



JUNIOR UMPIRING HANDBOOK



SEASON 2024

WEST AUSTRALIAN
FOOTBALL COMMISSION

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WELCOME

The Junior Umpiring Handbook serves as an essential guide and resource for all Junior Umpires under Umpiring WA. Its purpose is to provide comprehensive information and guidance to be able to perform all essential duties of Umpiring.



OUR CULTURAL CHARTER



OUR PURPOSE:

Umpiring WA exists to create a great environment to develop great people.

OUR VISION:

Umpiring WA will have more engaged Umpires than football requires.

OUR CULTURAL CHARTER:

Umpiring WA put “people first” by:

- Being open, honest and accountable
- Valuing everyone’s thoughts, feelings and contributions equally
- Supporting and empowering our people
- Demonstrating a commitment to learning
- Celebrating success
- Being PROUD



Our Cultural Charter is a fundamental aspect of our organisation. It emphasises that our primary goal is to create a positive and nurturing environment that fosters personal growth and development. We firmly believe in the importance of inclusivity, ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their background or identity, feel welcome and valued within our community. Our Cultural Charter reminds us to prioritise respect, fairness and equality in all aspects of our work as Junior Umpires.

KEY CONTACTS

WEST AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL COMMISSION

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KEY CONTACTS

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KEY CONTACTS

JUNIOR UMPIRE MANAGERS

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KEY CONTACTS

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UMPIRING TRAINING DETAILS

TIME AND LOCATION OF WEEKLY TRAINING

Junior Umpiring Club	Venue	Training Time
West Perth	Emerald Park 41 Edgewater Way, Edgewater WA 6027	Wednesday 5:30-7:30pm
Subiaco	Ellersdale Park Ellersdale Avenue, Warwick WA 6024	Wednesday 5:30-7:00pm
Claremont	City Beach Oval Fred Burton Way, City Beach WA 6015	Wednesday 5:30-7:00pm
Swan Districts	Boya Community Centre Clayton Rd & Scott Street, Boya WA 6056	Wednesday 6:00-7:30pm
East Perth	RA Cook Reserve Corner Coode Street & Barker Street, Bedford WA 6062	Wednesday 5:45-7:30pm
Perth	Thornlie Oval Berehevan Avenue, Thornlie WA 6108	Wednesday 5:30-7:30pm
East Fremantle	Karoonda Reserve Karoonda Road, Booragoon WA 6154	Wednesday 5:30-7:00pm
South Fremantle	Success Regional Sporting Complex 359 Hammond Road, Success WA 6164	Wednesday 5:30-7:00pm
Peel	Laurie Stanford Reserve - Southern End Cavender Street, Singleton WA 6175	Wednesday 4:00-5:00pm

KEY DATES FOR SEASON 2024

KEY DATES FOR REGULAR AND FINALS ROUNDS

Regular Season Rounds		
Round 1 26-28 April 2024	Round 2 3-5 May 2024	Round 3 10-12 May 2024
Round 4 17-19 May 2024	Round 5 24-26 May 2024	Round 6 7-9 June 2024
Round 7 14-17 June 2024	Round 8 21-23 June 2024	Round 9 12-14 July 2024
Round 10 19-21 July 2024	Round 11 26-28 July 2024	Round 12 2-4 August 2024
Round 13 9-11 August 2024	Round 14 16-18 August 2024	

Finals Structure (All Youth Competitions)
First Round 23-25 August 2024
Second Round 30-1 August/September 2024
Grand Finals 6-8 September 2024

MODIFIED RULES & OPEN RULES

AN INTRODUCTION TO OUR
FORMATS OF JUNIOR
FOOTBALL



WHAT ARE THEY?

Modified Rules Junior Football in Western Australia is specifically designed for participants in Years 3–6, offering a structured introduction to the sport following the AFL Laws of Australian Football and incorporating approved modifications as sanctioned by the Australian Football League (AFL) or the West Australian Football Commission (WAFC).

Youth Junior Football, catering to participants in years 7–12, provides a more advanced level of play adhering to the standard Laws of Australian Football.

Modified Rules and Youth Football games take place on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, spanning regions from Joondalup to Peel, with each Umpiring District aligning with the nine WAFL clubs.

SUPPORTING UMPIRES OF JUNIOR FOOTBALL



Umpires and Competition Officials play a key role in the successful delivery of Community Football. Coaches, club officials, players, and parents play a vital role in developing the highest quality umpires and game day officials.

