



## Junior Team Selection Policy

Our mission is to provide an opportunity for local junior members to play at the highest level of football, to experience the highs and lows that team sport brings and to reach their full potential in the best facilities that our club can provide.

### TEAM/SQUAD SELECTION

One of the most difficult tasks for a junior football club is placing players in teams in a way that satisfies all parents/guardians, players and coaching staff.

We will endeavour to carry out the task according to the guidelines set out below, and in accordance with club culture.

This document has been produced to clarify the team or squad selection process.

Selection in an age group squad does not necessarily guarantee games each week. Parents and players should refer to the selection policy of each age group for match day team selection.

The following criteria may be used to determine the final playing squad where more players are available for selection than the maximum number allowed per squad.

Our club will decide which competition each age will play in year to year and advise this information prior to registrations commencing.

### REGISTRATIONS

#### ***Grades U8, U9, U10, U11, U12***

1. Players registered at Blackwood Football Club in the previous year who wish to register with BFC for the current year will be given the opportunity to register online 2 weeks prior to registrations being open to the general public.
2. Registrations will close once teams are full. A waiting list is then created.
3. We aim to field the following team/s:

Final numbers in game day squads are determined by the relevant competition – below is a guide:

U8 & U9: 2 team's x 14 players,  
U10, U11 & U12: 1 team x max 28 players with 22 in game day squad with 6 players on a roster system



### **Grades U13, U14, U15,U16,U18**

1. Players registered at Blackwood Football Club in the previous year who wish to register with BFC for the current year will be given the opportunity to register online 2 weeks prior to registrations being open to the general public.
2. All players, irrespective of whether or not they have played for the BFC previously, will be selected based on a combination of:
  - *Player's football skills and ability (see Below).*
  - *Previous attitude, commitment and behaviour at BFC.*
  - *Attitude, commitment and behaviour at BFC during the selection period.*
3. Football Skills and ability, criteria used to assess a player's ability but not limited to are:
  - *Kicking*
  - *Marking, Clean Hands*
  - *Handball / Vision / Awareness*
  - *Competitiveness*
  - *Fitness levels*
  - *Other attributes to be considered but not limited to will be (Attitude, Training Attendance, (Coach ability, or other special needs).*

*Any results of the above criteria used for squad selection should be recorded and available for review/ discussion in the case of dispute.*

During any squad selection, a team should be selected to judge the playing group. This may consist of other grade coaches, team managers etc, a minimum of 3 people is suggested. The final selection will be determined by the squad Coach(es) in conjunction with the BFCJC reps.

The Coaching team/BFCJC shall endeavour to finalise squads as soon as possible before the season commencements to give unsuccessful players every opportunity to register at another Club.



## **BFC TEAM SELECTION POLICY & GUIDELINES**

The Club requires our Coaches to adhere to the following guidelines.

### **SUB JUNIORS** (finals are not played at this level)

#### ***Under 8's ,9's, 10's, 11's***

Teams may play in either HFL or SANFL comps at the discretion of the BFCJC dependant on the best fit for the club.

In this age group, the emphasis is placed on participation and enjoyment.

Additional goals are the acquisition of football skills and the nurturing of physical and emotional development and well-being.

A member of the BFCJFC (not associated with the team) will assist the Coaches with selection of the sides, if required.

All players registered in the squad will get equal opportunities for game time and games played over the season. Please note that if a player is unavailable (for example where a player is sick or absent) these missed games may not be replaced.

BFCJC will endeavour, within the limits of duty of care, comfort, ability and confidence that each player may be given the opportunity to rotate around the ground over the season (not necessarily within each game). This will provide players the understanding of each position.

Team Managers and Coaches, if required, will create a roster by week 4 (four) showing players rostered off throughout the season.

This means to the best of their ability coaches will roster players so that each player has the opportunity to play equal games throughout the year with equal game time.



**JUNIORS** (play finals and compete for premiership points)

### **General – all grades**

Teams may play in either HFL or SANFL competition at the discretion of the BFCJC dependant on the best fit for the club.

If full squads are achieved, Team Managers and Coaches, may create a roster by week 4 (four) showing players rostered off throughout the season.

If finals are played, BFCJC has agreed that coaches will base team selection on fielding the best available team. Those players not selected to participate in finals should be informed personally by the coach to the parent/guardian and player in advance.

As opportunities arise and for development purposes, players may be invited to play in grades above their age grade.

A team may require top up players if the numbers in another team are inadequate due to lack of players, injury, illness, college commitments etc. The Higher Age Group Coach will request from the lower age coach player nominees and review and approve a list of “top up players” to choose from based on:

- Safety
- Team balance
- Ability
- Past performance
- Best interests of the BFC

Top up players:

- Should not displace any player or preclude any player from the team above from playing
- Should not take the field in place of a player of the higher age group. If the higher age group player is available and fit to play.
- Should be rotated fairly, giving all top up players the opportunity to experience games in a higher age group.

**In the case of any disputes then the JFD will be notified and will make the final decision based on the above proforma.**

Coaches are to keep the communication lines open in these situations to all team members and their parent/guardian and advise of any outcomes.

