

Freo Dockers Schoolgirls Cup

Preface

Welcome to the Freo Dockers Schoolgirls Cup for 2025. This interschool competition aims to provide Year 7, 8 and 9 girls the opportunity to experience AFL Football in a competitive, safe and fun environment. Over the last 5 years, participation in the Freo Dockers Schoolgirls Cup has become an important step to introduce girls to the game of Australian Rules Football and encourage them to become involved in community youth competitions.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the coaches, officials and support staff who have volunteered their time to the Freo Dockers Schoolgirls Cup. Without your commitment this competition would not run.

I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of our Metropolitan and Regional development staff for their coordination and management of the competition.

Finally, I thank the Fremantle Dockers for their support of girls' football in Secondary Schools. Their involvement and sponsorship of this competition ensures that the Freo Dockers Schoolgirls Cup is an enjoyable experience for students, teachers, coaches and umpires.

Competition Format

The Freo Dockers Schoolgirls Cup is a state-wide interschool competition for girls in Years 7, 8 and 9. The competition is coordinated by WA Football and is entering its 8th year.

- Home and away games are played on Tuesday afternoons during Term 3 over 2 x 20 minute halves
- Upon conclusion of the home and away games, the top two teams will play off in the Grand Final
- Managed by WA Football Participation Officers and/or a regional coordinator
- Schools are arranged into district pools and the pools are divided into two metropolitan divisions (A and B)
- Regional staff will coordinate a round-robin competition or a one-day carnival format to determine a regional champion

DIVISIONS

A Division: Strong football schools with home & away games played across the metropolitan area

B Division: Schools of medium strength where home & away games are played locally where possible

Umpires

WA Football will arrange umpires for all A Division matches and for all A and B Division Finals. It is the responsibility of each school to provide one umpire for all B Division home & away matches.

Schools may use staff or qualified, accredited students as umpires. Any student umpires used must be at least the same age, or older than the players (minimum Year 9). Student umpires must be accredited. If a school would like to book a qualified district umpire, please contact Sport Staff One at <https://www.ssoaustralia.com/> or on 1300 776 776.

For all matches where WA Football has allocated an umpire, schools must provide at least 24 hours' notice to either their Division Coordinator or WA Football Schools Specialist for any change of game details. This includes any form of fixture rescheduling or cancellation, including change of date, match time or venue. ***Failure to provide at least 24 hours' notice will result in the school being charged the match fees of the umpires for that game at the conclusion of the competition.***

Match Days

Matches will be played after school on Tuesday at 4pm or as close to this time as possible. ***ANY CHANGES TO MATCH TIME/MATCH DAY SHOULD BE COORDINATED BETWEEN SCHOOLS ONLY AFTER NOTIFYING THE REGION COORDINATOR.***

LENGTH OF COMPETITION

The first games will be played on **week 2 of term 3**. The number of games will depend upon the number of schools in each division.

FINALS

The dates and venues for the A and B Division Grand Finals will be confirmed at a later date. These matches will likely be played towards the end of Term 3.

FIXTURES/RESULTS/LADDERS

Details for all regions and divisions can be viewed at - www.playhq.com/afl/org/wafc-schools/88872e93

Eligibility

- All schools with female students in Years 7, 8 and 9 are eligible to participate
- Only female students are eligible to play in the Freo Dockers Schoolgirls Cup
- Players must be full-time students enrolled in Year 7, 8 or Year 9 to play
- All teams must have a minimum of five Year 8 students included for each game, three of whom must be on the field at any one time

Rules and Regulations

GROUPS

Matches are to be played at the home school's nominated oval. Where a school has nominated a junior football club oval or council oval as its home ground, it is that school's responsibility to ensure

that the ground is ready for each home game, and liaise with the respective club or council accordingly.

Ovals for Year 7, 8 and 9 matches can range between 110m to 140m in length and 70m to 110m in width. ***Goal and behind posts must be padded. Cricket pitches must be covered. It is mandatory that the home team be responsible for goal post padding so that both goal and behind posts are covered. It is recommended that the away team also brings goal post padding to games. A game will not proceed where any posts or cricket pitches are uncovered.***

Home teams are responsible for ground markings – centre and goal squares and boundary line. Visiting schools must inspect the oval prior to the commencement of the game to ensure that it is suitable to proceed. Any concerns should be highlighted to the umpire prior to play commencing. The umpire will have final say as to whether the game will proceed. ***It is recommended that all schools use WA Football endorsed JLT match day checklist. JLT match day checklists can be obtained from bcribb@wafootball.com.au***

SAFETY

Spectators are to be kept away from the boundary line and goal areas. Control of spectators is the responsibility of the competing schools. ***Each competing school must have a first aid kit including ice or ice packs, along with a stretcher at the game.*** Access to mobile phone communication is mandatory. If a school has a nurse, their involvement at school training sessions and/or matches should be encouraged.

Umpire(s) are to check all players from both teams before each game for nails, earrings, necklaces, boots etc. Any item considered dangerous must be removed. If a dangerous item cannot be removed, it must be taped at the umpire's discretion.

