



# YERONGA JUNIOR AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL CLUB INC

Incorporation Number IA17566  
ABN 49 610 457 015

CLUBHOUSE & GROUNDS  
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## TEAM SELECTION & AGE GROUP POLICY

### 1. Introduction

This document has been produced to articulate Yeronga Junior Australian Football Club's (JAFC) team selection and age group eligibility processes for both junior and youth age groups. The Yeronga JAFC Committee (the Committee) requires coaches, team managers and other relevant persons to adhere to the following requirements, as far as practicable, and will support them in any reasonable decision they make regarding these requirements.

The *Team Selection & Age Group Policy* has been developed to complement the *AFL Australian Football Match Policy* and the current *AFL Queensland State Junior Football Rules and Regulations* and, as such, should be reviewed on an annual basis to take into consideration any changes or address potential conflicts.

To assist the application of this policy and to promote player development within both Junior and Youth Age Groups, the Committee will work to ensure team nominations put forward to the league each **Season** allow for development opportunities for players who, as assessed by coaching staff, possess the ability, attitude and commitment to play up an age group or division.

#### 1.1. Definitions

All definitions used in the *Team Selection & Age Group Policy* are taken from the *AFL Queensland State Junior Football Rules and Regulations* to ensure consistency.

**Core List:** a list of a team's best and most skilled players referred to as Core Players

**Registered Age Group:** the lowest age group in which a player is permitted to play based on their date of birth, as determined and published the league each year.

**Junior Age Group:** any age group from under 8 to under 11.

**Youth Age Group:** any age group from under 12 to under 17

**Finals Match:** competition matches that are played at the end of the Season fixture to determine the premiership. 'Finals' and 'Final' shall have the same meaning. Applies to **Youth and Youth Girls Age Groups** only.

**Season:** Means the annual schedule of fixture matches that comprise the home and away season plus all finals matches between teams in designated age groups and divisions.

### 2. Team Selection

#### 2.1. Junior Age Groups

In **Junior Age Groups**, the emphasis is placed on maximising participation and enjoyment in a fun and safe environment through a well-structured match program that considers the maturity level of their motor, cognitive, social and emotional skills. The emphasis is on the



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development of fundamental movement skills (ABCs of athleticism – agility, balance, coordination and speed) and age group-specific football skills.

Where two or more sides are formed in the same **Junior Age Group**, players will be allocated to each team so they are evenly matched, where ever practicable. Consideration will also be given to the allocation of new and returning players to teams enabling players and their families to meet and socialise with each other.

The club expects that all players be permitted to play a minimum of a  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a game (equivalent) as far as practicable. Coaches must endeavour to provide the maximum number of players, an opportunity to participate.

The committee will assist coaches and team managers select sides, if required.

## 2.2. Youth Age Groups

The Yeronga JAFC aspires to provide players the opportunity to play in the highest level within the league in **Youth Age Groups**. While the *Team Selection & Age Group Policy* does not cover the league's grading process, a team's grading is guided by the club's initial nomination process and ultimately determined by the team's performance during grading games.

Where registration numbers permit the formation of two or more sides in the same **Youth Age Group** in a competition with multiple divisions, players will be allocated to a team in the division that best suits their skills and ability. Players will be selected to play in the highest graded side based on coaches' judgement and perception of the players' abilities, potential, development, attitude, commitment and the need for team balance.

In accordance with the *AFL Queensland State Junior Football Rules and Regulations*, where the Yeronga JAFC fields multiple teams in the same age group or assists clubs / teams in the same or another age group, a **Core List** of the best and most skilled players (core players), as determined by the coaching group, will be selected at the beginning of the **Season** and submitted to the league. **Core Players** are not permitted to play in a lower division team in that age group, or another team from the same club in the same division, or in a lower age group

Where two sides or more are formed in the same **Youth Age Group** within the same division, players will be allocated to each team so they are evenly matched, where ever practicable. The committee will assist the coaches select the sides if required.

Where there is a single side in any age group, selection is the responsibility of the appointed coach.

