

SECTION 4: Player Selection Policy

At the core of WSJFC is the maintenance of equity or opportunity to play football. This has a profound impact on the self-esteem of the child, the development of their skills, fitness and understanding of the game.

4.1 Maximum Player Numbers

The following outlines the Club's policy of maximum player numbers, based upon the EFNL's maximum Player Numbers Policy:

- U8 to U10 – maximum of 26
- U11 to U15 – maximum of 26
- U17 – maximum of 30

Note: *The Maximum numbers are subject to review on a periodic basis and will be determined by the Committee upon review of the EFNL's directive.*

4.2 Age Groups

All under age players must play in the correct age group. Any requests to play a higher age group on a permanent basis must be submitted in writing by the parent/guardian to the Football Operations Manager or Match Committee for approval.

4.3 Player Rotation

The capped number of registered players per team set by the EFNL is 26 and up to 30 for Under 17. Non-competitive teams may play all 26 on game day, however, competitive teams are allowed 24 players on the team sheet to play each week (U11 to U17). The Club and the League may exercise the right to change player numbers, and if occurs, then the following will come into effect.

If team lists extend past 24 or 26 for non-competitive teams, some players will be required to be rostered off each week during the season, (numbers 25 and above). If possible, parents should advise the Coach and Team Manager as far as practicable in advance that a player will be unavailable for a specific match and these games will be treated and counted as being rostered off. It's expected that all players will be rotated equitably. It is critical that the Coach and Team Manager maintain accurate records of player selection and dates when players were rostered off.

4.4 Team Selection

If after the Registration process, the number of players is sufficient enough to field two teams in the same age group then, the processes below will come into place.

- **U8 to U10**
The two (2) coaches appointed by WSJFC together with Football Operations Manager will select the squads for each team noting the following. Age will be the first factor considered followed by an equalisation of skill and friendship groups. The teams should be balanced with skills so as no team is left unbalanced in any position. Remember, player development should always come first. These age groups are about participation, learning and fun.
- **U11 to U15**
A panel of no less than five (5), made up of and including, both Team Coaches, Football Operations Manager and delegate (if required) and two (2) other Club Coaches involved with coaching the age group in previous years will select the players to fill the teams noting the following. Age will be the first factor considered followed by an equalisation of skill. No team is to be left short in the skills of any position. This process may take a few weeks, but we will always strive to field two competitive team, versus a "haves and have nots"

scenario. Player Development should always come first – it is not all about winning premierships.

- **U17**

A panel of no less than three (3), made up of both Team Coaches, Football Operations Manager and delegate(s) (nominated by coaches and confirmed by Committee Executive) will select the players to fill the teams for the season noting the following. Selection of the two squads will be based on a number of criteria including but not limited to: appropriate skill level to ensure players enjoyment, development and match time is maximised; consideration of attitude and approach throughout pre-season training, requirements of each team from a positional perspective.

This process will be undertaken throughout the pre-season and the first four (4) weeks of the season, based on current EFNL rules regarding player movement and games eligibility. We will always strive to field two competitive teams, versus a “haves and have nots” scenario but player development to encourage continuation in the game at a senior level will always come first – it is not all about winning premierships.