



WESTERN REGION FOOTBALL LEAGUE

2023 JUNIOR INTERLEAGUE

PLAYERS & PARENTS HANDBOOK

1. WRFL INTERLEAGUE PROGRAM

The aim of the program is to identify the best talent in our league and look to develop each individual for their future growth in the game. Main focuses are to develop; skill development, decision making, awareness, physical development, health & wellbeing and leadership.

Teams compete in the AFL Victoria Metropolitan Junior Development Series, which is for the best available players within each of the Metropolitan Leagues with junior competitions. Whilst each league will strive to win their matches, the emphasis that each league focus on, is developing players and allowing the players and officials to enjoy a quality experience.

2. MATCHES

Under 14, 15, 15 Girls Game 1: Wednesday 31 May, 2023
Under 14, 15, 15 Girls Game 2: Saturday 10 June, 2023
Under 14, 15, 15 Girls Game 3: Monday 12 June, 2023
Under 13s Round Robin Carnival: Sunday 11 June, 2023

3. APPAREL

There will be 26 players selected to participate in the Series per team, with two rotating emergencies per game. Emergencies are required to assist the team by running water on the day.

For those players who make the final squads, there is a \$121 levy to participate in the series. Players will receive.

ON FIELD

Players will be provided a playing jumper, playing shorts, and playing socks, which becomes property of the player.

OFF FIELD

Players will be provided with a WRFL hoodie. Which will become the property of the player.

4. TRAINING SCHEDULE

Age Group	Start Date	Venue	Time
Under 13 A & B	Tuesday 2 May	Crofts Reserve, Altona North	5.30pm – 7.00pm
Under 14 A & B	Wednesday 26 April	Grant Reserve, Altona	6.00pm – 7.30pm
Under 15 A & B	Friday 28 April	Crofts Reserve, Altona North	6.00pm – 7.30pm
Under 15 Girls	Tuesday 2 May	Crofts Reserve, Altona North	6.00pm – 7.30pm

Players selected in the final squads must be available to attend further sessions, a jumper presentation evening and must be available to play in all games of the Development Series games prior to and over the King's Birthday long weekend.

If you are unable to attend training, you must notify Jessie Chester (WRFL – Manager Junior Football) prior to training.

Players are required to be at the venue 15 minutes prior to the start of the training. Please allow for sessions to go for approximately 1.5 hours. Players will be required to bring their club jumper, mouthguard, drink bottle and football boots to training.

5. SELECTION POLICY

Initial Training Squad

- In order to obtain an initial training squad all clubs will have the ability to nominate a maximum of 4 players per age group (13, 14, 15 & 15 Girls).
- Clubs have the ability to request to nominate more than four players should there be a reasonable justification, however it is at the discretion of the League as to whether these additional players will be invited to attend the initial training sessions.
- Further players can be added to the training squads at the discretion of the League and/or WRFL Interleague coaches at any time throughout the season. This may include players that have been cut at an earlier time.

Please Note:

- A player who has made the squad the previous year is not guaranteed invitation or selection the following year.
- It is the responsibility to ensure a player is committed to trying out for the Interleague program before inviting them, to avoid taking that opportunity away from someone else.

As much as possible coaches try to consider the benefit to players and clubs by their involvement in Interleague football and they do their best to monitor workloads with training and games given all the other factors such as club and school football long with schoolwork.

Coaches are aware that players develop at different levels, and this also influences decisions that are made in relation to selection in squads along with been added or cut from the squad.

6. ELIGIBILITY RULES FOR WRFL JUNIOR INTERLEAGUE PROGRAM

To be eligible for WRFL Junior interleague selection, the player;

1. Must be a registered player of an WRFL Club;
2. Must not be serving a suspension leading into or during the Interleague Series

7. PLAYER & PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

As part of the Interleague squad, you are automatically bound by the Code of Conduct in section 11. Please ensure that both player and parent read the WRFL Interleague Code of Conduct before commencing training.

A copy of the code of conduct is at the back of this handbook.

Please contact Jessie Chester (WRFL - Manager Junior Football) if you have any questions regarding this.

8. FAQ

When do we get our uniform?

Teams will have a jumper presentation a couple of weeks prior to the series.

Who is the best person to contact with questions?

Jessie Chester (WRFL - Manager Junior Football)

What are we looking for from parents?

There are many jobs to be done on a football field but the ones off the field can sometimes be the hardest to fill. It is vital that parents are involved with the team whether it be support with the voice or by taking up roles for the Series; *Team Manager, Trainer, Runner, Umpires Escort, Timekeeper as well as assistance with bringing lollies, oranges etc.* Without these roles filled the games cannot go ahead.

