



DEVELOPMENT SQUAD POLICY



In acknowledgement of the Park Orchards North Ringwood Parish Junior Football Club (Sharks) vision of *providing opportunities for young and maturing children to develop both as sports people and as individuals* the clubs forefathers developed and implemented the Development Squad.

The Development Squad program is designed to improve the football experience of each and every player in the club. This is achieved by ensuring that participating players and coaches are being exposed to coaching methods and drills that can be delivered on a small group and individual level and then filtered back to their teams.

Each year the Sharks select a group of players ranging from 12 to 16 years of age training for 8 sessions over the preseason. Sessions included:

- Contact Skills
- Team Defence
- Stoppages
- Goal setting
- Kicking skills
- Game Sense
- Extra Touch Drills – marking ,handball
- Decision making exercises

The players and coaches are given a range of learning experiences that included practical drills, video and discussion forums. Players are also challenged to think about their games and how they can improve. Players are expected to be organised, punctual, coachable (listen and ask questions) and to be reliable.

Aims

- To provide Sharks players with a non compulsory opportunity to further their skill development
- To exposure Sharks players to high level coaching
- To educate Sharks players on what is required to take the next step in the elite TAC pathway
- To expose current Sharks coaches to best practice techniques that can be delivered back to their teams

Program length

- 4-8 sessions conducted dependent on the availability of the Development Squad Coordinator
- Commences on or about March each year
- Concludes by the end of April

Selection Criteria

The Director of Football will be ultimately responsible for the selection of the players in the Development Squad

Under 13 and 14 teams

- For the Under 13-14 teams the players attending each year will be capped at 20

The first round of invitations to attend will be made in consideration of the previous year's Best and Fairest voting with the top 3 players from each team invited.

Second round offers will be made to players identified as not having previously attended Development Squad and who display the desired acumen to the criteria set by the Eastern Rangers Development Squads – refer page 2.



Under 15 and Colts

- For the Under 15 and Colts teams the players attending each year will be capped at 24

The first round of invitations to attend will be made in consideration of the previous year's Best and Fairest voting with the top 3 players from each team invited.

An additional 2 players may be invited after representations from the team coach using the selection criteria that is used for the Eastern Ranges Development Squads.

Unfilled or subsequent positions

On recommendation of the Director of Football, and in consultation with a players current Coach and Development Squad Coordinator, the executive committee may also extend an invitation to other players using the same selection criteria that is used for the Eastern Ranges Development Squads.

Eastern Ranges Development Squads Criteria

- a) past performance of the players including club, school and regional football representative teams
- b) potential of the player in the Selection Panel's discretion to play in the TAC Cup
- c) potential of the player, in the Selection Panel's discretion, to play in the AFL
- d) ability of the player to perform football skills (both general and specific positional skills) to a high level
- e) adequate fitness and athleticism of the player
- f) versatility of the player and their ability to play in a number of positions
- g) attendance by the player at training
- h) evidence of a positive attitude to training and commitment to team rules and principles
- i) evidence of a desire to play AFL or senior VFL football.

As a guide for players and coaches the following descriptions are designed to assist players to understand these additional selections – refer appendix A.

Kicking Ability

5	Rare	Consistently kicks with accuracy over short and long distances and under pressure. Outstanding technician with great vision and awareness. Min very good on non preferred side.
4	Excellent	Only occasionally makes a kicking error possibly on non preferred side or under intense opposition pressure.
3	Good	Rarely misses short target and is sound over distance with both feet.
2	Marginal	Has some flaws with technique on opposite side. At times lacks vision and awareness.
1	Poor	Has significant flaws and is inconsistent.

Clean Hands

5	Rare	Soft hands, doesn't fumble quickly moving ball into disposal position. Collects difficult balls off hands, in air and ground level, first grab in all conditions.
4	Excellent	Sometimes double handles difficult balls in some situations or conditions but is always in control.
3	Good	Occasionally fumbles balls but generally in control and maintains ball in front.
2	Marginal	May struggle at times below the knees and allows ball to get out of control. Tends to overrun the ball.
1	Poor	Struggles regularly in key areas collecting the ball clearly including overrunning and fumbling.

Ball Winning Ability

5	Rare	Reads play consistently well and wins crucial contests and/or positions himself to win uncontested possession. Great courage in attack on ball.
4	Excellent	Wins vast majority of contests and has courage in attack on the ball. Smart reader of the play.
3	Good	Wins the ball well in contests in most circumstances.
2	Marginal	Relies too much on running to receive and reading off hands - not strong on contested balls.
1	Poor	Fails to consistently display any of the ball winning ability attributes. Lacks presence.

Pace

5	Rare	Always quickest player on the ground.
4	Excellent	Usually quickest player on the ground.
3	Good	Rarely caught. Can run down most opponents when chasing.
2	Marginal	Is average pace in the game.
1	Poor	Often is caught. Rarely runs with the ball.