



DISTRICTS

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Coburg Districts Junior Football Club Team Selection Policy & Registration

INTRODUCTION

Team selection for a junior football club with more than one team in the same age group is one of the clubs most difficult tasks. Coburg Districts Football Club aims to carry out this task according to the guidelines set out below, in accordance with our club vision to give our junior players the best possible opportunity to develop to the best of their ability, in a fun and safe inclusive environment. CDFC aims to field teams in the Under 9's through to Under 15's.

Junior players mature and develop physically and mentally at different stages. In recognizing this transitional process, the club has aligned its team selection policy and guidelines to see the focus of involvement move from general participation in the modified rules age group, to a more competitive, skills and performance based selection process in the older age groups. This approach is also consistent with the AFLs Junior Match Policy and the CDFC Junior guiding principles.

Accordingly, the Club will apply these guidelines across three specific age groups as follows.



TEAM SELECTION OBJECTIVES

The key objectives underlying the Club's team selection process are:

- To encourage as many players as possible in the community to play football in a fun and safe environment.
- To provide players opportunity to develop to the best of their ability, and encourage them to reach their maximum potential. To provide and promote a culture of teamwork, selflessness, discipline and respect.
- To maintain open lines of communication and co-operation between team officials, players, parents/ guardians and Club Officials.
- To adhere to the CDFC Junior Placement Criteria with players to play in their eligible age group.
- To achieve the ultimate team success whilst conducting a manner that instills pride in our club and its members.
- To encourage and create opportunity for individual player success in the respective Interleague programs when applicable.

TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

	UNDER 9	UNDER 11	UNDER 13-15
Competition	Modified Rules	AFL Competition Rules	AFL Competition Rules
General Philosophy	Participation. Play with siblings and friends with focus on skills development	Transitional year to full competition rules, with the introduction of game sense training and team rules.	Grading applies with ability based selection process adopted, and full emphasis on game sense training and team rules
Selection Guidelines	Primarily based on siblings, friendship and other groups	Primarily based on siblings, friendship and other groups but to create competitive teams in respective divisions	Based on player's ability and team balance to create individual opportunity to develop and create competitive teams in respective divisions
Team Structure	Evenly balanced as much as possible	Evenly balanced in line with respective division	Ability based with emphasis on player's level of development, fitness and team balance
Team Numbers	12-15 Per Team	Maximum 24	Maximum 24
Game Time	Min 3 quarters	Min 3 quarters	Min 3 quarters
Position Rotation	To play within each zone over the course of every game	To play in most positions over the course of the season	To match the players fitness, skill set, suitability and physicality
Team Rules	Little emphasis	Greater Emphasis	High Emphasis
Player Movement Policy	League Rules apply	League Rules apply	League Rules apply
Preliminary Team Selection Deadlines	When max player numbers has been reached, or by Round 1 whichever occurs first	Prior to 1st practice match	Prior to 1st practice match
Team Selection Deadline	See Above	By commencement of Round 1	Following completion of Round 4
Team Selection Responsibility	Coaches & Junior Club President.	Coaches & Junior Club President.	Coaches & Junior Club President.

UNDER 9 RULES AND REGULATIONS

The AFL Junior Match Policy has special match rules for the Under 9 competition.

Rules and Regulations	
Players (min-max)	12 – 15 a side
Maximum Ground Size / Use of Zones	100m x 80m 3 equal zones
Match Length	4 x 12 min quarters
Competition Details	No scores, ladders or finals permitted No recording of best players and goal kickers No representative teams
Contact	Modified tackle / No bump Players cannot bump/push an opponent, knock/steal the ball out of their hands or smother an opponents kick
The ball	Synthetic or leather size 2
Umpiring	1 field, 2 goal umpires Club/association umpires
Coaching Position	Optional (on ground or sideline)
Bounces	1 bounce
Marking	A mark is awarded irrespective of the distance the ball has travelled to any player who catches it or shows control.
Out of Bounds	From a kick, a free kick is awarded against the player who last kicked the ball. From hands, or if there is doubt, the umpire shall call a ball-up 10m in front of the boundary.
Kick off the Ground	Not permitted unless accidental
Stealing, Smothering, Shepherding, Barging	No stealing, smothering, shepherding or smothering
Penalties	10m penalty can be applied at the umpire's discretion if they feel a player has been hindered in any way. Players can be ordered off at the umpires discretion

