

# Dingley Junior Football Club Team Selection Policy

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In conjunction with SMJFL Grading Guidelines

## TRAINING & TEAM SELECTION GUIDELINES

### Introduction

In December 2013, the SMJFL Player Retention Working Party proposed an initiative of creating a Team Selection & Grading guidelines document, which would be a framework for team selection and grading at club level. The implementation of these guidelines by all clubs would see an improvement in the competitiveness across all age group and divisions, while delivering consistency in team selection across all member clubs. The League discourages clubs using waiting lists or list rotations and encourages clubs to adopt policies that promotes participation for all.

The Dingley Junior Football Club have adopted these guidelines which outlines what our club aims to achieve with team selection across all age groups and divisions.

This document has been developed using AFL Victoria Team Selection Policy Guidelines in consultation with other metropolitan junior football leagues. The document provides the framework that will guide coaches, players, parents and the committee in ensuring the objectives of the policy are met and that each player is given the appropriate opportunity to actively participate and enjoy their participation in Australian Rules football at our club.

### Team Selection Objectives

The Dingley Junior Football Club aims to provide an environment that nurtures and develops players from youngest to oldest. The club will not discriminate on the basis of ability, sex or religion.

The objectives of the team selection process are:

- To provide players every possible opportunity to reach their maximum potential.
- To ensure that the selection policy applies equally to all players.
- To aim for continuous improvement of all players and teams.
- To maintain open lines of communication and co-operation between coaches, players, parents and committee.
- To meet the objectives of the South Metro Junior Football League and AFL Junior Match Policy
- To provide an environment that instils pride in our club and demonstrates respect of our opponents, the community in general.
- To have in place a suitable process to handle issues arising from the team selection process.

The Club requires all appointed Coaches to adhere to the following guidelines as far as practicable.

### Training – All age groups

To promote a one club philosophy where there are multiple teams in the same age group, the club promotes that these team shall train together as a squad on the same night for a minimum of 30 minutes. This includes starting the session (warming up / stretching) and finishing the session (cooling down / stretching) together.

Coaches can break up players into groups for specialised training and/or drills. However intra-club matches should be between two evenly balanced sides and not for example, a Division 1 team vs. a Division 2 team.

#### **Reasons:**

- Players are able to judge their ability and improvement against their peers.
- Coaches are also able to judge players potential & improvement.
- Players get to know team's style of play.
- Assist with player rotations.
- Players have a feeling of belonging to one squad/team.
- Eliminates the "them & us" mentality – i.e. helps develop a "One-Club" philosophy

### **Team Selection Guidelines**

#### **Under 12's & below**

In these age groups, the emphasis is placed on participation and enjoyment, while learning the basic skills and the nurturing of physical and emotional development and well-being.

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 selected by the Coaching Coordinator in consultation with the Coaches to form two teams.

In doing so the Coaching Coordinator and Coaches may consider the following:

- Schools attended
- Known friendships (keeping in mind the positives of making "new" friendships)
- Continued development of each player, no matter their ability
- All players are to play a minimum of three quarters per game
- Consideration of player size, strengths, weaknesses and skills so that a reasonable balance can be achieved in the individual team selection and positioning

To assist in maintaining the above guidelines both Coaches need to assess and continually review each player's stage of physical development, level of skill and understanding of the game.

The Coaching Coordinator will assist the Coaches select the sides if required.

**Note: The South Metro Junior Football League allows for twenty-four (24) players to play in an under-age match in these age groups. Additionally, as per the SMJFL By-Laws, all players must play one (1) quarter per finals match.**

### **Grading Guidelines**

#### **Under 13's to Under 17's**

The Club aspires to provide players the opportunity to play in the highest level within the league.

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.

Our club believes that all players shall be treated equally and in doing so believe that each player is entitled to the following playing time:

- U13's – U15's and Youth Girls minimum three quarters

- U16'- U17's s minimum three quarters

### Multiple teams in the same age group

Where multiple sides are formed in the same age group and in different Divisions, the Coaching Coordinator in consultation with the Coaches are empowered to select teams based on the Coaches judgment and will consider the following;

- perception of the player's abilities based on the Division team is playing in
- potential of the player
- physical development
- players attitude
- players commitment
- player's adherence to relative Codes of Conduct
- player's adherence to team rules
- player's attendance at training
- and the need for team balance

Where two sides are formed in the same age group and in the same division, it is the position of the Club that the two sides will be picked by the Coaches to form two 'equally competitive teams for that division. The Coaching Coordinator or Football Manager will assist the Coaches select the sides if required.

