



# TEAM SELECTION POLICY



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## 1. Team Selection Philosophy

- In addition to the quality of coaching and appropriate grading of a team by the relevant Junior Football League, player retention in Australian Rules Football at the junior and youth age groups is directly attributed to a player's sense of value and a feeling that they are contributing to a team's success during a game and over the course of a season.
- Long term benefits through greater participation include higher self-esteem, confidence and sense of achievement resulting in a player's increase in skill acquisition and enjoyment.
- This results in a player being more likely to continue playing during early adolescence and increases retention rates.
- Likewise, challenging and extending highly skilled players stops boredom and increases skill acquisition in other areas of their development and leadership.
- Having this in mind team selection and player movement should be mindful of this with a focus on enjoyment, skill acquisition and player development and not to create an elite team culture at the expense of participation.

### **Benefits to player and club include**

- Player to be placed at standard best suited to their skill level to promote a learning environment based around skill development and participation at an appropriate team level that suits all players of the team.
- With more players at a suitable level this will give the club a better opportunity to have the team graded by the Yarra Junior Football League ("YJFL") at a level best suited to the team's skill level.
- Give the club the opportunity to have a greater team balance at an earlier stage to ensure as the players move through the age groups they are a better positioned to enjoy and compete at an appropriate ability level.

## 2. Policy Background

- During the 2018 season, the previous Team Selection Policy dated June 2014 was reviewed by the Committee and amendments and additions made to provide better clarity and understanding on its application. Consideration was given to the addition of Under 8 & 9's, Girls teams, the structure of Colts / Youth Girls (with teams from separate age groups coming together for the first time) & YJFL recommendations.



### **3. Team Selection: Under 8, 9 & 10**

- A Teams Selection Coordinator, reporting to the Director of Football, is responsible for coordinating the placement of players.
- Players generally come from several local primary schools, players are mixed between the teams to avoid where possible solely school-based teams. However, a friendship form will be provided for all new members to Park Orchards North Ringwood Parish JFC to nominate four friends with whom they would like to play their junior football with.
- Each year players generally stay in the same team as the previous year, but in a higher age group. The only deviation to this will be to balance team numbers.
- Selection of teams in these age groups is based on friendship groups with very little -if any- consideration given to player ability, team strength or the division/grade in which teams are selected to play in by the YJFL.
- Individual written requests from parents for their children to play in a specific team will be accommodated if possible, in consideration of the above-mentioned facts.
- Every endeavour will be made to accommodate requests; however, it may not be possible to meet every request.
- Player numbers should be split as evenly as possible between teams in consideration of the criteria defined under the Team Selection Policy (TSP).
- An information session will be held for all Under 10 parents and players towards the end of the season to clarify the club's Team Selection Policy & Process for this age group moving into Under 11 Team Selection the following year.

### **4. Team Selection: Under 11 to 15 Girls & Boys and Under 16 Girls**

- It is in these age group that the Yarra Junior Football League grades teams to compete for premiership points, competition ladders are published, and Grand Finals are played.
- A Team Selection Coordinator, reporting to the Director of Football, is responsible for coordinating the placement of players. As a principle if the two coaches agree on the placement of players the Team Selection Coordinator will facilitate the process but not intervene. However, if issues arise the Team Selection Coordinator will intervene and with assistance as required from the Director of Football determine the final placements.  
(Refer Team Selection Disputes below).
- Selection of teams in these age groups will give consideration to a number of criteria including, but not limited to, results from previous year Best and Fairest votes, player ability, player physical size, ability to maximize player development, availability for all games, player retention, coach's child, team strength, previous playing experience if transferring from another club and the division/grade in which teams are



selected to play in by the YJFL. The priority is always to create an environment bound with a Duty of Care for all players.

