



**BULLEEN TEMPLESTOWE JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB INC.**

## **Team and Player Policies**

### **THESE POLICIES ARE TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE BTJFC CODE OF CONDUCT**

These guidelines are by no means all-inclusive. They are a foundation to build on and if they are followed then every player will have a great football experience.

The Bulleen Templestowe Junior Football Club is a community-based club which promotes participation, development, and enjoyment of the game above all other factors.

The overarching reason why young people play football is to have fun and the basis how we approach training and match day is to ensure that they return the following week. This will in turn assist them in continuing to develop football and life skills.

### **Equal Game and Playing Time Policy**

The Club has a strict policy of “EQUAL GAME TIME” for all registered players from Under 7s to Under 9s, and a modified EQUAL PLAYING TIME Policy for all registered players from Under 10s to Under 13s and Under 14s to Under 17s/18s (Colts/Youth Girls) to take into consideration their YJFL graded division, developmental needs, ability, and safety of players as they grow and mature into adolescents.

This Policy consists of two Parts:

PART 1 - Equal Game Time Policy for Under 7s to Under 9s

PART 2 – Equal Playing Time Policy for Under 10s to Under 13s

PART 3 - Equal Playing Time Policy for Under 14s and above.

### **PART 1 - EQUAL GAME TIME FOR UNDER U7s to U9s**

All selected players will be given, “as close as possible’ equal game time each week. This means Coaches MUST provide a minimum of three (3) quarters per game for all players.

- To assist Coaches in the implementation of this Policy. A tool for recording playing time will be provided to the Team Manager to assist the Coaches - ROTATION GRID FOR EQUAL GAME TIME.
- Should the team have more than twenty-four (24) players to select from, a fair rostering system needs to be implemented, and communicated, so that all players are rostered on to play an equitable amount of time



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### **PART 2 – EQUAL GAME TIME FOR UNDER 10S TO UNDER 13S**

All selected players will be given, “as close as possible” equal game time each week. This means Coaches MUST provide a minimum of three (3) quarters per game for all players.

- To assist Coaches in the implementation of this Policy. A tool for recording playing time will be provided to the Team Manager to assist the Coaches - ROTATION GRID FOR EQUAL GAME TIME.
- Should the team have more than twenty-four (24) players to select from, a fair rostering system needs to be implemented, and communicated, so that all players are rostered on to play an equitable amount of time.
- It is the parents’ responsibility to inform the Coach and Team Manager in advance, of weekends that their child will be unable to participate allowing time to amend the roster.

League Rules may restrict the number of interchange players to six (6) during the home and away season, however where a team has more players available, the league will allow a greater number of interchange players. Where this occurs, the minimum three (3) quarters cannot be guaranteed, however coaches are expected to ensure all players are provided with, ‘as close as possible”, equal game time.

### **PART 3 - EQUAL PLAYING TIME FOR UNDER 14s to UNDER 17s/18s (COLTS/Youth Girls)**

At this level, the Club provides Coaches with a small degree of discretion in applying the EQUAL PLAYING TIME Policy.

The Policy states that, "all players will play an equal amount of time, “as close as possible,” over the course of a season. This, does not require equal playing time in each game; and the Coach is granted discretion as to how they administer the EQUAL PLAYING TIME Policy based on:

- the calibre of the opposition,
- the safety of the player concerned,
- the status of the game,
- the preparation of the player”

However, the over-riding principle is for the Coach to provide each registered player with EQUAL PLAYING TIME over the course of the home and away season.

The Club’s Policy therefore means that equal playing time does not necessarily mean equal playing time in each specific game.

The player expectations under the Clubs Code of Conduct will be an influencing factor as far as playing time. When players do not fulfil their commitment, the Policy provides that the Coach (under these circumstances) is no longer obligated to fulfil his commitment to provide the player with Equal Playing Time.



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### **A Note to Coaches regarding the above Policy**

*As Coach, the most important rule to bear in mind is that every member of your team wants to play in the game. That is why the players joined in the first place. You must never ever lose sight of this reality.*

*If you keep this simple principle of equal participation in your mind when the game begins, you will be on your way to a highly successful season — regardless of whether the team wins or loses.*

*Communication of the reasons behind your decisions will assist in the harmony of the club environment.*

*Finally, as Coach you must be aware that almost all your decisions and choices of actions, as well as strategic targets, have ethical implications. It is natural that winning constitutes a basic concern/desire for you as the Coach, and this Policy is not intended to conflict with that. However, the Policy requires that as Coach of a junior football team, you must wherever possible disassociate yourself from a "win-at-all-costs" attitude.*

### **Registration Age Requirements**

Age groups are determined by the age that the player is on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January of the current year.

Special consideration may be made for players who wish to play up an age group by one (1) year.

Requests to play up an age group must be made in writing to the President at the start of every season.

Approval is at the discretion of the President. The criteria that this decision will be made on is as follows:

- Numbers in teams above and below the age group concerned
- Past coaches' recommendations
- Ability to perform at the age level
- Physical capability for that age level
- Level of maturity to meet the demands of that age level

Requests to play down an age group are at the discretion of the league and must include supporting documentation such as a medical report and/or any other relevant information.

Enquiries about this process can be directed to the registrar for information.

### **Finals Selection - Only applicable to U11s-Colts/Youth Girls**

It is generally recognised that finals football is different from the home and away games. The policy will be based on the following principles.

- An opportunity for as many players as is possible to experience finals football.
- An understanding that player selection and playing time for individual players gives the team the best possible opportunity to win.
- An understanding that the policy will provide coaches in the older age groups with a greater scope for varying playing time for individual players

The main points of the policy are:

1. In the event of the team playing in any final as many players as possible will be selected.
2. In the event of playing 2 or more finals, all players will play at least one final.
3. The coach will have discretion over the length of playing time that individual players will have on the field and the time at which the player on the bench would come onto the ground.



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### Grading Policy Under 13 and above

Reference should be made to the Bulleen Templestowe Junior Football Club – Grading Policy.

This policy will be made available to players, prior to the commencement of the season, when it is determined that their age group will be able to field two or more sides.

The philosophy is that we have one squad of players to select these teams and this squad will train on the same night at the same time. This will promote the culture of “one club, many teams” and allow players to still enjoy the interaction within the football environment with players that they have played with in prior years.

At times during the session, the coaches may elect to split up into their respective squads to allow drills to be undertaken in their teams building on skills and game sense.

A decision as to whether players move in season will be based on player number availability, opportunity for a player’s development and must be in collaboration with the player and their parent.

### Coaching

Each team will have a coach, who controls the team on match days. At training, the Coach originally appointed for that age group will take the role as the “Head Coach”, however it is expected that all coaches of the age group are involved in the training activities.

The coach or coaches of the other teams in the age group may not be known until the squad has been divided into teams. It is important that the Head Coach involves perspective volunteers in taking drills and the like assisting the Club of the appointment of other coaches.

### Social Activities

It is encouraged that these activities are inclusive of all members of the age group further building on the “one club, many teams” philosophy.

### Correspondence

That relating to individual teams will be undertaken by the Team Manager of that team, however that relating to the entire age group will be coordinated by all the team managers of the group.

Any concerns that parents may have need to be directed to the relevant Team Manager for resolution by the Coaches and if required the broader committee.

### Team Gradings

The Club will apply to the League for consideration as to the grading of their teams based upon the strength of their teams, the age groups prior season grading and player numbers. Whilst grading is ultimately determined by the YJFL, the Club will manage this situation as best we can to ensure all teams are playing in the appropriate grade.