- All team players, officials, parents, and spectators are expected to adhere to the following: WA Football has a **ZERO TOLERANCE** stance against any form of umpire or official abuse, verbal dissent, intimidation or disputing of decisions.
- Players, officials, parents, and spectators are not permitted to comment about an umpire or the performance of an umpire in any way other than in writing to the Umpires Coach via their Club President.
- Only the Captain or Team Manager from either team can approach an umpire during the breaks in a match. The Captain or Team Manager cannot question decisions, interpretations or question the free kick count.

REGISTRATION



UMPIRE REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION

1

REGISTRATION

All umpires wishing to Umpire matches are required to be registered on Officials HQ. Due to the way appointments, match reports, and match payments are processed, you are unable to be appointed to games if you are not registered on this platform.

[OFFICIALSHQ](#)

[USER GUIDES AND SUPPORT](#)

[WAFC REGISTRATION POLICY](#)

2

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK

Umpires who need to complete a new Working with Children application can do so by collecting a form from any authorised Australia Post outlet. Applications and renewals can be completed through the WWC online services found below.

[WWCC](#)

Umpires are required to provide their Working with Children details on their Officials HQ profile including photographic evidence of the physical card to prove its validity.

If you are 18 years or older, you will need to provide your Umpiring Club with details of your (current) Working With Children Check (WWCC) before you are appointed to a match.

WAFC policy also requires umpires in their second year (or higher) to also have a WWCC even if they are under 18 years of age.

REGISTRATION

UMPIRE REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION



3

UMPIRE ACCREDITATION & COMPULSORY EDUCATION

Umpiring local footy matches is the best way to learn and hone your umpiring skills. There are also opportunities to complete nationally recognised accreditation alongside your practical umpiring experience:

- 'First Bounce' Certificate
- Foundation Umpire Accreditation
- Community Umpire Accreditation
- Development Umpire Accreditation

Each level of accreditation aligns to the AFL Umpiring FTEM Framework, using the same core competencies that we recognise in all our AFL/AFLW Umpires.

As part of our commitment to provide safe and inclusive environments,

all umpires and umpire coaches will be required to complete compulsory education modules after they have registered on OfficialsHQ.

The education modules can be accessed from the Officials HQ dashboard and, in 2024, will include topics on safeguarding for children and respectful relationships. There is also an additional module for Umpire Coaches on Inclusion.

The education modules are accessible from 1 November 2023 and Umpires will have until 30 April 2024 to complete them. From that date, umpires must have completed the modules to be available to be appointed to games.

STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR

The West Australian Football Commission expects all Umpires to adhere to the appropriate standards of behaviour as outlined and will not tolerate breaches of unacceptable behaviour. Disciplinary action will be taken against any Umpire exhibiting behaviours or demonstrating actions that contradict the appropriate standards of behaviour.

The umpire understands and agrees to:

- Umpire in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football;
- Ensure the game is played in a fair manner and a spirit of true sportspersonship;
- Prioritise the health and safety of others to prevent injuries to players participating in the match as much as is practicable in a contact sport;
- Not discuss any aspect of any report made in accordance with the rules or otherwise with any unauthorised person without the prior consent of the League;
- Not contrive or attempt to contrive the result of any Match or any aspect of the Match in exchange for any bribe, benefit or reward;
- Carry out the required administration requirements of the game;
- Maintain a working knowledge of the Laws of Australian Football and relevant local By-Laws;
- Seek continual improvement through learning, appraisal and regular updating of competencies;
- Treat all participants, as they would like to be treated;
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of the gender, ability, cultural background, religion or sexuality;
- Not engage in physical and/or verbal intimidation, abuse or conduct towards any umpire, player, official or supporter;
- Accept all match appointments in a positive manner;
- Advise their Umpiring Club and/or League as soon as practical should they be unable to officiate any match due to illness or injury;
- Maintain a high reputation and not do any act or thing calculated to or which might otherwise have the effect of prejudicing the reputation of your League, State Body or the AFL;
- Perform on their merits and officiate to the best of their ability at all times;
- Not give or allow any person any recorded or other interview for broadcast or write any article relating to Australian Football for publication without first obtaining consent of your League, State Body or the AFL;
- Adhere to relevant policies as developed by the League, State Body and the AFL;
- Acknowledge the League, State Body or the AFL may take disciplinary action for a breach of the Code of Conduct. This disciplinary action may include de-registration and exclusion from any umpiring related role.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

POLICY RELATING TO THE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA



WHAT IS INAPPROPRIATE

Many people use social media for communicating with friends and giving their opinion. This can have both a positive and negative impact. While interacting online, especially relating to Umpiring, it is expected that you will be a role model.

