



# Removal of Water Carriers

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **Why is the South East Queensland Juniors removing water carriers for the 2024 season?**
  - Through consultation with all clubs in 2023, a proposal was made to clubs to remove water carriers for the 2024 season. The primary reasons for removing water carriers being:
    - Less volunteers required by clubs on game day
    - Removed potential for poor officials' behaviour
    - Less on-field coaching from non-coaches
  
- **What was the process that took place for this amendment to be made?**
  - Forming part of a larger project into the National Participation Framework, AFL Queensland collaborated with other competitions around the country including the West Australian Football Commission who advised that they had removed water carriers from Junior Football leading to an improvement in the matchday environment. From here AFL Queensland proposed to all South East Queensland Junior clubs that 2024 could see the removal of Water Carriers from match day roles. Clubs were then asked to provide feedback on whether this would take place with the majority of feedback in favor of the proposal.
  
- **Are players allowed to drink water during the game?**
  - Yes, Players can access water during quarter breaks or by rotating to the bench at any stage during the quarter.
  
- **What if a team doesn't have a bench and can't rotate off for a drink**
  - Players are still able to run to the bench to have a drink if needed. Studies show the key to hydration is in the preparation for match play and to take small drinks every 15 - 20 minutes.
  
- **Do any other competitions or sports have no water carriers?**
  - As mentioned above this rule is in place for the entirety of junior football in Western Australia, including the northern regions of the state. Other sports such as Soccer, Basketball and Hockey have successfully played with no water carriers for a number of years.
  
- **What if it's an abnormally hot day?**
  - In the case of extreme heat AFLQ will inform clubs and officials that it has enacted the [Extreme Heat Policy](#). In this instance the team's runner will be permitted to carry water to players.
  
- **What are the concerns surrounding player welfare?**
  - There is no peer reviewed research suggesting that junior players need water in shorter intervals than the 15-20 minute quarters that all of the SEQJ competitions implement