



FOOTBALL OPERATIONS & TEAM MANAGERS HANDBOOK

2023

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INTRODUCTION



This document is designed as an operation manual specifically for Administrators and Team Managers. It is not a complete set of rules and should be used in conjunction with the WRFL By-Laws.

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INTRODUCTION



2023 SEASON DATES

WRFL 2023 SEASON

	Division 1	Division 2	Division 3	Senior Women #	Under 18 #	Under 18 Girls #*	Juniors *	Netball **
	EASTER							
15-Apr	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1	
22-Apr	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2	
29-Apr	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3	Round 1
6-May	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4	Round 2
13-May	Round 5	Round 5 - Split Rd	Round 5	Round 5 - Split Rd	Round 5	Round 5	Round 5	Round 3
20-May	Round 6	Round 5 - Split Rd	Round 6	Round 5 - Split Rd	Round 6	Round 6	Round 6	Round 4
27-May	Round 7	Round 6	Round 7	Round 6	Round 7	Round 7	Round 7	Round 5
3-Jun	Round 8	Round 7	Round 8	Round 7	Round 8	Round 8	Round 8	Round 6
10-Jun	KING'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND - JUNIOR INTERLEAGUE							
17-Jun	Round 9	Round 8	Round 9	Round 8	Round 9	Round 9	Round 9	Round 7
24-Jun	Round 10	Round 9	Round 10	Round 9	Round 10	Round 10	Round 10	Round 8
1-Jul	Round 11	Round 10	Round 11	BYE	Round 11	BYE	BYE	Round 9
8-Jul	Round 12	Round 11	Round 12	Round 10	Round 12	Round 11	Round 11	Round 10
15-Jul	Round 13	Round 12	Round 13	Round 11	Round 13	Round 12	Round 12	Round 11
22-Jul	Round 14	Round 13	Round 14	Round 12	Round 14	Round 13	Round 13	Round 12
29-Jul	BYE	Round 14	Round 15	Round 13	BYE	Round 14	Round 14	BYE
5-Aug	Round 15	Round 15	Round 16	Round 14	Round 15	Qual/Elim Finals	Qual/Elim Finals	Round 13
12-Aug	Round 16	Round 16	Round 17	Round 15	Round 16	Semi Finals	Semi Finals	Round 14
19-Aug	Round 17	Round 17	Round 18	Round 16	Round 17	Preliminary Final	Preliminary Final	Round 15
26-Aug	Round 18	Semi Finals	Round 19	Semi Finals	Round 18	Grand Final	Grand Final	Round 16
2-Sep								Finals Week 1
3-Sep	Semi Finals	Preliminary Final	Semi Finals	Preliminary Final	Semi Finals			
9-Sep	Preliminary Final	Grand Final	Preliminary Final	Grand Final	Preliminary Final			Finals Week 2
10-Sep								
16-Sep	Grand Final		Grand Final		Grand Final			Finals Week 3
17-Sep								

School Holidays:

Last Day of Term 1: Friday 6 April
 First Day of Term 2: Monday 24 April
 Last Day of Term 2: Friday 23 June
 First Day of Term 3: Monday 10 July
 Last Day of Term 3: Friday 15 September

Shaded means school holidays

Easter

Good Friday: Friday 7 April
 Easter Sunday: Sunday 9 April
 Easter Monday: Monday 10 April

Notes:

Women's, Under 18's boys and girls home and away rounds (including finals structure) will be finalised in early 2023

* All junior and Under 18 Girls games to be scheduled for Sundays

** Netball fixtures to be scheduled for Friday nights unless agreed otherwise

Finals can be played on either a Saturday or Sunday for Senior Divisions



INTRODUCTION



PLAYING DAYS / START TIMES

GRADE	DAY	Start Time	Qtr Length	Time On	1/4 Break	1/2 Break	3/4 Break
Div 1, 2 & 3 Seniors	Saturday	2:15pm	20	YES	5	15	5
Div 1, 2 & 3 Reserves	Saturday	12:00pm	22**	NO*	5	15	5
Senior Women	TBC (depending on fixture)		20	NO*	5	15	5
Under18.5	TBC (depending on fixture)		22	NO*	5	15	5
Under18.5 Girls	Sunday	2:40pm	20	NO*	5	10	5
Under16 Boys	Sunday	2:40pm	20	NO*	3	10	5
Under15 Girls	Sunday	12:50pm	15	NO*	3	8	5
Under14 Mixed	Sunday	12:50pm	18	NO*	3	10	5
Under12 Mixed	Sunday	9:50am	15	NO*	3	8	5
Under12 Girls	Sunday	9:50am	12	NO*	3	8	5
Under10 Mixed	Sunday	11:25am	15	NO*	3	7	3
Under10 Girls	Sunday	11:25am	10	NO*	3	7	3
Under9 Mixed	Sunday	8:40am	12	NO*	3	6	3
Under8 Mixed	Sunday	8:40am	12	NO*	3	6	3

* Clock stops while stretcher is on ground

** Should the third quarter of a senior reserves game not commence by 1:10pm, the remaining time before 2:00pm is to be determined, subtracted by six (6) minutes (three quarter time) and divided by two (2). This figure shall be the length of the remaining two quarters.

Juniors, Under18 and Senior Women's, please note starting times will vary according to ground availability the times above are just an indicator of start times.

Start times for finals may vary depending on ground availability and finals system. Competing clubs will be provided with this information on a week by week basis during any finals series.

FIXTURE AMENDMENT REQUESTS

Any club that is looking to change the timing/day/location of a Senior, Reserve, Under18 or junior grade match once the fixture has been published must complete the following process to have the change approved in 2021.

- 14 days' notice is provided to WRFL Operations through written agreement from both opposing clubs dictating the specific alteration required.



INTRODUCTION



UNDERAGE ELIGIBILITY

All players must have turned seven (7) years of age on or before April 30th 2016 to be registered to play in the 2023 season. The eligibility of an underage competition player shall then be determined by the age of the player on the last day of December immediately prior to the start of the current season.

In junior divisions, subject to by-law 4.1.2.3, players must not be any more than two (2) years younger than the age group he/she is playing in.