What happens if my child is unable to attend training?

We understand that commitments occur at the same time as our sessions (camps, school events) or unforeseen circumstances (injury, family matters). Please let us know so we can have them marked down as unavailable for those training missed.

9. PLAYER EXPECTATIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES

There are a number of responsibilities and expectations that go with training and playing for the WRFL at Junior Interleague level. Please do not attend training if you cannot commit to meeting all of the following responsibilities and expectations;

- The coaching panel will select the final squad/s based on a number of factors (e.g., form at club level, squad balance, training performance and attendance) **Selection is a competitive process and unfortunately not all players invited to train will make the final squads.** Squad list cuts will be made at various stages of the program and any amended training lists will be emailed to all parents.
- The final squad lists will be published on the WRFL website. If you do not make the final squad, please respect the coaches' decision.
- **If you have been invited to train for any WRFL Junior Interleague squad please DO NOT invite your teammates or friends to interleague training, as only those players invited are to attend training.**
- You must be available to play in all matches and plan to attend all training sessions. If you are unable to attend training, contact must be made prior to training with your WRFL coach or team manager to notify them of your absence, or alternatively Jessie Chester – WRFL Manager Junior Football.

- If you have been selected in the final squad of 26 but are not selected for one of the squad's matches (e.g., maximum of 24 selected, 2 named as an emergency) you are expected to assist your team by acting as a water carrier on match day.
- Please wear your club jumper to every training session as this will assist the coaches to help identify you. You must also ensure that you bring your runners, mouth guard and drink bottle to all training sessions.
- The main source of communication regarding the WRFL Junior Interleague Program will be via email from the League so please ensure that you check your email regularly (e.g., before leaving for training in case of a change in location).

10. INTERLEAGUE CALENDAR

Round 1 - Wednesday 31st May									
EDFL	WRFL	RDFNL (2)	WRFL	WRFL	EDFL	RDFNL (2)	WRFL	WRFL	EDFL
5.45 PM (A)		7.20 PM (A)		7.20 PM (H)		7.20 PM (A)		5.45 PM (H)	
VENUE TBC		VENUE TBC		VENUE TBC		VENUE TBC		VENUE TBC	
Round 2 - Saturday 10 June									
WRFL	EFNL	WRFL	EDFL	EFNL	WRFL	EDFL	WRFL	EFNL	WRFL
12.00 PM (H)		10.00 AM (H)		2.00 PM (A)		12.00 PM (A)		10.00 AM (A)	
VENUE TBC		VENUE TBC		VENUE TBC		VENUE TBC		VENUE TBC	
Round 3 - Monday 12 June									
NFNL	WRFL	NFNL	WRFL	WRFL	NFNL	WRFL	NFNL	WRFL	NFNL
2.00 PM (A)		12.00 PM (A)		2.00 PM (H)		12.00 PM (H)		10.00 AM (H)	
VENUE TBC		VENUE TBC		VENUE TBC		VENUE TBC		VENUE TBC	

11. CODE OF CONDUCT

At all times players and parents are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate and responsible manner.

The Western Region Football League fully supports and requires compliance with the codes of conduct as introduced by the AFL and AFL Victoria.

PLAYERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

- Play by the rules – the rules of your club and the laws of the game
- Never argue with an umpire or other official – without these people, you can't play football
- Control your temper – verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players doesn't help you enjoy or win any games
- Be a team player – It's a team game, treat it that way
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated – fairly
- Co-operate with your coach, the umpires, and team-mates
- Play for your own enjoyment & to improve your skills

- Don't use ugly remarks based on race, religion, gender, or ability – you'll let down your coach, team-mates, and family if you do - & many such comments are actually now illegal

PARENTS AND SUPPORTERS CODE OF CONDUCT

- Remember that you are there for the participants to enjoy the game
- Encourage participation, but don't force it
- Teach that enjoyment is more important than winning
- Never ridicule mistakes or losses – supporters are there to support not downgrade
- Lead by example and respect all players, coaches, umpires, and spectators – physical or verbal abuse will not be tolerated
- Recognise all volunteers who are giving up their valuable time
- Never publicly criticise the umpires – raise personal concerns with club officials in private
- Do not use ugly remarks based on race, religion, gender, or ability – you'll let down your family and yourself if you do – and many such comments are actually now illegal

12. CONTACT

Jessie Chester

WRFL Manager Junior Football

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