



Team Selection Policy

Purpose

The SWVFA has developed this policy regarding team selection and match playing time on the basis that Football should be based on the principles of enjoyment, skill and fitness development, fair play, and good sportsmanship.

SWVFA supports a fair and transparent process for the selection of our teams. Selection will be based on clear criteria that are communicated with all players and parents prior to the commencement of the season.

Policy Statements

The SWVFA believes that particularly junior sport should be safe, inclusive, enjoyable, and aim to maximize individual participation. A positive experience in junior competition will often contribute to children developing a lifelong love of our game, increasing participation right through to the senior levels.

The SWVFA will make all attempts to modify equipment and rules where possible to include and encourage people of all abilities to participate, whether that be in training, matches or alternative programs.

All players will train and play in their own age group unless deemed otherwise by the SWVFA Coach Coordinator (CCC) or equivalent SWVFA representative (Eg. President, TD):

- 1) If a player is deemed by the SWVFA to be advanced for their age group and ready for a tougher challenge, he/she may be moved up to a higher age group with the parents' consent.
- 2) Prior to any player being moved above their age for any significant period, the SWVFA will consider both the benefits to the individual in question balanced with the capacity for the individual to cope with a potentially increased physical, mental, and emotional load.
- 3) The SWVFA will also consider the impact on the player's current team.
- 4) After consultation with team coaches and the CCC, the ultimate decision will rest with the SWVFA Committee.
- 5) From time to time coaches from the higher age teams may ask for assistance from younger interested players if there are vacancies due to injury, illness etc.



Team selection concerns should be discussed with coaches/team managers in the first instance. If these remain unresolved and the player believes they have not been treated in accordance with the selection policy, then a formal written complaint should be submitted to the SWVFA committee for consideration.

Please note that coaches will be responsible for all decisions about team selection once the season commences. Also note that any decisions regarding team selection are made at the sole discretion of the coach and the SWVFA, and any individual may be precluded from certain selection decisions if there is a concern about their ability to compete safely or if their participation poses a risk to others.

Procedures

Selection Considerations

The selection of teams (and grading of teams) may be based on any combination of the following factors:

- 1) Age
 - a) It remains fundamental to the development, maturation, and growth of all players that we build the right physical, technical, mental, and emotional skills at the right time for the individual player.
 - b) Players will always initially be allocated to their applicable age group. In instances of advanced development, lack of opportunity, etc the SWVFA will explore alternative options and teams provided the individual presents as a suitable option to play above their age group, or grading level, etc.
- 2) Technical Performance Assessment
 - a) A technical/skills-based assessment will be carried out by a combination of multiple coaches, the CCC, TD, President, or other committee members to determine the player's technical suitability to change age group or grading.
 - b) Previous performance at training and in game scenarios will form a consideration in this assessment.
 - c) This assessment can apply both in situations of moving up in age groups for stimulation of development or applying for dispensation to play down for participation opportunities.
- 3) Values Performance Assessment
 - a) This assessment will be based around the individual's commitment to training sessions, games, etc and their reliability (Eg. Attendance and engagement at training/games), attitude, levels of sportsmanship, adherence to codes of conduct, etc.
- 4) Social Component
 - a) The SWVFA supports a strong devotion to developing the social aspect of community sport.



- b) The SWVFA will make all endeavours to cater for friendship groups, etc where possible, particularly in the sub-junior (U6-U12) age groups, while noting this may be more difficult to achieve in older age groups (U12-Seniors).
- c) Under all circumstances this is not a guarantee and the coaches/selection panels will not be expected to discuss this with parents or players.

Selection Process

The selection process will encompass any combination of the following:

- 1) Team allocations will take place using trials which may take the form of fitness assessments, game simulations and/or skills assessments (individual and group drills).
- 2) The allocated team coach will be primarily responsible for selecting players of their team and the positions in which they will play. This can also be done in coordination with the Team Manager, CCC and TD (where applicable).
- 3) Those involved in team selection are not expected to engage on any selection with any parent, etc. Parents do not have any role to play in the selection of teams where they are not the appointed coach, team manager, CCC or TD.
- 4) When requested, or when necessary, players may be provided with reasons for non-selection and detail potential areas of improvement to be considered for selection.
- 5) Once a group is selected the Team manager will set up the communication platform that the SWVFA has agreed to use.

Team Expectations

- 1) The Coach and Team Manager will engage and acknowledge each players aspirations and desires for their game and development
- 2) It is essential that coaches' assessments of ability are respectfully conveyed to players as a method of offering direction to the player to further development and reach both individual/team goals.
- 3) The SWVFA is committed to giving each player the best opportunity to develop on an emotional, mental, physical, and technical levels.
- 4) Given a clear understanding of the ability and ambitions of the playing group, the Coach and Team Manager will be more effectively able to develop their team.
- 5) The Coach and Team Manager will focus on participation, and endeavour to provide all players the opportunity to play, receive equal playing time, and rotate through or trial different positions.



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