

## **WAVL PROMOTION AND RELEGATION - 2026**

### **STATE LEAGUE (SL) and STATE LEAGUE RESERVES (SLR)**

#### **Purpose**

- Provide a competition for the highest level of the sport in WA.
- Provide an athlete pathway for AVL and Australian Squads.

### **DIVISION #1 and DIVISION #1 RESERVES (Previously Division #2)**

#### **Purpose**

- Provide pathways to play in SL and SLR.
- Provide a structured competition league for future potential and TID athletes along the HP pathway.

#### **Background**

WAVL Promotion and Relegation Stage #1 was introduced in 2024 for a two-year period (2024 & 2025). The primary reasons for this were.

- To remove the requirements for Grading Days for these four Divisions.
- Provide fixtures for these grades for the forthcoming WAVL season prior to the VWA Office closure in December.
- Provide earlier notice for venue bookings for Home Game fixtures.
- Provide earlier notice for planning for the following season.
- All games in the season will be competitive to either make finals or to avoid relegation.

The review in 2024 made the following changes.

- State League – one team (club) eligible for Promotion & Relegation.
- State League Reserves, Division One and Division 1 Reserves – two teams eligible for Promotion & Relegation.

A review of the multi-day grading system was conducted at the end of the 2025 WAVL season and the decision was made by a voting poll of the WAVL Clubs and Associations that Promotion and Relegation would be introduced for Division #2 and below.

A further review of the Promotion Relegation system will be conducted at the end of the 2026 WAVL Season.

#### **Regulations**

Number of teams per Grade / Gender.

- State League = 7 teams
- State League Reserves = 10 teams
- Division #1 = 10 teams

- Division #1 Reserves = 10 teams
- Divisions #2 and below = 10 teams

## Promotion and Relegation

With the exception of State League, the clubs eligible for promotion for each grade will be provided with the opportunity to be promoted, pending.

- The Club does not already have a team in the grade above.
- The Club meets the relevant WAVL Criteria requirements for the grade in which they will be promoted to.
- Acceptance of the opportunity to be promoted will be required two weeks after the position is offered – Clubs may choose not to be promoted and thus status quo will remain.

The bottom Club(s)/team(s) of each Division will only be relegated if the Club being promoted does not have a team already in the higher division, satisfies the requirements of the WAVL Criteria and accepts the offer of Promotion.

If the same Club is bottom in the higher grade (eg: SL) and top in the lower grade (eg: SLR) status quo will remain.

If a relegated Club (e.g.: State League Reserve) already has a team in their new Division (e.g.: Div1) the existing team (Division1 team) will be relegated rather than last place in the division.

## State League to Division 1 Reserves Vacant Positions Criteria

- If a position in a Grade is vacated in State League to Division 1 Reserves, offers will be provided to the highest ranked team from the division below who do not already have a team in the grade above and meet the relevant WAVL Criteria requirements for the grade in which they will be promoted to.
- If this team (Club) did not accept the position, then the next highest ranked team (Club) would be offered the position.

## Division 2 and Below Vacant Positions Criteria

In Division 2 and below, vacant positions will be filled based on a prioritised assessment of eligible clubs provided they meet the relevant WAVL Criteria for the grade in which they will be promoted to. The assessment priorities are below:

1. New Regional Clubs/Association seeking to enter the WAVL competition.
2. Existing Clubs/Associations seeking to enter a higher division than their current highest division.
3. New Clubs/Associations formed in identified key areas of growth.
4. Thereafter positions will be offered to existing Clubs/Associations as per the State League to Division 1 Reserves Vacant Positions Criteria

## Notes

- New Clubs / Associations must show that they can meet the relevant WAVL Criteria by the 31st of January 2026.
- The current VWA exemption process will be maintained.