To participate in the following age groups in 2023, a player must be born in the following years;

Under 8 Mixed

1st Jan 2015 - 31st Dec 2015

1st Jan 2016 - 30th Apr 2016 (players must be seven (7) years of age before 30 April)

Under 9 Mixed

1st Jan 2014 - 31st Dec 2014

Under 10 Mixed

1st Jan 2013 - 31st Dec 2013

Under 10 Girls

1st Jan 2013 - 30th Apr 2016

Under 12 Mixed & Girls

1st Jan 2012 - 31st Dec 2012

1st Jan 2011 - 31st Dec 2011

Under 14 Mixed

1st Jan 2010 - 31st Dec 2010

1st Jan 2009 - 31st Dec 2009

Under 15 Girls

1st Jan 2010 - 31st Dec 2010

1st Jan 2009 - 31st Dec 2009

1st Jan 2008 - 31st Dec 2008

Under 16 Boys

1st Jan 2008 - 31st Dec 2008

1st Jan 2007 - 31st Dec 2007

Under 18.5 Girls

1st Jan 2007 - 31st Dec 2007

1st Jan 2006 - 31st Dec 2006

1st Jan 2005 - 31st Dec 2005

1st July 2004 - 31st Dec 2004

Under 18.5 Boys

1st Jan 2006 - 31st Dec 2006

1st Jan 2005 - 31st Dec 2005

1st July 2004 - 31st Dec 2004

Senior Womens

As a minimum, to participate in senior women's competitions, girls should be turning 16 years of age during the year the competition commences.

A player may seek to play in Senior Women's competition when they are under the minimum age by written application to the League submitted by the player's club, accompanied by written consent of the player's parent or guardian using a Parent Consent Form. Approval by the League may only be granted in exceptional circumstances and in accordance with the relevant considerations in the Australian Football Match Policy



REGISTRATIONS / TRANSFERS / RE-REGISTRATIONS

REGISTRATIONS

It is the club's responsibility to ensure that players have been registered with the WRFL. To gain registration all players must register on the WRFL Member Database. Players who have played at a different club will require a transfer from their former club (see transfers).

Clubs are required to maintain a copy of proof of age, such as birth certificate, extract of birth certificate or passport.

JUNIOR REGISTRATION PROCESS

Once a player is registered, clubs are to maintain copies of proof of age. At any stage the WRFL can request copies of this document and the club will need to submit them to the WRFL within 24 hours.

TRANSFERS

Any new players who have played at another club will require a transfer.

Your club administrator or registrar will control all transfers however it is important to note that transfers can take up to six (6) business days to be processed, so it is very important that you pass on any forms requiring clearance to the administrator as soon as possible.

PLAYERS PLAYING OUTSIDE (UP OR DOWN) AN AGE GROUP

In all Junior grades, subject to by-law 4.1.2.3, no player shall be permitted to play if any more than two (2) years younger than the eligibility date of the oldest Junior age group in which he/she qualifies to play.

The following process must be followed to allow for such permit to be credited.

1. The application has been completed on the APPLICATION TO PLAY UP AN AGE GROUP form, signed by parent/legal guardian, President and Administrator/Junior Coordinator
2. This application is then forwarded onto WRFL Operations
3. Approval is provided by the Manager Junior Football on the grounds that;
 - a. There is a genuine reason for the player to play in a higher age group/division
 - b. The player has the necessary skill and physique to play in the higher age group

Players wishing to play down an age group for which they qualify by age must apply to the League by completing the necessary forms and medical documents (AFL Age Dispensation Policy).



HOME & AWAY ELIGIBILITY

Movement of players between teams during home and away season:

By-law 4.1.2.5

Where a club has multiple teams in the under 11 to under 18 age groups movement of players between teams is subject to the following:

- a) When a higher grade team has a bye no player who played in that team in the previous round will be permitted to play with a team in a lower grade in the same age group or lower age group.
- b) If the lower grade or lower age group team has a genuine shortage of players the club may seek approval of the CEO for utilisation of players from the higher grade or age group team. Penalty for breach: treated as per ineligible player (refer by-law 4.2)
- c) For the purpose of By-Law 4.2.1.5 (b), a team has a "genuine shortage" when they have less than 20 players. Teams where approval has been granted under by-law 4.2.1.5 (b) must not take the field with any more than 20 players.
- d) Players shall be permitted to play in more than one (1) under age competition (ie age group) in any given home & away round provided they qualify by age to play in such under age competition(s) as provided in these By-laws. Players are NOT permitted to play in more than one (1) division of the same under age competition in any given round.

FINALS ELIGIBILITY

4.6 Eligibility of Players for Finals - Seniors

4.6.1 Eligibility to play in Senior Official Competition Finals Games:

4.6.1.1 To be eligible for Senior and/or Reserve Men's grade finals games, players must play a minimum of six (6) home and away games with that club. To be eligible for Senior and/or Reserve Women's grade finals games, players must play a minimum of five (5) home and away games with that club. Any player who has played half the possible home and away games (taking account of any byes) plus one (1) game during the season with teams in a higher grade may not play in a finals game in a lower grade. Players who play in two (2) or more games in the same weekend can only count the game played in the higher grade as qualifying for finals.

4.6.1.2 Clubs who have their Senior and Reserve grade teams (subject to by-law 4.1.2.1) playing in finals games on the same weekend will be allowed free interchange of players between those teams for that weekend's finals games provided that no player may play more than one (1) finals game on the same weekend (unless special circumstances arise, which must be approved by the CEO or his/her delegate).

4.6.1.3 Subject to by-law 4.6.1.2, to be eligible for Reserve grade finals games players must have played in at least two (2) Reserve grade games in that season.

4.6.1.4 To be eligible for Under 18 finals games, players must have played at least five (5) Under 18 grade games in the team they wish to represent in finals or, subject to by-law 4.1.2.1 (the "two year rule"), a lower Under 18 division with their own club. This includes players participating in the NAB League Competition. Players who play in two (2) or more games in the same weekend can only count the game played in the highest grade towards qualification for finals.

4.6.1.5 Clubs who have more than one (1) team in the Under 18 grades playing in finals matches on the same weekend will be allowed free interchange of players for that weekend's finals matches. Players may play no more than one (1) Under 18 finals match per weekend. 4.6.1.6 If a player has played nine (9) or more home and away matches in a higher grade Under 18 team he shall be ineligible to play in finals in a lower grade Under 18 team.

4.6.1.7 VFL Men's and/or NAB League Boys' listed WRFL players and VFLW and/or NAB League Girls' listed WRFL players are eligible to participate in WRFL finals when not selected in VFL/NAB League on any weekend, provided that they satisfy the minimum game provisions specified in by-laws 4.6.1.1 and 4.6.1.4.

