

Officer Kangaroos Junior Football Club

Player Movement Policy

Preamble

For many years there has been a drop off in player numbers once competitive age football has been reached (Under 11 upwards). which can be attributed to a number of factors. The most compelling of the reasons is around a player not being in a team that adequately matches their current skill and development level. Not all children develop (physically and emotionally) at the same time or at the same rate. They also have different personal motivations for playing football (or sport in general).

The SEJ has very strict rules around manipulating team lists and this policy meets with their approval.

The Club's number one priority is around ensuring our players enjoy their football at Officer and that The Club, in conjunction with the players, parents and coaches can facilitate their physical and emotional development.

The Club therefore will be implementing the following Player Movement Policy which has two levels.

Option 1: Moving from a Higher Graded Team to a Lower Graded Team

Between round one and ten in a fourteen round season, the coach or parent of the player in question, of the higher graded side, will have the ability to approach the Football Operations (FO) to suggest a player would be better suited to move to a lower development level the following season.

Football Operations will then undertake a process of watching the player in question train and play. FO will assess criteria like whether the player is (i) being afforded ample game time, (ii) regularly being placed in different positions, (iii) hidden, (iv) if the appropriate level of development is being provided during training.

Once this process has been undertaken, FO will then address the committee on their findings. If it is agreed that this child will be better suited to develop their football in a lower development level, then a letter from The Club will be sent addressed to the parents with details of the findings and sent after presentation day.

Option 2: Moving from a Lower Graded Team to a Higher Graded Team

If a player finishes within the top five of the lower graded sides best and fairest, the parents will have the ability to approach FO and suggest for their child to move up to a higher development level. This can be done between Presentation Day and the commencement of pre-season training the following season.

Football Operations will then consult the coaching staff of that side about what sort of player the child is, if they are capable of playing against children of a higher development level. Factors that will be considered are what impact it will have to the side he is leaving and are there adequate numbers to support this proposed movement. The higher graded sides coaching staff will also be consulted.

The findings will then be presented to the committee and parents, and if approved the movement will be facilitated for the following season.

Consideration of Playing Numbers

Player movement between sides shall only occur if both sides have similar numbers and/or if player movement will not drastically affect those numbers.

The following in a 20/20 scenario could occur:

- One player one way making team numbers 21/19;
- Equal player movement each way making team numbers stay at 20/20.

If playing numbers were 23/20 multiple players moving one way will be permitted, but only to even numbers or to keep playing numbers similar.

The Club will not endorse player movement where it (The Club/FO, not a coach or parent) believes it would adversely affect one team whether it be playing numbers or upsetting team balance (ie two tall players looking to move which would deplete the ruck or key position stocks of one team).

Important Note

Suggested player movement is strictly between the coach, the parent(s) and FO only. At no stage is an application considered approved until the assessment process has been completed and FO recommendation(s) have been endorsed by The Club committee. This process is not for discussion or debate amongst parents on any team either collectively or on social media. Any evidence found to the contrary will render the application and/or committee ruling null and void.

All player movement requests, made within the preseason time frame of January to the beginning of the season, will be seen as a request to move the following year, not the year of the request.

Due to the potential disruption to teams and administrators only in exceptional circumstances will movement be allowed during the preseason period