

WAFC COMPRULES.7-8: Year 7 – Year 8 Male Competition Rules



GENERAL INFORMATION

Lead Area:	WAFC Community Football
Lead Procedure Title:	Year 7 – Year 8 Male Competition Rules
Procedure Reference Number:	WAFC COMPRULES.7-8
Adapted by:	JH.
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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 all male Year 7 – Year 8 competitions to assist 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.

KEY CHANGES

A summary of the key rule changes from Year 5 - Year 6 competitions to Year 7 – Year 8 competitions have been outlined below.

1. MATCH OPERATIONS	
1a. Ground Size	Ground sizes increase as per WAFC POL.15A.
1c. Number of Players	Restrictions on the number of players allowed on the bench.
2. GENERAL MATCH RULES	
2b. Positions	Soft zone resets at centre bounces only.
2f. Marking	Increase of the minimum distance required for a mark.
2g. Bouncing	Maximum number of bounces increases.
2h. Kicking off the Ground	Players are permitted to kick the ball off the ground.
3. CONTACT	
3a. Tackling	Tackling permitted.
4. COMPETITION RULES	
4b. Competition	Scoring, match results, premiership points and ladders are all permitted. Finals matches are played.

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COMPETITION RULES

1. MATCH OPERATIONS	
1a. Ground Size	As per WAFC POL.15A – Ground Preparation, ground sizes for Year 7 – Year 8 competitions should be set at 110m – 140m (L) x 70m – 110m (W).
1b. Football	Year 7: Size 3 leather footballs Year 8: Size 4 leather footballs
1c. Number of Players	15-a-side: i. Maximum of 7 players on the bench ii. Numbers on the field should always be even
1d. Match Length	4x 15-minute quarters.
2. GENERAL MATCH RULES	
2a. Start of Play	i. Ball-up in the centre of the ground between 2 players. ii. Players are not permitted to take full possession out of a ruck contest. iii. Maximum of 3 players from each team permitted within 20 metres of ball up.
2b. Positions	Soft zone resets at centre bounces: 5 forwards, 5 midfielders & 5 defenders
2c. After a Goal	After a goal, a ball-up should occur in the centre of the ground as per 2a. Start of Play.
2d. Out of Bounds	Last Possession Rule: i. From a kick or handball, a free kick is to be awarded to the nearest opponent. ii. If a player runs the ball over the boundary line, a free kick is to be awarded to the nearest opponent. 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. 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.
2e. Scrimmage	Umpire to stop play before throwing the ball up. Coaches should instruct players to get into position as per 2b to teach players the positions and reduce congestion.
2f. Marking	A mark is to be awarded for any kick that travels a minimum of 15 metres
2g. Bouncing	Players are only permitted to bounce (or touch the ball on the ground) twice before disposing of the ball.
2h. Kicking off the Ground	Players are permitted to deliberately kick the ball off the ground or use feet to control the ball whilst it is on the ground.
2i. Protected Area	The protected area at this level is 5 metres.
2j. Order-off Rule	To be applied as per the Red & Yellow card system.
3. CONTACT	
3a. Tackling	Tackling is permitted as per AFL Laws of the Game.
4. COMPETITION ROLES	
4a. Team Nominations	In addition to the general Team Nomination requirements in WAFC POL.10A, If a club enters more than one team in a single division in any Year 7 or Year 8 competition or has multiple teams in a year group, then the following is to apply: i. 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. ii. 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. iii. Each team is to be treated as a separate entity.

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4b. Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Scoring and match results are permitted. ii. Premiership points and ladders are permitted. iii. Finals are played
4c. Awards	Year 7 & Year 8: Best players and goal kickers may be recorded and awarded at this level.
5. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY	
5a. General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Once a player has played five games in an older year group within a junior competition, they shall be deemed to be a part of that older year group for the remainder of the season (including finals). They will not be eligible to play any further regular season games or finals in the younger year group. If a player has played in multiple teams in the older year group within a junior competition, they will become a member of the team they played the most matches for. ii. Players who miss matches in the qualifying rounds of a season through participation in any WAFC State Program will be credited for each match missed. The grade of game allocated will be the grade where the player has played the majority of matches in the current season. iii. Any Colts player who plays a match at WAFL level, is deemed ineligible to play Junior/Youth football on the same weekend.
5b. Finals Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To be eligible to take part in any finals match all non-WAFL Colts players must have played a minimum of five matches for that team in the qualifying rounds of that season. ii. WAFL Colts players must have played a minimum of seven matches for that team in the qualifying rounds of that season to be eligible for finals. iii. A player who has suffered a long-term injury, and has subsequently not qualified for finals, may on application to the WAFC be deemed eligible given that they have provided supporting medical documentation. The final decision is at the sole discretion of the WAFC. A long-term injury refers to an injury where the recovery period is six or more consecutive matches. iv. WAFL Colts players who have played at least three quarters of the total matches of the qualifying rounds of the WAFL Colts season are ineligible to play with a junior club/team during junior finals. v. Players may only compete in one finals series with the one team.

