



Mordialloc-Braeside Junior Football Club Inc

Player Placement Policy

Introduction:

The Mordialloc-Braeside Junior Football Club has adopted this policy in order to ensure that the Club's philosophy is met. Player Placement refers to the selection of players into teams at the commencement of each year, or where appropriate, during the season. It also refers to temporary placement of players in teams, where numbers are required in an age group higher than the player's current age group for a few games per year. This policy addresses age, skill level, development opportunities, level of participation, priority for existing club members and enjoyment of all playing members.

Definitions:

Current Age Group: refers to the lowest age group that a player may be eligible to play.

Optimum Numbers: refers to the ideal size of a team, which allows for high playing time, but also provides enough players to cover interchange players, injuries, illness and holidays. Optimum Numbers does not refer to a maximum number of players per team.

Streaming: This is a method for selecting players from under 13 onwards into teams, where there are more than one team per age group.

Existing Club Members: refers to a member who has been registered to Mordialloc-Braeside Junior Football Club in the previous year and have registered for the upcoming season on or before February 1st. Those who were unable to register due to injury/personal circumstances in the previous year, are also considered Existing Club Members.

Principles underlying the Player Placement policy:

The following MBJFC principles underline the Player Placement policy.

These principles are:

- 3.1 To encourage as many children as possible in our local community to play Australian Rules Football,
- 3.2 To optimise the amount of game time that each player plays.
- 3.3 The optimum number of players per mixed and boys team is 24.
- 3.4 The optimum number of players per girls team is maximum on-ground numbers plus 1/3. The number will vary according to the age group (U10 - U12 Girls is 16, U14 - U16 Girls is 20 and U18 Girls is 24).
- 3.5 Teams should be as competitive as possible in their allocated division.

- 3.6 Players should play where they have a better chance to develop.
- 3.7 Winning Premierships or Lightning Carnivals is not more important than principles 3.1 and 3.2.
- 3.8 Friendships need to be considered but will not determine final team allocation.
- 3.9 Players should not expect to remain with the same group of players each subsequent year.
- 3.10 Player movement to a different team/s should be regarded as an opportunity to experience diversity, and players should be encouraged to adapt to, and enjoy, the change.
- 3.11 Existing club members will have priority to retain their place within their current age group (as defined above in "Definitions"). This is subject to the needs of the club based on the principles 3.1-3.9. This does not include allocation/priority placement in the team they played in the previous year.
- 3.12 New players or players transferring from another club will be offered a place in an age group providing the above principles are met.

4.1 Age placement – assignment of players to teams for the full season:

- 4.1.1 Players will be assigned to teams within their current age group, irrespective of where they have previously been assigned, or other factors.
- 4.1.2 Players may be asked, or may apply (via the **Player Special Request Form**), to be assigned to a team in an age group above the player's current age group, where the following occurs:
 - 4.1.2.1 The older age group team requires more players to meet the optimum player numbers for a team, AND
 - 4.1.2.2 The assignment makes the current age group from where the player is moving closer to optimum numbers; AND
 - 4.1.2.3 The age group is not more than two age levels above the players current age group, AND
 - 4.1.2.4 Parental Consent to play in the older age group is provided to the Club, AND
 - 4.1.2.5 The player is judged by the Match Committee to be capable of playing in the older age group. Consideration of the introduction of tackling at Under 11 will especially be considered.
- 4.1.3 Players will not be assigned to an age group more than two age levels above their eligible age.
- 4.1.4 Players may lodge a special application via the **Player Special Request Form** to play in a younger age group when there are special circumstances. These applications will require additional medical reports (as per the SMJFL/AFL By-

Laws) and approval from the Match Committee before being submitted to the League for consideration. The reasons for this request may be due to:

- 4.1.4.1 The player may be physically disadvantaged by playing in their current age group, OR
- 4.1.4.2 The player's ability is well below that of their current age group, OR
- 4.1.4.3 The player's mental health affects the ability of the player to play in their current age group.

4.1.5 The **Player Special Request Form** is available on request by emailing the Club Registrar via registrations@mbjfc.net

4.2 Age Placement - Playing out of age group temporarily:

- 4.2.1 Players may be asked, and may apply, to temporarily play for a team above the player's current age group on a match-by-match basis, where:
 - 4.2.1.1 The older age group team requires more players to meet the optimum player numbers for a team for a single match, AND
 - 4.2.1.2 The assignment makes the current age group team from where the player is still within optimum numbers; AND
 - 4.2.1.3 The age group is no more than two age levels above the players current age group, AND
 - 4.2.1.4 Parental Consent to play in the older age group is provided to the Club, AND
 - 4.2.1.5 The player is judged by the coaches of both teams to be capable of playing in the older age group. Consideration of the introduction of tackling at Under 11 will especially be considered.
- 4.2.2 Where the player plays temporarily in more than one match per weekend, this should be also agreed by both Coaches, Team Managers and the Match Committee, to ensure that the player is not subject to excessive physical duress.
- 4.2.3 Players may not play in an age group temporarily more than two age levels above their eligible age, under any circumstance.
- 4.2.4 Players may only play one game in any one age group per week, with a maximum total of two games per round.