The following is considered inappropriate:

- Discussion of match day incidents (reports, melees etc.) with anyone who is not a WAFC official, umpire coach or manager. We will contact you by phone or email to discuss.
- Encouraging or joining in with abuse, harassment, or intimidation of other umpires at any level. This includes relating to juniors, PFL, WAFL, AFLW, AFL, or any other competition.
- Comment about an umpire or the performance of an umpire in any competition.
- Make any public statement on behalf of the umpiring panel, or comment that could be interpreted as such.

If you receive abusive messages or experience intimidation or harassment online in relation to your umpiring, PLEASE DO NOT RESPOND and email a screenshot of what was said to your Umpire Manager immediately.

WAFC INTEGRITY

REPORTING AN INTEGRITY ISSUE



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

The WAFC is committed to protecting the Health, Safety and Wellbeing of children, youth, and adults participating in WA Football competitions, activities, and programs.

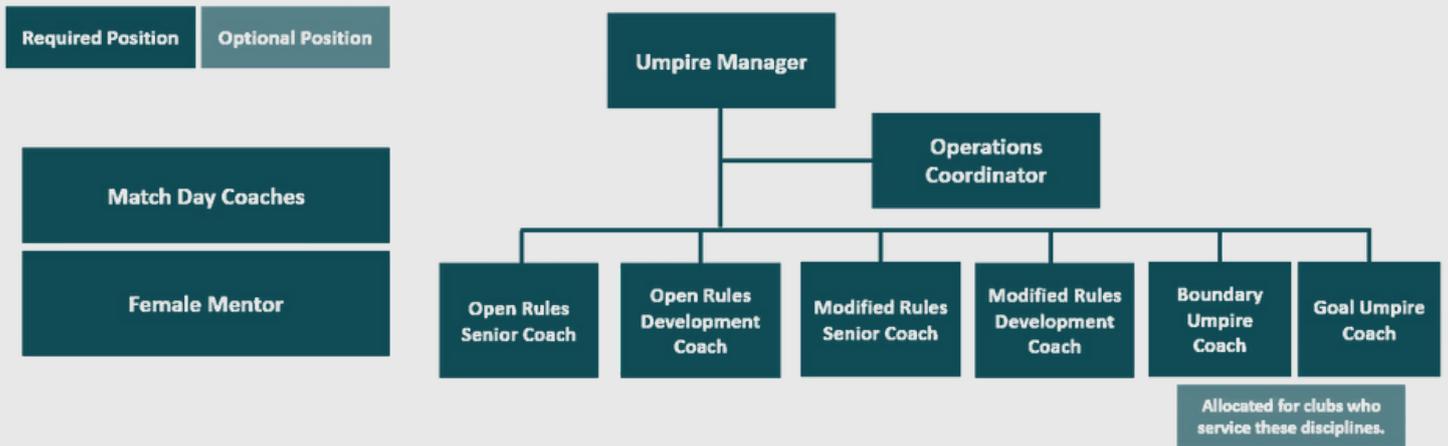
All game employees, volunteers, stakeholders and participants are encouraged to report any improper conduct or criminal behaviour they observe or encounter.

It is our expectation that all people connected to the game will act with ethical behaviour and demonstrate respect for everyone involved to create a safe, fair, and inclusive WA Football environment.

INTEGRITY REPORTING

JUNIOR COACHING STRUCTURE

CORE COACHING STRUCTURE FOR JUNIOR UMPIRE COACHES



Clubs may have additional Coaching/Assistant positions based on total number of registrations.

MATCH DAY EQUIPMENT

WHAT YOU REQUIRE ON MATCH DAY

The following list is what you are required as an Umpire to have with you on match days.

Field and Boundary Umpires:

- 1 x Green Shirt (X-Blades on-field shirt)
- 1 x Grey Shorts (X-Blades on-field shorts)
- Green/Grey Socks
- Garters or Tape to keep socks up
- Whistles – 2 or more in case one doesn't work. Always carry 2 while on field
- 1 set of red, yellow, or green wristbands
- Running shoes (mostly white if possible). Football boots are recommended in wet weather.
- AFL Law book (electronic)
- Umpire Handbook (the one you are reading now)
- Journal
- Red and Yellow cards
- Biro/Pencil (At least two)
- Drink bottle
- Bag to keep things in (without any club identifiers)
- Note pad for making notes
- Plain white peak cap (WAFC branded) if desired

Goal Umpires:

- Goal Umpire Flags (4 flags total)
- 1 x Green Shirt (X-Blades on-fields shirt)
- Green X-Blades Hat
- Grey X-Blades or Black Dress Pants
- Score Cards
- Football boots (black preferred)
- Sunglasses

All Umpire equipment must be clean and presentable.

