



PLAYER REGISTRATION POLICY

The Heathmont Jets Junior Football Club aims to field teams in all age groups of the EFL junior competition. In order to play with the Club, players must register with the Club each year.

In relation to player registrations, the following applies:

- A player registration will be accepted and deemed valid upon receipt by the Club of the appropriate registration forms and registration fees as required.
- Registrations can be lodged on, prior to, and after Registration Day provided they are received by the closing date for registrations as publicised on the Club's website.
- Where less than the maximum number of registrations are received for a particular age group (see below) registrations for that age group will remain open until such time as the maximum number of registrations is received.
- This policy should be read in conjunction with the EFL Junior Rules Summary at www.efl.org.au.

Number of Registered Players per Team and Age Group

To ensure adequate player game/playing time, the number of players registered per team will be capped as follows:

Age Group(s)	Maximum Number of Registered Players	Maximum Number of Players per Game	Number of On-Field Players per Game
Under 8	21	21	15 ¹
Under 9	24	24	15 ²
Under 10 to Under 15	24	24	18
Under 17	26	24	18

Should more than the maximum number of players register to play for any one particular age group, then the Club will endeavour to field two teams in that age group.

The number of players to be registered to form two teams is as follows:

Age Group(s)	Minimum Number of Registered Players	Minimum Number of Players per Team	Maximum Number of Registered Players
Under 8 and Under 9	30	15	42
Under 9	30	15	48
Under 10 to Under 15	38	19	48
Under 17	38	19	52

¹ This must be read in conjunction with the Evening Up Rule as outlined in the EFL Junior Rules Summary.

² 15 is the minimum playing number however teams often play 18 players. This must be read in conjunction with the Evening Up Rule as outlined in the EFL Junior Rules Summary.

In exceptional circumstances the Registrar may consult with Football Operations Manager and the Coach of a particular team to change these numbers for a particular team in a given season. Any changes must not exceed EFL regulations.

If an U17 team has greater than 24 players a rostering system will need to be arranged by the particular team.

In the event that more than the maximum but fewer than the minimum number of players required to field two teams register for a particular age group, the **Priority Registration Process** (defined below) will be implemented.

Priority Registration Process

Registrations for the coming season are open to existing players and families from the last round of the current season. Registrations for players and families that are new to the club open from 31st August each year.

Players are allocated to an age group on a first in basis as determined by the date on which the completed registration form has been received by the Club Registrar. Registration forms will be date and time stamped based upon receipt.

Where player registrations for a particular age group exceed the maximum, these players will be placed on a **waiting list** in the order that they are received by the Club Registrar.

Where more than the maximum number of player registrations for a particular age group, but less than the minimum number of players required for the fielding of two teams, have been received by the closing date for registrations, **late** registrations can be received and added to the waiting list.

In the event that the Club does not receive the minimum number of registrations required to field two teams, any player who as a result of the priority registration process misses out on a place in a team, will receive a full refund of registration payments.

Should any player inform the Club that they no longer desire to be on the waiting list, all registration monies will be refunded and the waiting list adjusted accordingly.

“Partnership Teams”

Should the Club have a “reasonable” number of excess players at an age group level (more than the maximum for that age group but less than the minimum for two teams), the Club will consult with the players and parents to establish their preparedness to play as part of a “Partnership Team” with excess players from another Club in the local area. If sufficient interest is indicated, the Club will endeavour to enter into a partnership with another club to establish a “Partnership Team”.

The Club will advise players and parents of this scenario as soon as possible given the number of player registrations received by the closing date for registrations.

Age Groups

The Heathmont Jets Junior Football Club believes that all under-age players are best served by playing in their appropriate age group³ in order to allow for the sequential and progressive development of their football skills and understanding of the game. This also helps to ensure the health and safety of the players.

At the discretion of the Executive Committee, and in exceptional circumstances, players may play in a different age group to enable the club to field full and/or effective teams. In such circumstances a player will only be permitted to play up a single age group (for example, an under 13 player will only be able to play at under 14 level). The Executive Committee will only consider written applications for out of an age group. Applications forms can found on the club's website.

The Committee will assess the application utilising, but not limited to, the following considerations:

- The player's welfare in playing out of age.
- Team numbers – in order for a player to play in a higher age group, there must be a vacancy on the higher age group's playing list and their correct age group must not be left with insufficient numbers.
- Discussion with the coach or coaches familiar with the player's ability.
- Parent's/guardian's agreement for their child to play in a higher age must be sought.

A new application must be submitted for each season.

There may also be exceptional circumstances where a player may play in a lower age group. This will only occur in the non-competitive age groups (U8/9/10) after consideration by the Executive Committee and the EFL.

Decisions on playing out of an age group will be made by the Executive Committee as required.

Effective Date and Review

This policy is effective from **1 December 2014** and is to be reviewed annually in July.

³ *To qualify to participate in a particular age group, a player must meet the age requirements as of 1 January prior to the season in question. No player shall be permitted to play in the junior competition unless they attain at least the age of eight years during that person's first year of registration with the EFL.*