**To the Parents and players of Sunbury Lions Football Netball Club – Junior Division.**

Firstly the Sunbury Lions Football Netball Club - Junior Division (SLFNCJD) welcomes you in registering or re-registering to be part of the oldest Junior Football Netball Club in Sunbury and wish you all the best for the coming season.

We are providing this brief note to give you some clarity and understanding of the difficulty in selecting teams across all Age groups in the coming 2018 season.

This is a unique year for our club and for the RDFNL with the age groups changing to odd numbers and grading across many of these age groups (U9 to U17). We have been advised at this stage U15 and U17 will be graded prior to the start of the fixtured season. The RDFNL are also considering grading the U11’s and U13’s however at this stage there has not been a decision made.

The potential grading of teams means we will more than likely have teams that are not following each other in both the Football and potentially the Netball. The club is seeking clarification on this.

This in itself will present significant problems when it comes to aligning siblings (and teams) to play at the same venue on the same day.

The committee, coaches and JDO’s will be discussing this at length once more details are known around grading and fixturing prior to team selection, this could be a big influencer on how the teams might be selected. We need to consider this along with other factors such as siblings, specific requests and team placement based on factors that we can not discuss publically prior to final selection.

In 2018 we are forecasting up to 170 registered players across all age groups which in itself is great for the development and longevity of our club and we thank for signing up with the Mighty Sunbury Lions.

With 170 registered players across 9 teams comes the unenviable task of team selection and I can assure you these selections are not made lightly. Coaches, JDO’s and the committee will spend considerable time (generally whilst they are in their paid jobs) discussing and mulling over these decisions with no one person over riding any other. It is not easy pleasing all players and parents when it comes to team selection with certain RDFNL criteria to be respected. If we were to pick teams based solely on mateships, siblings and requests we would be unable to field teams in line with the RDFNL objective of having your best team in the ‘A’s and so on.

As this will be the start of a new season all players will start on a level playing field and have the opportunity to be selected in any of the teams. Those who come to training in the New Year with the appropriate level of skill and fitness will be rewarded accordingly.

If you have a specific request for a particular team, coach or friend you would like play with or there is someone you can not play with for some reason please see one of the coaches or JDO’s prior to team selection.

With respect to the requests by players to play with friends or have concerns about the side they are in, we will work through these on a case by case basis as a selection committee. Ie. President, Coaching Co-Ordinator, JDO and the coaches.

We will look to finalise the teams at least 4 weeks out from official competition start date.

If you have any questions around any of the above please direct these to the JDO’s, Coaches or the Committee of the Sunbury Lions Football Netball Club – Junior Division.

Go The Mighty Lions!