**Note: The South Metro Junior Football League allows for twenty-four (24) players to play in an under-age match in these age groups. Additionally, as per the SMJFL By-Laws, all players must play one (1) quarter per finals match.**

### Team Selection

During pre-season, all players will train together as one group.

Following practice matches and prior to the first South Metro Junior Football League grading match, initial squads will be developed based on selection criteria listed above.

The coaching staff from both teams will work collaboratively during this process to ensure that each player is able to participate to their potential. Team selection will take place for each of the first four grading rounds within the following guidelines:

- Rotate no more than 2 players each week between divisions (if required).
- To assist in maintaining the above guidelines both Coaches need to assess and continually review each player's stage of physical development, level of skill and understanding of the game.
- After the initial grading rounds the Coaching Coordinator or Football Manager will continually review the competitiveness of both teams, and performances will be discussed with Coaches if and when required. Players development should be continually monitored
- It is a priority that Coaches DO NOT develop two separate teams within an age group.
- Consideration should be given to the "top up player's welfare" as to his ability to play in that age group and commitments that player has on that day (e.g. a prior game).
- During the course of the home and way season each player is to be rotated through positions so that they can gain experience and learn how to play each position (i.e.

Forwards, Backs, & Midfield). Further, the same player(s) are not to start on the interchange bench each week.

- Assistant Coaches to monitor the player rotations and complete rotation spreadsheet.
- All bye/s in the fixture will have no bearing on the player omission. If players have been selected to sit out a game when a bye is fixtured then the player will have to miss another game.
- If a player misses 2 games due to Injury, school and family commitments the club will provide increased opportunity for that player; the roster will be adjusted if necessary every 3 weeks
- Prior to the commencement of the season all players/parents will provide information to the Team Manager on potential games they will miss eg Away, School camp, Family commitment. The information will then be formulated into a calendar and taken into consideration when rostering a player.
- Players can change/swap with other players on the roster but this must be strictly communicated to both Coach and Team Manager before any changes are confirmed. Swapping of rotations must be completed and team Manager informed preferably 1 week prior to game.
- The roster will remain fixed unless unforeseen changes are required. In this instance the roster will be re-scheduled and presented to parents and players prior to the following round.
- Players that are rostered off are expected to attend games with their team to assist with drink carrying and other required player duties.
- Where a team will play two or more finals then every player on the team list must be selected in at least one of the first two finals.
- Where a team is not guaranteed to play more than one final then team selection is at the discretion of the coach. It is expected that a fair and reasonable selection process will be undertaken should the team continue to progress (i.e. the Committee expects that all players should be given the opportunity to play in finals).
- Questions or concerns around the roster/rotational guidelines are to be directed initially to Team Manager and coach with queries forwarded to football operations if necessary.

### **Players Playing up an Age Level**

It is the club's policy that all players play in their age group for the following reasons:

- This is the best way to protect the health and safety of players
- To enable players to best develop according to their age and physical capacity
- It is non-discriminatory as it applies to all players
- It provides clarity and certainty for players and parents
- It is consistent with the preferred position of the SMJFL.

The Club recognises that some players may wish to play at an older team level for peer group or other reasons.

Parents may make application in writing to the Coaching Coordinator for consideration of a request for a player to be exempted from this policy. This application must include valid reasons for wishing to change age groups.

The Coaching Coordinator will assess such requests on their merit and notify the parent of its decision in writing. Any decision will be based on what is best for both the team and the individual(s) concerned, and take into consideration

- team numbers,
- agreement from coaches
- relative playing ability of the player
- the likely effect any such change might have on team morale and divisional ranking
- the likely flow on effect it might create within playing ranks

Due process must be followed from a player/parent point of view. The DJFC will, in turn, do its due diligence and follow due process to determine if exceptional circumstances exist and there are reasonable grounds to allow a player's request.

### **Finals Policy**

In the case where no more than 24 players have been used during the home and away season, the club does not differentiate team selection policy from home and away season to finals participation.

In the case where a team has more than 24 players available for Finals, the coach must ensure that all available players receive at least one (1) quarter game time.

The team selection policy adopted throughout the season sets an expectation for both participants and parents and will not be altered during finals.

In the case where more than 24 players have been used in a team during the home and away season, a greater number than 24 may be utilised during finals matches, provided that each player is eligible to compete in accordance with the league eligibility criteria.

Adopted: 15/03/2015

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