Player Driving Policy

Effective Date – 5th May 2025

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1. Policy Overview

1.1 Introduction

Football West is the sole governing body for football in Western Australia and represents all levels of competition, development and coaching in metropolitan and regional areas. The world game is a powerful and unifying force in the WA community, bringing together football fans and participants regardless of age, gender or ethnicity.

Football West, which is affiliated to FA and FIFA, has created an environment that brings the game to life on parks, pitches and indoor centres around the state.

Football West nurtures and encourages the next generation of players through pathways that have also been developed for coaches and match officials to pursue their dreams and aspirations.

1.2 Context

Tom's Law (new legislation introduced in WA on 27 October 2024) limits the number of passengers red P-plate drivers can have in a vehicle being driven by them. The law was named after Tom Saffioti who died in a car crash in 2021 in a car driven by a red P-plater carrying multiple passengers. At the request of and in conjunction with Samantha Saffioti (mother of Tom), Football West are implementing the Player Driving Policy in Western Australia to ensure the safety of its members and the wider community.

1.3 Purpose

This policy describes how Football West and in turn its Clubs and Associations, promote safe and responsible driving habits among players, specifically focusing on behaviour when driving to and from training, in club car park and at game day locations, including opposition club car parks

1.4 Audience

This Policy applies to all Clubs and Associations affiliated with Football West, particularly by players in Years 10, 11 & 12 and their parents and/or guardians

1.5 Responsibilities

The following responsibilities have been assigned:

Role	Function
CEO	2.1 Approve this Policy and any amendments.
Integrity & Governance Manager	2.2 Ensure the Policy objectives are carried out.
Staff	2.3 Adhere to this policy in performing their specific functions.

1.6 Authority

This Policy derives its authority from the CEO. The Policy is effective from the date of CEO approval.

1.7 Review

This Policy will be reviewed and updated biennially or earlier as required.

1.8 Availability of this Policy

This Policy will be available to all Clubs and Associations:

a) via direct email to every Club and Association as soon as practicable after approval
b) at Club Workshops delivered by Operations Support and Club Development Staff
c) on the Football West website
d) on SharePoint in the folder '1 Administration/Policies'.

2. Policy Statement

Football West has adopted this policy to ensure all members are safe whilst driving to and from training and games. WA Traffic Laws will always take precedence over this policy.

a) Players who drive to training and games must hold a valid WA Drivers licence or Learners Permit. In the case of a Learners Permit players must be accompanied by a fully licenced driver of 4 years or more. Any unsafe driving behaviour or breaches of the road rules may be notified to the WA Police.
b) Players who drive to training and games must always adhere to all WA Traffic Laws and always drive in a safe and responsible manner.
c) Any player driving dangerously or causing destruction whilst at a Club ground, whilst driving a vehicle may be restricted by the Club from driving to and from training and games.
d) Football West and/or Club takes no responsibility for damage to vehicles whilst in the vicinity of the Clubs Grounds.
e) Any incidents of unsafe driving including in Club grounds car parks should be reported to the Club as soon as possible.
f) Passengers have the responsibility to avoid distracting the driver and must follow all WA Road Rules regarding seatbelts and the number of passengers allowed in the vehicle.
g) These requirements are intended to ensure the welfare and safety of all Football West members, set an example to younger members, and maintain a positive image of Football West, within the local communities.

3. Player Driving Policy

POLICY CONDITIONS – CODE OF CONDUCT for Year/s 10, 11 & 12

3.1 Driving to and from Training/Games:

a. Players must allow ample travel time to avoid rushing or speeding to training sessions or games.
b. Players must obey all criminal and traffic laws, including speed and vehicle passenger limits and adjust driving according to traffic and road conditions.

3.2 Club and Opposition Car Parks:

a. Players must drive at the signposted or recommended speed limit in all club and opposition car parks and where not signposted or recommended below 10 km/h.
b. Players must be extra cautious when entering or exiting car parks, as there are pedestrians, including children, in the area.
c. No reckless or aggressive driving (e.g., burnouts, excessive revving, or racing) in club or opposition car parks.
d. Players must park responsibly, using designated parking spaces, and avoid obstructing others.

3.3 Passenger Safety:

a. Players must adhere to vehicle passenger limits prescribed by any law and/or regulation and ensure all passengers wear seatbelts.
b. Players must avoid being distracted from passengers and/or passenger conduct and cease driving and/or remove passenger if the distraction is persistent, particularly in club environments where teammates are present.

3.4 Mobile Phone Use:

a. The use of mobile phones while driving in or out of the car park is strictly prohibited, unless using a hands-free system, as prescribed by law and/or regulations.

3.5 Alcohol and Drugs:

a. Players must not drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs, unless justified authorised or excused by law to do so.

3.6 Injury and Post-Game Fatigue:

a. After games or training, players should assess their level of injury and fatigue before driving and arrange alternate transport if their ability to drive is affected or impaired by injury or fatigue.

3.7 Respect for Others:

a. Players must always show respect to pedestrians, fellow drivers and opposition teams in car parks and on the roads.

3.8 Reporting Unsafe Driving:

a. If a player/s is report to their registered Club, the Club will investigate and decide whether to report the matter to WAPOL.
b. Disciplinary action will be decided by the Club Committee in accordance with the Clubs complaints policy and guided by Football West.

3.9 Western Australian Road Rules will always take precedence over the club Player Driving Policy.

4. Useful Resources

4.1 Statutes, Policies and Other Official Documents

a) Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA)

4.2 Websites

a) https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/licensing/driving-on-your-p-plates.asp
b) https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/licensing/new-rules-for-red-p-platers.asp

5. Definitions and Interpretation

Definitions

The following capitalised terms, when not appearing in headings, have the following meanings when used in this Policy. Capitalised terms used in the Constitution bear the same meaning when those terms are used in this Policy.

Association means a body corporate or incorporated Association recognised by Football West as representative of Clubs or Players of a special interest group or within a geographic area.

CEO means the Chief Executive Officer.

Club means:

a) a body corporate or incorporated Association recognised by Football West and that organises teams to participate in competitions sanctioned by Football West or FFA; or
b) any legal entity deemed to be a Club by Football West.

Football West means Football West Limited ACN 109 919 324.

Match means any football match played in Western Australia under the auspices of Football West, FFA or an Association or otherwise played under Football West's direction or control.

Policy means this Football West Policy as amended by the Directors from time to time.

Interpretation

Unless the context otherwise requires:

- headings are for convenience of reference only and do not affect interpretation;
- references to any gender include all genders;
- references to the singular apply to the plural and vice versa;
- references to a person include any other entity recognised by law and vice versa;
- where a word or phrase is defined, its other grammatical forms have a corresponding meaning;
- any reference to a clause number refers to a clause in the same sub-section unless otherwise stated;
- any reference to a party to this document includes its successors and permitted assigns;
- any reference to any agreement or document includes that agreement or document as amended at any time;
- the use of the word includes or including is not to be taken as limiting the meaning of the words preceding it;
- the expression at any time includes reference to past, present and future time and the performance of any action from time to time;
- reference to a statute includes all regulations and amendments to that statute and any statute passed in substitution for that statute or incorporating any of its provisions to the extent that they are incorporated;