



TEAM SELECTION AND TRAINING POLICY – JUNIOR GRADES

Our commitment

We believe that junior sport should be safe, enjoyable, inclusive and maximise individual participation. Our club acknowledges that positive experiences in junior competition will contribute to children developing a lifelong love of sport.

What we will do

- Emphasise to coaches and parents that junior sport is about participation, not just competition.
- Modify rules and equipment where possible to include children and young people of all abilities and encourage their participation (if our sport offers modifications).
- Try to match junior players with others of their own ability (e.g. if there are enough players, have two teams in an age division).
- Provide junior players with a broad range of experiences (e.g. participating in different positions).
- Provide equal playing time for all juniors, regardless of their ability. Exclusion of players will not be tolerated.
- Consider boys and girls under 11 years of age playing on the same team, particularly if a team could not otherwise be fielded and rules have been modified.
- Ensure that all teams who make finals should ensure all players have an opportunity to play in the finals series.

Provision of a safe and welcoming training environment

To manage oval capacity and to strengthen the team environment within our club, all teams in the same age groups will train together at the same time and location.

The purpose of this is to ensure that player and coach development is consistent across all teams and wasted and inefficient space on the oval is eliminated giving players more space to train.

By having all players train with each other it will ensure that the team culture is strengthened and player bonding and comradery is facilitated.

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Coaches will benefit through the ability to:

- collaborate and share ideas and find solutions to concerns
- be able to focus on assisting those players who need additional support while the remaining players are still engaged
- stretching players to develop their skills
- provide backup to each other
- more easily prepare the next task or activity
- reduce player lost time through parent enquiries
- to provide more encouragement and feedback to individual players
- get to know the whole age group so as to ensure that team selection benefit players and the club.

Players will benefit by

- expanding their friendships
- receiving additional support when needed
- having the opportunity to be stimulated and guided by different coaches
- having more area to train in
- a reduction in lines (waiting around), laps and lectures

What we ask you to do

Coaches

- Focus on promoting participation, not winning and losing.
- Ensure all team members have the chance to play, rotate through positions and receive equal playing time. A minimum of $\frac{3}{4}$ quarters per player is expected.
- If you coach your own children, treat them like all other team members (e.g. rotations, playing time or participation).
- All players will play the same amount of quarters during the season. The Team Manager or Coach will need to be record game time and submit to the club.

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- An accurate record of dates when players were rostered off is required to be maintained by all coaches.

Parents

- Help out the coach where possible at training and games.
- Focus on your child's effort and performance, not the score.
- Encourage your child and other team members.
- Respect the selection decisions of the coach.

Endorsed May 2018

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