cut-off date for Transfer has been extended to July 31<sup>st</sup> in WA.

For clubs not participating in a 2020 season, players are able to be permitted to another club with a new Covid-19 permit option. This permit is like a Type 2 permit and will return the player to the home club at the conclusion of the season.

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