



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
New or Transferring Players.....	6
SANFL Players.....	6
Age Group Registration Criteria	8

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 - U11 Boys & U8 & U10 Girls

- 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 Boys & Girls

- 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 Boys & U14 Girls

- 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.



Tea Tree Gully District Football Club Inc

Junior Selection and Development Policy

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

U14 to U17.5 (Boys) & U16 – U18 (Girls)

- It is our aim that players receive a minimum of $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 (incl U18 Girls) - 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 & U12 Girls** – 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 a 'soft' 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 (incl U18 girls)** – 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 (incl U18 Girls) 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.

NOTE – Where there are more than 2 teams in U12-U18's, the grading will take place across all of the teams – where 'White' will be considered the 3rd selected team.

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:

SANFL Mini's & U8's

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. SANFL Mini's).

NOTE – Maximum squad numbers are 14 per team as per SANFL Junior Policy.

U9's-U10's & U10 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 (SANFL Mini's-U10's) – SANFL Junior's policy states that we can only register a **maximum of 14 players to any one team.**

U11's

SANFL Juniors allows for a maximum of 22 players registered in each team (allows for 16 players on the field and 6 on the bench). Anti-density rules will be enforced and a 5/6/5 starting position will be adopted. 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 12 players are required on game day.

Individual teams will be formed where there are at least 16 players per team registered by 31 January or at the discretion of the Committee/Football Operations.

NOTE – Maximum squad numbers are 24 per team as per SANFL Junior Policy.



Tea Tree Gully District Football Club Inc

Junior Selection and Development Policy

U12's – 17.5's Boys

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 – As per SANFL Junior Policy- the maximum squad numbers in U12's are 14 per team, U13's & U14's are 28 per team & U15.5's & U17.5's are 32 per team (unless multiple teams in the U15.5/U17.5 age groups – when the squad size is restricted to 28).

U12's – U18's Girls

SANFL Juniors allows for a maximum of 20 players on game day for these teams (allows for 16 players on the field and 4 on the bench). TTGDFC will register a maximum squad of 20 players per team thus ensuring that all registered players are available for game day selection each week. A minimum of 12 players are required on game day.

Individual teams will be formed where there are at least 16 players per team registered by 31 January or at the discretion of the Committee/Football Operations.

NOTE – As per SANFL Junior Policy- the maximum squad numbers in U12's & U14's are 26 per team, (reduced to 24 for multiple teams), U16's & U18's are 30 per team (reduced to 26 for multiple teams).

Exceeding Team Numbers Cap – U11's to U18's

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 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.

Existing Player - Registration Cut Off Date

Existing players will be given priority to retain their playing position with the TTGDFC for the following season if they ensure they are registered by the 31st December of that current year. After this time –



Tea Tree Gully District Football Club Inc

Junior Selection and Development Policy

any new player/s or transfer/s from other clubs will be assessed and then offered a position at TTGDFC. To ensure your child's continued playing position at TTGDFC, you need to ensure that they are registered by 31st December or confirmation is provided to the Registrar with an approved payment plan implemented.

New or Transferring Players

As per the previous section – existing players will be given priority when the initial registration period opens for the following season (usually on 1st November of the current year). New and transferring players will be placed onto a 'waiting list' in the first instance and then offered opportunities within their eligible age groups as they present.

On the 1st January of the actual season, the Registrar will assess the 'waiting list' and in conjunction with the Football Operations Department commence offering positions to these players. If the new or transferring player is joining a Premiership Grade age group – their selection will also be subject to TTGDFC's grading policies – contained within this document and the number of positions offered will be dependent on the grading results.

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.

SANFL Players

When players reach the age of SANFL U16 & U18 selection eligibility – SANFL rules dictate that a player cannot play for their 'home' club within 72 hours of that SANFL game taking place. As such if a Tea Tree Gully player is selected to play for an SANFL club in their U16 or U18 age group – then that player is not available for selection for Tea Tree Gully if both games are scheduled within 72 hours of each other. SANFL Clubs will also maintain a large squad of players in both age groups and if that player maintains a position within these squads – there is an expectation for them to train (in the first instance) with their SANFL Club. Due to training loads on the players – these training sessions are to be considered as that player's training requirements and additional training at Tea Tree Gully is not required and/or expected. Whilst we will always encourage our players who are attached to U16 & U18 SANFL Squads to attend as many club trainings and games as they can – their participation is not required or to be expected.



Tea Tree Gully District Football Club Inc

Junior Selection and Development Policy

When a player within a SANFL U16 & U18 squad is not selected to play at SANFL level on a particular Round (including SANFL Bye Rounds) – or they are merely selected as an emergency and do not play – then they will be provided a playing position at Tea Tree Gully within the team and age group they are eligible. For example – if an U18 SANFL Player is not selected to play one week – then in consultation with the Tea Tree Gully coach – this player will be selected in the highest Division team within their eligible age group (generally Red's). This is due to the SANFL Juniors Restricted Player List (RPL) that determines that all SANFL players MUST be included on a team's RPL.

Unfortunately there will be circumstances during the season where the return of a (or multiple) SANFL player/s to Tea Tree Gully will cause a 'selection squeeze' and other player/s may not be selected for that Round. If this does occur – the coaches will work in collaboration with any other team within that same age group, the age group above (if that player/s are attached to the U15.5's) and Seniors to maximise the opportunity to have that player/s selected for a game that Round. Every endeavour will be made to provide that player/s with a game that week. In any event – the coaches will maintain a record of these player rotations to ensure that the same player/s are not being rotated off each time. The exception to this rule will be finals – where the finals selection policy will supersede this section and the coach has discretion to select their best available team.



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.