

The Jandakot Junior Football Club (**JJFC**) is very committed to achieving fairness for all our members and teams across all age groups.

With the club having more than 400 junior members, the task of allocating players to teams is not simple, particularly as the period of registration is always open. The **JJFC** encourages early registration to assist in the team allocation process.

We have developed a Team Allocation Policy, to provide clarity in the processes related to team selections and complements the **WAFC POL.10A Competitions Policy: Team Selection & Nominations** which predominately focuses on team selection for the same grade.

The Jandakot Jets Junior Football Club (JJFC) is committed to forming fair, even and competitive teams that enable players of all abilities to have fun and actively participate to improve their knowledge and skills of the game.

This policy is written to ensure that there is fairness in balancing various objectives with respect to player attraction, retention, and development. This policy aims to establish clear expectations amongst coaches, players, parents and guardians regarding team nominations and the allocation of players to teams.

## INTENT OF THIS POLICY

- a) Clearly outline the team nomination process for returning players and those new to the Club
- b) Set clear expectations for coaches, players, parents, and guardians with respect to the allocation of players to teams when more than one team exists within a year group or grade
- c) Provide the club with a decision-making framework for the allocation of players to teams when more than one team exists within a year group and/or grade
- d) Set expectations for coaches when the Club fields more than one team in the 18's competition

This policy is guided by JJFC values and various policies implemented by the Australian Football League (AFL), the WA Football Commission (WAFC), and the South Fremantle District.

## ADOPTING A CLUB FIRST MENTALITY

Coaches, players, and their families are encouraged to adopt a "Club first" mentality rather than an individual team mentality. This will encourage long-term friendships that extend beyond school groups and minimises the impact when players move between teams or teams merge during their junior football career.

To foster this outcome, the Club encourages teams in the same year group to train together, where practicable, as a squad for at least one training session each week in order to:

- Build a strong Club culture.
- Encourage strong friendships between a larger group of players, parents, and guardians to make any reallocation of players or team mergers less daunting for players and their families.
- Achieve more effective training sessions through larger player numbers.
- Keep players engaged during training by implementing a hub training model.

- Expose players to a variety of coaches and coaching styles.
- Share resources, e.g., oval space, coaches, equipment, etc.

## POINTS OF CONTACT

The Executive Committee (EC) of the JJJFC consists of the President, Senior Vice President, Junior Vice President, Secretary, Auskick Co-ordinator, Registrar and Treasurer.

The EC of the JJJFC reserves the right to ensure that two or more co-competing teams from the JJJFC are of even ability when allocated within a single competition or division.

The point of contact for all players within Auskick falls with the Auskick Co-ordinator; additional points of contact include the Junior Vice President, President and Registrar.

**Contact:** [auskick@jandakotjetsjfc.com](mailto:auskick@jandakotjetsjfc.com)

The point of contact and responsibility for team selections and division nominations for all players within the junior competitions (Pups (Y3) to Y7) falls with the Junior Vice President, or in their absence, the Senior Vice President, Registrar and President.

**Contact:** [juniorvice@jandakotjetsjfc.com](mailto:juniorvice@jandakotjetsjfc.com)

The point of contact and responsibility for team selections and division nominations for all players within the youth competitions (Y8 to Y12) falls with the Senior Vice President, or in their absence, the Registrar and President.

**Contact:** [seniorvice@jandakotjetsjfc.com](mailto:seniorvice@jandakotjetsjfc.com)

The point of contact and responsibility for team selections for all players within the **all-female competitions** (Y3/4, Y5/6, Y7/8 and Y9-11) falls with the Girls Co-ordinator, followed by the Senior Vice President, or in their absence, the Registrar and President.

**Contact:** [girlscoordinator@jandakotjetsjfc.com](mailto:girlscoordinator@jandakotjetsjfc.com)

## OUR POLICY

When considering team allocations that transition from **Auskick to Pups** (Y3), whereby for each two Auskick teams generally become merged into a single Pups team, the main consideration is coaching appointments. With the assistance of the Auskick Co-ordinator, the Junior Vice President will appoint coaches for the Pups teams based on coaching applications received. The EC will consider any individual player requests to move between teams on a case by case basis provided the member provides a written request to the relevant point of contact no later than February 28. The decision to grant or deny the request will be largely driven by the need to ensure parity is obtained in team list numbers.

For **Pups to Year 6**, where no scoring or finals football occurs, the club is committed to ensuring stability in team lists. Teams within a single age group (in recent years we have had 5 pups or Y4 teams) may need to be realigned if considerable members do not register. The EC will consider any individual player requests to move between teams on a case by case basis provided the member provides a written request to the relevant point of contact no later than **February 28**. The decision to grant or deny the request will be largely driven by the need to ensure parity is obtained in team list numbers.

For **Year 7s**, who reach a time when they may be playing against each other in a single division and play in finals, the club reserves the right to ensure that, in the case of two or more teams, the

playing group shall commence training together, and the players will be graded. The Executive Committee will consider any individual player requests to move between teams on a case by case basis provided the member provides a written request (**Request Form**) within 14 days following team selection. The decision to grant or deny the request will be largely driven by the need to ensure parity is obtained in team list numbers.

