



George Town Football Club

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JUNIOR PATHWAY POLICY

Policy Number 2

Ratified
George Town Football Club Committee of Management

The George Town Football Club recognises the importance of player transition from junior football to senior football. As such the Club has developed this guide to assist both the Junior and Senior Clubs in establishing best practice methods to promote player transition. We will work closely with the George Town Junior Football Club to enhance the player participation experience to foster better junior pathways.

What can the Junior Club do to assist Auskick?

- Distribute player pathway documents to Auskick participants
- Invite the top end youth players to be part of your club's program

What can the Junior Club do to assist Under 9's to Under 15's

- Discuss with junior players that they may go on to play with their aligned senior club.
- Invite the senior club to be part of your program including coaching.
- Educate parents on how to encourage and support their children to participate long term in football and why this is important.
- Invite the senior club to be part of your program including coaching
- Have a player's night/dinner at the club to experience a senior team training night

What can the Junior Club do to assist under 16's to Under 18's

- Train at local senior club ground several times during the year
- Celebrate local transition successes (i.e. Junior players going on to win individual awards and honours)
- Send a letter to all previous Under 16's in January/February providing the senior club contact details and encouraging them to register

What can the Junior Club do to assist Senior Clubs?

- Support and encourage the efforts of the local senior club
- Invite a senior club representative to sit on the junior club's committee
- Offer a junior representative to sit on the senior club committee
- Hold a joint function/event with the senior club, e.g. quiz night or gala day
- Invite the senior club committee to key junior club events or functions

What can the Senior Club do to assist Auskick?

- Arrange for senior players to attend the local Auskick Centre and assist in coaching / umpiring (wearing senior club shirt)
- Arrange for NAB AFL Auskick kids to play at half time of your senior club's league match, with a BBQ / event for players and parents

What can the Senior Club do to assist Under 9's to Under 15's

- Assist the junior club at local junior registration days
- Provide players or people to support the efforts of the junior clubs in recruiting junior players
- Senior players to volunteer a few hours during the season e.g. operate the BBQ at key events

- Invite junior players to senior club matches
- Hold BBQ's for the junior days after training
- Provide players to conduct training sessions for junior team
- Assist the junior team with various roles during matches, ie water carrier, runner.

What can the Senior Club do to assist Under 16's to Under 18's

- Actively look to provide a player/ex-player to coach the Under 16's junior team (someone who is positive role model).
- Establish regular communication with Under 16's and 18's players, such as letters at the start of the season (wishing them all the best for the season ahead), middle (touching base and inviting them to a senior club event
- Invite the Under 16's to 18's to train with the senior squad on occasion
- Have the senior club league coach provide support to the Under 16's and 18's coaches and take sessions with the junior players
- Hold a parent information session with the parents of the Under 16's and 18's parents to give them info about the senior club and so they can ask any questions
- Establish a pre-season timeline to distribute to all Under 16's/18's players at the end of their season - don't wait until pre-season commences.

What can the Senior Club do to assist Junior Clubs in General?

- Appoint a Junior Club Liaison Officer and offer a Senior Club representative to sit on the junior club committee
- Invite a junior representative to sit on the senior club committee
- Explore an induction process or youth player camp
- Implement a player welfare program to ensure the players feel welcome at the club once they arrive
- Implement a mentor program (player buddy system) – whereby current senior players
- 'buddy up' with a youth player. The senior player may train with his buddy a couple of times
- throughout the year and watch each other play throughout the year

Other Consideration for the Club

- Investigate and establish various competition offerings to cater for kids of all abilities and / or willingness to play
- senior competitive football i.e. offer young people social and appropriate competitive opportunities.
- Senior club to present a professional image that junior players and their families want to be a part of. Include:
 - Appropriate coaching
 - Ensuring that the club rooms and its surroundings are kept presentable and not impacted from anti-social behaviour.
 - Create a positive image and environment at the club

SIGNATURES:

Signed: _____
Club President

Signed: _____
Club Secretary

Date:

Date:

Next Policy review date is

ENQUIRIES REGARDING OUR POLICY:

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