



Tea Tree Gully District Football Club Inc

Junior Selection and Development Policy

CONTENTS

Player Development Principles	1
Grading.....	3
Age Group / Team Registration Numbers.....	4
Age Group Registration Criteria.....	6

Player Development Principles

Tea Tree Gully District Football Club is committed to the ongoing development of all players throughout their junior playing career, preparing them for senior football and/or SANFL/AFL. The Committee and Coaching Staff have designed and implemented an approach to the development of players throughout various age groups. It is the aim to develop and review the steps through an ongoing progression and to enhance this policy in the following areas:

U7's -U11's

- Ensure all children receive a fair and even go.
- All players are given every chance to develop.
- Rotated equally around the ground only limited by size and not ability.
- Equal time on and off the bench.
- U7: all players receive participation trophies as an encouragement of their development.
- U8 - U11: three major encouragement trophies selected and titled at coach's discretion (no voting for best players), Steve Carson Award, remainder receive participation trophies.

U12's

- In this age group, the emphasis is placed on participation and enjoyment. Additional goals are the acquisition of football skills and the nurturing of physical and emotional development and well-being.
- Ensure all children receive a fair and even go.
- All players are given every chance to develop.
- Rotated equally around the ground only limited by size and not ability.
- Equal time on and off the bench.
- Best and Fairest and Runner Up are voted upon and submitted each week by three reps for each minor round game i.e. Coach, Assistant Coach/Runner - each game, Parent (by rotation).
- Three major encouragement trophies selected and titled at coach's discretion, Steve Carson Award, remainder receive participation trophies.

U13's

- Once children reach this age group and up the emphasis shifts from players rotating through all positions on the ground to them gaining a level of competency in different positions. The difference in these age groups players should be left in a position on the field until they have acquired that position's basic strategies and skills. Only then should they move to a new position.
- All players are given every chance to develop.
- It is our aim that players receive a minimum of $\frac{3}{4}$ match time during the season. Should a team make any finals, match time will be at the discretion of the team coach.
- Best and Fairest and Runner Up are voted upon and submitted each week by three reps for each minor round game i.e. Coach, Assistant Coach/Runner - each game, Parent (by rotation).



Tea Tree Gully District Football Club Inc

Junior Selection and Development Policy

- Three major encouragement trophies are also selected and titled at coach's discretion, Steve Carson Award, remainder receive participation medallions.

U14s to U17.5s

- It is our aim that players receive a minimum of ½ match time during the season. Should a team make any final, match time will be at the discretion of the team coach.
- Best and Fairest and Runner Up are voted upon and submitted each week by three reps for each minor round game i.e. Coach, Assistant Coach/Runner - each game, Parent (by rotation).
- Three major encouragement trophies are also selected and titled at coach's discretion, Steve Carson Award, remainder receive participation medallions.

Players must:

- Attend all training sessions (notify your coach/team manager if you cannot attend, as soon as possible).
- Misbehaving at training will not be tolerated and may result in offending players missing games. Concentration and participation is important at all sessions, for all the players.

Coaches and Team Managers must:

- adhere to the policies of both TTGDFC and SANFL Juniors.

The club will endeavour to:

- Reward those players committed to training at their coaches' directions.
- Conduct training in non-preferred side of body for all grades (eg. Left foot and right foot)
- Train players in tackling from Under 9s + 10s (modified) and full tackling U11s upward.
- Have TTGDFC senior players attend selected training nights.

Players may be required to play at various levels throughout these age groups e.g.: SANFL Development Squads.

Committed players will improve their own game.



Tea Tree Gully District Football Club Inc

Junior Selection and Development Policy

Grading

Under 7 to Under 10 - No Grading

In these age groups inclusive TTGDFC encourages all players to play with friends and schoolmates, where possible. Players will be required to register in their correct age group - exceptions may be considered in extraordinary circumstances. Emphasis is on participation and enjoyment, additional goals are the acquisition of football skills and playing in a team environment.

At the end of the season and leading into U11's, existing U10 Coaches will collaborate with each other regarding the ranking of their players for use in the following season's grading process (U11's).

Under 11 to Under 17.5 - Grading

TTGDFC's aim is to have competitive teams in all age groups no matter what SANFL Juniors division. Most grading decisions are handled collaboratively between coaches, players and parents however should an issue arise, the final decision will rest with the Football Director/Managers in consultation with the Coaches.

TTGDFC grades teams and players to the best of its ability to provide an environment in which players can be both competitive and continue to develop their football skills. They will do this by assessing players and teams to ensure they play at the most appropriate level as possible. At the beginning of each season players from each team moving up an age group will be 're-graded'. The decision to 're-grade' is based on the knowledge that players develop their skills at different rates and grow at different times. Changes in body size and shape can happen significantly over the 6 month summer period as can player's priorities and focus towards the game.

Another important factor is that some players participating in lower divisions are not getting the opportunity to develop their skills to the standard they deserve. Likewise other players participating in a higher grade may benefit by playing in a key position role in a lower grade.

Whilst one team may have a more advanced list of players, the Club will endeavour to ensure that both teams will be as competitive as possible in their respective divisions.

In **Under 11's** – ALL players within the age group will commence and participate in pre-season training together. This will allow the coaches a reasonable time to assess the players and make informed decisions for the grading process. It is recommended that this involves the majority of pre-season as well as at least one trial game.

