

# WACFL UNDER AGE (13-15) POLICY

## WACFL'S PLAYING UP PROCESS

### PROCESS FOR ANY PLAYER UNDER THE AGE OF 15 PLAYING IN A SENIOR COMPETITION

It is acknowledged that some Country Clubs do not have sufficient players to fill all Club sides and, at times, a younger player would benefit from 'playing up a grade' and to assist in making up the numbers for a team.

It is also acknowledged that Clubs, Coaches and Parents have a duty of care when deciding on a player moving up a grade.

Prior to any player 15 years of age or younger (at the time of playing) playing in a senior competition, the League must be satisfied of the following requirements to ensure the player qualifies for coverage under the Compulsory Insurance Policy the WACFL subscribes to.

To assist Clubs to conduct a reasonable duty of care to protect an underaged participant from any injury, the following policy is considered the appropriate steps that must be taken prior to the player partaking in the match:

- The Coach or a senior representative of the Club must seek approval from the child's parent or guardian. Such approval must be in writing and is deemed to be a waiver to ensure the parent or guardian is aware of the potential risk of injury. This approval must be presented to the League Secretary prior to the player being given permission to partake in the match.
- The child must wear yellow shorts throughout the match to identify them as an underage player.
- The child must be registered on the Footyweb System and recognised on the team sheet as an underage player
- The player should benefit from the opportunity to play up based on his/her skills and strength. A Duty of Care to the underage player should be the Club's primary concern.
- Coaches should endeavour to match underaged players by age and ability in accordance with the AFL Junior Match Guide\*
- The umpire must be informed of this process and use his/her best endeavours to protect the underaged player. Unduly rough conduct against underage players should be discouraged.
- Players turning 14 years in the current season are only able to play in a senior competition provided there is no suitable locally based, underage competition for them to participate in.

**\*This requirement is to be read in conjunction with the AFL Junior Football Guide which is available to read at [www.WACFL.com.au/resources/downloads](http://www.WACFL.com.au/resources/downloads)**