

# Under 9/10/11 & Girls U/12

## Player Selection / Rotation Policy

### Introduction

The key objectives underlying the Club's team selection process are:

- To encourage as many players as possible in the community to play football in a fun and safe environment.
- To provide players the opportunity to the best of their ability, and encourage them to reach their maximum potential. To provide and promote a culture of teamwork, selflessness, discipline and respect.
- To maintain open lines of communication and co-operation between team officials, players, parents/ guardians and Club Officials.
- To adhere to the Club's Junior Placement criteria wherever possible, with players to play in their eligible age group.
- To achieve the ultimate team success whilst conducting a manner that instils pride in our club and its members

The policy seeks to provide direction to coaches, team managers, players and parents/guardians in regard to player selection, rotation, training and playing time.

### Team Structure

Every effort should be made to ensure that all players can play as much football as possible in relation to:

- the number of games played in a season
- the on field playing time each week (at least 3 quarters each); and
- the opportunity to be involved in the game while on the field.

To achieve these objectives, teams will be capped at the following numbers where possible:

- 20 players per team for Under 9, 10 and Under 12 Girls
- 20 players per team for Under 11

The Age Level Co-ordinator together with the Junior Co-Ordinator will work with the Coaches to determine the best team structure for the age group

## Player Placement

Where more than one team will be fielded in the same age group, Players will be placed in a team prior to Round 1 according to:

- Family placement (siblings, cousins)
- School connections
- Peer requests
- Ability to fill volunteer roles to operate all of the teams

It is also preferred that players are exposed to a diversity of team make up as they make their way through the single year age levels (Under 10 to Under 11). This assists players being exposed to differing team make up prior to reaching competitive age groups.

The Age Level Co-Ordinator is sought to have team lists announced at least 10 days prior to the commencement of the season.

Late registration players will be placed in the team with the lowest numbers.

## Game Time

Each player should spend equal time on the field for each game. The policy is based on the premise that all registered players are entitled to a fair share of game time. Where team numbers make it too difficult to provide equal time during a game then the equal time may be provided on an average basis. In any case, all players must spend at least three quarters of each game on the field.

## Player Rotation

The rotation of players through a variety of positions in each game and through the season is important in giving players the opportunity to develop skills and to experience the roles required in different positions. The following is the Club's expectations.

Under 9, 10 & Under 12 Girls	Under 11
All players must be rotated through 3 zones per game	All players are sought to be rotated through the five lines of field position over three games

## Implementation

In reality, rotation and game time for a particular player will depend on the circumstances of the game. There may be good reason why the policy is not adhered to on a particular day. It is unreasonable to put a small player into position against a much larger opponent. Similarly, equal game time may be relaxed if the player has played a second game that day.

However, all opportunities should be used to implement the guidelines. For example, when a team is dominating the opposition it is a good opportunity to play less talented players in key positions. Implementing the policy to the letter does not necessarily address the issue of fairness. On-field time is not necessarily equal playing time. A player placed in a field position where he would not touch the ball for the entire game would get neither fair game time nor wider experience. The spirit of the policy is more important than the measured outcome.

### **Coaches**

The coach has complete discretion in determining whom and when players are on the field. This policy does not seek to restrict the choices that a coach makes in fielding a team by imposing rigid rules but instead seeks to provide strong guidelines.

Many factors may be reasonably considered when selecting a side and determining how much time a particular player spends on the field:

- team numbers
- strength of the opposition side
- discipline issues
- skills balance within the side
- player injury
- tactics employed by the opposition

The main role of the coach is to develop the football skills of his/her players. A coach who makes every effort to rotate all players fairly should not be criticised if a player does not achieve his quota of playing time by a small margin. On the other hand, if some players are regularly positioned where they won't get in the way then the coach will be asked to explain his/her actions.

### **Players**

Any age group will have players with all different levels of skill and commitment. At these ages, however, there is very little flexibility in applying this policy for disciplinary reasons. It is permissible that a player should not start on the field if he is late for a game. Players may be held accountable for their behaviour at training by reducing their game time but this should only be used as a final sanction.