

## WAFC COMPRULES.3-4: Year 3 & 4 Competition Rules

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Lead Area:	WAFC Community Football
Lead Procedure Title:	Year 3 & 4 Competition Rules
Procedure Reference Number:	WAFC COMPRULES.3-4
Adapted by:	JH.
Last Modified:	6 February 2022

### BACKGROUND

All competitions managed by the West Australian Football Commission are played as per the AFL Laws of Australian Football. The below modifications have been made to Year 3 & 4 competitions to assist junior players with skill development and an understanding of the game. Coaches must endeavour to coach players within the spirit that these rules were intended (refer to WAFC Junior & Youth Rules & Regulations, Rule 1 – Spirit of Junior Football.)

Please note that where mixed year group competitions are played, the competition rules of the lower year group shall be applied.

### COMPETITION RULES

1. MATCH OPERATIONS	
<b>1a. Ground Size</b>	As per WAFC POL.15A – Ground Preparation, ground sizes for Year 3 – Year 4 competitions should be 80m – 100m (L) x 50m – 75m (W)
<b>1b. Football</b>	<b>Year 3:</b> Size 1 synthetic football <b>Male Year 4:</b> Size 2 synthetic football <b>Female Year 3/4:</b> Size 1 synthetic football (updated 24.03.2022)
<b>1c. Number of Players</b>	<b>Year 3:</b> 15-a-side <b>Male Year 4:</b> 15-a-side <b>Female Year 4:</b> 15-a-side The below rules apply to both Male and Female 15-a-side formats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. No ruck or rovers</li> <li>ii. Unlimited reserves</li> <li>iii. Numbers on the field should always be even.</li> </ul> <p><b>*Children born after 30/06/2014 are not permitted to play in Year 3 competitions</b></p>
<b>1d. Match Length</b>	4x 15-minute quarters.
2. GENERAL MATCH RULES	
<b>2a. Start of Play</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Ball-up in the centre of the ground between 2 players, approximately of equal size.</li> <li>ii. Players are not permitted to take full possession out of a ruck contest.</li> <li>iii. Maximum of 3 players from each team permitted within 20 metres of ball up.</li> </ul>
<b>2b. Positions</b>	Soft zone resets at each stoppage: 5 lines of 3 (i.e., FF, HF, C, HB, FB)
<b>2c. After a Goal</b>	After a goal, a ball-up should occur in the centre of the ground as per 2a. The umpire shall select different players to contest the centre ball-up each time.

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<b>2d. Out of Bounds</b>	<p><b>Last Possession Rule:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. From a kick or handball, a free kick is to be awarded to the nearest opponent.</li> <li>ii. If a player runs the ball over the boundary line, a free kick is to be awarded to the nearest opponent.</li> <li>iii. If the ball is off hands or a player's body, a ball-up is to occur 10 metres in from the boundary line.</li> <li>iv. If there is any doubt as to who's free kick it is, a ball-up is to occur 10 metres in from the boundary line.</li> </ul>
<b>2e. Scrimmage</b>	Umpire to stop play and with the help of the coaches, instruct players to return to their positions as per 2b before throwing the ball up. This is to teach players the positions and reduce congestion.
<b>2f. Marking</b>	A mark is to be awarded for any reasonable attempt at catching the ball, regardless of distance covered.
<b>2g. Bouncing</b>	Players are only permitted to bounce (or touch the ball on the ground) once before disposing of the ball.
<b>2h. Kicking off the Ground</b>	Players are not permitted to deliberately kick the ball off the ground or use feet to control the ball whilst it is on the ground. Whereby the foot makes accidental contact to the ball, the umpire will call play on.
<b>2i. Protected Area</b>	The protected area at this level is 5 metres.
<b>2j. 50m Penalties</b>	Due to the reduced size of the playing field, umpires may award a 25-metre penalty.
<b>2k. Order-off Rule</b>	To be applied as per the Red & Yellow card system.
<b>3. CONTACT</b>	
<b>3a. Tackling</b>	<p><b>Modified Wrap Tackle Rule:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Player may wrap both arms around an opponent and hold feet.</li> <li>ii. Players must not drop to ground.</li> <li>iii. Strictly no slinging or bringing the opposition player to ground.</li> <li>iv. Grabbing the arm is not permitted.</li> <li>v. Once tackled legally, players have 3 seconds to dispose of the ball, or a free kick for <i>holding the ball</i> will be awarded.</li> <li>vi. If the player being tackled deliberately goes to ground, a free kick for <i>holding the ball</i> will be awarded to the tackling player.</li> </ul>
<b>3b. Bumping</b>	Strictly no bumping.
<b>3c. Smothering</b>	Strictly no smothering, stripping, or stealing of the ball.
<b>3d. Shepherding</b>	Players are not permitted to push, shoulder, or block an opponent who is not in possession of the ball.

