

## **About the club**

The Mooroolbark juniors (Mustangs) are a family oriented junior football club established in the 1960's and fielding teams in every age group from Under 8 through to Under 17 **(Boys) and Under 12 to 15 Girls** in the Eastern Football League (EFL).

Our club has a long and successful history, having won many premierships, non-competitive "lightning premierships" and best & fairest awards in both the EDFL and EFL. The club also won the EFL 'Junior Football Club of the Year' award as recently as 2011 and fielded **10** teams in **2016**. We support healthy links with the senior club which has competed strongly in 2<sup>nd</sup> division in recent seasons. It has also been the beginning for many past and present AFL footballers including Sam Mitchell, Heath Hocking, Aaron Mullett, Cam Pederson and current EFL General Manager of Football Operations Matthew Bishop.

The Mustangs believe that the individual player should be encouraged, and this fosters self-confidence and self-esteem. Individuals make up the team where mutual respect, trust and working towards common goals are important life skills our players develop. Commitment, discipline, communication and teamwork are essential traits that are fostered within our teams. Continued development and improvement of football skills and game knowledge is achieved through structured and monitored training sessions conducted by accredited coaches.

The Mustangs also have a strong relationship with 'Mooroolbark Auskick' with the clinic conducting their operations at our junior home- Kiloran Park. New change room and canteen facilities were completed at the venue in 2012. The clinic also conducts half-time grid games during senior matches at "The Heights" reserve throughout the season. Players can learn great footy skills at Auskick and are encouraged to continue with Auskick, even when they start to play club football with the Mustangs.

Parents of prospective Mustang players can obtain information about the club by contacting our Registrar via email at [mooroolbarkjr@efl.org.au](mailto:mooroolbarkjr@efl.org.au) or by visiting our club contact details via the EFL website located under 'club sites'. Look for the 'Juniors' tab.

The club always welcomes new players at all age levels (unless a team list is full).

## **Club Vision Statement:**

**To be the club of choice for junior players and their families, which contributes to the wider community both on and off the field.**

## **Club Mission Statement:**

**Our primary objective is the development of junior football and footballers. We will provide a football programme that prepares young players both mentally and physically for senior football. This will include the provision of a safe and supportive community based environment which encourages skill and game plan development, fitness, fair play and teamwork.**

## **Policies**

This Document is to be strictly applied by the management of each team (i.e. Coach, Assistant Coaches, Runner and Team Manager)

First and foremost our key objective is to make the game FUN for all players.

The game is there to be ENJOYED by ALL.

### **1. Player number caps**

- The club has determined that the following caps on player registrations will apply
  - Under 8 & 9 – 21 players per team
  - Under 10 and above – 26 players per team\*

\*where 2 teams in an age level merge into 1, consultation between coaches, parents and the committee will be undertaken to decide upon an agreed player list.

### **2. Team Selection Policy**

- The model for the Mooroolbark Junior Football Club is to provide equal opportunity for all boys and girls to participate in competition football.
- However, if players have not paid their registration fees by Round 1 or are not on an agreed payment plan (by round 1 and paid by round 4) then such player/s will be excluded from team selection until committee approval is given. If players do not meet their payment plan obligations then notice will be given to the player's parent/s and coach by the Junior President regarding non-selection until fees are received.
- When numbers are in excess of the required 24 players the following rules should apply when selecting teams:
  - Players who attend training during the week prior to the game should be the first selected. The only exceptions to this rule is when a player is unable to attend training due to one of the following reasons:
    - Illness and the Coach or Team Manager is advised accordingly;
    - The player has genuine school commitments (camp, exams etc) and the Coach or Team Manager is advised accordingly; or
    - The player is in training with a representative team such as the Eastern Ranges Football Club or an EFL Representative Squad and the Coach or Team Manager is advised accordingly;
  - All exceptions must be made known to the team when it is announced so that all players, officials and parents are made fully aware of the situation.
- An accurate record of training attendance must be maintained by team management and be available upon request from the Junior President or Coaching Director.
- It is preferred that players compete at their allocated age level but final determination will be made on a player by player basis taking into account respective team numbers. The final decision will be made by the Junior President and Coaching Director.
- Players will be rostered off equally during the course of the season. To assist families with planning a weekend away etc, agreement between the coach and parents will be sought, ideally PRIOR to the season commencing where possible.
- In games where players have been 'rostered off', players should ALWAYS be encouraged to attend where possible, in case of a late illness – and to support their mates and/or perform support roles (e.g. water carrier, scoreboard).
- If a player rostered to play does 'miss' a game due to a 'late' illness or injury then the coach MAY be able to swap their rostered game.

