

POLICY STATEMENT

The Hope Valley Junior Football Club is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for players, parents, spectators, members, sponsors and volunteers. Policies have been created to communicate clear expectations to members and guests.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for the elimination or control of all risks associated with the Hope Valley Junior Football Club's activities.

Policies are intended as guidelines and are subject to change at the sole discretion of Hope Valley Junior Football Club. Policies have been created in accordance with the SANFL, Play by the Rules, AFL and Good Sports.

PURPOSE

Our commitment

We believe that junior sport should be safe, enjoyable, inclusive and maximise individual participation. Our club acknowledges that positive experiences in junior competition will contribute to children developing a lifelong love of sport.

What we will do

- Emphasise to coaches and parents that junior sport is about participation and enjoyment for all. Given football is a competitive sport there will always be the need to provide a balance between participation, individual and team performance for all under age groups from all involved.

What we ask you to do

Coaches

- Focus on promoting participation and performance rather than a sole focus on winning.
- Ensure all team members have the chance to play, rotate through positions and receive fair playing time which is reflective of the age group in which they are participating.
- If you coach your own children, treat them like all other team members (e.g. rotations, playing time or participation).

Parents

- Help the coach where possible at training and games.
- Focus on your child's effort and performance, not the score.
- Encourage your child and other team members.
- Respect the selection decisions of the coach.

GENERAL

Squad Selection – Home and Away Season

The Club Committee aim to support coaches, team managers, players and parents / guardians in squad selection per age group.

This document has been produced to support a coaches selection process on a weekly basis and to assist coaches to understand the theme of how players should be selected and to ensure players are selected in line with the culture of the HVFC junior program

Team Managers and Coaches, if required, will create a roster system which can roster players off throughout the season. It is expected that all players are given equal games rostered off throughout the season. It is accepted that if teams playing for premierships points in the later part of the home and away season and are vying for finals spots, team selections will be stronger towards the end of the season. Coaches should consider this when rotating players throughout the season.

All records of player game participation will be kept by the Team Manager, the Club and by the SANFL Juniors league match day recording system – Play HQ.

Eligibility and Squad Selection – Finals

Finals are not played at age levels SANFL Mini's, U7 to U11.

SANFL Juniors finals are played as follows:

- U12 - U16 Girls – 12 Rounds. Semi Finals, Preliminary Finals and Grand Final.
- U8 - U11 Mixed – 15 Rounds. U11 Carnival only (no Finals Rounds).
- U12 – U14 Boys/Girls - 15 Rounds. Semi Finals, Preliminary Finals and Grand Final.
- U15 – U16.5 Boys - 15 Rounds. Elim/Qual Round, Semi Finals, Preliminary Finals and Grand Final.

Refer to the SANFL Juniors Competition Rules and Regulations generally for finals competition management:

- 8.6 Eligibility for Finals;
- 8.7 Grand Final Squad Sizes.

HVJFC strictly adhere to the SANFL player eligibility and Grand Final Squad Size requirements.

For all final's games, players (boys and girls) may be chosen on merit. Merit may be interpreted as skill level, attitude, attendance etc.

HVJFC supports coaches and their selection of players through the provision of this selection policy. The club acknowledges that finals player selection will look to maximise team output through choosing the 'best team' available.

In finals games where team numbers can be maximised (according to SANFL rules), on all occasions, teams should pick the maximum number of players possible in order to expose the maximum number of players playing finals football.

The selection of players for all games within a finals series should be taken from players who are registered within that grade or have played the majority of games with that grade. It

should be accepted that they 'belong' to that grade and priority of players from outside of that grade should not be considered unless the squad size is not adequate.

If coaches wish to select players from other grades for finals (in contrast to previous paragraph), approval must be given by the Coaches Co-ordinator, Junior President and Vice President prior to the selection being made.

Where a team has less than the Match Day requirement for eligible players, the Coach may request that the club seek permits from SANFL Juniors Competition Management for players in other divisions or age groups. In all cases finals selection must adhere to the relevant SANFL Juniors Policy at that time.

The 'team selection policy-finals' is a document which is intended to guide and support coaches when making finals selection decisions. The selection of teams remains the responsibility of the coach and their selection committee (at their discretion) however all player selections should be made with respect to the club's 'team selection policy-finals'.

Players and player's parents are encouraged to respect the selection decision of their coach. Where required the club encourages respectful discussion around selection decisions directly with the coach. If a selection decision creates conflict between parties, the coach and parties (be they player or parent) are encouraged to work with the coaches coordinator and Junior President to work in a mediation role and potentially provide a suitable outcome.

Eligibility and Squad Selection – Carnivals

In line with the SANFL Rules and Regulations Section 8.34 *Carnivals*, Junior / Youth / Girls Carnivals will be run at the discretion of SANFL Juniors Competition Management.

