



Team Composition Policy

POLICY PHILOSOPHY

Camberwell Junior Football Club (CJFC) aims to provide all players with a fun and safe environment in which they can achieve maximum football development at training and during games.

Our club typically fields a number of teams in all age groups from U8 to U18 (boys) and U10 to U18 (girls) in the Yarra Junior Football League (YJFL). Each age group has different needs in terms of football development. Accordingly, the approach to training, game day and team composition policies may differ for each age group.

However, the Club philosophy of ensuring that each player achieves maximum football development in a fun and safe environment remains paramount.

Determining team composition is a complex process that aims to balance team numbers across the age group, whilst also trying to support players in skill development, facilitate a cohesive team and (most importantly) ensure our children have fun.

The club's overriding objective is to ensure that each team is competitive in the division in which they participate, thus providing each player the maximum opportunity for development of football skills and enjoyment of the game.

Representations should not be made by coaches / officials to parents regarding which team their child will play in.

CJFC TEAM COMPOSITION POLICY

PLAYERS PLAYING UP - OUT OF THEIR AGE GROUP

From season 2019 there will be no accommodation of new requests by players to the CJFC to "to play up" unless the player involved is of an ability to play in the highest grade of the age group they are requesting to play in. This is not applicable in Girls Football where there may not be a team in the players age group, and hence they are forced to play up an age-group.

All existing players will be given the option to play in their correct age group to support their football development, along with the needs of team balance.

U8 - U10 AGE GROUPS FOR BOYS or MIXED and U10 - U11 FOR GIRLS ONLY

Team composition will be based primarily on friendship groups but limited to a maximum of one friend within the friendship group nominated by the player at registration. The club encourages players to make new friends and to this end will endeavour to ensure an

appropriate mixing of friendship groups. Friendship groups will generally be mixed so that a team is not comprised solely of one school group and that players understand that they are playing for the 'Sharks' rather than their individual school and feel part of our community club.

Teams largely comprising children from one school will be avoided, as this can result in difficulties in fielding teams when conflicts arise due to school commitments (e.g., camps and social functions).

These teams will not be graded. Players will not be chosen on ability. The focus will be on playing football with existing and new friends and building social inclusion and a "Sharks Community" culture.

U11– U12 AGE GROUPS FOR BOYS

The move to Under 11 football for Boys and Girls is where players commence playing in competitive competition and grades incorporating ladders and finals. Players in these age groups will start the current season in the team from the previous season for the grading process, if there are more than two teams in an age group. Once grading is completed parents will be provided an opportunity to request, on behalf of their child, that they wish their child to play in a lower graded team than the one they are in should they believe this is a better fit for their child, given their current skill level and coaching needs.

In very extreme circumstances, the club will consider requests for players to play in a higher graded team, post grading, should the team numbers allow and this move still allows all teams to have suitable numbers each week. This decision will be made by the Football Operations Committee and is final.

U13 – U18 AGE GROUPS

Players at U13 level have generally moved into secondary schooling and U13 thus acts as a transition year. Boys and girls often develop at different stages and it is important that the club assesses individual development each year from U13 and upwards. The Club also recognises that from U13 age group and above, the YJFL expects teams to be officially graded and streamed according to their ability.

- U13 and above registered players will have the opportunity to train together during pre-season and play practice matches.
- The Coaching Director, with input from the previous and current season's coaches, will select squads from the available players during the pre-season training and practice matches.

These squads will play in the grading matches, after which the Coaching Director with the current season's coaches will assess the squads and make a final determination on the composition of the teams.

- No child will be required to play in a higher division team, even if their abilities suggest they should.
- YJFL rules state that:
 - No more than four players may be rotated between a higher and a lower division team per round
 - Depending on the number of home and away games in the season if a player participates in a maximum number of games in a higher division, they cannot play in a lower division for the rest of that season
 - If a player qualifies for finals in multiple divisions within an age group, they may only play finals in the highest division of that age group for which they have qualified
- At the beginning of each season each team moving up an age group will be re-considered. The decision to reconsider the composition of each team is based on the knowledge that players can develop at variable rates over the off-season period.

TEAM COMPOSITION PROCESS - WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

For all age groups, the Coaching Director in consultation with the previous and current season's coaches will determine teams.

The previous season's player evaluations will be used as supporting data to make decisions.

COMMUNICATION

For players in the U8 to U12 age groups, players and parents will be formally advised of the team they have been selected in by their respective Coach or the Junior Football Co-ordinator.

For the U13 and above age groups, players and parents will be formally advised of the team they have been selected in through notification by the team coach .

If a player or parent from any age group has any questions regarding team composition, they can discuss the issue with the Coaching Director. If the issue remains unresolved then the player or parent can discuss the matter with the Club President at president@camberwellsharks.com.au.