### 3. General match day code of conduct for all Coaches, Team Management, Spectators and Players

- Umpire abuse will NOT be tolerated under any circumstances.
- The Coach & Team Management are responsible for the conduct of the interchange bench.
- Swearing will not be tolerated.
- Discrimination and vilification in terms of a person's race, religion, colour, gender or disability will NOT be tolerated. This is a two way standard. All instances must be reported via your team manager in writing to the Junior President or Coaching Director immediately.
- Good sportsmanship is to be displayed at all times. We expect all teams to set an excellent example, even if our competitors do not.
- If the coach is for any reason unavailable for match day duties (e.g. illness etc), the appointment of a substitute coach will be the responsibility of the Junior President or Coaching Director. The Junior President or Coaching Director is to be advised ASAP if a coach is unavailable.
- If another team official is for any reason unavailable, the team management will be responsible for ensuring a replacement is found.
- Club officials MUST set the right example for the players and parents to follow at all times.
- Internal club suspensions may be issued by the Junior President following investigations concerning breaches of the above & / or similar issues in relation to individuals code of conduct.

### 4. Player Roster & Rotation Policy for ages U8's – U10's (Non-competitive teams)

- The team management will be instrumental in implementing and maintaining a roster which adheres to the club policies and guidelines.
- The U8 and U9's roster and rotation policy is to apply when more than 20 players are registered to play. The U10's player roster and rotation policy is to apply when more than 24 players registered to play.
- The roster should detail which player(s) will miss which games and can be constructed with the input from the parents, i.e. certain parents may take holidays therefore you may be able to roster the players off to accommodate this.
- Players missing games through illness or school or family commitments will not necessarily be considered to have been rostered off.
- The player roster is to be applied equally to all team members.
- The Under 8s and Under 9's have 15 players on the field at any one time with a maximum of five interchange players. The U10's have 18 players on the field at any one time with a maximum of six interchange players.
- All players are to participate in a minimum of three quarters of football, unless an injury occurs or further game time reduction is requested by the player or their parent.
- **The Coach shall endeavour to rotate players off the bench during quarters as he sees fit to limit prolonged time on the bench**
- It is a recommendation that coaches set up a structure whereby players are exposed to different positions / lines through the course of the season. It is also recommended that you split the team into the groups and move them through the lines accordingly.
- It is a requirement that you rotate a player's position (line) on the ground at least on a week to week basis, to maximize exposure to the game (back line, centre line, forward line).
- Team Management will keep an accurate record of each player's game time and be prepared to produce this upon request from the Junior President or Coaching Director.

- Where two or more teams are to be fielded in an age group, the composition of the teams will initially be decided within two weeks following club Registration Day. The Junior President and Coaching Director will consult with the coaches of the teams to determine the split of players. Teams will be constructed based on agreed criteria relevant to the registered players, with the teams to be as evenly matched in terms of player numbers as possible. Selection will be given based on the following criteria:
  1. Group players with respect to attending schools (based on time of registration and following criteria);
  2. Group with respect to family relations;
  3. Maintain team number discrepancy <2.
- If a child, parent or coach is unhappy with the team to which a player has been selected, a formal submission must be presented to the Coaching Director for consideration.
- If you need clarification on anything to do with this policy at any stage of the season it is the expectation of the MJFC that you bring it to the Committee's attention.

