

Hoppers Crossing Soccer Club Inc

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SSF'S & Team Selection Policy

Background

This policy is written to provide a guide for SSF'S (small sided football) team selection during the season and player placement during the registration period.

The Club has to take a long term view of the development of players and training methods in line with FFA-FFV guidelines with the aim of continuous improvement, future development and a path which will give direction for all players.

The FFV - SSF structure has combined age groups i.e. U8-U9 or U10-U11. This may see players change every year due to ability or the requirement that the child has not developed enough to continue to play above his/her age.

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 or in line with FFV structure which may change from time to time.

Policy

Responsibility for Player Placement and Squad Selection

The Junior Coordinator will use his/her authority to create teams and place players. Teams will be organised to meet the best outcomes for the club and the young players participating.

In conjunction with the club an assistant coordinator can be elected to collect family details for all players with the intention of final liaison with junior coordinator to make sure all players can be correctly registered for the up coming season.

Considerations for Player Placement

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

Player placement in teams will be to 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 and supporting team development.

Age – each player shall be registered to play at the appropriate 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 new players into their age group first, before considering any request to play them in a higher age group. (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.)

A younger player – The aim is first playing players in correct age first. A younger age player shall not dislodge an established player playing in their correct age group unless in line with the following.

Inline with the FFV process and rules of competition in the SSF system, which can also allow an over age, a less developed player to play in age group below.

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).

The Junior Coordinator will not allow a team to be oversubscribed 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.

Whenever the Junior Coordinator is placing SSF-age players, 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.

Other criteria the Junior Coordinator shall consider include:

- Players with previous documented history of disciplinary issues;
- Players with outstanding fees from previous years; and

In the event of teams being reformed due to poor player turn out, the Junior Coordinator along with the defined coach and assistant coordinators will use his/her discretion to form teams that are competitive across effected age groups.

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/s and football director; and
- Need to ensure each junior team is competitive within their respective league.

Game Time

SSF players play in age groups U11 and below. Our policy on SSF is that all children who play SSF's and 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 or coaches to determine. As a guide each child should play at least half a game.

SSF football is all about fun and learning, not winning. We participate in competitive leagues although the following position is also the Clubs. There is to be no recording or publishing of results and there is no ladders. The results of any games played will not be recorded or tallied by the FFV.

Within the SSF level there remains an expectation that children are again given a reasonable amount of game time each week. In SSF 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 SSF players remaining on the bench throughout an entire game, regardless of the score or importance of the day's game.

Coaching

Following the FFV structure for player development the club requires each SSF format to have one defined coach for each of the U8-U9 and U10-U11 combined age groups which compete under the FFV process and structure.

Whilst under this FFV structure all players in each of the combined age groups will train together.

Each defined coach will invite and encourage further parental participation to facilitate an organised training format for all players. Parental participation will be required to assist on game days.

Dispute Process

The decision of the Junior Coordinator is final. However, if the Junior Coordinator chooses to have a dispute 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 defined coaches and assistant coordinators.
- The aggrieved party and their parent(s) / guardians or their representative.
- 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.

Step 4

Once the dispute process has commenced the 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.