

2024 Football West Key Competition Rule Changes



Please note: This table by itself isn't enough to understand all the Competition Rules for each League. What's listed below are just the main changes for the 2024 Competition Season. Clubs and participants should make sure to read the full rule document for each league separately. Also, remember that along with these important updates, the competition dates and birth years are updated every year.

Competition Management Regulations

All Football West affiliated Associations, Clubs, Club Associates and Match Officials are bound by the Competition Management Regulations. It is strongly advised that thorough attention be given to reading and understanding the contents.

Disciplinary & Grievance Regulations

Article	Paragraph	Notable Change(s)
6	14	<p>Introduction of rule:</p> <p>A Player who accumulates three (3) Yellow Cards during the Australia Cup must serve an Automatic Match Suspension of one (1) Match in the next Australia Cup Match</p>
11	1-3	<p>Amendment to regulations regarding Persistent Serious Offending:</p> <p>If Football West determines that a Club is guilty of persistent serious offending, it may terminate the Affiliation between Football West and the Club.</p> <p>Serious reoffending may be considered as a result of the actions of one or multiple teams within the Club. In such cases, all teams affiliated with the Club will be expelled from their respective Competitions.</p> <p>Persistent serious offending includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) causing the abandonment of a Match on two (2) or more occasions in a single Competition Season. b) Club Associates being involved in mass brawls or melees on two (2) or more occasions in a single Competition Season. c) being guilty of Offence 35 (See Schedule One (1) - Table of Offences) on three (3) or more occasions in any number of Competition Seasons.
11	4	<p>Introduction of rule:</p> <p>Football West reserves the right to terminate the Affiliation between Football West and the Club and expel the Club from Competitions after a single serious incident.</p>
11	11	<p>Amendment to Three Strike Policy regulation:</p> <p>Strikes issued to a Club shall remain valid and on the Club's record for 12 months from the date of the Strike being issued.</p>
Schedule 1	19 - 25	The length of suspensions for offences committed against Match Officials have been significantly increased.

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Community Competition Rules		
Article	Paragraph	Notable Change(s)
2	14	Introduction of rule: At any venue where Football West matches are being conducted, a person may not smoke tobacco or use vaping devices within 20 meters of the Field of Play.
2	15	Introduction of rule: Glassware, glass bottles, or cans are not allowed on the field of play or in any area surrounding it including any designated spectator areas.
2	16	Introduction of rule: The only jewelry that is permitted to be worn by players is a medical alert bracelet or necklace. The bracelet or necklace must be taped or bandaged to the body, covered by a wrist band, or otherwise appropriately padded.
2	17	Introduction of rule: Players are permitted to wear sports goggles, sports glasses and sports sunglasses as long as, in the Match Official's opinion, the glasses pose no danger to the player wearing the glasses or to any other player on the field of play.
5	-	Introduction of rules surrounding Teams being removed or withdrawn from Competitions.

National Premier Leagues WA		
Article	Paragraph	Notable Change(s)
1	21	Introduction of rule: A Club is not able to compete in the NPLWA Competition if that Club has not been granted a license in accordance with the National Club Licensing Manual. The NPL Eligibility Criteria, and the date by which each criterion must be met, are listed in the Football West Club Licensing Manual.
5	2	Introduction of rule: All Clubs participating in the NPLWA-M competition are required to field a First Team, an Under 20s Team and an Under 18s Team. All Clubs participating in the NPLWA-W competition are required to field a First Team and an Under 21s Team. A Club that fails to field a Team in 3 consecutive Matches in any NPLWA division as set out above, or any 4 Matches in any NPLWA division as set out above in a Regular Season will be considered to have breached this rule. <i>Penalty for Breach - Deduction of 10 competition points from the First Team and the Club to which that Team belongs is ineligible for participation in any final's series.</i>
17	2	Introduction of rule: Each Club must ensure that they have access to both a home and an alternative playing strip prior to the commencement of every match.
22	-	Amendment to entire article which relates to the promotion and relegation to State League (decoupling from Club Licensing criteria)
23	6	Amendment to rule: For a player to be eligible to compete in the playoffs a Player must be on the Club's Player Roster or have played five (5) competitive matches for

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		the club during the Regular Season.
24	14f	New rule added: Once submitted and approved by Football West, no Player may be added to a Club's Player Roster except: f. in the case of an amateur player who has not been registered with any Club in the current calendar year
24	17	Rule removed: No Player may be added to a Club's Player Points System outside of the transfer windows if their previous registration is with another NPL Club, regardless of any exceptions.
39	-	The designation of the NPL Women's competition as an amateur competition for the first half of the season due to the Registration window occurring in December and not viable for this competition
39	6	New rule added: Once submitted and approved by Football West, no Player may be added to a Club's Player Roster except: f. in the case of an amateur player who has not been registered with any Club in the current calendar year
43	9	Rule Removed: Once a Player has taken to the field in nine (9) Matches of the NPLWA-W First Team or Under 21s, that Player is no longer eligible to participate in both the NPLW-W and the Junior Girls League during the same season. These nine (9) NPLWA-W Matches may comprise any combination of First Team and Under 21s Team Matches. With no more than three (3) NPLWA-W First Team be played. Following the ninth Match for the NPLWA-W Team, a Player must choose whether to play in either the NPLWA-W or the Junior Girls Team(s) for which they are eligible.