## 5. Player Roster & Rotation Policy for ages U11's & above (Competitive teams)

- The team management will be instrumental in implementing and maintaining a roster which adheres to the club policies and guidelines.
- The roster system is to apply when more than 24 players are registered to play.
- The roster should detail which player(s) will miss which games and can be constructed with the input from the parents, i.e. certain parents may take holidays therefore you may be able to roster the players off to accommodate this.
- Players missing games through illness or school or family commitments will not necessarily be considered to have been rostered off.
- The player roster is to be applied equally to all team members.
- The competitive age groups have 18 players on the field at any one time, with a maximum 6 players on the interchange.
- All players are to participate in a minimum of one quarter of football, unless an injury occurs, or further game time reduction requested by the player or their parent. It should be the aim of coaches to maximise the game time of all players in a given match.
- **The Coach shall endeavour to rotate players off the bench during quarters as he sees fit to limit prolonged time on the bench**
- Player game-time for those players unable to attend all training sessions is at the coach's discretion and will be balanced against each player's unique circumstance. Allowances can be made to accommodate players during training and on game day that have school or representative football training commitments.
- If you need clarification on anything to do with this policy at any stage of the season it is the expectation of the MJFC that you bring it to the Committee's attention.

## 6. Selection (Grading) Policy for Multiple Teams going into or in Competitive Football Age Groups

All grading shall be in consultation with the MJFC President and Coaching Director. Players and Parents are not to be informed of Team lists unless approved by the MJFC President and Coaching Director. The Junior President, Junior vice President or Coaching Director (At least one) shall be in attendance at the below noted organised meetings.

- Where two or more teams are to be fielded in the same competitive age group, the composition of the teams will be decided based on confirmation of team numbers, training performance, player availability and under the below listed criteria. During the grading period the two teams shall train together with both team's coaches agreeing on the training requirements for the teams.

The Junior President and Coaching Director will consult with the coaches of the teams to determine the split of players. Teams will be constructed based on agreed criteria relevant to the registered players, with the teams to be as evenly matched in terms of player numbers as possible.

- Higher grade coach in consultation with assistant-coach and team runner representing the higher graded team, shall nominate the players they believe are up to the standard of the higher grade.  
The list of Players shall be distributed to players and families and explained at an organised Team meeting by February 21<sup>st</sup> 2017, (a chance for coaches to have a look at any new recruits), there is no guarantee the listed players will make the final team list nominated by the team Coach
- Lower grade coach in consultation with assistant-coach and team runner representing the lower graded team, shall nominate the players they believe are possibly up to the standard of the higher graded team. List distributed to players and families and explained at an organised Team meeting by February 21<sup>st</sup> 2017
- Players from the higher graded group the previous season that are not listed on the higher graded list and the players nominated by the lower grade coach are eligible to grade for higher grade team taking into account pre-season training performance, two practice games and two home and away games
- Where a new Player has registered with the MJFC during the Practice game period or Home and Away season, that Player shall train and play with the lower age group unless based on training and playing performance be elevated to the Higher graded team if nominated by the Coach, Where a player comes from another club playing at an equivalent of the MJFC higher graded team, that Player can be selected by the Higher graded Coach for the Higher graded team
- Coaches, Assistant Coaches and runners of both teams are to meet on the first Monday after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Home and away game to finalise the Team lists.
- Players and Parents are to be notified of final team lists at a combined Team meeting organised the first training session after 2<sup>nd</sup> Home and Away game.

