

Below is an excerpt from the 2013 WRFL By-Laws. Please note that for the 2013 season the modified rules detailed below will apply at Under 9 level only. The U10 age group will play under 2012 Modified Rules.

2013 WRFL By-Laws

3.2 Modified Rules for Junior Games

3.2.1 Spirit of Game

All junior games must be conducted with an emphasis on fun, involvement, learning of skills and good sportsmanship. Within reason, coaches must ensure that all players, irrespective of ability, are given sufficient time on the playing field to experience the game and achieve a sense of involvement. Club officials, parents and spectators must demonstrate behaviours and attitudes consistent with this spirit. Clubs must promote and enforce a “zero tolerance” to behaviours and attitudes inconsistent with the spirit, especially (but not limited to) abuse or dissent with umpires, officials and players. At the end of the game, players and officials of both teams must meet in the centre of the ground and shake each other by the hand.

3.2.2 Under 9 and Under 10 Modified Rules

The following modified rules shall apply in all Under 9 and Under 10 games. In all other respects, games shall be conducted in accordance with total WRFL by-laws.

Modifications to Game Conditions:

- a) Scores shall not be recorded
- b) No scoreboard shall operate
- c) No premiership points shall be awarded
- d) Ladders shall not be compiled/published
- e) No final series to be played
- f) No WRFL awards shall be made to individual Players.

3.2.2.1 Playing Ground

At the discretion of the home club, games may be played on grounds marked to range in size from full-size down to a minimum of half the size of a full ground. Home clubs must notify opposition clubs no later than the Thursday before the game should they determine to play on a reduced sized ground. Clubs are encouraged to use reduced size grounds wherever possible for Under 9 and Under 10 games.

3.2.2.2 Teams

Teams shall comprise of 18 players per side, unless the coaches of both teams agree to a lesser number. There shall be no limit to the number of interchange players and players may be interchanged at any time during a game. Players should be rotated every quarter, *eg.* centres, backs, forwards. Coaches are encouraged to share excess players with the opposition team if they are short. Except in the cases of injury, incapacity, discipline or a player ordered off the field by an umpire, all players shall be allocated a minimum on-fieldgame time equivalent to of half the game.

3.2.2.3 Playing Time

Game duration shall be four (4) quarters, each of 15 minutes duration (no time-on) with breaks as follows:

- a) Quarter-time: 3 minutes
- b) Half-time: 7 minutes
- c) Three-quarter-time: 3 minutes

3.2.2.4 Start of Play

Game to be started by a ball up between rucks. Player must not grab ball at ball up. It must be knocked, palmed or punched. This applies to centre throw ups only.

3.2.2.5 Scrimmage

Ball up between two (2) players of equal height.

3.2.2.6 Out of Bounds

When out of bounds from a kick, a free kick shall be awarded to nearest opponent. If in doubt to which team kicked it out, a ball up will take place five (5) metres in from boundary.

3.2.2.7 Tackling

Players can hold and release an opposition player in possession of the ball by grabbing the jumper with one or 2 hands. There is strictly no bumping, slinging or deliberately bringing the player in possession of the ball to the ground. Grabbing the arms or applying a wrap-around tackle is also not permitted. If a player in possession of the ball is held and released without a prior opportunity to dispose of the ball, they have 3 seconds to dispose of it by handballing or kicking. If a player in possession of the ball has had prior opportunity before being held and released, a free kick is awarded against him or her. When the player is held and released the umpire acknowledges the hold has been applied and instructs the player in possession to dispose of the ball within 3, 2, 1 seconds (counting backwards). A player in possession cannot be held and released again within that 3 seconds.

Players cannot:

- a) knock the ball out of an opponent's hands;
- b) push the player in the side;
- c) steal the ball from another player; or
- d) smother an opponent's kick.

3.2.2.8 Barging

No barging, fending off or chopping past opponents is allowed. A free kick shall be awarded to the nearest opponent.

3.2.2.9 Shepherding

A player is not permitted to push, shoulder or block an opponent not in possession of the ball.

3.2.2.10 Mark

A mark is awarded, no matter how far the ball has travelled, to any player who catches the ball directly from the kick of another player.

3.2.2.11 Bouncing the Ball

A player may bounce the ball only once, and then must dispose of it.

3.2.2.12 Kicking off the Ground

Deliberate kicking the ball off the ground in general play is not permitted and will result in a free kick being awarded against the offending player.

3.2.2.13 Staying in Position

Insofar as practical, players must stay in or near their allocated positions. Umpires will have discretion to stop play and demand players return to their positions when they deem play to be overly congested.

3.2.2.14 Order off Rule

The order-off rule applying in other WRFL grades will apply in Under 9 and Under 10 games.

3.2.2.15 Player Reports & Tribunals

If a player is reported in an Under 9 or Under 10 game, he/she will not appear before the Independent Tribunal or the Independent Hearing Committee. Instead, the following will apply:

- a) clubs to take action, and a copy of action taken to be forwarded to WRFL General Manager Football Operations, by Thursday 12noon after game;
- b) If the General Manager Football Operations deems fit or the player has been previously reported or disciplined then the General Manager Football Operations can request the player and the club appear before a disciplinary panel consisting of a WRFL Executive member and a member of the Tribunal and/or IHC. The Board can deal with the matter as it deems fit and may impose any penalty that the Tribunal or Independent Committee can impose.

3.2.2.16 Coach on Ground

The coach is allowed on the ground during play for the sole purpose of providing immediate feedback to players. He or she must not pressure, instruct or make comment to or about officiating umpires or decisions that they make. The coach must not pressure, instruct or make comment to players or officials of the opposition team.

When the coach elects to remain on the ground during play, then no runner for that team will be permitted on the ground at the same time as the coach. The order-off rule (refer by-law 3.21) applies to all players and officials in all junior games