

WAFC POL.10A Competitions Policy: Team Selection & Nominations

GENERAL INFORMATION

Lead Area:	WAFC Community Football
Lead Procedure Title:	Competitions Policy: Team Selections & Nominations
Procedure Reference Number:	WAFC POL.10A
Adapted by:	TM.
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POLICY BACKGROUND

The West Australian Football Commission is committed to forming fair, even and competitive competitions that enable young players of all abilities to have fun, actively participate and improve their knowledge and skills of the game. The intent of this policy is to:

- a) clearly outline the team nomination process.
- b) provide guidance on how clubs can allocate players to teams in instances where there is more than one team in a year group.

TEAM NOMINATIONS

The West Australian Football Commission will establish a date each year where clubs will submit team nominations for year groups in which they wish to field teams for the upcoming season. The WAFC shall consider all nominations and where possible shall include teams in competitions as nominated.

RULES

1. TEAM NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS	
1a	Each team nomination should include the name and other relevant details of the following people: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. An accredited coach capable of teaching players the laws and skills of Australian Football in line with the Spirit of the Game and the WAFC's True Sport Codes of Conduct ii. A manager capable of assisting the coach by carrying out clerical and other duties relating to the efficient functioning of the team.
2. ENTERING MULTIPLE TEAMS IN A DIVISION/YEAR GROUP	
If a club enters more than one team in a single division in any year group or has multiple teams in a year group, then the following is to apply.	
2a	Each team nominated by the respective club must be done so in such a way that each team is competitive within its nominated division.
2b	If a club has two teams in one division, it must be done so in such a way that each team is competitive within that division.
2c	If the teams are viewed to be uncompetitive by the WAFC within the first five rounds as per Rule 4 of this document, the WAFC has the power to direct the club to re-allocate players.
2d	If the club is directed to re-nominate the teams, the club will resubmit the teams and will be subject to further review by the WAFC.
2e	Specific competition rules regarding entering multiple teams in a division/year group can be found in the individual Competition Rules documents.
3. TEAM WITHDRAWALS	
3a	A Club which withdraws a team or teams from any competition without a reason acceptable to the WAFC, may be liable to a penalty. If a team is withdrawn from a competition after the commencement of a season, the WAFC shall determine how the fixtures will be re-organised and for which games premiership points will be awarded.

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UNCOMPETITIVE TEAMS PROCESS

This process provides clubs a clear and transparent process for determining whether a team is uncompetitive under Rule 2 of this document, and how the WAFC will work with a club to rectify this.

RULES

4. UNCOMPETITIVE TEAMS PROCESS	
4a	Prior to the season, the WAFC will formally notify any clubs if they believe a team may be deemed uncompetitive based on the previous year's results which will include a recommendation to re-allocate players across teams prior to the season beginning
4b	At any point across the first five rounds of the season, the WAFC may formally notify clubs if they believe a team may be deemed uncompetitive and provide a recommendation to re-allocate players across teams.
4c	For a team to be deemed uncompetitive they must meet the following criteria as a minimum. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Must have lost a minimum of three matches by 60 points or more across the first five matches. ii. A Competition Official must have attended two matches across the first five matches and have made an assessment that the team is uncompetitive within the context of the match at both matches.
4d	If a team is deemed uncompetitive at the conclusion of Round 5, they will be requested to provide evidence to the competition that they have taken steps to improve the competitiveness of the team, including re-allocating players between teams within the club.
4e	If a team is deemed uncompetitive and the club refuses to re-allocate players after the completion of Round 5, that team will not be eligible to play for premiership points for the remainder of the season.

TEAM ALLOCATION

There are various methods a club may choose to adopt when allocating players among two or more teams in a year group. The WAFC suggests that Clubs consider each of the below methods.

- **Even Teams:** Ensuring each team is of equal strength.
- **Friendship Groups:** Ensuring players are able to play with their close friends.
- **School Groups:** Ensuring players are able to play with their school friends.
- **Annual Rotation:** Ensuring players are able to experience playing with different players and are prepared for older year groups when there is an increased likelihood that teams will merge.

The below table is designed to assist clubs in managing multiple teams in a year group. It outlines when and how to split players across multiple teams to ensure all teams are competitive within their division and that players are provided with the best opportunity to enjoy playing, learning and developing the skills of Australian Football.