Carnivals can include:

- Participation Carnivals – Under 8 to Under 10;
- Premiership Carnival – Under 11; and
- Pre-Season Grading Carnival – Under 12 to Under 16.5.

Squad selection for carnivals shall be as for the process for *Eligibility and Squad Selection – Finals (as above in the preceding section)*.

Squad Sizes

HVJFC aims to follow the SANFL Juniors Match Day Squad Size numbers which include:

Mixed Competitions:

- U8 – Squad size 28 (2 teams of 14). Game day 12. On-field 9.
- U9 and U10 – Squad size 28 (2 teams of 14). Game day 16. On-field 12.
- U11-U14 – Squad size 28. Game day 22. On-field 18.
- U11 Carnivals –Game day squad size 22. On-field 14 (5 - 4 – 5 not zoned).

Girls Competitions:

- U8 – Squad size 28 (2 teams of 14). Game day 12. On-field 9.
- U10 – Squad size 28 (2 teams of 14). Game day 12. On-field 9.
- U12 – Squad size 28 (2 teams of 14). Game day 16. On-field 12.

- U14 – Squad size 28. Game day 22. On-field 18.
- U16 – Squad size 32. Game day 22. On-field 18.

Boys Competitions:

- U15 and U16.5 – Squad size 32. Game day 22. On field 18.

Multiple Teams in the Same Age Group

Where high player numbers exist within an age group the Club Committee will endeavour to form two sides.

Where there are two or more junior teams in the same age group these teams will be selected mutually by the coaches to form 'equally' skilled teams.

Where required, players may be swapped between teams throughout the season at the discretion of the Coaches and the Junior Coach Coordinator. Team selection will be communicated to all parents/guardians and players both pre-season and throughout the season.

The Coaching Coordinator will assist the Coaches in selecting the sides if required.

SANFL Juniors Player Movement Rules and Regulations

Reference shall be made to the SANFL Juniors Competition Rules and Regulations for:

- *Player Movement Between Teams;*
- *Playing for SANFL League Clubs or State Representative Programs;*
- *Permits for Playing Up/Down;*
- *Type 2 Permits, and*
- *Playing Unregistered or Ineligible Players*

On-field Rotation of Players

The on-field rotation of players is a policy developed to enhance the participation and skill development of all players.

This Policy is to ensure all players feel an essential part of the team, regardless of their age, size, sex, ability or the competition they are playing in. It is encouraged that players where practical have an equal amount of time on the field during the season.

The on field playing time for finals games will be at the discretion of the coach so may not be equitable, but based more on player match ups, match days strategy and maximising team performance. It is however encouraged by the club committee that players receive time on field and feel part of the team's overall performance in finals.

Age Group Specific – SANFL Mini’s, U7 to U12

On-field Rotation

The fundamental objective for boys and girls at this age is participation, enjoyment, and basic football skills development playing within a team.

The rotation of all players through a variety of positions in a game and season is designed to allow players to experience the skills and roles required in different positions, and to ensure all players are provided with equal opportunity.

Every player in a team should play at least half a game, and no player should spend more than half a game in any one position. Further, every player should experience playing on each of the five lines of field position over a three-match period.

Players should be rotated through a variety of positions on the field in each line.

Rostering off U7 to U12 players

Rostering off will be required per team where total player numbers exceed the SANFL Juniors Match Day Squad Sizes as mentioned earlier.

Rostering off options for U7 to U12 players

Where players are rostered-off they may be offered the opportunity to play up or down an age level subject to Club Official, Junior Registrar and SANFL Junior player permit requirements, if Club Junior teams require players to fill teams in other age groups. Club Officials may include the Club Committee, Coach Coordinator, Coaches and Team Managers.

Age Group Specific – U13 to U16.5 (Boys and Girls)

On-field Rotation

In this age group emphasis is placed upon individual and team performances.

Once children reach these age groups the emphasis shifts from players rotating through all positions on the ground to them gaining a level of competency in different positions. Every player in a team should play at least half a game

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.

Rostering off U13 to U16.5 players

Rostering off will be required per team where total player numbers exceed the SANFL Juniors match day restrictions for U13 to U16.5 as 18 on the ground with a maximum of 4 interchange players (gameday squad of 22).

Rostered off options for U13 to U16.5 players

Where players are rostered-off they may be offered the opportunity to play up or down an age level subject to Club Official, Junior Registrar and SANFL Junior player permit requirements, if Club Junior teams require players to fill teams in other age groups. Club Officials may include the Club Committee, Coach Coordinator, Coaches and Team Managers.

POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains relevant to club operations and reflects both community expectations and legal requirements.

Approved: Club President, Lauren Dykstra

Signature: *LDykstra*

Adopted: 01/04/2023

To be next reviewed: 01/04/2025