

ORMOND JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB (OJFC)
1st April 2019
TEAM SELECTION POLICY & GUIDELINES

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This *OJFC Team Selection Policy & Guidelines* (the Policy) provides a framework within which OJFC Coaches and their support 'staff' can go about Team selection.
- 1.2 The Policy also confirms OJFC support for our Coaches in relation to any reasonable decisions they make regarding team selection and associated processes.
- 1.3 The Policy is consistent with the OJFC Constitution, which in its *Statement of Purposes* provides that the OJFC will '*...contribute to the development and fostering of Junior Football in the local area...*' and which is supported by the following values and objectives, among others:
 - an environment that nurtures the physical and mental development of our youth
 - the virtues of fair and disciplined play
 - equal opportunities for everyone.
- 1.4 Policy is consistent with the 2019 OJFC Committee Statement which sets out *player development and retention* as twin objectives for 2019.
- 1.5 All OJFC Coaches, Team officials, parents, supporters and Committee Members have a responsibility at all times when representing the OJFC to operate in a manner consistent with our values and objectives, and this Policy.

2. UNDER 8-10 AGE GROUPS

- 2 In these age groups, the overriding emphasis is to be placed on participation and enjoyment within a squad culture that is aligned to our Club culture.
- 2.1 Our club culture supports the acquisition of football skills and the nurturing of physical and emotional development, and well-being in this age group so that they are complementary to the primary outcomes of participation and enjoyment.
- 2.2 In these age groups, coaching success is measured by:
 - player retention and club growth through unsolicited attraction of new players;
 - development and alignment of team and squad culture with club culture.
- 2.2 All players in these age groups are to be coached in age specific squads:

- where there are sufficient numbers within a squad, two or more teams may be formed for match days;
 - match day teams are *not* to form and train separately as teams between matches.
- 2.3 Where two teams are to be formed, this will be done by Squad coaches in consultation with the Team Managers and the Coach Coordinator.
- 2.4 Teams in this age group are not graded. With a view to club culture, longer term retention and team resilience: strong and weak teams, or teams dominated by a school or friendship group are to be avoided.
- 2.5 Selection of teams will be based on informed judgment and should attempt to:
- achieve a sufficiently even mix of player skills, size, knowledge and maturity;
 - ensure players have a sufficient but not dominant group of friends or classmates within their allotted team.
- 2.6 Each year a member of the Committee will address the parents and the players in the Under 8-10 groups to inform them of the process of team selection as outlined in the OJFC policy. This may be at the beginning of the season or ideally at the conclusion of the previous season.
- 2.7 Players (and parents) should not assume that they will play with the same group of players for the remainder of their time at OJFC.
- 2.8 The SMJFL requires, and the OJFC expects, that all players in Under 8-12 teams play a minimum of three quarters of a game as far as practicable.

3. UNDER 11 AGE GROUP

- 3.1 In u11 all the above requirements apply with the exception that soft grading can apply.
- 3.2 Soft grading may involve keeping the majority of a team together from the u10s but moving a couple of higher / lower skilled players up / down to allow entering of teams into A, B and / or C categories as per SMJFL grading process.

4. UNDER 12-17 AGE GROUPS

- 4.1 In these age groups the OJFC aspires to provide players the opportunity to play in the highest level within the SMJFL.
- 4.2 In these age groups, coaching success is measured by:
- player retention and club growth through unsolicited attraction of new players; and
 - development and alignment of team culture with squad and club culture.
- 4.3 All players in these age groups are to be coached in age specific squads:
- where there are sufficient numbers within a squad, two or more teams may be formed;
 - match day teams can train separately as teams for a *portion* of each squad training session.
- 4.4 Where 2 teams are formed in the same age group and in different Divisions, Coaches in consultation with the Coach Coordinator are empowered to select teams. This is to

be based on the Coaches judgment and perception of the player development, potential, attitude, abilities, commitment, friendship groups and the need for team balance. The Executive can assist Coaches with team selection through the Coaching Coordinator.

- 4.5 The following guidelines are provided to assist the coaches, the Executive and the Coaching Coordinator with team selection:
- 4.5.1 The full age group is to train as a squad prior to team selection.
 - 4.5.2 Each year a member of the Committee will address the parents and the players from the Under 12 – 17 group to inform them of the process of team selection as outlined in the OJFC policy. This may be at the beginning of the season or ideally at the conclusion of the previous season. Further communication will be provided by team officials.
 - 4.5.3 Not less than 2 weeks prior to the first round of the SJMFL season the two coaches in consultation with the Coach Coordinator, will commence the process of formalising the selection of the two teams. The outcome will be communicated to both players and parents. Selection is to be according to the criteria above.
 - 4.5.4 During the first 4 weeks of the SMJFL season the coaches can make changes to the teams according to the selection criteria outlined above and in accordance with SMJFL rules.
 - 4.5.5 Players should be encouraged to play where they have the best chance to develop their potential considering factors such as their skill level, confidence and physical ability.
 - 4.5.6 Players (and parents) should not assume that they will play with the same group of players each season.
- 4.6 Recognising U12 is transition year to more senior and competitive play, the OJFC expects U12 players to play a minimum of 2 quarters per game, and on average play a minimum of 3 quarters across all games over the season. The OJFC expects that all Under 13-17 players be permitted to play a minimum of a half game as far as practicable. Coaches must endeavor to provide the maximum number of players an opportunity to participate.

5. PLAYER CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 There may be circumstances where some players may wish to be in a particular side. Such requests should be made through the Coaches and Team Managers.

6. REFUNDS OF REGISTRATION FEES

- 6.1 Players may withdraw from a team up to Round 1 obtain a full refund of their Registration Fee less insurance and the affiliation fee (on return of their jumper in a proper state). After Round 1, the remainder of the Registration Fee is non-refundable.

7. MONITORING AND REVIEW OF THE POLICY

- 6.1 The Policy will be monitored on an ongoing basis by the OJFC Executive.