



## Policy – Game day environment

DRAFT

### 1 Document purpose

This document explains the Association's position with regard to the game day environment.

### 2 What this policy applies to

This policy applies to all competitions, officials, clubs, team officials, players and spectators.

### 3 Policy

#### 3.1 Spirit of junior football

The Association should promote Competition Bylaw 1, 'Spirit of junior football in WA' (refer to Attachment 1).

#### 3.2 Player welfare

The welfare of each player is paramount.

##### 3.2.1 Strategies for ensuring player welfare

While clubs have primary responsibility for player welfare, the Association should develop strategies for ensuring player welfare programmes are established and implemented across the clubs.

As a guide, relevant WAFC policies include:

- Equal opportunity policy (WAFC)
- Alcohol policy (WAFC)
- Smoke free environment policy (WAFC)
- Member protection policy (WAFC)
- Pregnancy policy (WAFC)
- Racial vilification policy (WAFC)
- Prohibited persons declaration form (PPD) policy (WAFC)
- Working with children legislation policy (WAFC)
- Risk management policy (WAFC)
- Infectious diseases policy (WAFC, Department of Sport and Recreation)
- Protective equipment policy (WAFC)
- Spectacles policy (WAFC)
- Concussion policy (WAFC)
- Lightning policy (AFL)

##### 3.2.2 Sports trainers and player welfare

The Association should devise a programme for ensuring each team has a competent sports trainer assigned to the team and is in attendance at each match and training session, with an appropriate kit and resources.

### **3.2.3 Umpires and player welfare**

All field umpires should be trained with regard to controlling the match and, if necessary, stopping play (and stopping the clock if appropriate) where the umpire believes the welfare of a player may be at risk; and ensure the player is promptly attended to by a competent sports trainer.

The umpire should not commence or recommence play until the field umpires are satisfied with regard to the welfare of the players.

### **3.2.4 Use of stretchers**

Competition Bylaws should be observed with the use of the stretcher by competently trained persons only.

## **3.3 Ground set up and line marking**

Grounds should be set up and marked as per the Competition Rules. The home team is normally responsible for marking the ground.

As a minimum for youth grades and to assist with umpiring, the grounds should be line marked appropriately, including centre circle (3m and 10m), centre square, goal square and goal line. The boundary should also be clearly line marked, or where the full boundary is not used, marked with markers.

## **3.4 Match documentation**

The Field Umpires should validate the players against each team sheet *before* the start of the match. Any changes should be noted on the team sheet during the quarter time breaks, noting the Competition Rules with respect to late arriving players.

Field Umpires should complete other match documentation (e.g. a match report) as required by the Association.

The Team Manager of the Home Team is responsible for posting the match documentation to the Association Registrar the same day of the match.

## **3.5 On and off field behaviour and the Codes of conduct**

### **3.5.1 Managing on and off field behaviour**

Ensuring matches are played within the correct Spirit of junior football is important for the proper development of players and umpires, fair competition, and enjoyment of the sport by all persons involved.

While the field umpires must control a football match, clubs and teams are responsible for the management of behaviours, on and off the field on game, within the Spirit of junior football and the Codes of conduct.

### **3.5.2 Codes of conduct**

The Codes of conduct are documented in the WAFC Junior Club Manual. Administrators, volunteers, coaches, parents, players, runners and water carriers are expected to comply with the codes of conduct as a minimum standard of behaviour.

## **3.6 Promoting the codes of conduct and monitoring**

The Association should devise strategies to promote the codes of conduct and expected minimum standards of at football matches. Examples might include:

- distribution to all persons involved with junior football the appropriate code;
- registration forms that requires acknowledgement of the appropriate code;
- promotion of the codes on the Association website and any promotional material;

- sign boards at grounds;
- recruiting club advocates for the codes of conduct, their role being to remind club members of the appropriate code should there have been an apparent breach; and
- conducting information sessions for clubs, team management, coaches, spectators; including at club training nights.

While it is not the Associations role to manage behaviours, the Association may devise strategies for monitoring adherence to the codes of conduct on game day.

### **3.7 Best club award**

On for the Umpires' Match Report form, field umpires should rate behaviours of team officials, players and spectators at the end of each match as part of the match documentation. The Association should compile the results and award the club with the highest score.

## **4 Why this policy is required**

Player development is fundamental to junior football; and the game day environment has an important influence on player development, welfare and enjoyment of the sport.

This policy also aims to continually improve the match day environment and behaviour on and off the field so that all persons involved may maximise their enjoyment of the sport focussed primarily on development (for players and umpires).

## **5 Document record**

Date	Version	Description	By
15-Jan-2014	1.0 DRAFT	Draft for comments	AS
21-Jan-2014	1.1 DRAFT	Expanded player welfare and add use of stretcher	AS

## Attachment 1 – The Spirit of Junior Football

Competition Bylaw 1 states...

Every participant understands that Junior Football in Western Australia is delivered to the Community with the Spirit of the Game in mind.

It is incumbent on every participant irrespective of their place in the game, to ensure that they will:

- **Not focus on winning at all cost** and understand that the role of Junior Football is to foster the development of Junior Players, Volunteers, Umpires, Coaches and Officials. Learning to win and lose is part of the developmental journey of a participant but must remain secondary to the primary focus of junior player development.
- Maximise the enjoyment and development of junior footballers.
- Provide our children with a game environment that is safe, fun and fair.
- Ensure that the values which add to the spirit of our game, which include fairness, equality, respect and teamwork are encouraged and celebrated.
- Uphold, promote and protect the Rules, Laws, Codes, Policies and Spirit of the game.
- Not accept poor behaviours around our game and deter practices that undermine our games environments (Coaching, Playing, Volunteering, Spectating and Umpiring).
- Adhere to any directive issued by the games controlling bodies in the best interests of achieving the above.

## **Attachment 2 – Objectives of the Laws of Australian Football**

The Laws of Australian Football states...

### **Purpose of Laws**

These Laws explain how a Match of Australian Football is played and seek to attain the following objectives:

- (a) to ensure that the game of Australian Football is played in a fair manner and a spirit of true sportsmanship; and
- (b) to prevent injuries to Players participating in a Match so far as this objective can be reasonably achieved in circumstances where Australian Football is a body contact sport.