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## Team Composition Policy

### POLICY PHILOSOPHY

Camberwell Junior Football Club (CJFC) aims to provide all players with a fun and safe environment in which they can achieve maximum football development at training and during games.

Our club typically fields a number of teams in all age groups from U8 to U17 (boys) and U10 to U18 (girls) in the Yarra Junior Football League (YJFL). Each age group has different needs in terms of football development. Accordingly, the approach to training, game day and team composition policies will differ for each age group.

Our philosophy of ensuring that each player achieves maximum football development in a fun and safe environment remains paramount.

Team composition is a complex activity that tries to balance team numbers across the age group, whilst trying to support players in skill development and facilitate a cohesive team and most importantly, ensure our children have fun.

The age groups from U13 - U18 compete in divisions that are formally graded by the YJFL. It is important to note that the YJFL fields a graded competition from U10-U17 for Boys and U11 – Youth for Girls. The club's overriding objective for these age groups is to ensure that each team is competitive in the division they participate, thus providing each player the maximal opportunity for development of football skills and enjoyment of the game. The club will strive to field a team in the highest division of each age group for Boys and Girls from U16 to Youth. It is also important to note, that a current requirement of the YJFL competition is that clubs who have 3 or more teams in an age group MUST enter a team in the Gold division.

Representations should not be made by coaches / officials to parents regarding which team their child will play in.

### CJFC TEAM COMPOSITION POLICY

#### PLAYERS PLAYING UP - OUT OF THEIR AGE GROUP

As of season 2019 there will be no accommodation of requests to “to play up” unless the player involved is of an ability to play in the highest grade of the age group he / she is requesting to play in. This is not applicable in Girls Football where there may not be a team in the players age group, and hence they are forced to play up an age-group.

All existing players will be given the option to play in their correct age group in season 2019 to support their football development, along with the needs of team balance.

### U8 - U9 AGE GROUPS FOR BOYS and U10 - U11 FOR GIRLS

Team composition will be based primarily on friendship groups but limited to maximum of two friends within the friendship group nominated by the player at registration. The club encourages players to make new friends and to this end will endeavour to ensure an appropriate mixing of friendship groups. Friendship groups will generally be mixed so that a team is not comprised solely of one school group and that players understand that they are playing for the 'Sharks' rather than their individual school and feel part of our community club.

Teams largely comprising children from one school can have difficulties in fielding teams when conflicts arise due to school commitments (e.g., camps and social functions).

These teams will not be graded. Players will not be chosen on ability. The focus will be on playing football with existing and new friends and building social inclusion and a "Sharks Community" culture.

### U10 – U12 AGE GROUPS FOR BOYS and U12 – U14 FOR GIRLS

The move to Under 10 football for Boys and U12 Football for Girls is where players commence playing on full sized ovals without zones. This is a significant change from Under 8 and Under 9 football as full tackling is also introduced at this time. To ensure the club acts in a consistent way with its philosophy that each player develops maximum football skills and enjoyment of the game, parents will be provided an opportunity (as part of the registration process) to request, on behalf of their son/daughter, the team they believe would be the best fit, given their current skill level and coaching needs. These requests include:

1. Request your child be considered for the age group's highest graded team
  - This team will have a high-level football focus, including game strategy and a high level of player development. It would be expected that a player nominating for this side understands the priority of training and participation to be a part of this team
  
2. Request your child play in one of the other teams in this age group level (grades to be determined post team composition).
  - These teams will where possible, player numbers allowing, have an equal balance of ability for the remainder of the age group.
  - These teams will focus on player development with kids of similar abilities and have more of a focus on the enjoyment of football and playing with friends.
  - If more than 1 team is required for this category, then each team will be chosen to ensure they have a similar standard of ability that is consistent with the YJFL division they will be entered.

