



Ocean Grove Cobras Junior Football Club

TEAM SELECTION POLICY

Last Updated: January 2022

OBJECTIVE

OGCJFC seeks to provide junior football participants with the best opportunity to develop their skills, learn the game and behaviours which are consistent with fair play/competition, development of new friendships and most of all have fun.

RESPONSIBILITY

The Football Director will be responsible for Team Selections. The Football Director or the Executive of the Committee can nominate a Committee Member to assume the role should the Football Director be unable to fulfil the role.

NON-COMPETITIVE FOOTBALL

For all non-competitive football age groups, where multiple teams exist, the following will apply to the allocation of teams:

- At an appropriate timeframe prior to the commencement of the season (nominally 6 weeks) the Football Director will assemble the list of registered players.
- Coaches (maximum of 2 only) will be permitted to nominate one player (additional to their own son or daughter if applicable) as a potential inclusion in their team. Team Managers can be appointed prior to team allocations being completed, however child will be included in the nomination. All other support roles will be filled once the team lists are finalised.
- All other requests regarding team selection must be made to the Football Director. Requests will be considered and approved/declined with the welfare or wellbeing of players taking priority.
- Where possible, players will be mixed year to year to allow them to play for a range of coaches.
- The list of registered players will be assembled into teams at least three weeks prior to the first round of matches by the Football Director, supported by the Age Group Coordinator.
- The principal objective of the teams will be to have an even spread of ability as well as a blend of local schools, and in the case of multiple year age groups an even spread of 'top' and 'bottom' ages.
- Ability will be generally determined by feedback from the previous year's Football or Auskick Coaches, and by observations from training sessions prior to team selection.
- Teams will be limited to a maximum of 20 players, however this is highly dependent on registration numbers and can be amended if necessary.
- Changes to teams can only be made through extenuating circumstances (i.e. a child may have been placed in a team with not one friendship link or may have a medical condition best placed to be managed by a particular coach) and managed by the Football Director supported by the Age Coordinator.
- Final team allocations will be released by the Football Director to Age Coordinators who will inform Coaches and Team Managers.



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COMPETITIVE FOOTBALL

For teams competing in a competitive football (graded competition) in any age group the following will apply.

- Factors such as performance, ability, attitude and training attendance (notwithstanding extenuating circumstances), and player position requirements will determine which team a player is selected on a weekly basis.
- Initial team selection will take into account feedback from previous year Coaches and pre-season training performance.
- Selection responsibility lies with the squad Coaches.
- Team selection for the highest division team shall be selected first, working down through the divisions.
- Communication on team selection outcomes will be managed by Coaches, Team Managers and supported by Age Coordinators.

UNDERAGE PLAYERS

All players are required to play in their age group per the AFL Barwon guidelines, except in exceptional circumstances including, but not limited to:

- A player whose DOB is close to the 'cut off' date, and attends school in the year level above, and wishes to play with his/her peer group
- Other Circumstances (Approved by the Football Director)

PLAYER ABILITY is not an approved circumstance for playing in a higher age group. Opportunities for players to experience a higher age group will be provided on a 'fill in' basis.

Players will only play as an underage player in non-competitive competitions. All players must play in their age groups in competitive/graded Football competition.

'FILL IN' PLAYERS

- Teams requiring a player from a lower age group to fill in must make a request to their Age Group Coordinator, who will liaise with the fill in player's Age Coordinator to select a player, with parent approval, on a rotational/roster basis.
- Age Coordinators will assemble a list of possible fill in players early in the season, obtaining parent permission, and make this list available to the higher age group.
- Coaches/Team Managers are not to make direct requests to players/families/coaches for fill in players.
- Equal opportunity will be provided for all players willing to fill in, regardless of playing ability.
- In the case of a player being required to fill in for multiple games during a season, that player will be rotated between available teams in the higher age group, not always used in the same team.
- Fill in players will only step up one age group.



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- In the case of competition age groups covering more than one year of birth, only 'top age' players will be used.
- Fill in players must be on the team sheet as per AFL requirements.
- In the case of a fill in player being required in a competitive, graded competition, the fill in player will play for the team participating in the lowest division.
- Fill in players should only be used to make up minimum numbers. eg an Under 10s team that has 15 players on the field and 15 players available, should not be requesting fill in players to have on the bench. This will require U10 players to have bench time at the expense of U9 players who have already played a game, or an U9 player to fill in and spend a majority of his/her time on the bench. If that under 10 team only has 14 players available, they can then request a single player to fill in.
- Players should not fill in for a higher age group prior to playing in their own age group on any weekend.
- Players cannot play two games in the same age group on any weekend.

DISPUTES OR GRIEVANCES

Disputes or grievances related to team selection will be managed in accordance with the Complaints Handling Policy of the OGCJFC.