4.6.3 Board discretion in exceptional circumstances:

In the event of unforeseen circumstances resulting in variation to the number of home and away rounds in any competition/season (eg government directions resulting from natural disasters, epidemics, pandemics etc), the Board may in its absolute discretion alter the qualifications set out in By-laws 4.6.1 and 4.6.2 et al for participation in finals. Where any such variation is directed by the Board, the amended qualifications for finals participation shall be notified to affected clubs at the earliest possible opportunity as dictated by circumstances."

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4.6.2 Eligibility of Underage (U12 - U16 incl. U18 girls) Players in Finals Games

4.6.2.1 To be eligible to compete in a finals team, a player must have played the minimum number of matches required in the team concerned. This minimum number may vary depending on the number of home and away matches the team is eligible to play (as specified in the following table):

Number of matches team plays in season	Minimum matches required to be eligible
10/11 matches	4
12/13/14 matches	5
15/16 matches	6

4.6.2.2 Clubs who have all of their teams of the same age group playing finals matches on the same weekend shall, subject to the eligibility requirements specified in by-law 4.6.2.1, be allowed free interchange of players for that weekend's finals matches. Where clubs have fewer than all of their teams of the same age group playing finals matches on the same weekend, players must meet the eligibility conditions specified in by-law 4.6.2.1. If a player has played seven (7) or more matches in a higher grade team in the same or higher age group he/she shall be ineligible to play in finals in a lower grade team in the same or lower age group.

4.6.2.3 Players may play in more than one (1) finals match on the same weekend PROVIDED THAT they qualify for finals having played the required number of matches for each grade AND THAT they play no more than one (1) match per weekend in the same age group. If special circumstances arise an exemption to this rule may be approved by the CEO or his/her delegate.

4.6.2.4 Where a team has a genuine shortage of eligible players for a finals match because of injury or other special circumstances the club may seek approval from the CEO for the utilisation of players from other teams. League approval will only be considered for players from a team playing in a lower grade of the same age group. If the club does not have a team in a lower grade of the same age group it may seek approval to use players from a lower age group.

4.6.2.5 For the purpose of By-Law 4.6.2.4, a team has a "genuine shortage" when they have less than 20 players. Teams where approval has been granted under by-law 4.6.2.4 must not take the field with any more than 20 players.

4.6.3 Board discretion in exceptional circumstances:

In the event of unforeseen circumstances resulting in variation to the number of home and away rounds in any competition/season (eg government directions resulting from natural disasters, epidemics, pandemics etc), the Board may in its absolute discretion alter the qualifications set out in By-laws 4.6.1 and 4.6.2 et al for participation in finals. Where any such variation is directed by the Board, the amended qualifications for finals participation shall be notified to affected clubs at the earliest possible opportunity as dictated by circumstances."



PRE-GAME REQUIREMENTS



FOOTBALL SIZE / REQUIREMENTS

Match Grade	Ball Size / Type
Under 8, Under 9 and Under 10	Size 2 Synthetic
Under 10 Girls	Size 2 Synthetic
Under 12 Mixed	Size 3 Leather
Under 12 Girls	Size 3 Synthetic
Under 14 Mixed	Size 4 Leather
Under 15 Girls	Size 4 Leather
Under 16 Boys	Full Size Leather (Match of Kangaroo Brand)
Under 18.5 Girls	Size 4 Leather
Under 18.5 Boys	Full Size Leather (Match of Kangaroo Brand)
Reserves	Full Size Leather (Match of Kangaroo Brand)
Seniors	Full Size Leather (Match of Kangaroo Brand)
Senior Women	Size 4 Leather

NUMBER OF INTERCHANGE PLAYERS ALLOWED

Senior grade teams shall be permitted to have four (4) interchange players. Senior Women's team seven (7) interchange players, Reserve grade team six (6) interchange players, Under 18 teams seven (7) interchange players, Un 16, Un 15 Girls, Un 14, U12 teams (not including Un 12 Girls) seven (7) interchange players. All other teams will have unlimited interchange of players.

Clubs shall have free interchange at their discretion during home and away games and finals. The players leaving the ground must interchange at the coach's box.

TEAM OFFICIALS ON BENCH

Seniors:

Seven (7) Officials permitted on the bench and must include trainer and runner

Juniors:

Five (5) Officials permitted on the bench and must include trainer and runner



PRE-GAME REQUIREMENTS



CLUB OFFICIAL UNIFORMS



JUNIOR COACH



RUNNER



JUNIOR ASSISTANT COACH



UMPIRES ESCORT



JUNIOR TEAM MANAGER



JUNIOR MATCH MANAGER



TRAINER



WATER CARRIER

Club Boundary, Field and Goal Umpire bibs must be purchased from Ascot Vale Sports & Trophies. These are now compulsory for season 2023.

For a full list of roles & descriptions for each volunteer role please view "Volunteer Roles Explained" which can be found on the WRFL website.

PRE-GAME REQUIREMENTS



CLUB MINIMUM NUMBERS

An Affiliated Club not fielding at least 14 players*, 20 minutes after the scheduled starting time of the match shall forfeit the match. If, during the course of the match a team is reduced to less than 14 players the match shall be forfeited and the team sheets shall immediately be signed on the ground in the presence of the field umpire, endorsed by him/her and forwarded in the usual manner to the CEO. An Affiliated Club forfeiting the match shall pay all umpire fees in full.

* Juniors Girls – minimum of 12 players

UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT

Jumpers and Shorts

All players shall be fitted in numbered Club Jumper/Guernsey. The number must be a one or two figure number (between 1 and 99), no two players in the same team shall wear the same number.

Players shall wear:

- Coloured shorts for all home games
- White shorts for all away games (except in U8, U9 and U10 competitions – wear Club colours for every game)
- From season 2023 onwards, female players in female only teams will not be required to wear white shorts for away matches. Teams may wear coloured shorts for all home/away and finals matches.

Gloves

In all junior competitions, a player must obtain advice from a medical practitioner before wearing gloves. The player proposing to wear the glove must bring it into the WRFL offices along with the Medical Certificate which must outline the players name, club, league and nature of the condition and the period the medical advisor believes the player is required to wear the glove. It must be viewed and approved by the Manager – Junior Football. This approval must be available if requested to be viewed by the umpire to allow the player to participate in the match.

Senior players are permitted to wear AFL approved gloves.

