



TEAM SELECTION POLICY

POLICY OVERVIEW + PURPOSE:

Mt Gravatt Vultures JAFc's (MGJAFc) mission is to provide an opportunity for junior members to play at the highest level of football, to experience the highs and lows that team sport brings and to reach their full potential in the best facilities that our club can provide.

This document has been produced to clarify the team or squad selection process.

REGISTRATIONS

MGJAFc will decide which competition each age will play in year to year and advise this information as close to registrations commencing as is feasible.

1. Players registered at MGJAFc in the previous year who wish to register with MGJAFc for the current year will be given the opportunity to register online prior to registrations being opened to new members.
2. Registrations may close once teams are full. In this case, a waiting list is then created.

SPECIAL REQUESTS

The Club appreciates that there may be extenuating circumstances and that some players may wish to play in a particular team. Such requests should be made through Coaches + Team Managers of the respective teams in accordance with the Club conflict resolution procedure.

AGE DISPENSATION

MGJAFc are governed by the laws of the competition. Players may be provided dispensation to play in a Competition below their applicable age group in accordance with the 'AFL National Age Dispensation Policy'.

Applications for dispensation must be submitted to MGJAFc on an 'Age Dispensation Application' form, accompanied by relevant documented evidence. Once an Age Dispensation application has been received by the due date, it will be reviewed and, if accepted, issued to the Competition Manager will confirm in writing to the club that the application has been received. Following this written confirmation by the Competition Manager the player will be eligible to play in the Competition below their applicable age group, as directed by the Competition Manager, up to the date the application is rejected or the date of assessment. A player will not be eligible to play in any Competition below their applicable age group following the date the application is rejected, or the date of assessment.

TEAM/SQUAD SELECTION

One of the most difficult tasks for a junior football club is placing players in teams in a way that satisfies all parents/guardians, players and coaching staff.

MGJAFc will, through communication and coordination between coaches and committee members, endeavour to carry out the task according to the guidelines set out below, and in accordance with club culture.

Selection in an age group squad does not necessarily guarantee games each week. Parents and players should communicate directly with the coaching team regarding the selection policy of each age group for match day team selection.

The following criteria may be used to determine the final playing squad where more players are available for selection than the maximum number allowed per squad.



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Footy4Fun

Each year MGJAFC aim to field the following teams.

- Auskick + Superstars (5-7yo)
- U8.5 mixed
- U9.5 mixed
- At the discretion of the committee in consultation with the Coaching Coordinators MGJAFC may also include U10.5 mixed
- U11.5 girls
- At the discretion of the committee in consultation with the Coaching Coordinators MGJAFC may also include U11.5 mixed

Age groups shall be allocated in accordance with AFLQ SEQ Juniors competition laws. The current 'Australian Football Match Policy' rules and regulations apply. The 'AFL Queensland State Junior Football Playing Rules & Regulations' are to be read in conjunction with the Australian Football Match Policy rules and regulations, and where they vary, the 'AFL Queensland State Junior Football Playing Rules & Regulations' apply. Please contact MGJAFC should you wish to view these in detail.

MGJAFC expects that all players, regardless of skill or ability should:

- be guaranteed at least half a game of football on match day (as determined by playing numbers);
- have the opportunity to play in all zones around the ground

Should playing numbers determine that players are no longer receiving the required amount of game time, MGJAFC will seek to review team allocations and may select to register an additional team. As players progress through the age groups, it is expected that the emphasis will begin to gradually shift from player enjoyment to commitment to the team and to overall team competitiveness.

AUSKICK + ROYS + UNDER 8.5

Auskick, Roys and U8.5 age groups operate in the Introductory Phase. The objective of this phase is to provide children with a fun, safe and positive experience through a well-structured match program that considers the maturity level of their motor, cognitive, social and emotional skills. The emphasis is on the development of fundamental movement skills (ABCs of athleticism – Agility, Balance, Coordination and Speed) and basic game specific skills (kicking, handballing, marking and gathering). The match program for this age group provides an introduction of basic roles (forward, centre and back) and tactical principles of gaining possession, moving forward, disposal to a teammate.

Scoring in these competitions is prohibited. There are no ladders or finals.

UNDER 9.5 + U10.5 + U11.5 GIRLS

U9.5, U10.5, and U11.5 Girls age groups operate in the Development Phase. The objective of this phase is to provide children with a fun, safe and positive experience through a match program that further develops their basic football skills and introduces technical and tactical concepts. The spirit of the game at this level is to give all players a game of football in which they have every opportunity to gain possession of the ball and safely dispose of it by kick or handball.

Scoring in these competitions is prohibited. There are no ladders or finals. The absence of stringent competition conditions should enable the coach to provide praise, teaching + feedback as required.



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UNDER 11.5 - MIXED

U11.5 Mixed age group operates under the Competition Phase. The emphasis on providing children with a fun, safe and positive experience through a well-structured match program that considers the level of maturation in motor, cognitive, psychosocial and emotional skill of children in this age group. The consolidation of basic game-specific skills is still the focus at this age level, rather than competition and winning, while further developing technical and tactical concepts. These concepts include position-specific and basic performance capacities – e.g. warm-up, cool-down, nutrition, hydration, recovery and goal-setting. It exists to provide children with a fun, safe and positive experience through a match program that focuses on consolidating their basic football skills and knowledge of technical and tactical concepts while introducing new elements of competition. The spirit of the game at this level is to ensure all games are played in a fair and safe environment that permits players to contest the ball.

Recorded scoring begins at this level. There is no grading, no ladder and no finals series.

