

# WAFC POL.J Match Operations Policy: Blood Rule

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Lead Area:	WAFC Community Football
Lead Procedure Title:	Match Operations Policy: Blood Rule
Procedure Reference Number:	WAFC POL.15J
Adapted by:	TM.
Last Modified:	7 November 2019

## POLICY BACKGROUND

This document outlines the rules relating to player bleeding during matches and is in place to ensure the safety of participants with a purpose of minimising the risk of spreading blood born infections.

## RULES

1. BLOOD RULE	
<b>1a</b>	No Club shall allow any player to participate in any match or continue to participate in any match for so long as such player: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. is bleeding</li> <li>ii. has blood on any part of their person or uniform.</li> </ol>
<b>1b</b>	If an Umpire observes a player who is bleeding or has blood on any part of their person or uniform, the Umpire shall act as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. On observing that a player is bleeding or where any item of uniform or any part of the player is covered in blood, the field umpire shall direct such player to leave the field immediately after a break in play arises (i.e. score, free kick, mark, field bounce, boundary throw in).</li> <li>ii. When a boundary, goal or emergency umpire observes the need for this rule to be implemented, at the first possible break in play they will alert the field umpire.</li> <li>iii. Only the field umpires can direct a player to leave the playing field, thereby ensuring the team is not disadvantaged by playing one team member short for any period of time.</li> <li>iv. Any player directed to leave the field can seek medical attention at any point off the field, however his replacement must enter through the interchange area.</li> <li>v. Field Umpire in control of play shall give the replacement player reasonable time to take up their position prior to play recommencing.</li> <li>vi. When the injured player wishes to resume playing, he must enter through the interchange area (i.e. their playing number may have changed).</li> <li>vii. A player, who refuses to promptly obey a direction of an umpire given in accordance with this policy, shall be reported by the umpire for misconduct in that they refused to leave the field.</li> </ol>
<b>1c</b>	Where an umpire is of the opinion that the player is bleeding or has blood on any part of them, the player shall immediately leave the field of play upon direction of the umpire. The player shall not return to take any further part in any match until and unless: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The cause of any such bleeding has been abated.</li> <li>ii. The injury is securely covered to the extent that no blood is visible.</li> <li>iii. Any bloodstained article of uniform has been removed and replaced.</li> <li>iv. Any blood on any part of a player's person has been thoroughly cleansed and removed.</li> </ol>