Junior & Senior Club Transition Agreement

**Purpose**

This document is designed to provide clear guidelines and intent around how Junior and Senior Clubs work together to ensure transition is maximised from Upper Youth to Senior football. In signing this agreement both clubs are agreeing to operate within these guidelines which will also provide a clear framework when current volunteers move on from their roles.

**Definitions**

*Junior Club* The club with a team in the Year 11 & 12 competition

*Senior Club* The Club playing in the WAAFL or equivalent senior league and in particular with a Colts team

*Junior Team* The team playing in the Year 11 & 12 competition

*Senior Team* The team playing in the WAAFL Colts competition or in absence of a WAAFL Colts team, the team entered into another WAAFL grade.

*Junior Players* The players that are playing for the Year 11 & 12 team

*Senior Players* The players that are playing for the Senior team

**Rationale**

**Junior Club**

This agreement provides Junior players with a destination should they wish to transition into Senior Football and provides them with a sense of familiarity with the Senior Club making the transition a lot less intimidating.

**Senior Club**

Junior player transition is vital to the long-term sustainability of Senior Clubs. This agreement provides a positive, structured way for Senior Clubs to encourage Junior players to transition into senior football and increases the likelihood of players choosing their club.

**Group Integration**

*The intent of this section is to provide interaction and experience for 18s players with the Colts group. Integration of the WAAFL & 18s groups will illustrate the pathway to the 18s players, increase player numbers, ability to deliver flexible training outcomes and provide 18s players with a sense of belonging and familiarity at the Senior club when it comes time to transition.*

* Clubs to integrate as one group for pre-season training
* Joint training sessions to be held throughout the year
* Opportunities to be made available for Junior players to attend Senior training

**Player Movement**

*The intent of this section is to provide a framework for clubs to operate within in allowing players to play between Juniors and Seniors. The competition rules create flexibility for players to play between Junior & Senior competitions throughout the year, with the philosophy of increasing the viability of teams and providing Year 12 players with experience playing at a higher level. This should be executed with player welfare in mind and should not be done based on purely increasing team performance.*

* All Year 11 & Year 12 aged players will be primary registered with the Junior Club.
* Priority will go towards Year 12 aged players to play up at the Senior Club.
* If Year 12 players are playing up in the Senior Club, they should be rotated week to week
* Senior players receive selection priority over Junior players in the Senior team
* Year 11 & 12 aged players should not play for the Senior Club if it is to the detriment of the Junior Team

**Coaches & Support Staff**

*The intent of this section is to increase the familiarity of Junior players with Senior club coaches & support staff whilst also providing players with a coach that is suitable for the players of this age.*

* The Senior Club to endeavor to provide coaches and support staff to the Year 11 & 12 teams
* All coaches of both Junior & Senior Clubs will agree to operate within these guidelines

**Club Alignment & Player Transition**

*The intent of this section is to provide additional strategies to create a sense of alignment between the Junior & Senior Club to provide players with the feeling they are simply progressing to the next age group rather than completely changing competition.*

* Where possible clubs should align jumper designs
* Junior players should automatically become a ‘casual member’ of the Senior club
* Shared access to resources and equipment is made available where required

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| Signed: |  |  |
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| Club President  Add Club Name |  | Club President  Add Club Name |