YOUTH

Each year MGJAF C aim to field the following teams as a minimum;

- U12.5 – Community Cup & Conference Championships
- U13.5 Girls
- U14.5 – Community Cup & Conference Championships
- U15.5 Girls
- U16.5 – Community Cup & Conference Championships
- U17.5 Girls

The maximum number of players permitted to be entered on the team sheet and allowed on the playing surface vary per age group. Please refer to the AFLQ SEQ Juniors website for up to date information.

U12, U14 & U16 BOYS + U13, U15 & U17 GIRLS

Youth teams compete in a Premiership Points Competition. The emphasis is placed on participation and enjoyment with a shift towards greater individual and team performances, in line with the MGJAF C mission. Additional goals are the acquisition of football skills and the nurturing of physical and emotional development and well-being.

Based on skills, ability, attitude, commitment and behaviour the Club's aim is to give each player the opportunity to participate in the maximum available home and away season games dependent on team numbers. The coach should aim to provide equal game time within these games.

From Under 12.5's onwards, players will be, as far as possible, selected in a team at a level commensurate with MGJAF C their physical size, development and football skills or playing in teams with preferred peer connections if it is safe and reasonable to do so.

MGJAF C will conduct an assessment of players in each age group prior to the commencement of each season. This assessment will ideally be carried out by the coaching staff for that age group and will take into account the skills, experience and physical size and strength of each player.

The outcome of skills assessment coupled with the preferred wishes of the player, may result in the reorganisation of the teams in the age group but this will be based on the guidelines above and done in consultation with, and where possible the agreement of, the player and the player's parents/guardians. There will be no compulsion to play in a particular team if that person wishes to play in a lower grade with their friends.



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FEMALE PARTICIPATION

As per the Australian Football Match Policy, girls up to 14 may choose to play in a mixed-gender competition or a female-only competition.

However, unless the girl is skilled, confident, physically capable and has the consent of her coach and parents, it is recommended girls aged 13 and 14 participate in a structured Youth Girl competition where possible. MGJAF C will make all attempts to provide adequate teams for all youth girls to compete in their relevant age groups within a girl's only competition.

SELECTION CRITERIA

All players, irrespective of whether or not they have played for the MGJAF C previously, will be selected based on a combination of:

- Player's football skills and ability as determined by the below guidelines
- Previous attitude, commitment and behaviour at MGJAF C and/or within the League.
- Attitude, commitment and behaviour at MGJAF C during the selection period.
- Football Skills and ability, criteria used to assess a player's ability but not limited to are:
 - Kicking
 - Marking, Clean Hands
 - Handball / Vision / Awareness
 - Competitiveness
 - Fitness levels
- Other attributes to be considered but not limited to will be (Attitude, Training Attendance, (Coachability, or other special needs).

Any results of the above criteria used for squad selection should be recorded and available for review/ discussion in the case of dispute.

During any squad selection, a team should be selected to judge the playing group. This may consist of other grade coaches, team managers etc, a minimum of 3 people is suggested. The final selection will be determined by the squad Coach(es) in conjunction with the MGJAF C representatives.

The Coaching team/MGJAF C shall endeavour to finalise squads as soon as possible before the season commences. The coaching team in conjunction with the above guidelines, may choose to move a player between teams as they see fit.

During the early to mid-teens, there is significant disparity in physical development and emotional maturity. There is also a noticeable increase in the physical intensity of the competition, particularly in the higher divisions of the competition. This is the more appropriate stage to place players in the level of competition most closely suited to their stage of physical development and to their football ability bearing in mind their desire to play with their mates. Players should be placed in teams:

- To maximise their opportunities to develop and enjoy their playing experience;
- To minimise undue risks of injury;
- Primarily, though not exclusively, composed of players with skills, ability and confidence commensurate with their own;
- Structured so as to minimise the risk of one team having a shortfall of players on match days.

It is expected that the emphasis will gradually shift from player enjoyment to commitment to the team and to overall team competitiveness. That shift in emphasis will necessitate greater consistency of positional placement in these years. In youth competition a greater emphasis is placed upon individual and team performances.



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FINALS PARTICIPATION

It is recognised that not every team will make finals each year. Participation in a Finals campaign is considered a privilege and an honour for both players, coaches and MGJ AFC. The Coaching team will select the team considering the following criteria:

- Player's health/injuries/personal developments needs
- Player's training attendance
- Player's behaviour throughout the entire season
- Team needs, including team culture and morale
- Opposition side
- MGJ AFC long term benefits

If finals are played, MGJ AFC has designated that coaches will base team selection on fielding the best available team. Those players not selected to participate in finals should be informed personally by the coach to the parent/guardian and player prior to any team announcement.

PLAYING UP

As opportunities arise and for development purposes, players may be invited to play in grades above their age grade.

A team may require top up players if the numbers in another team are inadequate due to lack of players, injury, illness, or other commitments etc. The Higher Age Group Coach will request from the lower age coach player nominees and review and approve a list of "top up players" to choose from based on:

- Safety
- Team balance
- Ability
- Past performance
- Best interests of the MGJ AFC

Top up players:

- Should not displace any player or preclude any player from the team above from playing
- Should not take the field in place of a player of the higher age group. If the higher age group player is available and fit to play.
- Should be rotated fairly, giving all top up players the opportunity to experience games in a higher age group.

The Competition acknowledges the principle role of the parent or guardian in determining that a player should play in a higher age competition than the one determined by the player's chronological age. Players should only be permitted to play up an age level when their physical capacity and social sense enable them to compete adequately at the higher age level. The decision whether a player should play up, should be based on the advantages to be gained by the player.

In the case of any disputes then the MGJ AFC committee will be notified and will make the final decision based on the above proforma.

CONCLUSION

MGJ AFC acknowledge that when winning overrides such aims and encouragement is replaced by a fear of failure, the program for children is inappropriate. Across all age groups and through all divisions, the match environment in junior football must be one of encouragement, learning and development over a focus of "winning".