5. ADOPT A CLUB MENTALITY OVER A TEAM MENTALITY

Clubs are encouraged to adopt a club mentality rather than an individual team mentality. This will encourage long-term friendships that extend beyond school groups and past teammates and minimises the impact of players having to move or merge teams during their Junior Football career.

The WAFC encourages teams from the same club, in the same year group to train together as one. The benefits of doing this include:

- Building a strong club culture
- Encouraging strong friendships between a larger group of players and parents making any regrade or reallocation of players less daunting for players and their families.
- Ability to run more effective training sessions with larger numbers at training, implementing a hub training model which keeps players engaged and exposes them to a variety of coaches and coaching styles.
- Sharing of resources – green space, coaches, equipment etc.

6. WHEN SHOULD CLUBS MERGE OR SPLIT TEAMS?

With a focus on participation, the WAFC looks to maximise the number of opportunities for as many young players as possible to play the game. As such, denying registrations and turning players away is discouraged, however the WAFC understands the complications involved when deciding whether to enter one or more teams in a year group. The below table will act as a guide to assist clubs in working through these decisions.

Year Group	1 Team	Requires Action	2 Teams	3 Teams
12-a-side Competitions	9 – 18 players	19 – 22 players	23 – 34 players	35+ players
15-a-side Competitions	12 – 23 players	24 – 28 players	29 – 46 players	47+ players
18-a-side Competitions	15 – 28 players	29 – 35 players	36 – 56 players	57+ players

Action Required

If a club sits within the above 'Requires Action' column for any of their year groups, the below options are available and should be considered:

1. Recruitment:

Work together with WAFC district staff to recruit additional numbers in order to enter a second team.

2. Utilising current WAFC Policies, Rules & Regulations:

Enter a second team and utilise current Junior Football Policies, Rules & Regulations to ensure sufficient numbers for a match, which includes:

- Play Ups - see 9.2 of the WAFC Community Football Junior Rules & Regulations.
- Even Up – see WAFC POL.15D Game Day Even Up

3. Player Permitting:

The WAFC has developed a WAFC.POL21 Rotating Player Permit Policy, which enables teams with excess players to temporarily permit their players to a nearby club to assist with teams who are low on numbers. This is a great way of ensuring players get maximum playing time and more opportunities to touch the football and further develop their skills rather than not playing or sitting on the bench.

4. Team Mergers:

Work together with neighbouring clubs who may also be low on numbers in the same year group, to enter a merged team.

Considerations

The below considerations must be made, particularly when numbers sit within the 'Requires Action' column in the above table:

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- Entering one team with too many players results in excessive interchange sizes, reduced game time and fewer coaches per player.
- Entering a second team with too few players increases the number of coaches and volunteers required.
- Priority should be given to returning and new players over players transferring in from other clubs.

7. WHO SHOULD SPLIT PLAYERS BETWEEN TWO OR MORE TEAMS?

The Club President and/or the Club Coaching Coordinator in consultation with the head coaches within a year group should make the decision on when and how players should be split into multiple teams.

8. HOW SHOULD PLAYERS BE SPLIT BETWEEN TWO OR MORE TEAMS?

The WAFC suggests that clubs should endeavour to make their teams as even as possible, splitting players based on their skills, size, speed and overall ability. The method below has been employed by several Junior Clubs in the past with great success.

Step 1: Assign each player a rating from 1 through to 5 (1 being the strongest).

Player Name	Rating
Billy Hobbs	3
Peter Smith	1
Jonny Jones	4
Jack Brown	2
Jimmy Kent	2
Jesse Williams	3
Harry Palmer	5
Sam Perry	5
Robert Walsh	4
Scott Cook	3
Luke Walker	3
Cameron Green	2
Jackson Keogh	1
James Taylor	3

Step 2: Allocate Coaches, Assistant Coaches and a Team Manager to each team.

Team 1	Team 2
Coach Walker	Coach Smith
Assistant Coach Hobbs	Assistant Coach Jones
Team Manager Walsh	Team Manager Green

Step 3: Sort the list of players numerically from the 1s through to the 5s.