When umpiring, you must be wearing your green uniform as well as your wristbands.

Wristbands aren't there just to wipe the sweat away but so that people can see you when signalling your decision. They can also be used as markers in the event of a delay in play (stretcher, melee, head count, etc.).

It is important that you do not leave any valuables in our bags where someone may get to it. This includes change rooms or on the side-lines.

MATCH DAY EQUIPMENT

UMPIRING WA ON-FIELD UNIFORM

An umpire's appearance, on and off the field, can make a lasting impression and influence perceptions of your performance by players and spectators. Looking like an umpire will help you gain acceptance and respect.



All umpires wear the same uniform to signify one team.

All on field uniforms can be purchased through X-Blades.

Whistles are available at sports stores or Buffalo Sports and are required to be purchased separately. We recommend the [ACME Thunderer finger grip whistle](#), similar to the one pictured above.

[XBLADES ONLINE STORE](#)

MATCH DAY INFORMATION

BEFORE & AFTER THE MATCH

BEFORE COMMENCEMENT OF MATCH

Arrive at the ground with plenty of time to get changed, meet your fellow umpires, complete a warm up and prepare for the match. In preparation for the match, each umpire should complete these tasks;

- Introduce yourself to the coaches and managers.
- Check the ground conditions and size for the relevant grade.
- Check that there is a stretcher available at the venue.
- Check with each team to ensure they have the correct number of players.
- Ask for the match ball and inspect its condition. Ask the team manager to pump up the ball if necessary.
- Obtain 2 team sheets from each team manager.
- Prior to game start, ask players to form a line so you are able to check for players wearing metal studs, jewellery and other protective gear that is not intended to cause harm to the player or other players.
- Address the players in the line up by providing them a positive message about how the game should be played that day.

AFTER THE MATCH

- Be present with the players and officials during the “three cheers”. Interact with players and officials by shaking hands and recognising each other’s efforts in the game.
- Meet with the Goal Umpires and Interchange Stewards to confirm the correctness of scores. Retain the Goal Cards.
- Complete the paperwork in Officials HQ, filling in all fields with as much detail as as you can.. **This needs to be completed on the day of the match.**
- Red and Yellow card reports are also accessible in Officials HQ, but under a different tab to your match report. These need to be filled in if issued in your match.
- Completion of Umpire Votes in Officials HQ – Year 7 to Year 12’s only.

Please note: Nobody but the Team Manager is allowed to approach you, and only for a rule interpretation. Should anyone else approach you in an aggressive manner this must be included in the match report.

REPORTING PROCESS

ISSUING YELLOW & RED CARDS

The Junior Match Committee will assess all reports and potential Reportable Offences. Reportable Offences can be reported by the following groups:

- Umpire
- Umpire Coach
- Competition Official
- WAFC Staff Member

All Notice of Reports are to be received by 8am Monday after the match is played. The Junior Match Committee will gather the required information relevant to deciding on whether a charge is made.

Please note: Coach/spectator/volunteer misbehaviour is reported on the Match Report. Melees are also reported on the Match Report. Also any other incident that is reported to you by a club will be investigated by the WAFC. Please include any allegations made by either team in the Match report.

Post-Match Reporting Process:

1. At the completion of the game complete the Report section of the Umpires' Match Report in the Officials HQ.
2. Upon completing the Report, you must inform the Team Manager of the charges laid.
3. The Umpire(s) is not responsible for offering a Prescribed Penalty on the day.
4. After lodging a report you must contact the Umpire Manager immediately after the match.
5. The Umpire Manager will inform you of next steps, including attendance at a tribunal hearing if applicable.

Issuing a Yellow Card:

The following are examples of when you should issue a yellow card:

- Dangerous tackle/bump where player is not impacted/injured
- Disputing a decision (upgrade if obscene language is directed at you)
- Slapping
- Hair pulling
- Repeated obscene language not directed at another person
- Any other misconduct that you deem to be more severe than a 50m penalty

If offender refuses to leave the field of play, warn that you will upgrade to a Red Card for not leaving the playing surface.

Issue Red Card if they still refuse to leave the field of play.



Offender must be escorted from the field immediately and remain off the field for 15 minutes of game time.

Offender can be replaced immediately.

