

Hoppers Crossing Soccer Club Inc

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Junior Team Selection Policy

Background

This policy is written to provide a guide for junior team selection during the season and player placement during the registration period.

The Junior Coordinator is the authorised delegate of the club with responsibility to create/delete teams and place players within those teams for the current playing year.

The over-riding principle for player placement will be for players to be registered in their age group.

The following guidelines shall be applied by the Junior Coordinator using the knowledge the Club has of each player, team dynamics, Club ethos and Football Federation Victoria requirements.

Policy

The Junior Coordinator will use his/her authority to create teams and place players using the following guidelines:

1. Organise teams that meet the best outcomes for the club.
2. Place players in teams that will meet the best outcomes for the club and its priorities. Club priorities include, but are not be limited to, participation in football, filling teams, team performance, supporting parents with siblings in the club, player development, player safety, supporting team coaches and supporting team managers.
3. Age – each player shall be registered to play their age group. All options to place players in their age group will be used before playing a player up in another age group i.e. The Junior Coordinator will direct players into their age group first, before considering any request to play them in a higher age group.

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4. A younger player - shall not dislodge an established player playing in their correct age group.
5. Where there are several younger players with an option to play up an age group, any substantially older player shall have priority. For instance, in the case of a fourteen year old and a thirteen year old with an option to play Under 16s, the fourteen year old would take priority. Where no player is substantially older the Junior Coordinator shall use other criteria with placement of players.
6. Late registration – a player with late/latest registration will be relocated first. (Late registration is a registration taken after the published registration cut off date).
7. The Junior Coordinator will not allow a team to be over subscribed if another side of the same age group does not have a full subscription of players unless there is adequate justification E.g. Players who can only play intermittently due to other commitments, players on extended holiday during season, religious belief etc.
8. Whenever the Junior Coordinator is placing SSF - age players, the preference of existing Hoppers Crossing Soccer Club players, or those that played the previous season in the HCSC Academy, shall take precedence over the preference of a player transferring from another club.
9. Other criteria the Junior Coordinator shall consider include:
 - Players with previous documented history of disciplinary issues;
 - Players with outstanding fees from previous years; and
10. Notwithstanding the obvious social benefits of a team remaining together throughout its journey through the age ranks, the Club offers no guarantee that players from each year will continue in that team during the next season. This is based on:
 - Skill advancement of players in grade (not age group);
 - Opinion of relevant coach/es and football director; and
 - Need to ensure each junior team is competitive within their respective league.
11. Parents with concerns regarding the rearrangement of teams will be advised by Club officials that arbitrary allotment of players from different age groups in a team affects teams from age groups above and below it.
12. In the event of teams being reformed due to poor player turn out, the Junior Coordinator will use his/her discretion to form teams that are competitive across affected age groups.

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Squad Selection and Game Time

SSF players

SSF players play in age groups U10 and below. Our policy on SSF is that all children who play SSF football are paid up members of the Club will be placed in a team. All players will play a reasonable amount of time each week. This is subjective and is the responsibility of the team coach to determine. As a guide each SSF child should play at least half a game.

SSF football is all about fun and learning, not winning. We do not participate in competitive Leagues. There are no ladders for U9's. The results of any games played are not recorded or tallied nor are they important. The FFV requirement to receive results is for U11's to be used for grading purposes the following season.

Juniors

Junior players play in age groups U12 to U18 male & female or mixed squads. Junior players play in the FFV competition. The FFV junior competition is a competitive league, scores are kept and league ladders are maintained.

Within the Junior level there remains an expectation that children are again given a reasonable amount of game time each week. In Junior teams this is harder for a coach to manage however we expect that every player listed for the game plays in a fixture. The club does not promote nor tolerate junior players remaining on the bench throughout an entire game, regardless of the score or importance of the fixture. Junior squads are capped at 16 players.

Dispute Process

The decision of the Junior Coordinator is final. However, if the Junior Coordinator chooses to have their decision reviewed it shall be by the following process:

- Step 1* - Full particulars of the dispute shall be lodged with the President of the club for the review and advice of the Executive;
- Step 2* - Full particulars of the dispute shall then be lodged for discussion to a review committee body for a formal decision. The body shall at a minimum, comprise:
- The Football Director if current position is held.
 - The Junior Coordinator.
 - The President of HCSC.
 - The aggrieved party and their parent(s) / guardians or their representative.

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Step 2 - Con't

- One other suitable club member who in the opinion of the President should be present in order to maintain the expertise and independence of the body.

Once the dispute process has commenced their decision of the above body, minus the aggrieved party or their representative, is final and binding.

The Junior Coordinator is not obliged by any Club requirement or regulation to use the Dispute Process if, in his/her judgment it is not warranted.

Other

This policy is written as a guide to effective junior team selection at Hoppers Crossing Soccer Club. If players, coaches, managers or any person disagree with any aspect of this policy then this matter should be raised, in writing, with the Executive of HCSC so that the matter can be heard and determined in a fair and reasonable manner.

Policy checked and updated: Signed



1/1/2011