

WRFL Junior Rules - 2021

<i>Rules and Regulations</i>	<i>Under 12 (MERCY RULE)</i>	<i>Under 14 Girls</i>	<i>Under 14</i>	<i>Under 16 Girls</i>	<i>Under 16</i>	<i>Under 18.5 Girls</i>
<i>Players on the field</i>	18 (7 on bench)	16 (7 on bench)	18 (7 on bench)	16 (7 on bench)	18 (7 on bench)	18 (7 on bench)
<i>Minimum Players</i>	14	12	14	12	14	12
<i>Match Length</i>	4 x 15 min	4 x 15 min	4 x 18 min	4 x 15 min	4 x 20 min	4 x 17 min
<i>Breaks</i>	3 – 8 – 5 min	3 – 8 – 5 min	3 – 10 – 5 min	3 – 10 – 5 min	3 – 10 – 5 min	3 – 10 – 5 min
<i>Ball Size</i>	Leather Size 3	Leather Size 4	Leather Size 4	Leather Size 4	Leather Size 5	Leather Size 4
<i>Out of Bounds</i>	Last touch*	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal
<i>Kick off the Ground</i>	Not permitted unless accidental	Not permitted unless accidental	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted
<i>Penalties</i>	15 m	15 m	15 m	25 m	50 m	50 m

*Last touch rule relates to a kick and only between the 50 m arc's, otherwise a ball up 5 m in from the boundary line will take place.

Mercy Rule: Under 12 ONLY

When the differential at half time or three-quarter time is sixty (60) points or greater, **not during**, the Mercy Rule will be invoked and remain invoked for the remainder of the match.

- After ANY score by the winning team, play is restarted with the losing team given possession of the ball in the centre circle
- All players (both teams) must remain in their positions and on-ballers/wingers must stay behind the centre circle away from the kicker. No player on the mark. Like a kick-off in rugby league. When set the forwards may lead into the square. Penalty for non-compliance is a 50 m penalty.

Evening Up Rule: All junior football

Where a team has less than 18 players on their teamsheet, the following modified rules shall apply:

- If a team does not have 14 of its own registered players (12 players in Under 14 girls –Under 18.5 girls) a scratch match will be played with the opposing team receiving a win by forfeit (as per by-law 3.5).
- Where a team does not have a full 18 players, it must approach the opposing team and request that players be loaned to even up team numbers. This request should be made at least 15 minutes prior to the commencement of the match. If the team requiring players does not make this request, then the opposing team may take the field with an additional two players (up to the maximum player numbers of 18 e.g. team A has 15 players and does not request players be loaned, team B may take the field with 17 players).
- Where a team has requested players to be loaned and still takes the field with less than 18 players, the opposing team must also take the field with the same amount of players.
- Any goals kicked or best player votes received whilst playing for the opposing team should appear for the player's regular team.
- Players on loan can be rotated back each quarter. If a club requiring players does not have sufficient jumpers available the evening up rule will not apply.
- Player send offs or injuries incurred during the game will not result in evening up of players.

****NB**** Given COVID restrictions and requirement to change jumpers, the evening up rule will be a straight player number matching. In that, if a team has only 16 players then the opposition must field only 16 players. There is no discussion around this point, we explain that is what is in place during COVID restrictions, and in essence, all of 2021 season.