



Gumeracha Football Club Junior Development Policy

The Gumeracha Football Club is committed to providing a safe enjoyable sporting environment for the children who play for all our teams. Developing football skills, encouraging fair play and building self-esteem are all important parts of a child's football development.

Our aim is to continually work on developing and improving policies that will give each player equal opportunity to reach their full potential, whilst most importantly ensuring involvement, enjoyment and fun for all. Further, it is the intention of the football club to provide a safe and structured environment where traits like resilience, courage, persistence, discipline, humility, teamwork, loyalty and selflessness are introduced, tested and practiced.

Every player deserves the opportunity to compete strongly on the field. Our club believes that the competitive nature of football provides a great opportunity to assist childhood development and that competitive games provide an excellent environment for this development. The key to this is to ensure all players in the club can play in the most appropriate environment to reach their potential.

At all junior levels the overall expectation is that children will receive a 'fair go', however it should be noted that a coach can reasonably make a decision that appears unfair. Where a coach is perceived as being unfair it is reasonable that the coach provide a rationale that their actions have strategic positive benefits in the development of the child.

U8 - U11 Inclusive

Ensure all children receive a fair and even go.

With overall competitiveness of each game being taken into account, players will be given opportunity to play on each line throughout the season.

Where the use of an interchange bench is necessary, the coach will endeavour to give approximately equal game time to each player. It is expected that all players will receive at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of a game each week.

All players are given a chance to develop.



U13 and U15

Ensure all children receive a fair and even go.

All players are given every chance to develop.

Player positions will not necessarily change from week to week. As players will be at varying stages of development, it may suit some players to learn to play in a certain position by playing there for a considerable time. Each player's overall development will be a high priority. Parents should discuss this with coaching staff if there is a concern.

It is our aim that players receive a minimum of $\frac{3}{4}$ match time during the season. Should a team make finals, match time will be at the discretion of the coach.

The club encourages development however no player shall play in a higher age group if this means he shall be taking the place of a player who is only eligible for this age group.

U17.5

Ensure all children receive a fair and even go.

All players are given a chance to develop.

It is our aim that players receive a minimum of $\frac{1}{2}$ match time during the season.

Overall team strength and tactical decisions will take a greater priority in deciding player positions than in younger age groups.

Should a team make a final, match time will be at the discretion of the coach.