



TEAM SELECTION POLICY

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all players, parents and officials of the Macleod Junior Football Club have a shared and clear understanding of Team Selection. It is also to assure players, parents and officials of the requirement to allow all players the opportunity to develop their football skills within a team that is well balanced and incorporates all levels of experience and ability along with consistent and significant game time. Consistent means to be selected to play every game of the regular season and significant means to play at least 3 quarters per game or equivalent time in minutes.

Policy Statement

This policy has been developed to provide new, current and returning players and parents with clear information about Team Selection.

Implementation

General Principle of Participation

The club aims to have all players in each age group to participate equally in the season. The aim is to maximise game time for each player where practicable.

Team Selection and Rotations

This should be read in conjunction with YJFL rules which govern team sizes for matches. Modified rules exist for under 8 to under 10. Game-day teams for individual matches can have up to 24 players. Where 24 players are selected, rotations are required to ensure that all players achieve at least 75% game time.

The maximum amount of players in a team or squad is 24 as 24 is the permitted amount of players that can represent a club in a particular match.

The minimum amount of players per team is 16. While the league allows clubs to field a team of 14 it should be recognised that a team which regularly plays with 14 will be at a great disadvantage and will unlikely be competitive. Considering at any particular weekend there will be one or two players unavailable a squad of 16 should be considered the minimum.

If the numbers are 24 or less then there should be one team, if the numbers are 32 to 48 then there should be two teams of 16 to 24 players each, with each team being composed of equal number of players or closest to that.



TEAM SELECTION POLICY (Continued)

If the numbers fall between 25 & 31 then the club should proceed as follows:

1. The club should endeavour to form two teams as a first priority. All eligible players must be available for selection in their age group if the numbers are required to form two teams. If the numbers still fall below 32 the club will see if there are available players in the age group below who are happy to play up for the year. Failing that, the club should field one team of 24 and see if there are players in the age group who are willing to play up if there is room in the squad in the age group above them.
2. If the squad above is also maxed at 24 players then excess players be offered the opportunity to train with the main team and be available to fill the place of a regular team member should they be unavailable for a particular match. It should be realized that this periphery placement will not be satisfactory to some families and they may seek game time at another club wherefore their registration is refunded.

Playing lists beyond 24 players will need to develop rosters with a requirement that all players are able to play an equal number of games over the season.

Age Group Eligibility

Players' age eligibility is determined by a child's age on January 1 of that year. Players are required to play in their appropriate age group unless exceptional circumstances prevail. Only in exceptional circumstances will a player will be granted the right to play one years above their age group with the permission of the MJFC. Further information regarding age, the Age Group Policy should be referred to.

Out of Age Group Exceptions

The club encourages players to remain in their age group as we believe it encourages appropriate development. A player may be granted the right to regularly play out of their age group for the current season when the MJFC Committee and Football Operations Co-ordinator consider an out of age request serves the best interests of the club and the individual (and/or their family).

Where a player wishes to play out of their age group, a request must be made in writing by the player's parent(s) via email to info@macleodjfc.com.au. The request must be approved by both age group coaches and the MJFC Football Co-ordinator. Where team numbers require 'top-up' from other teams, players will be given equal opportunity to play in accord with this policy. Players should only be used for top up when the team has less than 20 listed players available (for U11 teams and above). Top-up players should not play more game time than any listed player in that grade. Out of age application expire at the end of each season. The exception is not automatically granted in the next year. The decision will be balanced against the criteria above and the best interests of the football club.



TEAM SELECTION POLICY (Continued)

Exceptions to General Principle of Participation

In order for a player to be eligible to equal participation (dependant on age group) certain club standards (none of which are based on ability alone) are required to be met where applicable and appropriate and at the coaches discretion. These standards include:

- Abiding by the values and behaviours of the club
- Meeting on field/game day behaviour standards including appropriate levels of respect for:
- Coaches, teammates, parents, club officials or members or players, officials or supporters of other teams or league officials, including umpires (field, boundary or goal)
- Not being the subject of formal club or league suspension
- Meeting agreed training attendance standards

Following on-field team rules and instructions

In the event the standards are not met, team management should ensure the Football Operations Co-ordinator the Player and the Parents are informed of any failure to meet these standards, prior to any modification of playing time (where possible, if the breach happens in a game, immediate action may be more appropriate). Coaches and team officials should be flexible with the application of standards for play. Individual circumstances may impact on any relevant decisions or courses of action. In these circumstances coaches or team managers would be engaging with the players and families to ensure we are doing all we can to accommodate exceptions to the extent that the individuals are applying their best endeavours to meet the requirement of the club.

Evaluation & Review

This policy was created in February 2019

This policy is scheduled for review in November 2020.

References

Nil

Related Policies

[Age Group Policy](#)

[Player Placement Policy](#)