



WFNL Junior Development Player Policy

Update November 2025

Design & Intention

This policy is designed to remove some participation barriers that stop junior-aged children from playing Football, and therefore inhibit this stage of the growth of Junior football in our League.

This policy intends to enable junior players who are new to football (either never played or very early in their football journey) to start/continue playing football.

Application Process

- To be eligible for an exemption, a player must be no older than one (1) year older than the age group they are requesting an exemption for.
 - i.e. player turning 17 years of age in the competition year may apply to play in the Under 16 competition, which is no more than one (1) year older.
- The WFNL is allowing up to a maximum of four (4) upper-age players per team to play in the junior girls/boys or mixed competitions. This exemption will be assessed subject to the following conditions.
 - Whilst the WFNL may approve more than four (4) upper-age players per club in line with the above criteria, a maximum of four (4) upper-age players may participate for any one (1) team in any one (1) match.

League Considerations

- The effect of the Player's playing inexperience on their capacity to effectively participate in Australian Football, in particular, their capacity to participate against the oldest Players in their age group
- How it is proposed that the grant of this exemption will support the Player to overcome any barriers to their effective participation in Australian Football
- The safety and welfare of the Player and those Players they will be participating with and against





Player/Club Considerations

- Any player who has played matches in a higher grade/age group before 2026 will not be granted an exemption.
- Any player listed with a Coates League club in 2026 or who has previously played a regular-season match with a Coates League club will not be granted an exemption.
- Players who have featured in the top 5 in the WFNL junior league best and fairest or represented the league in Junior Interleague in a previous season will not be granted an exemption.
- Any player who has previously played in the previous two (2) seasons may not be granted an exemption.
- Clubs applying for this exemption need to ensure that there are spots available for the player to play down, and this isn't at the expense of another player.
- Clubs applying for this exemption need to ensure there is a team for this player to play in, in the event this request is denied, or the exemption is removed.

The WFNL reserves the right to refuse permission to any proposed Junior Development Player Policy application or remove the exemption of an approved Junior Development Player Policy application as it considers appropriate to protect the integrity of the Junior competitions and to ensure the intent of this policy is observed. There is no right of appeal against any refusal or removal. The league, at any time, can remove this exemption.

If a player who has received an exemption at any time plays in a higher grade/age group (including Under 18 & Senior Football), their exemption may be removed.

If a player who has received an exemption at any time receives a red/yellow card or is suspended, their exemption may be removed.

The application must be made in writing via email submission of the application form to the WFNL Manager - Junior Football at dom.lammardo@wfnl.com.au. During the Home & Away season, for the exemption to be considered before the weekend's fixture, applications need to be made before the close of business on Tuesday.





JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT PLAYER EXEMPTION

The _____ Football Club makes this application on behalf of,
Player's Full Name: _____
Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____
For exemption to play in _____ (Age Group / Division): _____

PLAYING HISTORY:

Senior (open age) Football	
Played any senior (open age) football before 2026?	Yes / No
Junior Football	
Previously played in a higher grade/age group before 2026?	Yes / No
Previously played in the previous two seasons?	Yes / No
Coates League	
Is the player Coates League listed in 2026?	Yes / No
Previously played a regular season match with a Coates League club?	Yes / No
Junior Best & Fairest and Interleague	
Previously featured in the top 5 of the WFNL Junior League best & fairest award in a previous season?	Yes / No
Previously represented the WFNL in Junior Interleague?	Yes / No

CLUB INFORMATION:

Does the club have a team in the player's current age group?	Yes / No
Does the club have spots available in the requested age group/division?	Yes / No

This Application is made by the Club on behalf of the above-named player by:

SIGNED: _____ DATE: ____ / ____ / ____

Email this application to: dom.lammardo@wfnl.com.au

NOTE:

1. The Player must not play in the requested age group / competition until written approval from the league is provided.
2. This Application, if approved, is valid for the 2026 season only.

