

**Date Introduced**

July 2008

Date Reviewed

March 2025

Next Review Date

March 2027

Purpose

The Flagstaff Hill Football Club (the club) maintains a high number of player registrations across all junior sides. This policy outlines the principles for ensuring that all players have fair and reasonable game time across all grades by defining what is expected of players, coaches and the club.

Relationship to Club principles and values

While the club strives to be competitive and reach optimal success in each of our grades, the club is committed to equality and balance in keeping with the Club principles and PRIDE (Prioritising Others, Realising your potential, Initiative, Determination, Enthusiasm) Values;

Club spirit: respect the rights, dignity and worth of every player regardless of their ability, gender, cultural background or religion;

Junior development: respecting the talent, potential, development stage and goals of each player so that they reach their full potential;

Constant improvement: building the character of players, as well as their skills and promoting good sportsmanship.

Scope

This policy applies to all junior players, coaches and officials at the Club.

Strategies

The fair rotation of players throughout the season is important in providing the opportunity to develop skills and experience in different positions. All players, regardless of their ability should be rotated as fairly as possible throughout the season. They should also be given the opportunity to experience a variety of positions in accordance with their established goals with their coaches.

Many factors may be reasonably considered when selecting a side and determining how much time a particular player spends on the field. These include:

- Team numbers;
- Strength of the opposition side;
- Player commitment and behaviour;
- Skills balance within the side;
- Player injury;
- Tactics employed by the opposition; and
- Ladder position approaching the finals.

Responsibilities

Individuals bound by this policy are responsible for making themselves aware of the policy and complying with the requirements.

Players

For players to be considered for selection and fair game time, they are expected to:

- Attend all training sessions and arrive on time;
- Contact the coach/team manager in advance to let them know if they are unable to attend a training session or will be late;
- Arrive at matches on time;
- Show commitment, good behaviour and respect for all team mates, opposition players, coaches, umpires and officials at all times at training sessions and matches.

Coaches

Overall, the main role of the coach is to develop the football skills of all his/her players. The coach:

- Must clearly communicate the Club's policy on player rotations at the start of the season to parent/caregivers and players;
- Has complete discretion in determining whom and when players are on the field; but
- Will make every effort to rotate all players fairly.

Where a coach cannot demonstrate balance and transparency, he/she will meet with the Coach Coordinator and Junior Football Director to discuss the situation, unless there is a conflict of interest and another executive member will step in.

During the season (and particularly as finals approach) the coach must communicate constantly with players who "miss out" giving reasons and doing all he/she can to give them a positive focus. As the team approaches finals, the coach has the right to settle his/her strongest side and during finals will be expected to play his/her best available side.

The coach must keep a written record of rostering throughout the season.

Club

In accepting a player registration, the Club;

- Assumes responsibility for the development of that player as a footballer;
- Ensures that coaches are suitably accredited and that they abide by the Club's Code of Conduct;
- Ensures that a player plays a fair share of game time; and
- Emphasises the need for coaches to accept accountability for the application of this policy.

This includes players who are part of development squads with their zoned SANFL club or who are required to make private school football as their first priority. These players are also committed, paying members of the Club and need to be considered as integral to the team.

The Club will publish, distribute and promote this policy and monitor and review activities governed by it.

Breaches of this policy will be addressed by the President, Vice President and Junior Football Director of the Club and may result in disciplinary action. If there is a conflict of interest another executive member will step in.

Considerations

Player rotation and game time will depend on the circumstances of the game. There may be good reason why the policy is not adhered to on a particular day. For example, it is unreasonable to put a small player into a position against a much larger opponent. Similarly, fair game time may be relaxed if the player will play a second game for that day. However, all opportunities should be used to implement the guidelines. For example, when a team is expected to dominate the opposition, it is a good opportunity to develop players who may otherwise not be selected.

Best endeavours by coaching staff to ensure that every player plays a minimum of 50% playing time.

Procedures

Dealing with complaints / breaches of Junior Player Rotation Policy

All complaints or breaches of the junior player rotation policy will be reported to the President or Vice President of the Club, either of these positions will appoint another executive member if there is a conflict of interest.

The President and Vice President will promptly discuss the issue and develop a strategy for addressing the issue which may include:

- Meeting with the individual/parties concerned;
- Disciplinary action;
- Provision of relevant support to individuals involved; or
- Review and implementation of processes and procedures to ensure a similar situation does not re-occur.

All reports will be dealt with in an impartial, sensitive, consistent, fair, timely and confidential manner.

All reports and outcomes will be recorded and stored securely.