

# Miniroos Player Grading and Selection Policy



# 2019

This Policy document relates to team composition and match playing time and have been developed from the Club's foundation that Miniroos football must be based on our club's values: ENJOYMENT, CONDUCT, PARTICIPATION and DEVELOPMENT.

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## Player Grading and Selection Policy

This policy document relates to team composition as well as match playing time and has been developed from the club's philosophy of 'being inclusive of players of all skill levels and the drive to help all players to develop to the best that they can be'.

### Policy Overview

The aim of this Policy is to assist players and their parents to understand the clubs process of placing players into a team that best suits their level of ability.

It is a requirement of the Point Cook Soccer Club that all players wishing to participate in teams from U8's and up be graded into teams according to their ability. It is the club's policy to grade players every year to ensure that all players have the opportunity to progress.

The club encourages players and parents not to focus on which team a player is selected in, but rather, on the players own development during the season. It is important that parents are supportive of their children during the grading process.

As a club we follow the FFA's National Curriculum and as such our grading and selection policies is based on the building blocks which underpin the curriculum framework, namely to ensure all players are playing at the level appropriate for their age and skill level.

There will not be a single grading session and coaches will grade players based on what they know of players from the previous season(s) and performances and behaviours during the grading sessions. Our training setup, in these grading sessions, will allow coaches to move players between training groups in order to assess their development when matched against players of different skill levels.

### Positives and Negatives of Player Grading

There are some advantages in not grading players, such as maintaining friendships and family social groups; however this soon becomes an issue in several ways.

- **Peer pressure** – Other players will soon let their feelings be known when it comes down to ability and from our experience this often does more damage than any ill feelings resulting from the grading itself.
- **Exodus of talented players** – Players of above average skills and their parents will become frustrated and eventually leave for another club that does grade their players in the hope their child is put into a better team. The player's development may also stagnate because they are not being challenged to improve.
- **Reduced enjoyment** – Players who play in a grade significantly above their skill level will often feel left out as the more skilful players take control of games. Often this can result in the less skilful player leaving soccer in search of another sport.

To not grade the children based on ability would take away the opportunity for some to progress to representative soccer at a later stage. Soccer is a competitive sport. If you would like your child to play at a

less competitive level then ask the grading staff if they can be placed in a lower grade when grading is conducted at the start of the season.

An integral part of grading is the information available about the player from his or her coach in the previous year. The coaches will seek input from previous coaches regarding player attributes and playing ability. Grading will be concluded early in the pre-season so as to give teams and coaches the maximum amount of time to work together before the season starts.

Teams will be selected based on skill, technique and attitude at training as outlined in the **Point Cook Soccer Club Grading Criteria** (see Appendix 1).

## Team Selection and Player Grading Guidelines

- FFV competitions from U8 to U11 (Miniroos) are graded as Kangaroos, Wallabies & Joeys level.
- In the Under 7 age group it is the preference of the club that a mix of players of varying levels of skill and ability are placed together into the same team to learn from each other and develop an appreciation of the game.
- Under 7 teams should be entered into competitions at the Joey's level, teams will be able to request to be regraded to a higher league during the season if deemed appropriate and with the approval of the Technical Director of Coaching.
- Grading involves selecting a balanced team with the best ability from the pool of players in any age group.
- All players will be assessed and compared against all other players involved in the trials process, therefore the assessments are conducted on a relative basis against other players, not on a requirement to meet a target score or level.
- The team coaches will conduct grading with input or review from the Miniros Coordinator and the Technical Director of Coaching, if requested.
- Where it applies, team grading will take place pre-season with between 4 and 6 training (grading) sessions occurring before final team selections are made.
- The process will involve consultation between age group coaches, the Miniros Coordinator and the Technical Director of Coaching. Parents may also be consulted if deemed appropriate.
- All players, returning and new are encouraged to attend all relevant grading sessions to best determine their appropriate team allocation.
- If at the start of the season if there is an excess of players in a particular age group or there is no appointed coach, players and parents will be advised ASAP to provide an opportunity to register at another club.
- Parent Coaches always have the right to request that they are able to coach the team that their son or daughter has been allocated to.
- Where there are players of similar ability and limited age group vacancies, preference will be given to returning players of Point Cook Soccer Club.
- Once grading is complete and teams selected, a player cannot change teams without approval from the respective coaches, the Miniros Coordinator and the Technical Director of Coaching. Players may be asked to move up or down grades within an age group due to a player's level of ability or to cover for absent or injured players in other grades; any such movements will be at the advice of the players' coach in consultation with their parents and the Miniros Coordinator and the Technical Director of Coaching.

- Once assigned to a team, players will train with their respective team and coach.

Ideally, all teams in an age group will train at the same time to allow interaction between teams as the coaches deem fit. However, this is not always possible as training times are dependent on the schedules of each individual coach.

Coaches shall meet regularly and are encouraged to discuss their teams and players capabilities.

The coaches in any age group should act for the benefit of all players in that age group and not just for the members of their team. All players should play in their own age group unless there is a valid reason for playing in an older or younger age group which must be approved by the Technical Director of Coaching (see section on “Playing above your age group”).

