



Training and Selection Policy

This document has been produced to clarify the team selection process. It is Club policy to support our Coaches in any reasonable decisions they make. The Club requires our Coaches to adhere to the following guidelines as far as practicable:

Selection for All Age Groups

In accordance with YJFL rules the maximum number of player that play in each home and away game is 24 players.

- if an age group has more than 24 players registered then a rostering system is to be introduced at the commencement of the season. [not more than 24 can play in a finals game]
- the roster will nominate which home an away season game the each player is rostered off.
- If a player is called up to play when rostered off due to a shortage of players that player is deemed to have taken their turn of being rostered off unless a swap sanctioned by the Coach or Team manager has been arranged
- Any player who is unavailable for a game in which they are not rostered off will not be deemed to have taken their turn
- Players rostered off will, if practicable, be offered a game in a higher age group, subject to not playing more than 5 in a higher age group.
- Coaches are also to encourage rostered players to participate in game day off field duties. (stats , water)
- All players are to play, at a minimum to three quarters per game in the home and away season
- Enquiries regarding team selection should be directed to age group Coaches, Football Operations Committee representative, or alternatively put into writing to the club secretary
- Top up players should preferably come from the lower ranked team to the higher ranked team within the same age group, so long as players from a lower age group are available to top up lower ranked team (e.g. players from U9 Black to U10 Red)
- If this can not be achieved then top up players should come from a lower age group. Coaches must consult with each other as soon as they become aware of a shortfall player numbers
- Where player from a lower age group tops up in a higher age group the lower age group player should not take the field in place of a player in the higher age group (i.e start the lower age group players on the bench and interchange them during the game for injured player or part of the rotations)
- During the course of the home and away season each player is to be rotated through all positions so that they can gain experience and learn how to play each position (i.e forwards, Backs & on Ball)
- The same player(s) are not to start on the interchange bench each week.

Squad Training

All players of the same age group are to train together as a squad on the same night (s). For a minimum of 15 minutes together. Coaches can break up players into groups for specialised training and drills. Coaching is to be conducted in a way that promotes club first at any age group.

Reasons

- Players are exposed to different coaching influences
- Players are able to Judge their ability and improvement against peers
- Coaches are also able to judge players potential and improvement
- Players have a feeling of belonging to one squad and team
- Players get to know teams style of play
- Assist with player rotations between teams
- Promotes one squad and helps movement of players between teams in future years

Age Group Selection

AGE GROUPS: U8 to U12

Tackers to under 12's selection of players in a particular team is to be primarily based on both friendships, and mixing school groups. At this age level the focus is on development of players' skills, knowledge of the fundamental of team play and having fun.

As well as selecting teams considerations should also be given to:

- Continued development of each player no matter their ability
- All players are to play a minimum of three quarters per game in the home and away season.
- Consideration of the player size, strength and weaknesses and skills so that a reasonable balance can be achieved in the individual team selection and positioning.
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- In these 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 well-being.
- Whilst every effort is made to meet requests, no guarantee can be given.
- Two teams in any age group U12's and below.
- For tackers to under 12 it is important to have regard to friendships and especially for new players to the club. However, teams need to be selected having regard to:
 - both teams being competitive in their respective YJFL divisions.
 - Consideration of player size, strengths and weaknesses and skills and merit so that a reasonable balance can be achieved in the individual team selection and positioning.
- If a coach and/or Team Manager has a child in the age group that they are involved with then that child is to be selected in the same team that the Coach/Team Manager Coaches/Manages.
- The football operations committee will continually review the competitiveness of both teams and performances will be discussed, and corrective actions taken.
- All players are to play as close to three quarters per game in the home and away season.
- It is a priority that Coaches develop one squad within the age group.
- To assist in minting the guidelines both Coaches need to assess and continually review player stage of physical development, skill and understanding of the game.
- Where two sides are formed in the same age group, regardless of their divisional standing, it is the wish of the Club that the two sides will be picked by the Coaches to form two 'Competitive' teams. The Committee will assist the Coaches select the sides if required.
- YJFL policy allows for 24 players to play in an under--age match in these age groups. The League requires, and the Club expects, that all players be permitted to play a minimum of a half game as far as practicable.

AGE GROUPS: U13 to U14

U13 and U14

Teams will firstly be established based on the age off players U13/U14.

Age group is to be based on merit. In considering “merit” the following should be taken into consideration:

- Players ability
- Players physical development
- Players attitude
- Players adherence to relative codes of conduct
- Player adherent to team rules
- Players adherence at training
- All players are to play as close to three quarters per game in the home and away season.

For two teams U13 and U14

- Rotate no more than 4 players each week (if required)
 - If a Coach and or a Team manager has a child in the same age group then that child is to be selected in the same team.
 - the child /children can be rotated with agreement of both Coaches /Team managers involved in that age group.
 - The Football Operations Committee will continually review the competitiveness of both team, and performances will be discussed and corrective actions taken if required
 - All players are to play as close to three quarters per game in the home and away season.
 - It is a priority that coaches develop one squad within an age group.
 - Each team is to have an equal number of players (+-2)
 - Continual assessment and adjustment may be required
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- The Club aspires to provide players the opportunity to play in the highest level within the league. A Club’s grading is determined by the performance of these age group teams in matches over the season. A greater emphasis is placed upon individual and team performances.
 - Where there is a single side in any age group, selection of the side is the responsibility of the appointed coach.
 - Where two sides are formed in the same age group and in different Divisions, Coaches are empowered to select teams. This is to be based on the Coaches judgment and perception of the player’s abilities, potential, development, attitude, commitment and the need for team balance. The Committee will assist the Coaches select the sides ifrequired.
 - Where two sides are formed in the same age group and in the same division, it is the wish of the Club that the two sides will be picked by the Coaches to form two ‘equal’ teams. The Committee will assist the Coaches select the sides ifrequired.
 - YJFL policy allows for 24 players to play in an under--age match in these age groups. The League requires, and the Club expects, that all players be permitted to play a minimum of a half game as far as practicable. Coaches must endeavour to provide the maximum number of players an opportunity to participate.
 - Canterbury Cobras has for many years allocated individual players at Under 13 and 14 level into teams comprising players whose skills and stage of football development are commensurate

with the team grade. This has ensured that players continue to be appropriately challenged and develop within respective teams confidently. It has certainly been recognised that individuals develop at different stages so the team allocations at this point reflects only that stage of a players development and is not an adjudication of overall ability and potential. As a Club we continue to establish a development pathway for players after Under 13 through Under 14 and 15 to Colts where their potential is generally realised and more often than not they progress to a different ability level.

SPECIAL NEEDS

- The Club appreciates that there may be extenuating circumstances, and that some players may wish to be in a particular team. Such requests should be made through the Coaches and Team Managers of the respective teams and will be assessed accordingly.

The Team Selection Policy and Guidelines are reviewed at least annually and every effort will be made to ensure that all parties have access to this information.