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4. COMPETITION ROLES	
<b>4a. Team Nominations</b>	<p>In addition to the general Team Nomination requirements in WAFC POL.10A,</p> <p>If a club enters more than one team in a single division or has multiple teams in a year group, then the following is to apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>i.</b> Players are not permitted to move from one team to another team in the same Club and year group after Round One of that season, unless directed to do so by the WAFC under WAFC POL.10A 4b. This rule does not apply for “Temporary Play Ups”.</li> <li><b>ii.</b> If a player does play for another team in the same Club and year group after Round One, they will be deemed an ineligible player. This rule does not apply for “Temporary Play Ups”.</li> <li><b>iii.</b> Each team is to be treated as a separate entity.</li> </ul>
<b>4b. Competition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>i.</b> No match results.</li> <li><b>ii.</b> No premiership points.</li> <li><b>iii.</b> No ladders</li> <li><b>iv.</b> No finals</li> </ul>
<b>4c. Awards</b>	No awards (Best & Fairest etc) at this level.

### MATCH DAY ROLES

5. COMPETITION ROLES	
<b>5a. Field Umpires</b>	<p>The WAFC will appoint umpires for all matches.</p> <p>Should a field umpire not be available to officiate at any match the opposing coaches or team officials may agree to appoint an adult to act in that capacity. In such case the appointed umpire shall have the same responsibilities and authority as any umpire appointed by the Umpires Coach.</p> <p>Any umpire not appointed by the WAFC under this rule must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>i.</b> 18 years or older.</li> <li><b>ii.</b> Named on match documents.</li> <li><b>iii.</b> Suitably attired for the match as approved by the WAFC.</li> <li><b>iv.</b> Compliant with all WWC legislation (Working with Children).</li> </ul>
<b>5b. Boundary Umpires</b>	Boundary Umpires are not required in Year 3-4 matches as the Last Possession Rule is applied. See 2d. Out of Bounds.
<b>5c. Goal Umpires</b>	<p>Each competing team shall supply a goal umpire who should be of sufficient knowledge and competency to carry out all responsibilities of the position, as defined in the Laws of the Game.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>i.</b> The Goal Umpires will wear appropriate attire and have a minimum of two signalling flags.</li> <li><b>ii.</b> The goal umpires will endeavour to keep the area immediately behind the goal line clear of spectators and other obstructions (refer to WAFC POL.15)</li> <li><b>iii.</b> The goal umpire is not permitted to coach or encourage players.</li> <li><b>iv.</b> Goal Umpires are not permitted to enter the playing field during the game unless instructed to do so by the Field Umpire.</li> </ul>

