

Non-Competitive Team Selections

Junior Team Allocations

(Community / Non-Competitive Football)

1. Purpose

This policy provides a clear framework for junior team allocation and behaviour management to ensure decisions are fair, transparent, inclusive, and focused on player welfare, development, and enjoyment in community football.

2. Guiding Principles

Consistent with community football governance standards, the club prioritises:

- Player enjoyment, participation, and development
- Inclusion, diversity, and equitable access
- Respectful behaviour and safe environments
- Positive social experiences and wellbeing
- Fair and transparent decision-making

In non-competitive football, performance outcomes and winning are secondary to participation and development.

3. Team Allocation Principles

3.1 Returning Players

1. Returning players are given first preference for their previous team to support continuity, development, and social stability, unless:
 - A substantiated Code of Conduct breach exists; or
 - Player wellbeing or safety considerations require adjustment.

2. Returning players must register by the advertised deadline (one week prior to team nominations).
 - Late registration may result in loss of automatic placement.
 3. Where siblings are returning players, the club will aim to place them in the same team where reasonably practicable to support family logistics and participation, unless wellbeing or behavioural considerations indicate otherwise.
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3.2 New Players

1. New players will be allocated to ensure balanced team numbers, equitable playing opportunities, and appropriate support needs.
 2. Friendship, school, or social requests will be considered where practical but cannot be guaranteed.
 3. Siblings registering as new players will generally be placed in the same team where feasible, provided this does not compromise team balance, inclusion, or player wellbeing.
 4. Allocation decisions must consider the potential impact on children who may feel excluded if teams are formed solely around existing social groups.
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3.3 Friendship / School Group Requests

- Community football encourages forming new friendships and inclusive environments.
 - Teams will not be structured exclusively around school cohorts or pre-existing friendship groups.
 - The club must consider broader player wellbeing, inclusion, and equity when allocating teams.
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3.4 Movement Between Teams

- Returning players will remain in their previous team unless a formal request is submitted to the Registrar or Member Protection Officer.

- Requests must demonstrate reasonable wellbeing, safeguarding, or logistical grounds.
 - Movement of players between established teams will be carefully assessed due to potential impacts on team cohesion, volunteer capacity, and player welfare.
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4. Behaviour Expectations

4.1 Code of Conduct

All players, parents, coaches, and spectators must comply with the club's Code of Conduct at all times, including:

- Respect for coaches, officials, and teammates
- Safe and positive behaviour at training and games
- Supportive sideline conduct

Behaviour inconsistent with community football values will not be tolerated.

4.2 Behaviour Management Process

Where concerns arise:

- Complaints will be documented and reviewed appropriately
- Procedural fairness will be applied
- Early intervention strategies will be prioritised

Possible outcomes include:

- Behaviour meetings with families
- Conditional registration approval
- Team reassignment where appropriate
- Suspension or removal from participation in serious cases

4.3 Conditional Registration

Where there is a history of behavioural concerns:

- Registration may be conditional upon:
 - A meeting with parents/guardians and the player
 - Agreement to behaviour expectations
 - Parental attendance/support at training and games where required

Failure to meet agreed conditions may result in withdrawal of playing approval.

5. Decision Authority

Final decisions regarding team allocation and behaviour management rest with:

- Registrar
- Director of Coaching
- Member Protection Officer
- Club Executive Committee (where required)

Decisions will prioritise the best interests of all players and the integrity of the club environment.

6. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or earlier if governance requirements, safeguarding considerations, or club needs change.
