



Team Selection Policy & Principles

1. Inclusivity of participation

- a) Our club is committed to being inclusive of all who have met the registration deadlines and will not turn away players unless there is no alternative in line with the following principles.
- b) We do not hold spots open for unregistered players nor do we consider verbal requests to join a team. Priority is to find spots for registered and paid players.

2. Playing at or within 1 year of age level

- a) Playing 1 year underage (i.e. u16 age playing u17) is permissible as standard. We are a small club, and this simply cannot be avoided for the most part.
- b) 2 years underage should only be done with parents' express permission and be for a compelling reason, in consideration of principles (1,3,4). If permission is not granted and a place is not able to be found a refund of registration fees can be provided.

3. Individual child needs

- a) We recognise that individual children will have emotional or footballing maturity that may demand consideration when assigning to a grade, 'up' an age etc.

4. Developmental Considerations

- a) The Football Australia curriculum that prescribes incremental progression of field size and match rules has been developed with age-appropriateness in mind.
- b) If playing up in age will incur a player to accelerate past a format ahead of time, weight should be given to this consideration.

5. Maximum Game Time

- a) Small-sided Teams (11 and under) should be assigned with small squads to encourage maximal game time and provide players an opportunity to 'play up' when required.
- b) Guidance as follows:
 - Under 6/7: 5-6 players, Ideal 6
 - Under 8/9: 8-10 players, Ideal 9
 - Under 11/12: 10-12 players, Ideal 11

6. Grading

i. Team Grading

- a) Each team should be assessed to ensure they are placed against teams of similar ability. Mid-season regrades of teams cause significant disruption and administration.

ii. Individual Grading

- b) If an age cohort can enter more than one team and, based on grading, an A or B team can be entered, teams may be allocated based on individual grading.
- c) If an age cohort can enter more than one team and, based on grading, an A/B team cannot be entered, teams should be allocated on a mixed ability basis.

iii. Grading Process

- a) Independent coaches and the Junior committee will facilitate a 'grading' event.
- b) Consideration is given Age, Skill, Gender, Engagement & Past Playing.
- c) Inputs and assessments will be collectively considered by the junior committee and registrar to finalise teams.

iv. Appeals

Any concerns or appeals to the process should be shared directly to the registrar via bmfc-rego@outlook.com