Undergarments (Such as Skins)

For all junior and senior players, the colour of lower body undergarments that are visible below the team uniform shall be either beige, black or same colour as the shorts. These undergarments must be above the knee.

For junior players only, any upper body undergarments worn with sleeveless jumpers shall be the same colour as the predominant jumper colour.

For senior players, upper body undergarments with sleeves of any length may not be worn with sleeveless jumpers.



PRE-GAME REQUIREMENTS



Mouth Guards

Mouth guards are recommended to be worn for all games of football.

Protective Equipment

A player must have written approval from the WRFL to wear any protective equipment in a match. The player proposing to wear the protective equipment must bring it into the WRFL office and have approved by a Football Operations staff member. This approval must be available if requested to be viewed by the umpire to allow the player to participate in the match. The exemption is a player's helmet which can be worn in all grades.

Female Football - Hijab (Full Head Scarf)

The WRFL supports the wearing of hijabs, long sleeve jumpers and full skins to encourage active involvement of female participants under religious or cultural constraints. Clubs are encouraged to make the League aware of all participants who will be involved in WRFL matches by supplying a list before the commencement of Round 1.

Football Boots

Football boots must be of an acceptable safety standard. No metal studs are allowed.

EXCLUSION ZONES

Each home team shall secure an exclusion zone immediately around each of the coaches' boxes of not less than one (1) metre behind and three (3) metre to both sides, making certain nobody goes into that area except those eligible under 3.26 to be on the coaches bench. The club whose officials occupy each of the coaches' boxes shall be responsible to ensure that no unauthorised person(s) enter the exclusion zone.

The game will not start/continue until both exclusion zones are clear. Where applicable the offending club(s) shall be subject to fine(s) or ten (10) penalty

DISTRIBUTION OF TEAM SHEETS

Your team sheet will be produced via the FootyWeb database. This will be done by either the club administrator or each individual team manager (if the team manager has been given the required Footyweb authorisation. Please speak to your administrator to confirm this process).

Three copies will be required of your team sheet;

1. Umpires (30 minutes before the start of the game)
2. Opposition (if requested)
3. Record own best players and goal kickers

PLAYER LIST

A list of players in surname alphabetical order (with their numbers shown) on official team sheet provided by the League, must be handed to the umpire prior to the game and opposition Team Manager if requested. Additional players can be added by hand in the spaces at the bottom of the page. All players must sign the team sheet with the exception of the U8, U9 and U10 age groups. The Team Manager of an U8, U9 and U10 team is to sign the team sheet to confirm its accuracy.

If a player is appearing on your team sheet in error, or does not participate in the match, place a line through this person.

If an opposition team forfeits a match you must still provide an official team sheet to the either the match umpire, or if not available, directly to the League.

All such changes are to be replicated on the online team sheet immediately following the match. Prior to 9am Monday following the match.

OFFICIALS LIST

Underneath the player list fill in the respective officials (with full names, clearly written) before handing to umpire before the game.

GROUND INSPECTION

A Ground Inspection Report must be completed before the first game on a ground each match day. This is done via the Marsh Insurance link below. Check with your club administrator if you believe that you will be responsible for completing the ground inspection. Should the ground not be fit for football the umpires must be alerted and the problem rectified within 30 minutes. If it cannot be rectified within that time, the game is cancelled and the result decided by the WRFL.

Ground inspection also includes ensuring that the lines are properly marked and the goal posts have adequate padding.



Start Survey

cvent
Privacy Policy

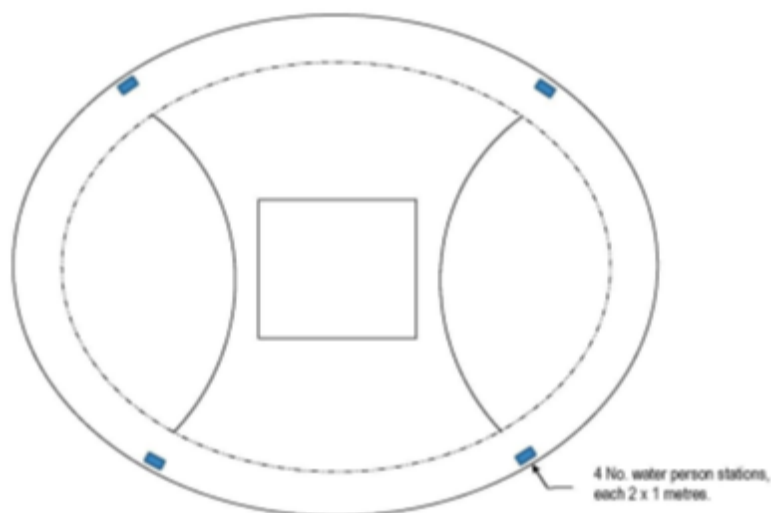
https://sport.marshadvantage.com.au/afl/documents/Match_Day_Checklist.pdf?202011232004

MATCH DAY STAFF

For a full list of roles & descriptions for each volunteer role please view "Volunteer Roles Explained" which can be found on the WRFL website.

Water Carriers / Trainers

Clubs may field a maximum of five (5) water-persons, inclusive of trainers (i.e. 1 trainer and 4 water-persons, 2 trainers and 3 water-persons, etc). Water persons shall only enter the playing arena after a goal is scored. At all other times, water persons shall be stationed in marked locations against the arena fence line and adjacent to the intersections of the boundary line and 50 metre arcs (refer to diagram). The precise location of water person stations may be varied in the event that coaches' boxes or other interfering structures are located adjacent to the 50 metre arcs. They must be wearing the official WRFL bib (pink).



MAXIMUM PLAYING NUMBERS

Div. 1, 2 & 3 Senior Grade teams - 18 per side with 4 interchange (maximum 22 players)
Division 1, 2 & 3 Reserve Grade - 18 per side with 6 interchange (maximum 24 players)
Senior Women - 18 per side with 7 interchange (maximum 25 players)
Under 18 & 18G - 18 per side with 7 interchange players (maximum 25 players)
Under 16 Boys - 18 per side with 7 interchange players (maximum 25 players)
Under 15 Girls - 16 per side with 7 interchange players (maximum 23 players)
Under 14 Mixed - 18 per side with 7 interchange players (maximum 25 players)
Under 12 Mixed - 18 per side with 7 interchange players (maximum 25 players)
Under 12 Girls - 16 per side with unlimited interchange
Under 10 Mixed - 18 per side with unlimited interchange
Under 10 Girls - 12 per side with unlimited interchange
Under 9 Mixed - 15 per side with unlimited interchange
Under 8 Mixed - 12 per side with unlimited interchange

LATE ARRIVAL PROCEDURE

Additional players (to complete the teams permitted number) may take their place in the team at any time before the start of the final quarter. The field umpire is to be advised of such addition by the runner giving to the umpire at a break in play a completed approved 'Late Arrival Form'. The names and signatures of such player/s must be added to the team list immediately after the conclusion of either the first half, or the final quarter. It is recommended that you keep a supply of the late arrival form with this manual. They can be found on the website.