4.3 The number of players per team:

- 4.3.1 To maximise the number of players participating, and the amount of time that each player plays, the Club will make every effort to field the number of teams to reach the optimum number of players for each team. The optimum number of players per team is as below.

4.3.2 The following guidelines will be used to determine the number of teams per age group for U8 - U14 Mixed and U15 - U17.5 Boys:

4.3.2.1 Up to 24 players – one team – this is the optimum number

4.3.2.2 25 – 30 players – one team – in this case, the club will move players across age groups, either permanently or temporarily, according to these policies, and in order to meet optimum numbers.

4.3.2.3 31 - 40 players – two teams – in this case, the club will move players across age groups, either permanently or temporarily, according to these policies, and in order to meet optimum numbers.

4.3.2.4 41 - 48 players – two teams – this is the optimum number of players for two teams.

4.3.2.5 Over 48 players – two teams - in this case, the club will move players across age groups, either permanently or temporarily, according to these policies, and in order to meet optimum numbers.

4.3.2.6 Where there is a possibility of 3 teams, the same guidelines referred to above will be applied.

4.3.3 The following guidelines will be used to determine the number of teams per age group for U10 - U12 Girls:

4.3.3.1 Up to 16 players – one team – this is the optimum number

4.3.3.2 17 – 23 players – one team – in this case, the club will move players across age groups, either permanently or temporarily, according to these policies, and in order to meet optimum numbers.

4.3.3.3 24 - 32 players – two teams – in this case, the club will move players across age groups, either permanently or temporarily, according to these policies, and in order to meet optimum numbers.

4.3.3.4 Where there is a possibility of 3 teams, the same guidelines referred to above will be applied.

4.3.4 The following guidelines will be used to determine the number of teams per age group for U14 - U18 Girls:

4.3.4.1 Up to 20 players – one team – this is the optimum number

4.3.4.2 21 – 24 players – one team – in this case, the club will move players across age groups, either permanently or temporarily, according to these policies, and in order to meet optimum numbers.

4.3.4.3 25 - 40 players – two teams – in this case, the club will move players across age groups, either permanently or temporarily, according to these policies, and in order to meet optimum numbers.

4.3.4.4 Where there is a possibility of 3 teams, the same guidelines referred to above will be applied.

4.4 Streaming:

- 4.4.1 Teams in Under 8 – Under 12 Mixed and U10 - U12 Girls age groups are not subject to streaming principles.
- 4.4.2 The Club does recognise that the SMJFL divides its competition into divisions, which are ranked according to some skill level.
- 4.4.3 The Club will consider the divisions that each age group team is participating when determining the team groupings per age group.

4.5 Team groupings:

- 4.5.1 The Match Committee will determine and advise the teams, players and parents, as close to the first training session, the number of teams in each age group. This will be done according to:
 - 4.5.1.1 The number required to meet the optimum numbers in each team, and according to these policies.
 - 4.5.1.2 The SMJFL division in which the selected teams will be playing. A bias of strength will be given to teams in a higher division (where known), but this shall not be performed on a streaming basis. Streaming will be done for teams in Under 13 and above.
 - 4.5.1.3 The grouping will be performed to provide teams with a variety of players with diverse degrees of skill, ability and confidence.
 - 4.5.1.5 Consideration will be given to peer connection, i.e. existing friendships, siblings, school groupings for the U8 - U12 Mixed and U10 - U12 Girls players, but not contrary to the policies above.
 - 4.5.1.6 Team groupings will not be re-created each year, but rather variations on previous years will be applied, in order to meet these policies.
 - 4.5.1.7 Players will be selected in teams where the Match Committee determines that they have the best opportunity to develop, according to their skill level, confidence and physical ability.
- 4.5.2 Given that final age group numbers may not be known until close to the start of the season, team groupings may be subject to change up until the fourth round game. Any changes up until this time will be in accordance with these policies and principles.
- 4.5.3 Written submissions regarding player placement can be made to the Match Committee but their decision on team groupings will be final.