- Each season the outgoing Coach of a team from Under 10 to Under 15 Boys & Girls and Under 16 Girls is required **to nominate up to 6 players from their team who they believe would benefit from playing in an alternative division/grade.**
- A Team Selection Meeting will be convened by the Team Selection Coordinator and include the current coaches. During this meeting discussions are to occur to decide on player placements, taking account of the various criteria defined under the Team Selection Policy (TSP). **A maximum number of 4 players can be moved from each team.**
- The players identified by the previous year's coaches will form the basis of the discussions for movement of players between teams, with all other players remaining in their previous team. It is preferred that any players being moved between teams are done as a group rather than as individuals.
- New players to the club being moved into the higher ranked team should not impede the opportunity of an equivalent existing player to move, this needs to form part of the discussion.
- Under no circumstances are teams to be selected on a ranking system of 1 to 40-50 players in the case of 2 teams, or 1 to 60-75 players based on three teams, etc where the top 20-25 players form one team, the next 20-25 form the next team, etc.
- Players will be allocated to a team for the whole year, they will generally not move between teams in the same age group during the season, unless circumstances warrant considering movement. Should these circumstances present then any movement will be affected through negotiation and agreement.
- An information session will be held for all Under 16 Girls / Under 15 Boys parents and players towards the end of the season to clarify the clubs Team Selection Policy & Process for this age group moving into Colts and Youth Girls Team Selection the following year.
- **An overarching priority is that player numbers should be split as evenly as possible between teams in consideration of the criteria defined under the Team Selection policy (TSP).**

## 5. Team Selection: Colts and Youth Girls

- The club's objective is to create an environment always bound with a Duty of Care for all players to develop, improve and enjoy their football. To create this environment, it is imperative that the club places players together who are at a similar stage of development or talent level.
- To be part of a team at this level is an accomplishment and the players are old enough to understand that some individuals' roles, abilities and contributions are bigger than others and are critical to the cohesion and vital to the success of a team and PONRPJFC.
- A Teams Selection Coordinator for Colts and Youth Girls, reporting to the Director of Football, is responsible for coordinating the placement of players in all teams.



- Team Selection Meeting's will be convened separately for Colts and Youth Girls by the Teams Selection Coordinator's and include all the current Colts and Youth Girls Coaches, Assistant Coaches and the Director of Football. During these meetings discussions are to occur to decide on player placements, taking account of the various criteria defined under the Team Selection Policy. (TSP)
- **Selection of teams in these age groups will not be limited by numbers of players moved.**
- The teams will be chosen after the pre-season and practice matches so teams are ready for Round one of the season.

Selection will give consideration when selecting player's team placement to several criteria including, but not limited to the following:

- Previous year's Best & Fairest
- Previous years coach's recommendations
- Preseason training
- Practice games
- Player development
- Availability to play all games
- Team Strength
- Kicking, handballing and marking skills
- Speed and agility
- Player physical size
- Endurance levels
- Game sense
- Sportsmanship and Attitude
- Ability to execute strategy
- Training commitment
- The benefit playing at a lower YJFL Division level or higher YJFL Division level

Players will be allocated to a team and will generally not move between teams in the same age group during the season, unless circumstances warrant considering movement. Should these circumstances present then any movement will be affected through negotiation and agreement, in conjunction with YJFL policy 6.4

An information session will be held for all Colts & Youth Girls parents and players prior to the start of the season to clarify the clubs Team Selection Policy & Process for this age group moving into Colts and Youth Girls Team Selection for the current year.

**Player numbers should be split as evenly as possible between teams in consideration of the criteria defined under the Team Selection policy (TSP).**

### **Coaching Colts and Youth Girls**

- It is very important that the chosen coaches are both likeminded, good communicators with each other and have each player's development at heart.



- The Football Department will interview both coaches separately and then together. The Football department must be sure (to the best of their knowledge) that the coaches will work harmoniously together before endorsing.
- The Football Department will ask for both coaches to submit their game plan and team rules. Their game plans should be different to cater to the ability of their team.

## 6. Disputes

- Should a dispute occur where the current coaches cannot agree on the placement of players, the Teams Selection Coordinator shall refer the matter to the Director of Football, or in their absence the President, who will make the final determination.

## 7. Team Selection Notifications

- Once the selection of players in teams has been determined, the players will be notified of their team details for the coming season by the **Teams Selection Coordinator**. Coaches are to adhere to this requirement.
- The policy is available on the website at <http://www.sharksjfc.org.au/policies.aspx>.