### ***Under 12's***

In this age group, the emphasis is placed on participation and enjoyment with a shift towards individual and team performances, in line with the Junior direction.

During the minor round, players should:

- be guaranteed half a game of football on match day (if selected); and
- also have the opportunity to play in a variety of positions around the ground throughout the season (it is expected that the emphasis will gradually shift from player enjoyment to commitment to the team and to overall team competitiveness. That shift in emphasis will necessitate greater consistency of positional placement in these years).

Additional goals are the acquisition of football skills and the nurturing of physical and emotional development and well-being.

Based on skills, ability, attitude, commitment and behaviour the Club's aim is to give each player the opportunity to participate in a minimum of half the games of the home and away season with the aim of equal game time within these games.

Please note that if a player is unavailable (for example where a player is sick or absent) these missed games may not be replaced.

### ***Under 13's and Under 14's***

From Under 13's onwards (where there is more than one team in the age group) players will be, as far as possible, selected in a team at a level commensurate with



their physical size, development and football skills or playing in teams with preferred peer connections if it is safe and reasonable to do so.

At this age, players are typically entering secondary school and there is significant disparity in physical development and emotional maturity. There is also a noticeable increase in the physical intensity of the competition, particularly in the higher divisions of the competition. This is the more appropriate stage to place players in the level of competition most closely suited to their stage of physical development and to their football ability bearing in mind their desire to play with their mates.

During these years, typically the first years of secondary schooling, players should be placed in teams:

- to maximise their opportunities to develop and enjoy their playing experience, and minimise undue risks of injury;
- primarily, though not exclusively, composed of players with skills, ability and confidence commensurate with their own;
- structured in such a way as to minimise the risk of one team having a shortfall of players on match days.

In relation to the first criterion, where necessary, the BFCJC will conduct an assessment of players in each age group prior to the commencement of each season. This assessment will ideally be carried out by the coaching staff for that age group and will take into account the skills, experience and physical size and strength of each player.

The outcome of skills assessment coupled with the preferred wishes of the player, may result in the reorganisation of the teams in the age group but this will be based on the guidelines above and done in consultation with, and where possible the agreement of, the player and the player's parents/guardians. There will be no compulsion to play in a particular team if that person wishes to play in a lower grade with their friends.

During the minor round, players should:

- be guaranteed half a game of football on match day (if selected); and
- also have the opportunity to play in a variety of positions around the ground throughout the season (it is expected that the emphasis will gradually shift from player enjoyment to commitment to the team and to overall team competitiveness. That shift in emphasis will necessitate greater consistency of positional placement in these years).

In this age group a greater emphasis is placed upon individual and team performances.



We aim to run a maximum squad of 28 (twenty eight) players registered with 18 (eighteen) players taking to the ground at any one time with 4 (four) reserves on game day. Thus game day players will equal 22. (pending competition rules)

Where there is a single side in any age group, selection of the side for each game is the responsibility of the appointed coach.

The coach may select the side based on skills, attitude, commitment, behaviour at training and games the Club's aim is to give each player the opportunity to participate in a minimum of half the games of the home and away season with the aim of equal game time within these games.

Please note that if a player is unavailable (for example where a player is sick or absent) these missed games may not be replaced.

### ***Under 15's and Under 16's***

In this age group emphasis is placed upon individual and team performances.

We recommend a squad of 30 (thirty), 28 as a core squad and 2 additional special circumstance positions, players registered with 18 (eighteen) players taking to the ground at any one time with 4(four) reserves on game day. Thus game day players will equal 22. (pending competition rules)

Based on skills, ability, attitude, commitment and behaviour each player will be given the opportunity to participate in a minimum of half the games of the home and away season. Please note that if a player is unavailable (for example where a player is sick or absent) these missed games may not be replaced.

### ***Under 18's***

In this age group emphasis is placed upon individual and team performances.

We recommend a squad of 30 (thirty) players registered, 28 as a core squad and 2 additional special circumstance positions, with 18 (eighteen) players taking to the ground at any one time with 4 (four) reserves on game day. Thus game day players will equal 22. (pending competition rules)

The Team Manager and Coaching team will select the team considering the following criteria: Player Availability, BFC Club B / C Grade team needs, Opposition side, Player's personal developments needs and the BFC long term benefits.

- Rostering off should be at the discretion of the coach



- Exceptions to rostering off may occur in the event of injury, illness, or misconduct on the part of the player concerned.

## **SPECIAL NEEDS**

From time to time an additional player may be added to a squad, this will be classified as a “Special Needs Player”, this request should be directed via the BFCJC for approval.

The Club appreciates that there may be extenuating circumstances and that some players may wish to play in a particular team.

Such requests should be made through the Coaches and Team Managers of the respective teams in accordance with the Club conflict resolution procedure.

## **ABBREVIATIONS**

The following abbreviations have been used:

- HFL – Hills Football League
- FC or Club – BLACKWOOD Football Club and BLACKWOOD Football Club
- AFL – Australian Football League
- SANFL Juniors – South Australian National Football League Juniors
- BFCEC – Blackwood Football Club Executive Committee
- BFCJC – Blackwood Football Club Junior Committee