## 7. Club Voting Policy for ages U11's & above (Competitive teams)

- 3 x vote cards shall be completed per game consisting of 5 votes for best on the ground, 4 votes for second best on the ground etc down to 1 vote for 5<sup>th</sup> best on the ground.
- Round by round voting goes towards the team's Best & Fairest award and should be a true reflection of individual's game day performance. Encouragement awards are distributed weekly during Sunday night dinners at the club and team management must recognise the clear distinction between the two separate award systems.
- Supplementary players ("fill ins") are performing as part of the team and are therefore eligible for both B&F voting and encouragement awards.
- Committee preference is to have input from two adults per voting card and not the same individuals or same combinations week by week. E.g. Coach + Asst. Coach, Runner + Team mgr., Boundary ump. + parent, Interchange steward + Goal umpire etc **The team coach shall be given one vote card each week, the coach shall have input from the Asst. coach and runner, the remaining two vote cards are to be shared throughout the season with the parents**
- Players' full names and numbers should be clearly recorded on the vote cards. Signing the vote card is optional

## 8. Finals Roster / Rotation Policy – for ages U11's & above (Competitive teams) Finals series

- If more than 24 players are available to play in finals, the coach can choose the players to be rostered off during a finals series.
- **Following the final training session of the week team selection will occur where by players and parents will be notified of the team line-up. This announcement will be made within 2 hours from the completion of the final training session.**
- **All players in the selected 24 for a given final must receive ground time.**
- If you need clarification on anything to do with this policy it is the expectation of the MJFC that you bring it to the Committees attention.
- Playing supplementary players during the finals series will be done in accordance with EFL permission and consultation between respective coaches, parents, the Junior President and Coaching Director.
- Players from a younger age group may be added to a particular team in a higher age group in order to prevent a 'shortfall' in that team.
- For the 2 dot points above, a formal request is to be made to the MJFC Committee PRIOR to the game to enable a MATCH PERMIT to be issued by the EFL.
- A supplementary player will NOT be permitted to play in a final in a higher age group when the team already has 20 or more players available for that game.
- The supplementary player must NOT play more than two quarters in a final unless injury / illness dictate unique circumstances.
- Further EFL rules govern the number of games in which a player may participate in multiple teams.

## 9. Coaching- length of tenure

- To offer the Players a different voice, game plans, training drills, opportunity Etc. No Coach shall coach a Non – Competitive or competitive team for more than 3 consecutive seasons. Where an individual has coached a team for 3 consecutive seasons Competitive or non-Competitive, that individual shall stand down for at-least one season as the Team Coach. That same individual shall not be appointed as an assistant Coach for at-least one season for that team.
- Where a coach is willing to continue beyond the tenure above and no other individuals have expressed an interest to take over a decision regarding an appointment will be made through consultation between the committee (Junior President and Coaching Director) and parents of the playing group.

## 10. APPOINTMENT OF TEAM CAPTAIN/VICE CAPTAIN

### Competitive teams

The appointment of a Team Captain and Vice -Captain shall be conducted by a 1x vote each per player, Coach, Assistant-Coach and runner. Each nomination can be recorded on paper or a one on one interview with the Team coach. Paper recorded votes shall be issued to the MJFC coaching director for filing. The Coach of each Team may have the final say in the appointed Captain with approval from the MJFC President and or Coaching Director

The player with the most votes shall be made captain for the season, second amount votes Vice-Captain (Joint Captains are allowed)

The announcement of Captain (S) and Vice- Captain (S) shall be announced after verification of votes by the Coaching Director Prior to round one of the home and away season at a team meeting with Parents and Players.

### Non-Competitive teams

- Prior to a Practice game and Home and away game the Coach and Assistant-Coach in consultation with each other, shall nominate a Captain and Vice- Captain for that game either at the team training session or prior to that week's game

## 11. FOOTY TRIPS

No coach or parent of the MJFC shall organise a group trip named as or under the name associated with the MJFC.

MJFC will not be held responsible for any actions of a MJFC player, official or parent at an organised group event that the MJFC has not indorsed or organised

Good luck, have fun and remember winning is not the only measure of success!



## *2014 EFL Representatives:*

**Kaleb Stivey, Hayden Watkins, Tom Taylor & Joel Burleigh**



*Division A Grand Final Winners*