GAME DAY: DURING THE GAME



BLOOD RULE

The WRFL follows the Laws of Australian Football Blood Rule. Put simply;

- The umpire shall stop the game when he/she notices blood on any player or official.
- The player or official must leave the playing area and play will not resume until the player is off the ground and a replacement player (if available) is in position.
- All blood flow must have ceased and be covered or not be visible, and any blood on any part of the player's body must be cleaned and removed before re-joining the match.
- Any blood stained item of clothing must be removed and replaced.

PLAYER INTERCHANGE

Clubs shall have free interchange at their discretion during home and away games and finals. The player leaving the ground must interchange at the coaches' box with the player entering the ground (with the exception of seriously injured players). If not adhered to player cannot re-enter the arena for the remainder of the game.

PLAYER BENCH

A marked white line must be placed one (1) metre outside the boundary line immediately in front of the Coaches' Box. All approved Club officials occupying the Coaches' Box must stand behind this line during the course of the game in order not to hinder the movement of the boundary umpires around the boundary line. Failure to stand behind the white line will incur a fine of \$50.

The only persons allowed on the bench are SENIORS: the coach, three (3) assistant coaches, team manager, club runner, one (1) trainer and the interchange players and JUNIORS: coach, assistant coach, team manager (team manager may be replaced by another assistant coach, club runner, one (1) trainer and the interchange players – no more than 5 officials) Club officials cannot go around the boundary line further than 5 metres from either side of the 'coaching bench area' save the runner or the trainer in the course of performing their duties and interchange players during warm up runs. Failure to comply will result in a free kick to the opposition being paid.

Each home team shall secure an exclusion zone immediately around each of the coaches' boxes of not less than one (1) metre behind and three (3) metres to both sides, making certain nobody goes into that area except those eligible under by-law 3.26 to be on the coaches bench. The club whose officials occupy each of the coaches' boxes shall be responsible to ensure that no unauthorised person(s) enter the exclusion zone.

GAME DAY: POST MATCH



Home and Away teams to enter their own goal kickers and best players. All of this information must be entered online by 5:45pm on game day.

Home team to enter final scores online through FootyWeb.

(Please note failure to comply will mean scores do not make following day media (i.e. Herald Sun))

Senior Men's & Women's Requirements

Home team to enter the ¼ by ¼ scores via LiveScores (instructions can be found on the WRFL Website or by contacting your Administrator.

- Seniors (Men's & Women's) to be completed Live (goal by goal)
- Reserves and Under 18s to be completed by the end of each quarter

Please refer to the Live Scores Handbook which can be found on the WRFL website.

Junior teams are encouraged to use LiveScores although it is not compulsory

RETURN OF PAPERWORK

The umpires will collect the relevant paperwork and return it to the league. In the event of a club umpire being used, they must complete all relevant paperwork and organise to leave it with official umpires of following games, or deliver it to the WRFL office by 9am on the Monday following the match. Supplies of the required paperwork are available from your club administrators.

Please ensure that club umpires have completed the Best and Fairest Voting on the Match Report Sheet.

Club Umpires are required to complete the Match Report online at the completion of their match. Please visit the WRFL website for instructions/link (UMPIRES).

TRIBUNAL

All players/officials reported, and/or named in connection therewith, together with the witnesses and advocates are required to attend before the Tribunal at, Hamner Reserve, Harris Street, Footscray by 6:00pm (or at a time / place set by the league) on the Tuesday following the match in which the report occurred.

The umpire report sheet is seen as notification of required attendance. Unless otherwise notified the reported player, the chief witness and advocates are expected to be at the tribunal at the above times. The tribunal has the right to suspend witnesses (e.g., the victim of the report) for non attendance.

GAME DAY: POST MATCH



Any required person unable to attend a hearing should advise the Manager Football Operations by Monday 5pm.

The Tribunal shall allow any evidence or witness to be lead or called before it at any hearing providing the party wanting to lead the evidence or call the witness shall, not later than 12 noon on the day of the hearing, advise the Secretary at the League Office the name of the witness.

This Rule does not apply to any witness directed to attend a hearing by the umpire on the day of the match in which the report was made.

Make sure you discuss any reports with your club administrator ASAP to begin preparations for the case.

