

WAFC POL.15I Match Operations Policy: Stretchers

GENERAL INFORMATION

Lead Area:	WAFC Community Football
Lead Procedure Title:	Match Operations Policy: Stretchers
Procedure Reference Number:	WAFC POL.15I
Adapted by:	JH.
Last Modified:	15 December 2020

POLICY BACKGROUND

As per WAFC POL.15A – Ground Preparation, a stretcher is required at all Junior and Youth matches under the control of the WAFC, including finals.

RULES

1. CALLING FOR A STRETCHER	
1a	Any player who in the opinion of the injured player's team officials requires the assistance of a stretcher shall be attended to by a suitably trained and certified medical officer trained in the use of a stretcher prior to removal of that player.
1b	Only authorised persons are permitted to enter the field of play and no team meetings or coaching is permitted during this time. Players must remain in their positions ready for recommencement of play.
1c	Should a coach enter the field of play during a stretcher call and in the opinion of the umpire was doing so to provide instruction, a free kick will be awarded to the opposing side in front of goal at the end of the 10-metre square. (This rule will not apply if the 10 minutes or quarter break becomes enforced).
1d	Should both teams' coaches enter the field of play for the purpose of giving instruction, play will resume as would be the case under the rules of the game and both teams will have a fine imposed at the discretion of the WAFC.
1e	Umpires will report all stretcher call outs and the outcomes on the match documentation.
2. REMOVAL OF A PLAYER	
2a	If the stretcher has been called for by an authorised person, then the player will be removed from the playing field via the most direct route for play to recommence and the injured player may be replaced through the interchange.
2b	If a player is removed from the field on a stretcher then that player will not take any further part in the game whatsoever.
2c	If a field umpire or team medical officer is of the opinion that a player cannot be moved from the field of play due to the severity of an injury, then play may be abandoned for the game at the discretion of a meeting between the two Team Managers and the Field Umpire and/or any league appointed official (i.e., match day steward). The WAFC shall be advised of any such abandonment for the purpose of either rescheduling the fixture or determining a result according to the progress score and point of the game at which the game was abandoned. For all final round matches all decisions pertaining to the above rules will be controlled by the WAFC or their appointed officials.
3. TIMEKEEPING	
3a	The timekeeper shall stop the clock once the field umpire has called time after a stretcher has entered the field of play, and shall restart the clock at the time the field umpire recommences play and calls time.
3b	The timekeeper shall record the time out and the time of the quarter at which point the clock was stopped.
3c	If the time taken to attend to the injured player exceeds 10 minutes from the time out the following will apply:

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If the quarter would have ended during the delay - time will be called for the quarter and play will recommence for the next quarter after the standard break.• If the final quarter is in progress and the stretcher is called for, the remaining time will be played out once play recommences.
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

WAFC POL.15A