Under 11

At this age group the primary emphasis is placed on participation, enjoyment, development and their desire to play with siblings, relations based upon family circumstances, friendship groups and schools. The Under 11's is deemed as transitional years whereby the competition moves from modified rules to AFL rules. Scores are kept, teams compete for premiership points, a competition ladder, finals.

A greater emphasis is placed upon creating teams that are competitive in their respective divisions. Individual players shall be provided the opportunity to play in a higher or lower division to develop to the best of their ability and encourage them to reach their maximum potential.

Team Structure

Where there are two or more sides formed in this same age group, the Junior Club President will guide selection of the teams with the assistance of team Coaches.

There will be no compulsion to play in a particular team if that person wishes to play in a lower grade with their siblings, relations or friends.

Team Numbers

A maximum of **24 (twenty four)** players in each team. This will allow a maximum of 18 players taking to the ground with 6 reserves on game day. The coach will provide the opportunity for all players to play a minimum of 3 quarters per game.

Should a coach wish to register more or less than 24 players for their team, he/she can make a formal request with final decision by the CDFC Committee.

Position Rotation & Game Time

CDFC expects, within the limits of duty of care, comfort, ability and confidence that each player will be given the opportunity to rotate around the ground throughout the season (but not necessarily within each game). This will provide players the understanding of different positions.

Team Rules

The key focus at this age group is fun, enjoyment and skills development but with the introduction of AFL competition rules coaches will place a greater emphasis on team rules. Team rules and discipline expectations are to be respected and met at all times by players and parents.

Player Movement Policy

In this age group the League's Player Movement Policy will provide the Club with flexibility in player selection, particularly in rounds where a number of players from a particular team are unavailable. Players in a lower division team with the opportunity and incentive to strive to play in a higher division team.

Under 13-15

At this level teams play in a highly competitive competition where a greater emphasis is placed upon individual and team performances. In these age groups the Club strives to have at least one team participating at the highest level (division) possible. Teams are graded to enable them to be as competitive as possible in their respective division. As a result grading may require player movement from their previous team. Where player selection to a different team occurs, it should be regarded as an opportunity to experience diversity, improve skills and they should be encouraged to adapt and enjoy change. Where more than one team in these age groups exist, team selection will be based on providing players with the best possible opportunity to develop to the best of their ability, their level of fitness and skill set.

Team Numbers

The maximum number of players registered in these teams will be at the discretion of the Team Coach and Junior Club President, but a squad of 24 players maximum is necessary at this level.

Position, Rotation & Game Time

At this level positions are set to match the player's fitness, skill set, suitability and physicality. CDFC expects, within the limits of duty of care, comfort, ability and confidence, that the team Coach will determine player position rotation, in the best interests of their football development.

Where practical CDFC expects players to play a minimum of 3 quarters per match.

Team Rules

Coaches will place a high emphasis on team rules. Coaches team rules and discipline expectations are to be respected and met at all times by players and parents.

Should a player/s be sanctioned for disciplinary action, penalties will be decided by the team Coach and the Junior Club President.

Player Movement Policy

In this age group the League's Player Movement Policy will provide the Club with flexibility in player selection, particularly in rounds where a number of players from a particular team are unavailable; and provide players in a lower division team with the opportunity and incentive to strive to play in a higher division team. Any request for a player to play at a higher age group, or Division, needs to apply consideration of duty of care.