JUNIOR RULES MATRIX



2023 WRFL JUNIOR RULES MATRIX



RULES & REGULATIONS	UNDER 8	UNDER 9	UNDER 10	UNDER 10 GIRLS	UNDER 12	UNDER 12 GIRLS	UNDER 14	UNDER 15 GIRLS	UNDER 16
Players on Field	12 (unlimited bench)	15 (unlimited bench)	18 (unlimited bench)	12 (unlimited bench)	18 (7 on bench)	16 (unlimited bench)	18 (7 on bench)	16 (7 on bench)	18 (7 on bench)
Minimum Players	6	9	9	6	14	12	14	12	14
Maximum Ground Size / Use of Zones	80m x 60m 3 Zones	100m x 80m 3 Zones	Half Size to Full Size No Zones	80m x 60m 3 Zones	Full Size	Half Size to Full Size No Zones	Full Size	Full Size	Full Size
Match Length	4 X 12 min	4 X 12 min	4 X 15 min	4 X 10 min	4 X 15 min	4 X 12 min	4 X 18 min	4 X 15 min	4 X 20 min
Breaks	3 min, 6 min, 3 min	3 min, 6 min, 3 min	3 min, 7 min, 3 min	3 min, 7 min, 3 min	3 min, 8 min, 5 min	3 min, 8 min, 5 min	3 min, 10 min, 5 min	3 min, 8 min, 5 min	3 min, 10 min, 5 min
Competition Details	No scoring permitted. No ladders or finals permitted. No recording of best players & goal kickers permitted.	No scoring permitted. No ladders or finals permitted. No recording of best players & goal kickers permitted.	No scoring permitted. No ladders or finals permitted. No recording of best players & goal kickers permitted.	No scoring permitted. No ladders or finals permitted. No recording of best players & goal kickers permitted.	Scoring, ladders & finals permitted. Recording of best players and goal kickers permitted.	Scoring, ladders & finals permitted. Recording of best players and goal kickers permitted.	Scoring, ladders & finals permitted. Recording of best players and goal kickers permitted.	Scoring, ladders & finals permitted. Recording of best players and goal kickers permitted.	Scoring, ladders & finals permitted. Recording of best players and goal kickers permitted.
Contact	No tackling / no bump. Players cannot bump / push an opponent's kick. Players cannot bump / push an opponent's kick. Players cannot bump / push an opponent's kick.	No tackling / no bump. Players cannot bump / push an opponent's kick. Players cannot bump / push an opponent's kick.	No tackling / no bump. Players cannot bump / push an opponent's kick. Players cannot bump / push an opponent's kick.	No tackling / no bump. Players cannot bump / push an opponent's kick. Players cannot bump / push an opponent's kick.	Modified tackle / no bump. Players cannot bump / push an opponent's kick. Players cannot bump / push an opponent's kick.	Modified tackle / no bump. Players cannot bump / push an opponent's kick. Players cannot bump / push an opponent's kick.	Modified tackle / no bump. Players cannot bump / push an opponent's kick. Players cannot bump / push an opponent's kick.	Tackling is permitted as per the Laws of Australian Football (no sliding tackle permitted).	Tackling is permitted as per the Laws of Australian Football (no sliding tackle permitted).
Ball Size	Synthetic Size 2	Synthetic Size 2	Synthetic Size 2	Synthetic Size 2	Leather Size 3	Synthetic Size 3	Leather Size 4	Leather Size 4	Leather Size 5
Umpiring	Club appointed 1 field, 1 goal (one each per club)	Club appointed 1 field, 1 goal (one each per club)	Club appointed 1 field, 1 goal (one each per club)	Club appointed 1 field, 1 goal (one each per club)	2 field (Appointed), 2 goal (club)	Club appointed 2 field, 2 goal (one each per club)	2 field (Appointed), 2 goal (club), 2 boundary (club)	2 field (Appointed), 2 goal (club), 2 boundary (club)	2 field, 2 goal, 2 boundary (all appointed)
Coaching Position	On-Field / Sideline	On-Field / Sideline	On-Field / Sideline	On-Field / Sideline	Sideline	Sideline	Sideline	Sideline	Sideline
Bounces	1 Bounce	1 Bounce	1 Bounce	1 Bounce	Unlimited	1 Bounce	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Marking	A mark is awarded irrespective of the distance the ball has travelled to any player who catches it or shows control.	A mark is awarded irrespective of the distance the ball has travelled to any player who catches it or shows control.	A mark is awarded irrespective of the distance the ball has travelled to any player who catches it or shows control.	A mark is awarded irrespective of the distance the ball has travelled to any player who catches it or shows control.	A mark is awarded when a player catches the ball directly from another player's kick that has travelled at least 15 metres.	A mark is awarded irrespective of the distance the ball has travelled to any player who catches it or shows control.	A mark is awarded when a player catches the ball directly from another player's kick that has travelled at least 15 metres.	A mark is awarded when a player catches the ball directly from another player's kick that has travelled at least 15 metres.	A mark is awarded when a player catches the ball directly from another player's kick that has travelled at least 15 metres.
Out of Bounds	Last Touch Rule	Last Touch Rule	Last Touch Rule	Last Touch Rule	Last Touch Rule (Modified)	Last Touch Rule (Modified)	As per Laws of Australian Football	As per Laws of Australian Football	As per Laws of Australian Football
Kick off the Ground	Not permitted unless accidental	Not permitted unless accidental	Not permitted unless accidental	Not permitted unless accidental	Not permitted unless accidental	Not permitted unless accidental	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted
Stealing, Smothering, Shepherding & Barging	No stealing, smothering, shepherding or barging	No stealing, smothering, shepherding or barging	No stealing, smothering, shepherding or barging	No stealing, smothering, shepherding or barging	Permitted as per Laws of the Game	No stealing, smothering or barging	Permitted as per Laws of the Game	Permitted as per Laws of the Game	Permitted as per Laws of the Game
Penalties	15m	15m	15m	15m	15m	15m	15m	15m	50m

ORDER OFF RULE



- Any player or match official may be ordered from the field, for any offence of manhandling, assault or threatening an umpire during the progress of any match and shall be precluded from returning to the field for the remainder of the match, and shall be reported by the field umpire. The umpire will show a RED card. Any such player so ordered off cannot be replaced.
- The field umpire shall have the power to report to the Tribunal and/or order from the field any player or official who during any match commits a reportable offence or whose actions are not considered in the best interest of the League. The offender shall be shown a YELLOW card and is to remain off the field for a period of 15 minutes playing time, in which time they cannot be replaced.
- Upon being shown the YELLOW card the offender must go directly to the coaches box, save any match official who must leave the playing arena (behind the fence or four meters behind the boundary line), and remain there for the duration of the order off period. The official team runner must report to the timekeepers who will note the time that the report was received (not the time of the incident triggering the send-off) and advise the official or player through the runner when a further period of 15 minutes is completed.
- Any player ordered off who does not go straight to the coaches box, or remain there (unless carried off or via the blood rule), will not be able to return for the remainder of the match, but can be replaced after the 15 minutes of playing time has elapsed, unless the player had been ordered off for the second time in the match.
- In the event of a player or official failing or refusing to leave the ground when ordered off, they shall be reported for misconduct, the match shall terminate and the offending player's team deemed to have forfeited.
- Any player or match official ordered from the field for the second time during any match, shall be precluded from returning to the field for the remainder of the match, and shall be reported by the field umpire. The umpire shall show a RED card, the player cannot be replaced.
- In the event of a player or players being ordered off while on the interchange bench, the team shall be required to remove the equivalent number of players from the field for the duration of the send-off (example: two players are sent off while on the bench, the team must play with 23 16 players for the duration of the send-off). The player or players who received the order off cannot play during the order off period.
- In all home/away and finals games, all officially appointed umpires in addition to the field umpire appointed to that game shall have the power to order players or match officials from the playing field. They shall contact the field umpire at the first opportunity who shall direct the player or match official in accordance with by-laws 3.21.1 and 3.21.2.
- Any player or match official ordered off for a third occasion during the one (1) season shall automatically receive a one (1) week suspension. A fourth order off shall incur a two (2) week suspension, a fifth order off shall incur a three (3) week suspension. Further send offs shall result in the player appearing before the tribunal
- Any such suspensions shall be served cumulatively with any penalty handed down by the Tribunal, IHC or accepted under by-law 3.14.4 (automatic penalty). Any player/official ordered off who is reported for the incident for which they were ordered off, and subsequently found not guilty, the send-off shall not apply for the purpose of calculating a suspension under this by-law

