WESTERN

FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE

2026 JUNIOR INTERLEAGUE

U14 & U15 BOYS & GIRLS

PLAYERS & PARENTS HANDBOOK

1. WFNL U14 & U15 INTERLEAGUE PROGRAM

The program aims to identify the best talent in our league and look to develop everyone for their future growth in the game. The main development focuses are skill development, decision-making, awareness, physical development, health & wellbeing and leadership.

Teams compete in the AFL Victoria Metropolitan Junior Development Series, which is for the best available players within each of the Metropolitan Leagues with junior competitions. Whilst each league will strive to win their matches, the emphasis that each league focus on is developing players and allowing the players and officials to enjoy a quality experience.

Two teams of 24 will be selected for each age group, with training partners also selected.

2. MATCHES

Under 14 & 15 **Game 1: Wednesday 27 May, 2026**
Under 14 & 15 **Game 2: Saturday 6 June, 2026**
Under 14 & 15 **Game 3: Monday 8 June, 2026**

3. FEES & APPAREL

There will be a $25 registration fee for all participants who trial.

There will be 24 players selected to participate in the Series per team, with the potential for train-on emergencies selected for each age group.

For those players who make the final squads, there is a $225 levy to participate in the series. Players will receive the below

ON FIELD

Players will be provided with a warm-up/training top, playing jumper, playing shorts, and playing socks, which become the property of the player.

OFF-FIELD

Players will be provided with a WFNL hoodie and backpack, which will become the property of the player.

4. TRAINING SCHEDULE

Trials

Age Group	Dates	Venue	Time
U14 Boys	Wednesday December 9th and 16th	Thomas Carr College, Tarneit	5:30 pm – 7:00 pm
U14 Girls	Tuesday December 8th and 15th	Thomas Carr College, Tarneit	5:00 pm – 6:30 pm
U15 Boys	Wednesday December 9th and 16th	JK Grant Reserve 3, Altona	4:30 pm – 6:00 pm
U15 Girls	Tuesday December 8th and 15th	Thomas Carr College, Tarneit	6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Times Subject to Change

Training Nights

Age Group	Dates	Venue	Time
U14 Boys	TBC in 2027	TBC in 2027	TBC in 2027
U14 Girls	TBC in 2027	TBC in 2027	TBC in 2027
U15 Boys	TBC in 2027	TBC in 2027	TBC in 2027
U15 Girls	TBC in 2027	TBC in 2027	TBC in 2027

Players selected in the final squads must be available to attend training sessions, and a jumper presentation evening and must be available to play in all games of the Development Series games before and over the King's Birthday long weekend.

If you are unable to attend training, you must notify Dom Lammardo (WFNL – Manager Junior Football) or your coach via HEJA once teams are selected before training.

Players are required to be at the venue 15 minutes before the start of the training. Please allow for sessions to go for approximately 1.5 hours. Players will be required to bring their club jumper, mouthguard, drink bottle and football boots to training.

5. SELECTION POLICY

Initial Trials

- Interleague representatives from the previous year are automatically invited.
- Clubs will have the ability to nominate an additional 3 players for the 14 Boys and 15 Boys, and an additional 6 players for the 14 Girls and 15 Girls.
- Clubs can request to nominate more than three or five players should there be a reasonable justification, however, it is at the discretion of the League as to whether these additional players will be invited to attend the initial training sessions.
- Further players can be added to the training squads at the discretion of the League and/or WFNL Interleague coaches at any time throughout the season. This may include players who have been cut at an earlier time.

Please Note:

- It is the responsibility of the club to ensure a player is committed to trying out for the Interleague program before inviting them, to avoid taking that opportunity away from someone else.

As much as possible, club coaches try to consider the benefit to players and clubs by their involvement in Interleague football and they do their best to monitor workloads with training and games given all the other factors such as club and school football along with schoolwork.

Coaches are aware that players develop at different levels, and this also influences decisions that are made in relation to selection in squads along with been added or cut from the squad.

