



WEST AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE COLTS COMPETITION COACHING PRACTICES POLICY

In order to enhance the development of youth players within the WAFL Colts competition it is imperative that the individual philosophies of the coaches are development focused. Whilst we need to allow for individual philosophies based on the WAFL club's requirements and the coaches' experience and knowledge, the competition needs to ensure that there is a common set of agreed practices that will assist the individual player and the competition to develop.

The following Coaching Practices Policy is therefore proposed in order to achieve the objective of enhanced player and competition development.

1. "TAGGERS/RUN WITHS"

"Taggers" whose sole aim is to stop the opposition player gaining possessions should be discouraged in WAFL Colts.

It is acceptable however that "run withs", who seek to gain possessions themselves whilst maintaining close checking of their opponent, are used. The same players are not to be used as "run-withs" each match.

2. DEVELOPMENT OF "TALLS"

Coaches should be very conscious of the special developmental needs of tall players and make very effort to give such players maximum match time on the ground.

WAFL Colts coaches are requested to make every effort to play taller players in positions that they may be able to play at the WAFL senior level. Given that it is accepted that taller players do take a more prolonged time to develop as compared to mid size players, tall players should be given every opportunity to develop by way of maximum game time and specialised coaching.



3. ROTATION OF PLAYERS

Coaches are requested to give players the opportunity to demonstrate proficiency at playing in a variety of positions and players should be used in a number of roles throughout the season.

4. EXTRA PLAYER IN DEFENCE

Playing one extra player in defence is an accepted tactic given that opposition coaches and players should be able to plan to counter such a tactic, although, the same player should not be used in the “loose defender” role each match.

“Flooding” the opposition’s forward line, i.e. the practice of moving multiple players to fill space in the opposition’s forward half, should be discouraged in the WAFL Colts. It makes it difficult for forwards to develop, does not encourage accountability for mid fielders, and reduces the skill development of back line players.

5. STYLE OF PLAY

Coaches should embrace a style of play that requires players to be disciplined when their opponents have the ball, at boundary throw-ins, ball ups, etc...and be accountable for an opponent in such circumstances.

Whilst wanting to encourage the initiative and creativity of players it is considered essential that players can demonstrate to State selectors, WAFL senior coaches and AFL scouts, that when required they are able to be accountable for their opponent.

6. USE OF RUNNERS

The WAFL believes that having two runners on match days is an important assistance in the development of players. Coaches are to ensure that runners are to be physically capable of doing the runner’s job and not to be “ground spectators”, “walkers” or “joggers” but are to deliver the message as quickly as possible and return after giving the message immediately to the coaches box.

Runners are messengers, not coaches.



7. COACHING BEHAVIOUR

Coaches and players are role models within the competition and swearing or over the top aggressive, intimidating actions will not be tolerated in the WAFL 16's Development Carnival.

Coaches are to be conduct themselves in a controlled, calm manner both in the coaches box and during the breaks. Any behaviour that allows a coach to become distracted from their primary job of coaching their team, reflects poorly on themselves and their club and ultimately impacts negatively on the players development.

8. PLAYER WELFARE

WAFL coaches are to be mindful of off-field issues that may impact on a players' performance. Coaches should be aware of all players' commitments in other areas that may impact on a players' attendance at training and selection. These commitments would involve school (studies and football), family, work and social events.

WAFL coaches should also be mindful of reinforcing the benefits of healthy living, i.e. no smoking, anti-drug message, etc... and to always promote by example appropriate social behaviour.

9. UMPIRE RELATIONSHIPS

The importance of positive relationships with umpires is paramount to the success of the game. Colts coaches will at all times encourage a positive attitude towards umpiring by players and support staff.

Field umpires will be invited by the coach to meet all players before the game and all umpires (field, boundary and goals) will be invited by captains to attend the post game function.