

Hawthorn Citizens Junior Football Club

Team Selection Policy

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Overall Policy

Hawthorn Citizens Junior Football Club (HCJFC) has created the following guidelines to inform all players and parents of the approach taken in creating teams. The Club has adopted these guidelines which outlines what the club aims to achieve with team selection across all age groups.

The HCJFC policy has been developed using input from the YJFL and AFL Victoria Team Selection guidelines.

Our purpose is to provide a framework that can guide the committee, coaches, players and parents in ensuring the objectives of the policy are met. In summary we are about -:

- Being the best club for each and every player covering all levels of abilities and aspirations who wears the brown and gold.
- Giving our players and parents an opportunity to make new friends outside of existing peer and school connections – some that may last a lifetime.
- Providing a positive, safe and inclusive environment for players to develop their skills, knowledge of the game and sportsmanship.
- Developing our players not just in football, but in being a team member and thinking about team before individual.
- Having a strong sense of community and enjoying the company of our fellow HCJFC members.

We are not just about winning premierships, but we will celebrate them when we have the good fortune of doing so.

We are not about playing in a particular YJFL division. We aim to be competitive whatever division we are playing.

Team Selection Objectives

Our Team Selection Objectives are framed with the above in mind and include:

- To recognise that a benefit of our club is the relationships that are created by players participating together that can be lifelong in value to them.
- That the Club values diversity and wishes to create a community that is positive, inclusive and developmental.
- Give players every opportunity to reach their maximum potential
- Expectation of open lines of communication and cooperation between coaches, players parents and committee
- Maintain an environment that instils pride in HCJFC and demonstrates respect to each other, our opponents, officials and the community in general.

Team Selection Guidelines

Team Composition

When teams are created it is expected that each team will comprise of at least 3 school groups with no more than 50% of players from one school involved in the team. It is preferred that the coaches and key support staff similarly have parents from different schools.

Under 8 ,9 and 10.

This is the age groups that the majority of players join our club. These guidelines recognise that we may have more than one team in an age group and in that instance would apply.

In these age groups the emphasis is on participation, developing football skills, enjoyment of the game of AFL and nurturing the physical and emotional development of players. There is no grading in Under 8 and Under 9 and in Under 10 there is no ladder although teams are placed, by the YJFL into different divisions based on expected strength using the Under 9 experience as a guide.

The committee appoints an Age group co-ordinator for each age group whose responsibility is to allocate players to teams, in consultation with the respective Coaches (if appointed). This selection is confirmed by the Football Operations committee.

In selecting the teams, including the number allocated to each team, the co-ordinator and committee may consider

- School attended
- Known Friendships (keeping in mind the positives of creating new friends)
- Continued development of the player
- The requirement that all players be given the opportunity to play 3 quarters every game at a minimum
- Consider the size, strengths and weaknesses and the need for a reasonable balance in all teams to ensure the teams are competitive.

Under 11 and 12 teams

The selection in these age groups will follow the teams that played together in the Under 10 age group with no or minimal change to give these team and players the ability to develop themselves. Changes will occur dependant on player re-registrations, new players and any specific team balance issues.

Coaches are requested (and have the responsibility) to identify any situations that need to be addressed where a player is not being given the opportunity to develop, participate or is at risk in any way. The coach can approach the player and their parents to ask if playing in a different team would be suitable and in their best interest.

Any move of a player is undertaken with the intention of the player, parents and club sharing the decision. But in the event of any unresolved situation the Club will make the decision to achieve the objectives of this policy.

Under 13 to Under 15

The Club follows the approach recommended by the YJFL and undertakes grading at these age groups. Refer to HCJFC Grading policy for details of this process.

A greater emphasis is placed on individual and team performance and team selection will follow the HCJFC Grading Policy.

To promote a one club philosophy and where there are multiple teams the club promotes that these teams will train together as a squad prior to the season stating and team selection.

Players playing up an Age group.

It is the club's preference that players play in their age group. This is determined by the age of the player at 1 January each year. .

The clubs reason for this preference 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 the most non-discriminatory approach as it applies to all players
- That it provides clarity and certainty to players and parents

The Club recognises that some players may wish to play at an older age group to be part of their peer group or other reasons.

Parents may make an application to the age group co-ordinator for consideration to be exempted from the clubs preferred policy. This application must provide the reasons for such a request and the age group co-ordinator and Football operations committee will consider the request taking into account:

- Team numbers
- Agreement from Coaches
- Relative playing ability of the player
- Likely effect any such change might have on team morale or team ranking
- Any likely flow on effect it may create to the broader playing ranks.

Any agreement to allow a player to play up an age group is reviewed each year to ensure it is still in the best interest of the player.