PUBLIC LIABILITY

WA Football has arranged Public Liability Insurance to a maximum of \$20 000 000 to cover its legal liabilities. The WA Football expects each school involved in Australian Football programs to maintain Public Liability Insurance to sufficiently cover its legal liabilities. At its own discretion each school or individual may wish to consider purchasing personal accident insurance to protect it against claims for non-Medicare medical expenses arising from this Australian Football program, or any other school program.

OVERSEER

The conduct of this competition relies heavily upon the attitude and demeanour of the coach. Coaches are to report to WA Football on any behaviour detrimental to the Codes of Conduct of the competition. Should a Secondary School Football Advisory Committee (SSFAC) member or WA Football staff be in attendance at a fixture, that person will act as the game overseer. SSFAC members and WA Football staff have the right to remove any player in breach of the Code of Conduct from the field of play. They may also request to investigate any incident outside of the rules of the game.

CHANGE ROOMS

Change rooms are to be allocated by the home team if available. The cleaning up of the change rooms and the ground is the responsibility of both teams.

TEAMS

A Division: 15 per team, minimum 12, unlimited reserves

B Division: 15 per team, minimum 12, unlimited reserves

****If a team has less than 15 players, the Game Day Even Up rules apply. There will be an unlimited interchange for all games, including finals***

*****Where schools enter two or more teams, no player may play in the lower division after three games in the higher division. Furthermore, if the higher division team has a bye, all players who played in the higher division team the previous week are ineligible to play in the lower division team in the week of that bye.***

RULES

Rules for all divisions are as per the Laws of Australian Football

UNIFORMS

All teams are to be in uniform playing gear including:

- Numbered school jumpers
- Uniform football shorts/socks

STARTING TIMES AND DURATION OF MATCHES

All games must start at 4:00pm or as close to this time as possible. Games will consist of 2 x 20 minute halves (no time on) with a 5 minute interval at half time.

Prior to the Game

The home team is to line up in the centre of the ground and wait for the away team to line up opposite. Players, coaches and umpires are to shake hands before and after the game.

At the Completion of the Game

The two coaches are to bring teams together to make any appropriate comments and to complete the match report. The umpire(s) are requested to participate. ***The home team is required to email the completed match report to your regional coordinator.***

AGE OF PLAYERS

Players must be full-time students at the school and enrolled in Year 7, 8 or 9 to play. ***Issues relating to liability rest squarely with the school. It is the school's responsibility to ensure that this rule is adhered to and schools are liable for any consequences of not doing so.***

MATCH BALL

The home team will provide a leather Size 4 AFL Standard ball to be used. The away team is to provide a suitable spare football. The ball will be a WA Football agreed sponsored brand.

TACKLING

Tackling is permitted as per the AFL Laws of Australian Football. No player shall be deliberately slung, thrown down or dumped to the ground in any tackle.

DRAWN MATCHES

A draw will stand in home and away matches and two points will be awarded to each team. In all finals, five minutes each way extra time will be played to determine the winner. If a draw still stands at the end of extra time, then the golden point rule will apply, whereby the first team to score either a goal or a behind wins the match. If poor light or any other circumstance prevents play from continuing, the match will be re-scheduled.

A match will be deemed a final when it is an elimination match, i.e. is not a part of regular weekly fixtures. A WA Football staff member will make any decision on drawn matches and in their absence the responsibility will fall on the Field Umpire(s). Refusal by any team to play five minutes each way extra time in the event of a draw in a final will be deemed a forfeit on their behalf and the game will be awarded to the opposing side.

PREMIERSHIP POINTS

The winning team will be awarded 4 premiership points, the losing team will be awarded 0 premiership points. In the event of a draw, each team will be awarded 2 premiership points.

If a winning team's margin exceeds 30 points, they will be credited with a maximum of a 30-point winning margin.

CONDITIONS OF PLAY

Every endeavour must be made to ensure games are played at the fixtured time and venue. If a team forfeits a match or if conditions are not met, a 30-point win will be awarded to the non-offending team, plus four premiership points.

PRIVACY POLICY

Team photographs or other images may be produced during the football season by the governing body (WA Football) and may be utilised for the promotion and development of football by the governing body. Completion and lodgement of the Nomination Form indicates acceptance of this policy.

WA Football Responsibilities

- Arrange schools into appropriate divisions
- Set fixtures for each district/region
- Collate results after each round of fixtures
- Maintain a premiership table for each division
- Answer any queries from schools
- Publish weekly match results on the District's website
- Assist schools to organise a field umpire for each match
- Supply match football to each team
- Promote and actively encourage accreditation of **all** school coaches

School Responsibilities

- Supply a field umpire for all home games (B Division only)

- Supply a timekeeper for all home games
- Supply correctly attired boundary and goal umpires
- Ensure all players are suitably attired in school playing apparel, with correct socks, shorts, boots and jumpers
- Supply a Level One accredited coach
- Home team to forward results and match report to the regional coordinator after each game

