



GOLDEN GROVE FOOTBALL CLUB

JUNIOR PLAYER PLACEMENT GUIDELINES



Extract from GGFC Junior Development Policy:

- **Nominations**
 - From under 11 level, players, parents & guardians will be asked upon registration to register for their age group (*Not Division*)
 - Coaches will be encouraged to offer recommendations to players and parents as to which division is most suitable for the player's skills, ability, physical development and fitness.
 - **Parents will be encouraged to consider the most appropriate division which would allow their child the best opportunity for meaningful participation and their football development.**
 - The player will be placed in a team at the discretion of the Junior Football Director (JFD). Please note that whilst we will endeavor to meet the requests for placement within the team nominated, this cannot be guaranteed.

- **Placement**
 - Upon consideration of nominated preferences by the JFD, players will be advised of their interim team placement. In considering these placements the JFD will need to ensure that each division has sufficient numbers allocated to form a stable playing base.
 - Should nominations for either division exceed the limits set by NEMJFA or provide an uneven allocation of players between the divisions, the JFD or a club appointed representative will need to make a recommendation in respect to appropriate placements.
 - It is proposed that the recommendation for placement would be made in consultation with the coaches and parents to ensure the best interests of the player and club are met. In making the recommendation consideration will need to be made taking into account:
 - The goal of ensuring every player is able to participate at a level commensurate with their stage of development.
 - Performance displayed by the player during the previous year, as reviewed by the coach.
 - Demonstrated skills and commitment.
 - Level of physical development and fitness.



Under 6 to Under 10 Age Groups

The emphasis is placed on participation with friends and enjoyment. Additional goals include the acquisition of football skills and playing in a team environment. Upon Registration players can nominate other players in their friendship group by advising the Junior Secretary.

The Junior Committee in consultation with Coaches will determine placement of players at the beginning of each year.

Where there are two or more sides in the same age group the sides will be based primarily on friendship groups. However, to ensure that each side has adequate numbers, the Coaches and Junior Committee may decide to place players in the respective teams, **preference will be given to players in earliest registration date order.**

Refer the Golden Grove Junior Handbook for explanation of modified rules for age groups.

Under 11 to Under 16 Age Group

The NEMJFA grades within each age group from Under 11 to Under 16 into three separate divisions, Red, Blue and White.

Since the introduction of the three tiered system, the Red Division has tended to be more advanced than Blue, then White. A relegation system factoring in previous years performance is used by NEMJFA to allocate teams to divisions each year. In general the top two teams of a division are elevated a division with the bottom two relegated to the next lower division, however NEMJFA will ultimately determine divisions with the prime objective being a balanced & competitive competition.

All teams, regardless of which division, are required to even up the playing numbers if the opposing team does not have sufficient numbers. This can be done either by both teams agreeing to play short ie 16 a side, or the team with higher numbers offering players to the opposition.

The GGFC will provide players from the Under 11 to Under 16 Age Groups the opportunity to develop their football skills and play at the highest level. They will do this by assessing teams and players to ensure they play at the most appropriate level.

Where there are two or more teams in the same age group it is important that teams placed in for the Red Division contain sufficient numbers to cover injuries and absentees during the season, it is **preferred** that a minimum of 22 players are selected in the Red Division side. If there is no Red Division side for the age group then numbers should be even between the teams.

Team selection will be based on the GGFC player placement process. Whilst one team may have a more advanced list of players the Club will endeavor to ensure that teams will be as competitive as possible within their respective divisions.



Player Placement Process

The Player Placement Process includes:

- Information Session
- Selection Panel
- Team Selection
- Communication to players
- **Final** team selection

Information Session

An Information session for players and parents where required will be conducted at the start of each season to clarify the GGFC Player Placement Process. This is primarily for the U11 age group being their 1st year of premiership points and divisions. However where required an information session can be held for any of the age groups.

Selection Panel

A Selection Panel will be formed for each year level from Under 11 to Under 16. The panel can consist of team coaches; junior coordinators and, if required, other experienced independent persons.

Training Sessions in the pre-season will be in age group, NOT divisions (ie previous red / blue / white squads will train together). The selection panel will observe and assess areas such as football skills, level of fitness, attitude, work ethic & attendance to training sessions etc.

Trial games will also be used by the selection panel to assess and observe the players football skills under pressure, ability to read the play, work ethic, ability to follow instructions and playing within a team. Players will be played in a variety of positions to determine the best options for both player and team.

Each member of the selection panel will then submit their formal individual player assessments to the Junior Football Committee.

Team Selection

The coaches recommendation for player placement (as per the GGFC player development policy) will then be made in consultation with the Junior Football Committee to ensure the best interests of the player and club are met. In making the recommendation consideration will need to be made taking into account:

- The goal of ensuring every player is able to participate at a level commensurate with their stage of development.
- Performance displayed by the player during the previous year, as reviewed by the coach.
- Demonstrated skills and commitment.
- Level of physical development and fitness.



Communication to Players

Players will be formerly advised in writing which 'squad' they have been selected in. If a player is unhappy with the selection process they can raise the issue with the Junior Football Director in writing. It is important to note here that team placement will NOT be FINAL until the completion of round 3.

Final Team Selection

Players can be rotated between divisions in the same age group for up to the first **3 rounds** of the season. This is a rule that NEMJFA has promoted to ensure that players have the opportunity to play at the most appropriate level within the competition. After week three in the season all teams are finalised and NO movement between teams in the same age group can occur without the approval of the NEMJFA Executive.

In Addition, The Following Needs To Be Taken Into Consideration:-

1. Players cannot move up an age group if the team they are already playing in has less than 20 players.
2. Players cannot be moved up an age group to the detriment of an older player. That is an older player is not to make way for a younger player moving up.
3. Sides with no game should make all their players available for selection in higher age groups.
4. Coaches requiring players should contact the Junior Football Director as early as possible. Players can only play three (3) games in a higher age group (without having played in their own age group in the same round). If they play more they must stay in that grade and cannot move back. Where a player plays in their own age group in the same round the game in the higher age group is not counted.
5. Players can only play two (2) years above their age.
6. Teams that are short of numbers on a Sunday can use a player from a younger age group.
7. A player playing up a grade must have his/her name marked on the team sheet with an asterix (*) and the Junior Football Director has to be informed as soon as possible.
8. All players who play above their grade must be given at least a half of a game of football unless prior arrangement has been made with the Junior Football Director.
9. In all the above conditions the Junior Football Directors decision is final.