The club expects that all players be permitted to play a minimum of a  $\frac{3}{4}$  a game (equivalent) as far as practicable. Coaches must endeavour to provide the maximum number of players an opportunity to participate.

## 2.3. Finals Matches

Where a **Youth Age Group** team plays in a **Finals Match**, the team composition and roster will be selected by the coach taking into consideration the entire pool of all "finals



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eligible” players from the **Registered Age Group**, as defined by the *AFL Queensland State Junior Football Rules and Regulations*. Only where the insufficient numbers exist from the **Registered Age Group**, should “finals eligible” players from a lower age group be selected. Players who have played 8 or more matches for a higher division side are not eligible to play finals for a lower division team.

Where the Committee has provided formal approval for a player to play up an age group for the **Season** as per *2.5 Playing Up From Registered Age Group*, this player is to be considered equally in the pool of players for finals for this approved age group, however, will not be eligible for selection in their **Registered Age Group** for **Finals Matches**, regardless of “finals eligibility” under the *AFL Queensland State Junior Football Rules and Regulations*. During **Finals Matches**, the rules regarding a player playing up an age group not displacing a player from the **Registered Age Group**, does not apply where formal Committee approval has been provided at the commencement of the **Season**.

For the avoidance of doubt, where a **Youth Age Group** is made up of players born over two years, all players are considered to be in the **Registered Age Group** and their selection shall be considered equally along with those eligible players where the Committee has provided formal approval for a player to play up an age group.

## 2.4. Player Team Requests

The club appreciates that there may circumstances and factors that result in some players (or their parents) wishing to be in a particular side. Although a player’s peer group and the opportunity to develop and maintain friendships are important, this should not override the needs of the team and club when allocating players to appropriate teams.

Players and parents should make any specific requests to play with other players to the Committee as early as possible in the pre-season; while Yeronga JAFC will endeavour to meet such requests, neither coaches, team managers or the Committee can guarantee this.

## Age Group Allocation

### 2.5. Playing Up From Registered Age Group

If a player has not played in their Registered Age Group then they are not at liberty to play in a higher age group without the committee’s written consent to ensure adequate representation in the player’s Registered Age Group.

The decision to allow a player to play up an age group must, first and foremost, not displace a Registered Age Group player in the higher age group (per current *AFL Queensland State Junior Football Rules and Regulations*) or compromise the composition of a team, either in the Registered Age Group or requested age group.

The decision by the Committee to permit a child to up will be made taking into account, in order, (1) player welfare, (2) player ability, (3) club and team benefit.

Each player’s request to play up will be assessed individually against the first two elements by:



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- the player's previous season coach (where applicable)
- the registered age group coach(es) and
- the coach(es) in the age group requested to play.

Following assessment of the first two priorities, if required, club and team benefits will be assessed by the Committee, in consultation with both age group coaches.

To ensure the cumulative impacts of multiple players from a Registered Age Group on team composition and displacement of other children are assessed, requests to play up will be assessed collectively at the age group level / team.

The decision by the Committee will be tabled and recorded at the next committee meeting and is for the current **Season** only; this factor should be considered before making such a request.

Where a player application to play up an age for a **Season** is granted, that player must pay the club registration fee for the corresponding age group.

Ad hoc requests to play up one age group throughout the **Season** should be made in consultation between the coach of the team requiring the player, the coach of the player's Registered Age Group team and the player's parents/guardians and should be made in the interest of player development ahead of player statistics and milestones.

Players wishing to play up two age groups will be required to complete a 'Playing Up Consent' form which must be submitted to the league's competition manager by the club prior to the player playing their first match for the age group.

The club's management committee decision is final regarding all team selections or resolutions.

## 2.6. Playing Down

Playing down is not permitted except, at the complete discretion of the leagues competition manager, as per the current *AFL Queensland State Junior Football Rules and Regulations* which describes the requirements and deadlines for submitting a playing down application.

Where a player has received age dispensation from the league to play down, for the purpose of this *Team Selection & Age Group Policy*, the relevant age group approved in the age dispensation approval becomes the relevant player's **Registered Age Group**.