**Playing Policy**

**Coach**

**Parent**

**Player**

**U/13 U/15 & U17**

**Grading**

All clubs nominate a proposed division for their U/13, U/15 and U/17 teams at the start of the season. At the completion of the first four rounds, Football Geelong will assess the results and move teams up or down divisions depending on the results.

Junior players in these age groups will be graded in accordance with their skill and overall football ability. The club endeavours to grade all players to maximise their development.

Throughout the year some players will rotate between teams as part of developing their football skills.

*How is Grading done?*

It is important that the coaches of all these teams, speak to the football Operations Group (FOG) prior to grading being done with the objective of determining player capabilities. The FOG will consult with the current season primary coaches to allocate players into appropriate teams.

All registered players will be selected to play in an appropriate division regardless of reputation or perceived ability. Every effort will be made to ensure that each player is placed in an appropriately graded team.

Players should be given enough opportunity to demonstrate their ability which enables the coaches to make an informed decision on that player’s ability.

Final decision of team(s) composition will be made through consultation with each of the year level Coaches.

**Rotation**

The rotation policy for players in this age group will be based on the following guidelines:

* Players may be rotated through teams to field the strongest team available each week.
* The coaches will endeavour to give players the confidence and knowledge of the game that they will require to advance to not only become good sports people, but to enable them to continue playing football right through to open age football.
* If more than one team is fielded in an individual age group, the A team ideally shall have a maximum of 22 players and the B team (and any additional teams) shall have a maximum of 22 layers if possible.

**Player Selection**

If team lists extend past the maximum numbers, some players will be required to be rostered off each week during the season. If possible, Coaches and Team Managers should give parents and players the opportunity to advise, in advance any times of unavailability to ensure these games missed are counted as games rostered off. It is expected that all players will be rotated equitably.

Again, an accurate record of player selection is required, and dates when players were rostered off.

*Team Selection Criteria*

Selection of the teams shall be done based on several considerations, including the following:

As a duty of care to the player;

* The playing ability of the player. This is not just a consideration of skill alone but whether they are a ball getter or strong mark, etc;
* What position(s) they play;
* Whether they may be better served playing in a different grade to;
* Improve their skills;
* Enable them to play in a position that they would not play in at the higher team;
* Enable them to excel in a different grade which will enable them to enjoy their football more and gain greater confidence for years to come.

\*Consideration will not be given to players’ or parents’ friendship groups. Consideration will also not be given to parental support roles. Appointed coaches should not establish their game day support team (trainers, runners, team managers etc.) to the detriment of this grading policy.

**Player movement**

Players shall move up and down in teams in different grades over one season in order to field the strongest team and to ensure that all players are experiencing success. This movement shall be done in consultation by primary coach and proposed team coach where the child is likely to move to.

Consideration will be given to:

* Performance of intended player to be moved.
* Need of the type of player in the higher team.
* Communication as to why the movement is happening is of great importance.

**Finals Selection**

It is generally recognised that finals football is different from the home and away games.

The policy for finals football will be based on the following principles:

* An understanding that player selection and playing times for individual players gives the best possible opportunity to win.
* An understanding that the policy will provide coaches in all teams a greater scope for varying players than in a home and away game.
* The coach will have full discretion over the length of playing time that individual players will have on the field and the time players spend on the bench.
* The Coach will endeavour to give the team the best possible chance to win finals games and players will be given feedback to support this.