

Club Rotation Policy and Guidelines

1) Background

The AFL requires that all coaches sign the AFL Code of Conduct as part of the Level 1 Accreditation requirement. Within that Code of Conduct, amongst other things, the coaches agree to:

- (i) Strive to ensure that all players within the 5 to 18 year old age group gain equal playing time;
- (ii) Avoid overplaying the talented players;
- (iii) Aim to maximize participation, learning and enjoyment for all players regardless of ability;
- (iv) Ensure that all players are involved in a positive environment where skill-learning and development are priorities and not overshadowed by a desire to win;
- (v) Stress and monitor safety always and have due consideration of varying maturity and ability levels;
- (vi) Be reasonable in demands made on the time commitments of players, having due consideration for their health and wellbeing.

The Yarra Junior Football League (YJFL), within its Code of Conduct, states that coaches must:

- (i) Avoid overplaying talented players;
- (ii) Maximise fun;
- (iii) Place winning in perspective;
- (iv) Stress safety always and consider maturity levels.

The Glen Iris Junior Football Club (GIJFC) has embraced these principles and echoes the sentiment throughout its Club Aims, Rules and Policies. Coaches at GIJFC are required to sign the Coach's Code of Conduct, acknowledging their acceptance.

2) Rotations Policy

The purpose of this policy is to provide coaches and parents with clarification as to how GIJFC interprets the requirements of the AFL and the YJFL as they relate to player rotations.

As part of the policy, it should be noted that the YJFL prescribes the maximum number of players to be as follows:

- For Under 8 teams, the maximum number of players is 16 (incl. 4 interchange);
- For Under 9 teams the maximum number of players is 20 (incl. 5 interchange);
- For Under 10 and upwards, the maximum number of players in Home and Away matches is 24 (incl. 6 interchange);
- In Finals a number of players greater than 24 may be utilized, providing they are eligible.

The Rotations Policy is as follows:

(a) Under 8's thru Under 12's

- (i) Over the course of the year, coaches should strive to ensure that all players gain equal playing time.
- (ii) On any given match day, coaches should use their best endeavours to ensure all players play at least 3 quarters of a game. Should this not be achieved in a particular game, playing time should be adjusted in subsequent games.
- (iii) Over the course of the year, and having regard to differing maturity levels and player safety, all players should have the opportunity to play in different positions (back, mid-field and forward).

- (iv) The same group of players should not be played pre-dominantly in the mid-field.
- (v) The interchange bench should start with different players each week.
- (vi) In home and away games, should the maximum number of players be exceeded, players should be rostered off on a fair and equitable basis. Games missed due to injury and absence should be counted as “rostered off” where practicable and parents should be given as much notice as possible.
- (vii) In finals:
 - where the number of players is 23 or less, all players must receive at least 2 quarters playing time, with 3 quarters being the objective;
 - where the number of players is 24 or more, the coach should discuss the proposed plan with the Director of Coaching, with the purpose of developing an approach that is fair and equitable, whilst allowing the team to be competitive;
 - coaches have discretion over which positions each player plays in.

(b) Under 13's, 14's and 15's

- (i) It is acknowledged that many clubs grade at Under 13 level and that players are starting to show an affinity with particular positions. As such, coaches can use some discretion as to which players play in each position, providing it does not compromise the development of any player.
- (ii) The policies regarding playing time and rostering are unchanged, including finals.

(c) Colts

- (i) It is acknowledged that:
 - some players are very serious in their pursuit of an elite football career, whilst others are enjoying football as a social, sporting activity;
 - teams can have different objectives, depending upon which division they are in, the composition of players and the players' individual objectives;
 - each team's circumstances can differ considerably;
- (ii) Coaches should discuss the proposed rotations plan with the Director of Coaching, with the purpose of developing an approach that embraces their team's objectives, is fair and equitable, whilst allowing the team to be competitive.

(d) Commitment from Players and Disciplinary Action

- (i) It is acknowledged that coaches are voluntary members of the GIJFC and their contributions are greatly valued and appreciated. Players are expected to respect all coaches and officials, not be disruptive and be a contributing member of the team.
- (ii) Should a player not be fulfilling their commitments, coaches may increase the time a player spends on the interchange bench, providing the coach discusses the matter with both the Director of Coaching and the player's parents.

(e) Tools to Help Coaches – Communication and Records

In all instances, coaches are encouraged to engage in open communication with parents as to how these policies will be implemented throughout the season.

It is recommended that all coaches keep records of rotations / positions, review them on a periodical basis and take remedial action to balance out anomalies.

(f) *Queries re Policy and Special Circumstances*

Should any coach or parent have a query regarding the interpretation or implementation of the Rotations Policy they should discuss the matter with the Director of Coaching or the Age Group Coordinator. This includes special circumstances, such as instances when the coach believes the team is experiencing considerable difficulty in being competitive.

Please remember that the club's underlying philosophy is that enjoyment, participation and development outweighs the pursuit of winning.