REPORTING PROCESS

ISSUING YELLOW & RED CARDS

The following are examples of when you should issue a red card;

- Striking
- Attempted Striking
- Dangerous tackle or rough conduct that results in injury
- Umpire abuse
- Instigating a melee
- Spitting at or on another person

Red Card Process:

- Offender must be escorted directly from the field of play and cannot return for the rest of the match.
- Offender cannot be replaced for 15 minutes of playing time (team plays one short).
- Offender cannot watch the rest of the game from the interchange and must leave the venue as soon as is practical.
- While offender is waiting to leave they must not watch from the bench or coaches box (changerooms are a good place to wait).
- If offender refuses to leave the field of play, warn that the game will be forfeited.
- If they still refuse to leave the field you can call the game off which will give the opposing team the win (include in match report).

Important to Remember:

- Red Card Report must be completed as soon as possible after the match has been completed (8am Monday morning at the absolute latest).
- Any reports received later than this cannot be actioned.
- Notify Umpire Manager as soon as possible.
- Include as much detail as you can.
- Keep language professional as the WAFC will share the report details with the club.
- In cases of abusive/obscene/threatening language include exactly what was said.



An offender ordered off for a Red Card offence cannot be replaced for 15 minutes playing time.

Offending player must leave the venue as soon as is practical.

MATCH PAYMENTS

SUMMARY OF MATCH PAYMENTS FOR SEASON 2024

COMPETITION	FEES
<p>YEAR 11/12 COMPETITIONS The WAFC Competition is played as per the AFL Laws of Australian Football.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 2 Umpire System, 3 Umpire System recommended • 4 x 20-minute quarters male, 4 x 15-minute quarters female • Official Boundary and Goal Umpires are optional for male competitions • Official Goals Umpires are optional for female competitions • 18-a-side for male, 16-a-side for female 	<p>\$120 per Field Umpire <i>(Up \$10 on 2023)</i></p> <p>\$70 Boundary <i>(Up \$10 on 2023)</i> (2 Umpire) \$40 Goals</p>
<p>YEAR 10 COMPETITIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Umpire System (where possible) • 4 x 20-minute quarters, 4 x 15-minute quarters female • 15-a-side <p>15-a-side competitions are played on smaller sized grounds with the "Last Possession" rule enforced. Field Umpires adjudicate out of bounds free kicks removing the need for Boundary Umpires.</p>	<p>\$100 per Umpire (1 Umpire)</p> <p>\$80 per Umpire (2 Umpire)</p>
<p>YEAR 9 COMPETITIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Umpire System (where possible) • 4 x 20-minute quarters, 4 x 15-minute quarters female • 15-a-side <p>15-a-side competitions are played on smaller sized grounds with the "Last Possession" rule enforced. Field Umpires adjudicate out of bounds free kicks removing the need for Boundary Umpires.</p>	<p>\$100 per Umpire (1 Umpire)</p> <p>\$75 per Umpire <i>(Up \$5 on 2023)</i> (2 Umpire)</p>
<p>YEAR 8 COMPETITIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Umpire System (where possible) • 4 x 15-minute quarters • 15-a-side <p>15-a-side competitions are played on smaller sized grounds with the "Last Possession" rule enforced. Field Umpires adjudicate out of bounds free kicks removing the need for Boundary Umpires.</p>	<p>\$90 per Umpire (1 Umpire)</p> <p>\$70 per Umpire <i>(Up \$5 on 2023)</i> (2 Umpire)</p>
<p>YEAR 7 COMPETITIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Umpire System (where possible) • 4 x 15-minute quarters • 15-a-side <p>15-a-side competitions are played on smaller sized grounds with the "Last Possession" rule enforced. Field Umpires adjudicate out of bounds free kicks removing the need for Boundary Umpires.</p>	<p>\$80 per Umpire (1 Umpire)</p> <p>\$60 per Umpire (2 Umpire)</p>
<p>YEAR 3-6 COMPETITIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Umpire System • 4 x 15-minute quarters • 12-a-side <p>With reduced team and ground size, this younger cohort only require one Umpire in these competitions. As they also play the "Last Possession" rule, there is no requirement for Boundary Umpires which increases their responsibility.</p>	<p>\$40 per Umpire</p>

***Note: Female Competitions default to higher age for umpire payments**

IMPORTANT RESOURCES

LINKS TO IMPORTANT ONLINE
RESOURCES



[WA FOOTBALL WEBSITE](#)

[OFFICIALS HQ](#)

[UMPIRING WA TV](#)

[KIA CLUB HUB - JUNIOR RULES](#)

[AFL LAWS](#)

[XBLADES ONLINE STORE](#)

[INTEGRITY REPORTING](#)

