Beaconsfield Junior Football Club

Team Selection/Grading Policy - 2025

Approved by BJFC Executive Committee 11/11/2025

Introduction

The Beaconsfield Junior Football Club has adopted these guidelines which outlines what the club aims to achieve with team selection and grading across all age groups and divisions.

This document has been developed using AFL Victoria Team Selection Policy Guidelines, and provides the framework that will guide coaches, players, parents and the committee in ensuring the objectives of the policy are met and that each player is given the appropriate opportunity to actively participate and enjoy their participation in Australian Rules football at our club.

Team Selection Objectives

The Beaconsfield Junior Football Club aims to provide an environment that nurtures and develops players from youngest to oldest. The club will not discriminate on the basis of ability, sex or religion.

The objectives of the team selection process are:

- To provide players every possible opportunity to reach their maximum potential.
- To ensure that the selection policy applies equally to all players.
- To aim for continuous improvement of all players and teams.
- To maintain open lines of communication and cooperation between coaches, players, parents and committee.
- To meet the objectives of the Eastern Football Netball League and AFL Junior Match Policy
- To provide an environment that instill pride in our club and demonstrates respect for our opponents, the community in general.
- To have in place a suitable process to handle issues arising from the team selection/Grading process.

The Club requires all appointed Coaches and families to adhere to the following guidelines as far as practicable.

Team Selection Guidelines

Under 10’s & below

In these age groups, the emphasis is placed on participation and enjoyment, while learning the basic skills and the nurturing of physical and emotional development and well-being.

Where two sides are formed in the same age group, regardless of their divisional standing, it is the wish of the Club that the two sides will be selected by the Registrar in consultation with the Coaching Coordinator..

In doing so the Registrar and Coaching Coordinator may consider the following:

- Schools attended
- Known friendships
- Continued development of each player, no matter their ability
- All players are to play a minimum of three quarters per game
- Consideration of player size, strengths, weaknesses and skills so that a reasonable balance can be achieved in the individual team selection and positioning

To assist in maintaining the above guidelines both Coaches need to assess and continually review each player’s stage of physical development, level of skill and understanding of the game. The Coaching Coordinator will assist the Coaches select the sides if required.

Grading Guidelines

Under 11's to Under 18's

The Club aspires to provide players the opportunity to play in the highest level within the league. A greater emphasis is placed upon individual and team performances. Where there is a single side in any age group selection of the side is the responsibility of the appointed coach.

Players who register to play at this Club do so knowing that they may not be able to play with their mates, but rather will be placed into a team reflective of their abilities. Coaches must not make any representation to any player that they will be in a particular team (should they register with the Club). Coaches do not make the final decision on the makeup of a team, the grading committee does.

Grading Committee

A grading committee for relevant grades/years will be formed and appointed by the Executive Committee of the Club. For each year level the grading committee will be made up of up to 2 independent members plus the Coaching Coordinator. When selecting independent members of the grading committee it will be the preference of the Executive to select members without conflict of interest - ie a child in the age group.

The Coaching Coordinator will sit across all grading decisions, however grading committee members will be responsible for the final grading in each age group.

Grading Process

It may not be necessary for competitive teams to be graded, depending on player registrations and depending on the number of teams to be registered. The club's preference is to have no more than 2 teams in the same age group.

1. Where possible, coaches from previous years, rate known players (in preparation for the following year) into Yes, No and Maybe – in relation to their potential to play in the highest possible grade.
2. Where possible one provisional head coach, appointed by the Coaching Coordinator, will oversee initial training for that grade, i.e. under 14’s, will occur together, with assistance available from the nominated coach and assistant coaches of the second team
3. During training and trial matches, Grading committee members, the coaching Coordinator and nominated coaches will discuss the attributes/skills of all players. Notes need to be taken for further discussion.
4. During grading matches, the aim is for all players to have an equal amount of time on the field to demonstrate their skills. Coaches must develop rosters to ensure this happens.
5. At completion of the grading period, the provisional coach and other coaches will prepare a list to nominate their top team and subsequent teams. The grading committee

(made up of up to 2 independent members plus the Coaching Coordinator) will either endorse or amend the team, as required. The grading committee will then forward that team to the Club Executive for endorsement.

Communication to Players

Players will be formally advised in writing via email.

Player, Coach and Parents Expectations

It is imperative that Players, Coaches and Parents respect the decisions of the Grading Committee (decisions will be made in the best interests of the players – not the parents).
To understand that any selection of a team where there are more than enough players is difficult and that people may feel disappointed if not selected in the top grade.

Grievances

Team selection is not an exact science and requires consideration of a range of factors.

Any person who feels aggrieved should first raise the matter with the relevant coaches and or Coach coordinator in a respectable manner. Parents are reminded that upon registration they all agreed to abide by the clubs code of conduct which clearly outlines *“never verbally or physically abuse, intimidate, or use threatening behavior or language towards any Umpire, Game Day Official, Committee member, Club member or fellow spectator”.*

If the matter can not be resolved at that level, the matter may be referred to the Club Secretary for consideration by the Executive Committee.