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<b>5d. Timekeeper</b>	The home team shall supply a Timekeeper for each game. The Timekeeper will have a means of keeping time and of indicating the end of each quarter to the field umpire and be deemed to be the official timekeeper.
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<b>6. TEAM ROLES</b>	
<b>6a. Coaches</b>	<p><b>General</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. A team for any match shall have a coach who is subject to the same investigations and penalties as a player, including suspensions, sanctions, and fines.</li><li>ii. Coaches must play all eligible and able players up to the maximum allowed in all home and away matches.</li><li>iii. Coaches must adhere to the Equal Opportunity Policy for all players in all games (refer to WAFC POL.04).</li></ol> <p><b>Accreditation</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>iv. All head coaches and assistant coaches must at minimum be accredited as an age-appropriate Foundation Coach via CoachAFL prior to coaching their first fixtured match.</li><li>v. If a coach is not a CoachAFL member and does not hold at minimum, an age-appropriate Foundation Coach accreditation, they will not be permitted to coach.</li></ol> <p><b>Coaches Box</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. All coaching staff must remain within the Coaches Box. Only listed coaching staff can remain in the Coaches Box. Coaching staff may only exit the Coaches Box at authorised quarter changes, half time and at the conclusion of the match.</li><li>ii. Each team is permitted to have a maximum of five people inside the Coaches Box, performing the following roles:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Head Coach</li><li>• Assistant Coach</li><li>• Runner (Year 4 only)</li><li>• Medical Trainer</li><li>• Team Manager</li></ul></li></ol> <p><b>Year 3 Exemptions</b></p> <p>The coach is permitted to be on the ground during any game and therefore may exit the Coaches Box. The coach is not permitted to carry water. The coach is not permitted to carry a file or any other item which may cause injury to a participant.</p>

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<p><b>6b. Team Manager</b></p>	<p><b>General</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Each team is required to have a team manager who will act as the primary point of contact for umpires, between competing teams and match officials.</li> <li>ii. The Home Team Manager is responsible for the welfare of the umpires on match day.</li> </ul> <p><b>Coaches Box</b> Team managers are permitted inside the coach's box.</p>
<p><b>6c. Runners</b></p>	<p><b>Year 3:</b> <u>Year 3 teams are not permitted to have a runner.</u></p> <p><b>Year 4:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Teams are only permitted to have one runner.</li> <li>ii. Team runners shall be clearly identified by wearing an approved uniform.</li> <li>iii. Runners are not permitted to carry water.</li> <li>iv. Team runners are not permitted to remain on the playing surface. Team runners are to deliver one message from the coach to a player and return immediately to the coach's box via the interchange area.</li> <li>v. Team runners are not permitted to 'coach' whilst on the ground.</li> <li>vi. Team runners must always enter and exit the playing field through the interchange area.</li> <li>vii. Team runners must be 18 years or older.</li> <li>viii. Team runners are not to carry out any other team official duties during a match.</li> <li>ix. Team Runners are under no circumstances allowed to make physical contact with umpires, opposition players or officials.</li> </ul> <p><b>Coaches Box</b> The team runner is permitted inside the coach's box.</p>
<p><b>6d. Medical Officer/Trainer</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Each team shall provide a team medical officer/sports trainer with a current HLTAID011 Provide First Aid (formerly HLTAID003).</li> <li>ii. The team medical officer/sports trainer shall be clearly identifiable.</li> <li>iii. The team medical officer/sports trainer must not remove a player on a stretcher unless they have necessary formal training and qualifications to do so. (e.g., SMA Level 1 Sports Trainer).</li> <li>iv. Should a team fail to provide a qualified medical officer/sports trainer, then the opposing teams suitably trained medical officer/sports trainer may assume control of injured players for both teams.</li> <li>v. Each team shall provide an appropriately and adequately stocked first aid kit and well-maintained sport-specific rescue/transport equipment are accessible at all training and competition venues</li> </ul> <p><b>Coaches Box</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vi. Only one Medical Officer/Trainer is permitted inside the coach's box.</li> </ul>

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<b>6e. General</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. A team official under suspension for a breach of the Laws of the Game or the WAFC Rules &amp; Regulations may not play or officiate in any game of Australian Football during the period of suspension. This includes any affiliated senior, junior, WAFL, Country, School, or Interstate competition.</li><li>ii. Team Officials are not permitted to make intentional contact with opposition players, umpires, or opposition officials, under any circumstances.</li></ul>
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### SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

AFL Laws of Australian Football

WAFC Junior & Youth Rules & Regulations

WAFC POL.04 – Equal Opportunity & Fair Play

WAFC POL.15A – Ground Preparation

WAFC POL.15I – Stretcher Policy