EDFL CODE OF CONDUCT

Expectations of Parents/Guardians and Spectators:

- Remember that children play football for fun - they are not playing for your entertainment, nor are they miniature professionals, involvement is for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Encourage players to participate, do not force them.
- Focus on the players efforts - never ridicule or yell at a player for making a mistake or losing the game. Teach that honest effort is the victory, not the winning.
- Remember that players learn best from example. Applaud good play by both teams.
- Encourage players to always participate according to the rules and respect official's decisions.
- Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches and officials.
- An umpire's job is a difficult one – put yourself in their position – how would you like to be treated?
- If you disagree with an official, raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official's judgement and honesty in public. Raise any concerns privately.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not harassing or using foul language to umpires, players, coaches, or other spectators.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- Respect the rights and dignity of every player regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion. Support all efforts to remove verbal, racial and physical abuse and to settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Discuss the Codes of Conduct with your son/daughter so that you are both are aware of your obligations.
- Actively promote the Codes of Conduct and foster high standards of behaviour for your club at all times.

Please Note: Your failure to adhere to the codes of conduct may result in the withdrawal or suspension of your sons (s)/daughter(s) registration to play in the EDFL.

Expectations of Players:

- Always play by the laws and rules – Be a team player – be a good sport
- Control your temper - treat others as you would like to be treated – bullying will not be tolerated.
- Verbal abuse to umpires, officials, parents or other players is not acceptable.
- Never argue with an umpire or official. If you disagree, discuss the matter with your coach.
- Co-operate, support and encourage your team mates. Your team's performance will benefit, so will you. Don't forget to acknowledge opponents, officials and umpires, e.g. shake hands before and after the game.
- Play fair, respect the rights and dignity of all players regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion. Avoid ugly remarks based on race or gender.
- Play for the "fun of it" – remember it's just a game!

Coaches:

- Abide by the Laws and Rules – always operate within the Laws of the Game and Rules of your club and the League and teach your players to do the same.
- Teach the Rules – rules are mutual agreements which nobody should break.
- Group players competitively – give all players equal attention and opportunities, everyone needs and deserves equal time.
- Avoid overplaying talented players – be reasonable in your demands on players time, energy and enthusiasm.
- Maximise fun – place winning in perspective, remember that young people participate for pleasure and winning is only part of it.
- Stress safety always – make sure equipment and facilities meet safety standards and suit the age and ability of your players
- Consider maturity levels – devise training programs to suit all, ensure any physical contact with a young person is appropriate to the situation and necessary for the players skill development.
- Develop team respect – for opponents, umpires, parents, officials, spectators and coaches.
- Recognise the importance of proper injury treatment – treat sick and injured players with care and seek professional advice on whether injured players are ready to resume training or competition.

- Keep up to date – with coaching practices and the principles of physical growth and development.
- Attain coaching accreditation and update regularly.
- Avoid derogatory language – based on gender or race, create opportunities for participants to learn appropriate sports behaviour, lead by example at all times.
- Respect to all –respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Abide by the guidelines set forth in the AFL Drug Policy and reject the use of performance enhancing substances in sport.

PLAYER REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

Registration means “registered with CDFC to play at CDFC”. The maximum number of players to be registered in each team is to be determined by the CDFC in accordance with this policy. Additional registrations will be accepted after the commencement of the playing season. (i.e. start of the first game of season) with the consent of the Team Coach and Junior Club President.

Once registered, players are expected to attend pre season training, a weekly training session during the season and to be available for all season’s matches.

At all times it is the responsibility of the player to communicate their availability to attend training and match games to their respective Team Manager and Coach. Where these officials are not in place this communication is to be directed to Junior Club President.

The club retains the right to cancel, or refuse, any registration and may exercise its discretion not to accept additional registrations once a team has reached its maximum number of players.

REGISTRATION EXCEPTIONS

The Club appreciates that there may be extenuating circumstances and that some players may wish to register for a particular team. The decision to place a junior football player into a junior football team outside of the CDFC Junior Player Placement Criteria will be made in consultation with the appointed CDFC committee representative, the player’s parents and the players coach. Final approval on the player’s placement will be at the discretion of the CDFC Junior President.