WRFL By-Law 3.21 ORDER OFF RULE



EVENING-UP RULE



Applied in the following competitions;

- Under 12 Mixed
- Under 12 Girls
- Under 14 Mixed
- Under 15 Girls
- Under 16 Boys
- Under 18.5 Girls
- Senior Women

**Under 8, 9, 10 (mixed and girls) matches MUST even up players in the spirit of junior football.*

Where a team in grades listed above has less than 18 players on their team sheet, the following modified rules shall apply:

- 1) If a team does not have 14 of its own registered players (12 players in Under 12 girls – Under 18 girls) a scratch match will be played with the opposing team receiving a win by forfeit (as per by-law 3.5).
- 2) Where a team does not have a full 18 players, it must approach the opposing team and request that players be loaned to even up team numbers. This request should be made at least 15 minutes prior to the commencement of the match. If the team requiring players does not make this request, then the opposing team may take the field with an additional two players (up to the maximum player numbers of 18 e.g. team A has 15 players and does not request players be loaned, team B may take the field with 17 players).
- 3) Where a team has requested players to be loaned and still takes the field with less than 18 players, the opposing team must also take the field with the same amount of players.
- 4) Any goals kicked or best player votes received whilst playing for the opposing team should appear for the player's regular team.
- 5) Players on loan can be rotated back each quarter.
- 6) If a club requiring players does not have sufficient jumpers available the evening up rule will not apply.
- 7) Player send offs or injuries incurred during the game will not result in evening up of players.
- 8) The evening up rule does not apply in finals matches
- 9) The evening up rule can be used for junior grades other than those previously listed, with the mutual agreement of both coaches.

Any disputes relating to the Evening Up Rule shall be referred to the CEO or his/her delegate for decision.

JUNIOR MODIFIED RULE

All junior match rules, specifically competitions with modified rule can be found on the WRFL website.

You will find a breakdown of modified rules specific to your age group/competition.



TIME KEEPER PROCEDURES



TIME ON

Stopping time:

The time keepers shall stop the clock which is used for the timing of the match when: -

- (a) directed to do so by a field umpire in accordance with AFL Law 10.5.3 (when umpire blows his/her whistle and signals by raising one arm above his/her head) THE CLOCK DOES NOT STOP FOR AROUND THE GROUND FIELD BOUNCES.
- (b) the goal umpire signals that a goal has been scored
- (c) the goal umpire signals that a behind has been scored
- (d) the boundary umpire signals that the football is out of bounds or out of bounds on the full

Re-commencing time:

The timekeepers shall recommence the clock used for timing of the match when:-

- (a) directed to do so by the field umpire in accordance with Law 10.5.3 (blows his/her whistle and raises his/her arm above their head) THE CLOCK DOES NOT STOP FOR AROUND THE GROUND FIELD BOUNCES.
- (b) the football is bounced (or thrown up) in the Centre Square after a goal has been scored
- (c) the football is brought back into play after a behind has been scored
- (d) the football is thrown back into play by the boundary umpire or brought back into play by a player, (as the case may be), after it had gone Out of Bounds or out of bounds on the full
- (e) the football is obviously in play
- (f) the umpire calls 'play on'

TIME CLOCKS

Every club must supply a 'stop clock' and every timekeeper shall have a watch.

SOUNDING SIREN

- (a) Umpires entering ground - time keepers should sound the siren/bell when the umpire raises the football above his/her head on every entry onto the ground prior to starting time (ie start of first half and start of second half). Such acknowledgment signifies to the field umpire that you are ready to start the game at his/her given signal.
- (b) Completion of quarter - when each quarter has been completed the timekeepers are to sound the siren/bell CONTINUALLY until the umpire acknowledges by raising both hands above his/her head (if using a bell which is not very loud, it would be a considerable help for the timekeepers to position themselves so that the wind will carry the sound of the bell 'down field').
- (c) During Intervals – The timekeeper shall sound the siren three times when there are two minutes remaining of the interval break.

DISAGREEMENTS ON TIME REMAINING

If both timekeepers' clocks disagree as to the time in any quarter, half the variation should signify the actual time to sound the siren/bell.

TIME KEEPER PROCEDURES



PLAYERS SENT FROM FIELD

- (a) Any player or match official may be ordered from the field, for any offence of manhandling, assault or threatening an umpire during the progress of any match and shall be precluded from returning to the field for the remainder of the match, and shall be reported by the field umpire. The umpire will show a RED card. Any such player so ordered off cannot be replaced.
- (b) The field umpire shall have the power to report to the Tribunal and/or order from the field any player or match official who during the progress of any match commits a reportable offence under the rules of the game or whose conduct is considered not in the best interest of the League. The offender shall be shown a Yellow Card and is to remain off the field for a period of 15 minutes playing time (including time-on), in which time they cannot be replaced.
- (c) Any player or match official ordered from the field, for a second time during the progress of any match, shall be precluded from returning to the field for the remainder of the match, and shall be reported by the field umpire. The umpire will show a RED card. Any such player so ordered off cannot be replaced.

Once sent off, the player (first occasion) must go directly to the coach's box. The Runner will then on behalf of the player report to the time-keepers, who shall note the time and advise through the runner the 15 minutes playing time (including time-on) have elapsed.

DURING/POST MATCH

Time and score card – is an official document of the WRFL and all details should be neat and correctly recorded and signed by both time-keepers. Quarter by quarter scores should be checked with the goal umpires. At the conclusion of the game this sheet is to be handed to our Team Manager.

Should the third quarter of a Reserves game not commence by 1.10pm, the remaining time before 2.00pm is to be determined, subtracted by six (6) minutes (three quarter time) and divided by two (2). This figure shall be the length of the remaining two quarters.