Consideration for the teams will be as follows:

- Each player's football ability and physical maturity, to play in the team nominated. It is important for the development and confidence of the team that each player can be a contributing participant to their team, developing their skills with players of similar ability, be an active participant in competitive games and have fun.
- All team's composition will consider players that are suitable for certain positions (e.g., one team cannot have all the ruckmen)
- Players will be placed in a team and division that considers their safety.
- Players' attitudes, willingness to be a part of a team and attendance at training and games, will be taken into consideration
- Players' friend requests. It should be noted that the inability to place friendship groups in the same team will sometimes be due to self-nominating for a different team to your own child.

Note – Player and team grading at CJFC occurs from U13 upwards due to structure of the YJFL competition. The YJFL U10 – U12 competition grades are still structured by them into divisions and as such we want to ensure that players are not inadvertently placed into a division that is inconsistent with their ability and detrimental to their football development. Past experience suggests that this can be detrimental to player development, growth and ultimately diminishes their love for the game and leaving football for other sports.

The nomination and composition process allow players and parents to identify where they believe their child will maximise their individual development, whilst also helping create new friendship groups within the Club.

Teams will be selected in consultation with the previous season's coaches and Football Director to allow maximum skill development for all players, to ensure each team has adequate numbers to field sides each week, and to ensure children are playing football with friends.

### U13 – U18 AGE GROUPS

Players at U13 level have moved into secondary schooling and acts as a transition year. Boys and girls often develop at different stages and it is important that the club assesses individual development each year from U13 and upwards. The Club also recognises the importance of team balance and will endeavour to ensure that each team is competitive in the division that they are placed.

- U13 and above registered players will have the opportunity to train together during pre-season and play practice matches.
- The Football Director, with input from the previous and current season's coaches, will select squads from the available players during the pre-season training and practice matches.
- The Football Director will assess the squads and make final determination on the composition of the teams.
- Depending on player numbers, players will have the opportunity to move between teams during the early part of the season.

- No child will be required to play in a higher division team, even if their abilities suggest they should.
- Each team will have sufficient key position players to ensure that the lower division teams are competitive.
- Pre-season and grading matches will be used to select players into teams and identify the ideal YJFL division for the team.
- Rotations between teams after the first four grading rounds will be done more on an “as needed” basis where injuries and unforeseen circumstances occur.
- YJFL rules state that:
  - No more than four players may be rotated between a higher and a lower division team per round
  - If a player participates in six or more games in a higher division, they cannot play in a lower division for the rest of that season
  - If a player qualifies for finals in multiple divisions (minimum six games) within an age group, they may only play finals in the highest division of that age group for which they have qualified
- At the beginning of each season each team moving up an age group will be re-considered. The decision to reconsider the composition of each team is based on the knowledge that players can develop at variable rates over the off-season period.

## TEAM COMPOSITION PROCESS - WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

For all age groups, the Football Director in consultation with the previous season’s coaches will determine teams.

The previous season’s player evaluations will be used as supporting data to make decisions.

## COMMUNICATION

For players in the U8 to U12 age groups, players and parents will be formally advised of the team they have been selected in by their respective Coach.

For the U13 and above age groups, players and parents will be formally advised of the team they have been selected in through notification by the Director of Football.

If a player or parent from any age group has any questions regarding team compositions, they can discuss the issue with the Football Director. If the issue remains unresolved then the player or parent can discuss the matter with the President at [president@camberwellsharks.com.au](mailto:president@camberwellsharks.com.au).

## NUMBER OF PLAYERS PER TEAM

The club will limit individual teams to the maximum number of players as per:

| <b>Group</b> | <b>Max no. of<br/>players<br/>- Male</b> | <b>Max no. of<br/>players<br/>- Female</b> |
|--------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Under 8      | 16                                       | -                                          |
| Under 9      | 19                                       | -                                          |
| Under 10     | 22                                       | 20                                         |
| Under 11     | 22                                       | 20                                         |
| Under 12     | 22                                       | 24                                         |
| Under 13     | 22                                       | 24                                         |
| Under 14     | 26                                       | 24                                         |
| Under 15     | 26                                       | 24                                         |
| Under 16     | 26                                       | 24                                         |
| Colts        | 30                                       | -                                          |
| Youth Girls  | -                                        | 24                                         |