Player Name	Rating
Peter Smith	1
Ben Cox	1
Jack Brown	2
Jimmy Kent	2
Cameron Green	2
Billy Hobbs	3
Jesse Williams	3
Scott Cook	3
Luke Walker	3
James Taylor	3
Jonny Jones	4
Robert Walsh	4
Harry Palmer	5
Sam Perry	5

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Step 4: Starting at the top of the list, allocate players to alternate teams

Player Name	Rating
Peter Smith	1
Ben Cox	1
Jack Brown	2
Jimmy Kent	2
Cameron Green	2
Billy Hobbs	3
Jesse Williams	3
Scott Cook	3
Luke Walker	3
James Taylor	3
Jonny Jones	4
Robert Walsh	4
Harry Palmer	5
Sam Perry	5

Team 1	Team 2
Coach Walker	Coach Smith
Assistant Coach Hobbs	Assistant Coach Jones
Team Manager Walsh	Team Manager Green
Peter Smith (1)	Ben Cox (1)
Jack Brown (2)	Jimmy Kent (2)
Cameron Green (2)	Billy Hobbs (3)
Jesse Williams (3)	Scott Cook (3)
Luke Walker (3)	James Taylor (3)
Jonny Jones (4)	Robert Walsh (4)
Harry Palmer (5)	Sam Perry (5)
Total Rating: 20	Total Rating: 21

Step 5: Make any changes to ensure volunteer's children are on the required team. At this point, players should only be swapped for players with an equal rating.

Team 1	Team 2
Coach Walker	Coach Smith
Assistant Coach Hobbs	Assistant Coach Jones
Team Manager Walsh	Team Manager Green
Peter Smith (1)	Ben Cox (1)
Jack Brown (2)	Jimmy Kent (2)
Cameron Green (2)	Billy Hobbs (3)
Jesse Williams (3)	Scott Cook (3)
Luke Walker (3)	James Taylor (3)
Jonny Jones (4)	Robert Walsh (4)
Harry Palmer (5)	Sam Perry (5)

Trades:

Billy Hobbs (3) moves from Team 2 to Team 1 in exchange for **Jesse Williams (3)**

Robert Walsh (4) moves from Team 1 to Team 2 in exchange for **Jonny Jones (4)**

Peter Smith (1) moves from Team 1 to Team 2 in exchange for **Ben Cox (1)**

Cameron Green (2) moves from Team 2 to Team 1 in exchange for **Jimmy Kent (2)**

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Team 1	Team 2
Coach Walker	Coach Smith
Assistant Coach Hobbs	Assistant Coach Jones
Team Manager Walsh	Team Manager Green
Ben Cox (1)	Peter Smith (1)
Jack Brown (2)	Cameron Green (2)
Jimmy Kent (2)	Jesse Williams (3)
Billy Hobbs (3)	Scott Cook (3)
Luke Walker (3)	James Taylor (3)
Robert Walsh (4)	Jonny Jones (4)
Harry Palmer (5)	Sam Perry (5)
Total Rating: 20	Total Rating: 21

Step 6: Assess the two teams and consider how they would compare in a match. Fine tune the teams by making any necessary changes to ensure teams are as even as possible in terms of players' physical size and speed and overall team balance. Once again only swap players of the same value.

Step 7: As teams have been split evenly, they should be nominated in the same competition during the Team Nomination process. Please discuss with your WAFC Competition staff who will provide guidance as to the most suitable division for your teams.

Considerations

Please consider the below when following the above procedure:

- For clubs affected by PSA boarders, please ensure there are an equal number of boarders spread across the two teams.
- Upon request to the WAFC, Clubs will have the ability to make changes over the first two rounds of the Home & Away season, providing flexibility to get team balance right.
- After teams have been split, they are still encouraged to train together as per Rule 5 above.
- The WAFC encourages clubs to follow this process and reallocate players to a new team each season. The idea behind this is to promote players' individual development and allows them to experience the game playing with different teammates. It also promotes a club over team mentality where players are exposed to different coaches and coaching styles and encourages new friendships in both the player and parent groups.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

AFL Laws of Australian Football

WAFC POL.15D

WAFC POL.19

WAFC POL.21

WAFC COMPRULES