6. ELIGIBILITY RULES FOR WFNL JUNIOR INTERLEAGUE PROGRAM

To be eligible for WFNL Junior interleague selection, the player;

1. Must be a registered player of an WFNL Club;

2. Must not be serving a suspension leading into or during the Interleague Series

7. PLAYER & PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

As part of the Interleague squad, you are automatically bound by the Code of Conduct in section 10. Please ensure that both player and parent read the WFNL Interleague Code of Conduct before commencing training.

A copy of the code of conduct is at the back of this handbook.

Please contact Dom Lammardo (WFNL - Manager Junior Football) if you have any questions regarding this.

8. FAQ

When do we get our uniform?

Teams will have a jumper presentation a couple of weeks prior to the series.

Who is the best person to contact with questions?

Dom Lammardo (WFNL - Manager Junior Football)

What are we looking for from parents?

There are many jobs to be done on a football field but the ones off the field can sometimes be the hardest to fill. It is vital that parents are involved with the team whether it be support with the voice or by taking up roles for the Series; *Team Manager, Trainer, Runner, Umpires Escort, Timekeeper as well as assistance with bringing lollies, oranges etc*. Without these roles filled the games cannot go ahead.

What happens if my child is unable to attend training?

We understand that commitments occur at the same time as our sessions (camps, school events) or unforeseen circumstances (injury, family matters). Please let us know so we can have them marked down as unavailable for those training missed.

9. PLAYER EXPECTATIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES

There are a number of responsibilities and expectations that go with training and playing for the WFNL at Junior Interleague level. Please do not attend training if you cannot commit to meeting all of the following responsibilities and expectations;

- The coaching panel will select the final squad/s based on a number of factors (e.g., form at club level, squad balance, training performance and attendance) **Selection is a competitive process and unfortunately not all players invited to train will make the final squads.** Squad list cuts will be made at various stages of the program and any amended training lists will be emailed to all parents.
- The final squad lists will be published on the WFNL website. If you do not make the final squad, please respect the coaches' decision.
- **If you have been invited to train for any WFNL Junior Interleague squad please DO NOT invite your teammates or friends to interleague training, as only those players invited are to attend training.**
- You must be available to play in all matches and plan to attend all training sessions. If you are unable to attend training, contact must be made prior to training with your WFNL coach or team manager to notify them of your absence, or alternatively WFNL Manager Junior Football.
- Please wear your club jumper to every training session as this will assist the coaches to help identify you. You must also ensure that you bring your runners, mouth guard and drink bottle to all training sessions.
- The main source of communication regarding the WFNL Junior Interleague Program will be via email from the League so please ensure that you check your email regularly (e.g., before leaving for training in case of a change in location).

10. CODE OF CONDUCT

At all times players and parents are expected to conduct themselves appropriately and responsibly.

The Western Football Netball League fully supports and requires compliance with the codes of conduct as introduced by the AFL and AFL Victoria.

PLAYERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

- Play by the rules – the rules of your club and the laws of the game
- Never argue with an umpire or other official – without these people, you can't play football
- Control your temper – verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players doesn't help you enjoy or win any games

- Be a team player – It's a team game, treat it that way
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated – fairly
- Co-operate with your coach, the umpires, and team-mates
- Play for your own enjoyment & to improve your skills
- Don't use ugly remarks based on race, religion, gender, or ability – you'll let down your coach, team-mates, and family if you do - & many such comments are now illegal

PARENTS AND SUPPORTERS CODE OF CONDUCT

- Remember that you are there for the participants to enjoy the game
- Encourage participation, but don't force it
- Teach that enjoyment is more important than winning
- Never ridicule mistakes or losses – supporters are there to support not downgrade
- Lead by example and respect all players, coaches, umpires, and spectators – physical or verbal abuse will not be tolerated
- Recognise all volunteers who are giving up their valuable time
- Never publicly criticise the umpires – raise personal concerns with club officials in private
- Do not use ugly remarks based on race, religion, gender, or ability – you'll let down your family and yourself if you do – and many such comments are now illegal

11. CONTACT

Dom Lammardo - WFNL Manager Junior Football

Mobile: 0450 318 824 Office: 03 9315 5400