During the regular season, players in an existing team may be invited to play in a team in an age group that is higher than their normal age group as a cover player. That player should not displace or deny adequate fair and reasonable playing time to the normal roster players as a result of that player being brought in. This does not include where a player may be regraded permanently to the higher age group. (See section on “Playing above your age group”).

Players may also be required to move up or down within their age group e.g. Kangaroos down to Wallabies or Joeys up to Wallabies. This move is in line with FFVs policy regarding player development and will done in discussion with coaches, the Technical Director of Coaching and parents.

Players who have not paid fees, owe fees from prior seasons, or not registered with the FFV will not be eligible for team selection.

## Team Sizes

	Age Group	Field Number	Maximum Team Number
<b>Miniroos</b>	U7	4	7
	U8	7	10
	U9	7	10
	U10	9	12
	U11	9	12

It is suggested for Kangaroo level teams that one vacant spot be left on the team roster for the promotion of improved players from lower grades or age groups.

## Grading Appeals Process

Parents and players are able to appeal a grading decision they feel is unfair or inappropriate by:

- Making a submission in writing to the Technical Director of Coaching requesting a review of the players grading, outlining why they think the grading is not correct.
- If the Technical Director of Coaching refuses to conduct another grading or reconfirms the original grading then the player or parent may then make a written submission to the Club President, outlining why they think the grading is not correct.
- The President will consider this submission in consultation with the Committee Executive, the Executive will then make a decision on whether or not to change the players grading.
- The Executive decision is final.

## **Girl Only Teams**

The same selection principles as set out above will also apply to the selection of Girl only teams. If girls do not get selected in a girl's only team they can still be selected in a mixed team. Where possible PCSC will allocate girls 8 years or older into girl only teams. If a girl wishes to play in a mixed team with boys they are able to do so, the parents need to make this request to the appropriate age group coaches during the trial process.

## **Playing in a different age group**

Point Cook Soccer Club supports the FFVs policy regarding player development which states that it is important that children are constantly challenged or they will get bored. Players can be considered for playing above their age group if deemed by the coaches and the Technical Director of Coaching to be highly skilled / talented. To be considered, players need to demonstrate that they can cope with the demands of the higher age group both physically and mentally. Decisions are made based on what is best for the player's development.

By adopting this policy, Point Cook Soccer Club is supporting policies for players from the FFA/FFV to better help develop football/soccer talents.

Players in Miniroos age groups also have the ability to play down an age group if this is thought to be in the best interests of the child's development. For example, a 9 year old (Under 10's) is able to play in an Under 9's team if his physical or skill development warrants such a move, this would be a joint decision made by the team coaches, the Technical Director and the players parents.

## **Late Registrations**

Once teams have been finalised with their maximum number of players we will not add any late arriving players to a team and exceed the maximum team size. Should a vacancy occur in a team, the Coach and the Coaching Coordinator will assess the situation to determine whether it is necessary to replace that player and then a decision on the grading process will be adopted to access the late player.

If a team wishes to exceed their maximum team size the coach will need to clearly outline the reasons for this request, the approval of the request will be at the sole discretion of Technical Director of Coaching.

## Team Selection during Season

- **GENERAL**

Preference will be given to children who regularly attend training and are reliable on game days.

Team selection will be at the discretion of the coaching group and we seek your support to ensure that this policy is maintained.

Player rotation during the game is the coaches' prerogative. The intent is to rotate players through different playing positions throughout the season to allow the player a fair and reasonable opportunity to develop ALL 4 core technical skills (First Touch, 1 v 1, Running with the Ball, and Striking the Ball). All players will receive fair and reasonable playing time across the season meaning they could play for longer in some games than others. Player rotations will take place in a manner that ensures players are not on the side-line for significant periods of time.

- **UNDER 7 AND BELOW**

The club is mindful of players wanting to play with friends and this is accommodated where possible.

Once the children reach under 8 the children are placed in teams based on their skill level, not where their friends are.

- **TOURNAMENTS**

Entry into any tournament is at the discretion of the individual team coaches (with the exception of the Point Cook Tournament).

Entry Fees for tournaments must be paid for by the individual team members.

Team Selections for tournaments, the following guidelines must be adhered to:

- All current players in the team must be given the first option to accept or decline participation in any tournament.
- If a current team player is unavailable or unwilling to participate in any tournament, thus leaving the team short of players, then the coach may invite current Point Cook players from other grades or age groups to join the team for the tournament, these invitations must first be addressed to the other team coach for approval & must not significantly jeopardise the other teams performance if they are participating in the same tournament.
- Players from other clubs are not permitted to play in tournaments with a Point Cook team. Exceptions may be given for valid reasons, but only with the approval of the Technical Director of Coaching.

## Grievances & Escalation during season

If a parent or player feels that a decision is taken which they feel unfairly disadvantaged their child or themselves, they should in the first instance contact their respective coach.

Should it not be resolved within 7 days of notification to the coach, the item should then be escalated to Coaching Coordinator to review.

If the Coaching Coordinator is not able to resolve item to a satisfactory conclusion within 10 days, the item is then the escalated to the club's executive who will review all the facts and make the final decision.

**The club's executive in consultation with the committee, respective coaches, players and parents will always have the final approval on any team selection &/or player grading.**