From **Year 8** level and above, the South Fremantle District (SFD) and the East Fremantle District (EFD) merge the competitions. This competition becomes known as the Fremantle Conference and generally results in a number of different divisions (due to increased teams):

(<http://www.bulldogsdistrict.com.au/clubs-and-competitions/fremantle-conference-resources>)

For **Year 8** teams, the Fremantle Conference allocates teams to the different divisions based on their final ladder position in the respective SFD and EFD competitions. (As a general rule, the top four placed teams for this group in their previous Y7 season in the SF and EF districts will be entered into a first division competition). Where the club has lost or gained players, to the advantage or disadvantage of the team in terms of ability, the JJJFC will examine the team allocation to the respective division and contact the FC as required.

In the case where there are two or more JJJFC **Year 8** teams, a reordering of sides will not usually be necessary if, (1) these teams are allocated to different divisions or, (2) the teams are within the same division and the EC consider that these teams are evenly matched. If the teams are uneven and are allocated to the same division, the EC reserves the right to re-distribute players within this cohort to create even teams. As such, the club's policy is that all players within this age group commence preseason training as a group, which also creates greater comradery between this cohort when in later years they may merge into a single team. The EC will consider any individual player requests to move between teams on a case by case basis provided that the member provides a written request prior to 14 days following team selection. The decision to grant or deny the request will be largely driven by the need to ensure parity is obtained in team list numbers and/or one team is not overly disadvantaged by the decision.

For **Year 9** and **Year 10** teams, when one or more team is placed into the same division, the EC reserves the right to ensure that the teams are even and thus minor adjustments may need to occur. If there are teams in different divisions, then the EC will endeavour to ensure that all teams are competitive, and thereby minor adjustments of teams may need to occur (e.g. no more than three adjustments from each team). The EC will consider any individual player requests to move between teams on a case-by-case basis provided that the member provides a written request prior to 14 days following team selection. The decision to grant or deny the request will be largely driven by the need to ensure parity is obtained in team list numbers and/or one team is not overly disadvantaged by the decision.

In 2019, under instruction from the JCC the **Year 11/12** year groups combined, resulting in potentially a two or more division competition. The EC expects that all teams within the JJJFC that play within this competition will be competitive.

For all **female competitions**, Y3/4, Y5/6, Y7/8, Y9/10 and Y11/12, team members will be allocated to teams based on age eligibility provided by the JCC (see below). On a case by case basis, and depending on team numbers, players from one year class may, on FD approval, be permitted to play up one age group only. As an example, the district will not permit Y3 girls playing in a Y5/6 team, or Y9 girls playing in the Y11/12 group.

Under the SFD, no **Auskick** aged players are permitted to play outside of their age group. Players may be permitted to play down one age group provided that the SFD or FD approves.

Under the SFDC rules, the JJFC will encourage players to play up one age group on occasion to support teams with low numbers (<3 reserves), providing that all the necessary paperwork is prepared and approved by the FD. A player shall play no more than 4 games up in an age group in any one season, as that player will then be ineligible to play in their year group for the remainder of the season according to the Western Australian Football Commission junior football manual.

With respect to all that is written above, the South Fremantle District JCC, at their discretion, has the authority to direct the club to re-allocate players should they feel that it is in the best interest of maintaining the Spirit of the Game

## **GRADING OF PLAYERS**

Where it is deemed necessary to grade players as mentioned above the following will be the process.

**Junior Teams:** The grading process to be overseen by the Junior Vice President.

**Senior Teams:** The grading process to be overseen by the Senior Vice President.

Two independent representatives will be appointed either from the district or within the club or a combination of both. They shall facilitate the grading process and will be responsible for the assessment and grading of players.

Players will be allocated a grade as defined in **WAFC POL.10A Competitions Policy: Team Selection & Nominations.** Where the teams are to play in different grades, players will be assigned to a team based on the ability to play competitive football for that particular division (e.g., A, B, C or D). It is important that each team is made as competitive as possible with the players available. The results of the grading will be made available to the EC and the teams developed.

**NOTE:** Where there is a conflict of interest with either the Snr VP or Jnr VP overseeing the process another executive committee member shall resume that oversight of the grading process.

## **RETURNING MEMBERS**

All JJFC members that are returning from the previous season will be given priority within teams over new members provided that they are a fully financial member at the time of 28 February. After this date, new members or those transferring from other clubs will be available to be allocated to the various teams within each cohort. The EC reserves the right to forgo the creation of team lists until a suitable number of players have registered.

If teams from previous years do not have a viable number of returning members, or new members available, the team will be redistributed into other existing teams. This decision will be dependent on whether coaching positions have been fulfilled in the other existing teams, compared to the team that has been identified to be disbanded, at which time the EC reserves the right to alter the decision.

## **GRIEVANCES**

JJFC members that are not satisfied with the process, or the outcome of the team allocation or team selections may raise their concerns in accordance with the Grievance and Dispute Policy which is available on the website.

## REVIEW OF POLICY

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis (November) to ensure it remains applicable to club strategic vision and is aligned with district guidelines.

## IMPORTANT

**NOTE:** The South Fremantle District, at their discretion, has the authority to direct the club to re-allocate players should they feel that it is in the best interest of maintaining the Spirit of the Game.

*SFord*

**Shane Ford**  
JJJFC President  
Date: 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022