Annexure 1 – Men's State League

Article	Paragraph	Notable Change(s)
3	-	Amendment to entire Article which relates to Promotion to the NPLWA-M (decoupling from Club Licensing criteria).
4	-	Amendment to entire Article which relates to Promotion and Relegation Play-Off.
4	6	Amendment to rule: For a player to be eligible to compete in the playoffs a Player must be on the Club's Player Roster or have played five (5) competitive matches for the club during the Regular Season.
15	2	Introduction of rule: Each Club must ensure that they have access to both a home and an alternative playing strip prior to the commencement of every match.

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Annexure 3 – Amateur League and Cups

Article	Paragraph	Notable Change(s)
1	1	<p>Introduction of rule: All Participating Clubs are required to field a First Team and a Reserves Team. A Club that fails to field a Team in 3 consecutive Matches in any Division as set out above, or any 4 Matches in any Division as set out above in a Regular Season will be considered to have breached this rule.</p> <p>Penalty for Breach: Deduction of 10 competition points from the First Team and the Club to which that Team belongs is ineligible for promotion in the current season.</p>

Annexure 4 – Men’s Senior Sunday Competition

Article	Paragraph	Notable Change(s)
15	3	<p>Amendment to rule: Grading process removed from Masters League. Each Team will play a minimum of twenty (20) rounds. The composition of divisions will be decided via a collaborative process between all Clubs. One representative from each Team will be invited to attend a meeting organised by Football West that will determine how each division will be comprised.</p>
16	3	<p>Amendment to rule: As above grading process removed from Over 45’s League.</p>
18	6-10	Introduction of temporary dismissal for Over 55’s Competitions only.

Annexure 5 – Women’s Competition

Article	Paragraph	Notable Change(s)
4	Table	Women’s League Division 1 Clubs must meet Class B venue requirements as set out in the Competition Management Regulations.
13	2	A club that enters the Women’s League Division 1 must have a second team either competing in the Women’s League Div 2 or below or Juniors Girls Competitions.
14	4	<p>Introduction of rule: A Player who has taken to the field for the NPLWA-W First Team or NPLWA-W U21s, may not be listed on the Team List of a Team in the Women’s League Division 1 and below on the same Weekend.</p>
19	-	Grading removed from Women’s Central for 2024.
26	2	<p>Introduction of rule for Women’s Masters: A maximum of three (3) Players born between 1990 and 1994 may be listed in the Team List. Any such Players must be so denoted on the Team List with an asterisk.</p>
28	2	<p>Introduction of rule: Only one (1) Team per Club may enter into the Woman’s State Cup.</p>

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Annexure 6 – Community Juniors

Article	Paragraph	Notable Change(s)
26	1	Rule Removed: Once a Player has taken to the field in nine (9) Matches of the NPLWA-W First Team or Under 21s, that Player is no longer eligible to participate in both the NPLW-W and the Junior Girls League during the same season. These nine (9) NPLWA-W Matches may comprise any combination of First Team and Under 21s Team Matches. With no more than three (3) NPLWA-W First Team be played. Following the ninth Match for the NPLWA-W Team, a Player must choose whether to play in either the NPLWA-W or the Junior Girls Team(s) for which they are eligible.
31	8	Introduction of rule: NPL Junior Teams will enter the Junior Cup Competition at Round three (3).

Annexure 7 – Night Series

Article	Paragraph	Notable Change(s)
1	4	Amendment to rule: All Players must be registered to a Club to compete in the Night Series Competition.
6	3,4,5	Amendment to rules around Night Series Suspensions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. If a Club Associate is currently serving a Match Suspension which extends over One (1) or more Competition Seasons, they will be permitted to serve the suspension in Night Series matches. 4. A Club Associate who receives a Suspension as a result of Misconduct in a Night Series Match must serve that Suspension across Night Series Matches in that Competition. 5. Any Suspension as a result of Yellow Card Accumulation or Misconduct in a Night Series Match which cannot be fully served during the remaining Night Series Matches will be carried over into Regular Season Matches.
22	2	Amendment to the format of Amateur Night Series. Instead of 4 groups of 4 it becomes 3 groups of 4.

Annexure 8 – Australia Cup WA Preliminary Rounds

Article	Paragraph	Notable Change(s)
2	13	Amendment to rule: No more than six (6) named substitutes may be listed on the Team List but at least one (1) substitute MUST be a designated goalkeeper.

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Long-Term Injury Policy

Article	Paragraph	Notable Change(s)
2	2	Amendment to rule: If a Player is suffering from a Long-Term Injury, a Club may apply to Football West to remove that Player's name from the Player Roster and replace that player with an eligible replacement player. This may be done outside of the Player Roster windows dictated in the Competition Rules but cannot be done after Round 16 of the Competition.

Match Scheduling Policy

Article	Paragraph	Notable Change(s)
3	3.4a	Amendment to rule: NPL Junior fixture change requests submitted to and approved by Football West before 12:00pm on the Tuesday prior to the scheduled kick-off date no longer need opposition approval.
8	-	Introduction of rules surrounding Postponed, Delayed, Suspended or Abandoned Matches.