In **U12's to U17.5's** – this is to be done by ensuring that ALL players from the age group – including existing red and black players, as well as any new players to the club – are invited to participate in the re-grading process within the Red team's pre-season training sessions. This invitation can be done by way of email (or other correspondence method such as Facebook or other social media platforms) to ensure all players have received the training commencement notification. It is recommended that in this scenario the coaches from both the Red and Black teams work collaboratively to ensure ALL players are provided suitable opportunities.

Where two or more sides are formed in the same age group, the coaches will attempt to select 'equal' numbers for these teams. However in U13's to U17.5's an allowance for a higher number of players may be granted to the 'Red' division side due to external commitments such as SANFL Development squads and College football. Please be aware that in these circumstances the



Tea Tree Gully District Football Club Inc

Junior Selection and Development Policy

TTGDFC Juniors Committee / Football Operations Department will make a decision based on the best interests of the player/s within both teams.

If required a member of the Committee (not associated with the team) will assist the coaches with selection of the sides.

Age Group / Team Registration Numbers

The registration of players per age groups will be selected based on SANFL Juniors guidelines, the preference is for players to be registered in a team equivalent to their age group, and the following:

U7s-U8s& U9 Girls

SANFL Juniors allows for a maximum of 12 players registered in each team (9 players on the field and 3 on the bench). TTGDFC will register a maximum squad of 12 players per team thus ensuring that all registered players are available for game day selection each week. A minimum of 6 players are required on game day.

Individual teams will be formed where there are at least 9 players per team registered by 31 January or at the discretion of the Committee/Football Operations (e.g. U7s).

U9's-U10s& U11 Girls

SANFL Juniors allows for a maximum of 16 players registered in each team (allows for 12 players on the field and 4 on the bench). TTGDFC will register a maximum squad of 16 players per team thus ensuring that all registered players are available for game day selection each week. A minimum of 9 players are required on game day.

Individual teams will be formed where there are at least 12 players per team registered by 31 January or at the discretion of the Committee/Football Operations.

NOTE – In the likely event of the TTGDFC fielding more than one team in any of the above age groups (U7-U10's) – SANFL Junior's policy states that we can only register a **maximum of 14 players to any one team.**

U11s – 17.5s

SANFL JUNIORS allows for a maximum of **22** players on game day for these teams (allows for 18 players on the field and 4 on the bench). TTGDFC will register a maximum squad of **22** players per team thus ensuring that all registered players are available for game day selection each week. A minimum of 14 players are required on game day.

Individual teams will be formed where there are at least 18 players per team registered by 31 January or at the discretion of the Committee/Football Operations.

NOTE – U13 Girls have a game day squad of 18 players (allows for 15 players on the field and 3 on the bench)

Exceeding Team Numbers Cap – U11's to U17.5's (excluding U11 Girls)

Registrations exceeding the registration caps may be considered but only where agreed by a Coach in consultation with parents and the Junior Registrar and Football Operations. Where



Tea Tree Gully District Football Club Inc

Junior Selection and Development Policy

this is agreed selection does not necessarily guarantee games each week. Parents and players should be very clear on this.

In these cases, Team Managers and Coaches will create a roster by week 4 (four) showing players rostered off throughout the season. If finals are played, TTGDFC has agreed that coaches will base team selection on fielding the best available team.

Selection Eligibility

Please note that Players who have not officially registered with the TTGDFC are not eligible to commence training with their respective teams, unless they have been given permission by the Club's Registrar (eg – a pending transfer). Players who have not paid their full fees (or entered into an agreed payment plan) by the date set by the Club's Registrar will also not be eligible for match selection.

Fees (or appropriate arrangements with the Committee) are to be paid in full by Round 1 (or a date set by the Club's Registrar) to be eligible for match selection.

Seeking Fill In Players

Players Filling in (Playing Up) in TTGDFC Teams

- **Principle 1:** Lending/borrowing players is about numbers not targeting specific players.
- Must be a coach to coach discussion although parent must ultimately also agree.
- Playing up 2 grades needs approval from parent and a permit from SANFL.
- Lending coach will determine which players are offered to the receiving coach using a fair selection process including consideration of ability etc.
- Receiving coaches will give a minimum 1/2 a game to players helping out, except in finals where this will be at the discretion of the receiving coach.

Tea Tree Gully Players filling in for other clubs

- Parents have the say on what their child can do in this circumstance.
- TTG Coaches are to respect the decisions made by parents.



Tea Tree Gully District Football Club Inc

Junior Selection and Development Policy

Age Group Registration Criteria

Players registered at TTGDFC in the previous year who wish to register with TTGDFC for the current year will be given priority so long as they have:

- a. Completed online Registration by the close of 31st January. This will include players who have advised the Registrar beforehand and been given approval to Register at a later date.
- b. Paid any fees due from previous season by 31st January.
- c. Completed Medical and any other forms required by SANFL Juniors within two weeks of 31st January.
- d. Previous attitude, commitment and behaviour at TTGDFC has met the Player's Code of Conduct.

If there are more registrations than can be accepted, even though all players played at the Club in the previous year and meet the above criteria, players will then be selected on a combination of:

- a. Player's football skills and ability.
- b. Previous attitude, commitment and behaviour at TTGDFC.
- c. Attitude, commitment and behaviour at TTGDFC during the selection period.

The final registration will rest with the TTGDFC Committee/Registrar. The TTGDFC will endeavour to finalise age groups as soon as possible before the season commencement to give unsuccessful players every opportunity to register at another Club.