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MATCH DAY ROLES

6. COMPETITION ROLES	
6a. Field Umpires	<p>The umpires' coach shall oversee a panel of umpires from which he will appoint a trained umpire(s) to officiate at each match played under the control of the WAFC. All umpires must comply with the AFL Laws of Australian Football, WAFC Junior & Youth Rules & Regulations and any Competition variations adopted by the governing bodies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Should a field umpire not be available to officiate at any match the opposing coaches or team officials may agree to appoint any person 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, including the awarding of Fairest and Best votes. An umpire appointed under this rule shall be named on match documents and shall receive normal match payments. ii. All field umpires shall be suitably attired for the match as approved by the WAFC. iii. The field umpire will report all stretcher callouts as per WAFC POL.15I – Stretcher Policy. iv. The collection of umpire related match documents is at the discretion of the WAFC. v. Any officially appointed emergency umpire will have the same powers as the central umpires.
6b. Boundary Umpires	<p>Boundary umpires are not required for any Year 7 – Year 8 15-a-side matches as the Last Possession Rule will apply as per 2d. Out of Bounds.</p>
6c. Goal Umpires	<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"> i. The Goal Umpires will wear the approved attire and have a minimum of two signalling flags. ii. The goal umpire will be supplied with a scorecard. The goal umpire will keep a record of each team's score during the game, will compare score cards at the end of every quarter and will change ends at half time. Goal Umpires must compare scorecards with Interchange Stewards/independent scorer at all major breaks. iii. At the conclusion of the game the Goal Umpire will date and sign the scorecards and hand them to the field umpire. iv. 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) v. The goal umpire is not permitted to coach or encourage players.
6d. Timekeeper	<p>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.</p>
6e. Interchange Steward	<p>Both the home and away teams are responsible for providing an Interchange Steward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Only one steward per team is permitted inside the interchange area where they must remain for the duration of the match. ii. In the event an interchange steward is not in attendance the appointed timekeeper/s will be responsible for the recording of the send-off details and make notes of any issues that would usually be the responsibility of the Interchange Steward.

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6f. Independent Scorer	<p>The Home Team shall provide and independent scorer.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Independent Scorer is permitted to be the same person as the Interchange Steward. The Independent Scorer shall carryout their duties in accordance with the AFL Laws of the Game The Goal umpires and the independent scorer shall enter all goals and behinds and confer at the conclusion of each quarter. Should any discrepancy occur in the scores recorded by both goal umpires then the scores will be clarified with the umpires and the independent scorer, with the scorecard of the independent scorer being deemed as the official score.
7. TEAM ROLES	
7a. Coaches	<p>General</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Coaches must play all eligible and able players up to the maximum allowed in both home and away and finals matches. Coaches must adhere to the Equal Opportunity Policy for all players in all games, including finals (refer to WAFC POL.04) <p>Accreditation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Only accredited coaches will be able to be selected on a team sheet. All head coaches must at minimum be accredited as an age-appropriate Foundation Coach via CoachAFL prior to coaching their first fixtured match. 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. All assistant coaches must be accredited as an age-appropriate Foundation Coach prior to coaching their first fixtured match. <p>Coaches Box</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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"> Head Coach Assistant Coach / Runner* Medical Trainer Team Manager <p><i>*Where the Assistant Coach is unable to perform the duties of Team Runner an additional volunteer may be appointed to perform the duties of Runner. This role MUST NOT carry out the duties of a 2nd Assistant Coach.</i></p>
7b. Team Manager	<p>General</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. The Home Team Manager is responsible for the welfare of the umpires on match day.

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	<p>Coaches Box</p> <p>iii. Team managers are permitted inside the Coaches box.</p>
7c. Runners	<p>General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Teams are only permitted to have one runner. ii. Team runners shall be clearly identified by wearing an approved WAFC uniform. iii. Runners are not permitted to carry water. 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 Coaches Box via the interchange area. v. Team runners are not permitted to 'coach' whilst on the ground. vi. Team runners must always enter and exit the playing field through the interchange area. vii. Team runners should be an adult. viii. Team runners are not to carry out any other team official duties during a match. <p>Coaches Box</p> <p>ix. The team runner is permitted inside the coaches box.</p>
7d. Medical Officer/Trainer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Each team shall provide a team medical officer/sports trainer with a current Provide First Aid – 1 Day Accreditation (previously known as Senior First Aid/Apply First Aid). ii. The team medical officer/sports trainer shall be clearly identified by wearing approved WAFC uniform. iii. The team medical officer/sports trainer must be able to prove, upon request by league officials, suitable proof of qualifications to assess and remove injured players on a stretcher. 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. <p>Coaches Box</p> <p>i. Only one Medical Officer/Trainer is permitted inside the Coaches box.</p>
7e. General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. A team official under suspension for a breach of the Laws of the Game or the WAFC Rules & 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. v. Team Officials are not permitted to make intentional contact with opposition players under any circumstances.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

AFL Laws of Australian Football
 WAFC Junior & Youth Rules & Regulations
 WAFC POL.04 – Equal Opportunity
 WAFC POL.15A – Ground Preparation
 WAFC POL.15I – Stretcher Policy