TIME KEEPER PROCEDURES



Time Keepers

Each club must supply a timekeeper who shall sign the official time card and who shall carry out the duties in the presence of the timekeeper of the opposing club during the course of the match. The two competing teams in any final series match are to provide a competent timekeeper. The CEO or WRFL Match Manager on request of either competing club may appoint a neutral timekeeper, or if they consider any club timekeeper incompetent or unsuitable to replace him/her at anytime with neutral timekeeper.

In the case of the two (2) clocks differing then half the variation will signify the actual time to ring the bell/siren, in all grades, club shall provide their timekeeper with an approved stop clock. A fine of \$50.00 shall be imposed for non-compliance.

That a weatherproof area be provided for timekeepers:

- (a) if this area be in a place with no elevated facility for timekeepers that an area with a 180° view be provided such area to exclude all persons bar those keeping time;
- (b) in the event of timekeepers vision being obstructed as would impede them seeing the umpires giving time on that the umpires be informed and the game stopped until such vision of the game is restored; and
- (c) seating be provided for timekeepers.

WRFL CODE OF CONDUCT



The WRFL view the development and expansion of under age football as a vital component in the promoting and maintaining Australian Rules football as a major sport throughout Australia.

To this end, it is important that as many children as possible not only learn the skills of the game, but are encouraged to develop an enthusiastic enjoyment of all aspects of the sport.

The Junior Board of the WRFL feels it essential to set down of a minimum code of conduct. This WRFL's Junior Board has found it most challenging to make the split between actual conduct of all those involved in under age football and those philosophies that we believe are critical to the overall conduct.

With this in mind, we have opted to make a dual presentation as follows:

1. A Code of Conduct for Junior players, club officials, coaches and spectators.
2. Philosophies intrinsic to under age football.

Code of Conduct

- Consumption of alcohol is strictly prohibited at any venue while under age football is being conducted.
- Players, spectators and officials should ensure that both on and off field behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship.

Therefore:

- Swearing or abuse by either club official, player or spectator is not permissible at any time.
- Disputing umpire's decisions or behaving in an aggressive manner toward them is unacceptable. If there is a genuine concern, there are appropriate channels of communication in place.
- Aggressive behaviour and abuse toward opposition players, coaches, club officials or spectators is likewise unacceptable.
- All accredited coaches should be assessed by clubs regarding their knowledge of the Rules of the WRFL and their attitude toward working with young people. If their attitude or knowledge is inadequate, steps should be taken to enable them to attend the next available Coaches Accreditation Course for a further re-accreditation. Common sense should prevail if there is an attitudinal problem.

Philosophies Required to Support Code of Conduct

- All participants should understand that the Rules of the game are mutual agreements which no-one should evade or break. All those involved in under age football should strive to develop a respect for the League in which they participate, their club and their opponents.
- We all have an obligation to behave in a manner that will bring credit to ourselves, our club and the game of Australian Rules football.
- Players should be proud when walking off the ground after each game knowing they have given of their best.
- For the game to be enjoyable, players must have the opportunity to participate, learn and achieve their potential. The role of adults is to prove the environment for this to occur.
- Selection of teams and amount of field time given to players in under age football should not be decided on current ability only.
- Coaches must take into account the age group and skill level of those they are coaching - neither expecting too much nor too little.

WRFL CODE OF CONDUCT



- It is inappropriate in under age football for clubs with a large list of players in any one age group to neither loan nor make allowances for those clubs with smaller lists. Those teams with the greater number should play with no more than one extra player on the field.

Players Code of Conduct

- Play for the 'fun of it' and not just to please parents and coaches.
- Play by the rules.
- Never argue with an official. If you disagree, have your captain or coach approach the official during a break or after the game.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other players, deliberately fouling or provoking an opponent and throwing equipment is not acceptable or permitted in any sport.
- Work equally hard for yourself and your team. Your team's performance will benefit so will you.
- Be a good sport. Cheer all good plays whether they are by your team or the other team.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player.
- Co-operate with your coach, team-mates and opponents.
- Without them there would be no game.
- At all times show respect and manners to everyone concerned.

Officials Code of Conduct

- Modify Rules and Regulations to match the skill of children and their needs.
- Compliment both teams on their effort.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous in calling all infractions.
- Condemn the deliberate foul as being unsportsmanlike and promote fair play and appropriate sports behaviour.
- Use common sense to ensure that overcalling violations does not lose the 'spirit of the game' for children.
- Publicly encourage rule changes, which will enforce the principals of participation for fun and enjoyment.
- Actions speak larger than words. Ensure that both on and off the field your behaviour is consistent with the principals of good sportsmanship.
- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound officiating principals and the principals of growth and development of children.

Parents Code of Conduct

- If children are interested, encourage them to play sport. However, if a child is not willing to play, do not force him/her.
- Focus upon the child's effort and performance rather than the overall outcome of the event. This assists the child in setting realistic goals related to his/her ability by reducing the emphasis on winning.
- Teach children that an honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
- Encourage children to always play according to the rules.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a game.
- Remember that children learn best from example. Applaud good plays by both teams.
- If you disagree with an official, raise the issue through the appropriate channel rather than question the official's judgement and honesty in public. Remember that most officials give their time and effort for your child's involvement.

WRFL CODE OF CONDUCT



- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
- Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches. They give of their time and resources to provide recreational activities for the children and deserve your support.
- Always remember two points: sportsmanship but most importantly let's all have fun.

Spectator Code of Conduct

- Children play organised sports for fun. They are not playing for the entertainment of spectators only, nor are they miniature professionals.
- Applaud good performance and efforts by your team and the opponents. Congratulate both teams upon their performance regardless of the games outcome.
- Respect the officials' decision. If there is a disagreement, follow the appropriate procedure in order to question the decision and teach the children to do likewise
- Never ridicule or scold a child for making a mistake during a competition. Positive comments are motivational.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- Show respect for your teams opponents, without them there would be no game.
- Encourage players to play according to the rules and the officials' decisions.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not using foul language, harassing players, coaches or officials.

Coaches' Code of Conduct

- Abide by the Laws and Rules. The Laws of the Game and Rules of your Club/League.
- Teach the rules. Rules are mutual agreements which nobody should break.
- Group players competitively.
- Avoid overplaying talented players.
- Maximise fun. Place winning in perspective.
- Stress safety always.
- Consider maturity levels. Devise training programs to suit all.
- Develop team respect. For opponents, umpires and coaches.
- Recognise the importance of proper injury treatment.
- Keep up to date. With coaching developments.
- Attain coaching accreditation.
- Avoid derogatory language. Based on gender or race.