



PLAYER PLACEMENT POLICY

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the fundamental principles of fair player placement that are held by the MJFC are met. The MJFC exists to:

- Encourage children to participate, improve their football and social skills while creating and building lasting friendships;
- Create an environment where all children are equal and provided with the opportunity to achieve their potential;
- Promote the MJFC core values of Respect (fairness, tolerance & discipline), Participation (individual, family, community), Team (cooperation, inclusion, enjoyment) and Growth (opportunity and improvement);
- Promote Australian Rules Football consistent with the guidance provided by the Australian Football League and the YJFL, and;
- Add value to the community in which it operates.

Policy Statement

This policy has been developed to provide clear and consistent information and guidelines regarding Player Placement.

Background

As a result of feedback and recommendations received, the MJFC committee identified a need for a policy to be created so that all players, parents and officials of MJFC are provided with a clear and consistent set of guidelines regarding the placement of players in teams and with an understanding of MJFC's commitment to allow all players, regardless of ability, the opportunity to have equal opportunity to play junior football in line with MJFC's stated purpose.

The YJFL Rules state that in junior age groups the emphasis is placed on participation and enjoyment. Additional goals are the acquisition of football skills and the nurturing of physical and emotional development and wellbeing.

Implementation

To maximise participation of all players and increase player retention rates through:

- Ensuring all players in each age group have equal opportunity to participate in games throughout the season
- Ensuring all players feel a valued and required member of the team. MJFC Player Placement Policy Draft for Member Feedback
- Enabling players through enjoyment of their football, to gain greater confidence year to year
- Acknowledging the varying needs of players as they progress through the age groups as per the below criteria.



PLAYER PLACEMENT POLICY (continued)

Player Placement Selection Panel

The club aims to have a transparent process in place with regard to the nominated club personnel involved in player placement. Nominated personnel involved in Player Placement will be:

- Age level team coaches
- Coaching/Football Co-ordinator

The Selection Panel will follow the following guidelines/criteria when determining the placement of players in a team:

- Creating a balance of first and second year players in each team (U9-10)
- Creating a balance of player skill/ability to best support players new to football
- Ensuring teams are competitive in the division they are located
- Level of football played in the prior year if applicable
- Friendship groups (up to 3 names on registration form or provided in writing to)
- Player ages
- Playing list size (MJFL By-Laws)
- Practicalities such as car-pooling etc
- Level of commitment to attend training and game day matches if applicable
- School attending (a mix of schools to be represented in each team)
- Skills/strength/stamina levels if applicable

Exceptions to this include:

- Player ages (U9 bottom and top age)
- Balancing player numbers (MJFC Guidelines)
- Individual written requests to play in a particular team or any changes to Player Placement will be effected through negotiations and agreement with the Selection Panel only.

Guidelines for U9-12's & U10 & 12 Girls

Main Focus U9-10's & 10 Girls:

Participation, Fun, Skill Development and an introduction to Teamwork and Positional Understanding.

Main Focus U11-12's & 12 Girls:

Participation, Fun, Skill Development, Teamwork, Positional Flexibility and an introduction to Game Strategy.

Guidelines for U13-17's & U14/16/18

Girls Main Focus U13-17's & 14/16/18 Girls:

Building on the above with a stronger emphasis on the Understanding of Physical Development Needs, Game Strategy, Teamwork, Positional Flexibility and Emotional Development



This age group will be based on placing players and teams to ensure they play at the most appropriate level where they can be both competitive and continue to develop their football skills. At the younger team age groups, it is important that player preferences are taken into account when considering the structure of teams.

Evaluation & Review

This policy was created in February, 2019.

The policy is scheduled for review from November 2020.

References

[YJFL Statement of Rules and By Laws](#)

[MJFC By Laws](#)

Related Policies

[Team Selection Policy](#)

[Age Group Policy](#)