

Nelson Bay District Junior Soccer Club



As per the 2009 AGM - Name to be altered in 2010 to

NELSON BAY FOOTBALL CLUB

Registration Policy and Team Selection Policy Guidelines

INTRODUCTION

Nelson Bay Football Club (NBFC) recognizes that players and their parents often have differing motives for electing to play football.

We also acknowledge that each player has a different level of ability. Each player's ability is determined by their age, experiences in football and other sports, cultural background and other factors.

Accepting that each player has a different motivation and ability, NBFC attempts to consider as many factors as possible when selecting players for teams.

Our primary objective in making decisions concerning player and team placement and selection is to ensure that the overall process is fair and reasonable.

We attempt to ensure that selection addresses; player potential and development, attitude to the game, demonstrated skill and fitness levels.

The Club's Management Committee appoints a Coaching Panel which is chaired by the Director of Coaching (DOC).

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REGISTRATION POLICY

FEES

1. A player must register on an annual basis and pay the applicable fee upon registration. The fee includes costs to Football Federation Australia and Newcastle Football, insurance, referees, trophies, equipment, maintenance and replacement and procurement of other essential Club assets. A player may be required by Football Federation Australia and or Newcastle Football regulations to have their photograph taken for registration and player identification purposes.

DEREGISTRATION

2. Refunds are payable up to the third week of the official Newcastle Football competition. Full refund of the registration fee is not possible. The amount of refund will be determined by the Management Committee after consideration of Association, Club and other costs incurred.

CLUB PLAYER/PARENT AGREEMENT

3. A player registering signs the Club Registration form acknowledging that he/she will abide by all Club policies/procedures and codes of conduct as required. Parents or Legal Guardians of a player under 18 years of age are required to sign the registration form, acknowledging that he/she/they have read, understood and accept this policy, they agree to comply with the Parent and Spectator codes of conduct and accept responsibility for their child abiding by the players code of conduct. Copies of the codes are displayed at registration and on the Club website. www.nelsonbaysoccer.com.au

MINIMUM AGE LIMIT

4. A player to be registered with NBFC must be at least five years of age on or before season start to be placed into a team. Players that turn 5 before the NF cut off date may register if there are positions available in U6's. These players will have to accept player placement in any team with a vacancy. Players must turn 5 before they can train and play games. A player will be age graded according to the age they turn for the current playing year. Players are required to play in their own age group, children commencing football age 5 who do not turn 6 until the following year will be required to play in the U6s again the following year.

PLAYING IN A HIGHER AGE GROUP

5. Application to play in an older age group may be made to the Committee in writing, addressed to the Secretary. An application should include supporting evidence and/or documentation. The Committee's decision will be final. Circumstances may dictate a number of players playing in a higher age group. An example might be two players short in the U9s and two players too many in the U8s.

DATE AND TIMES OF REGISTRATION

6. The dates and times of registration sessions will be advised where possible via email, Club web site, advertisements in the local paper and through local school notices.

LATE REGISTRATIONS

7. Late registrations can only be accepted if there is a position available within that age group. The Newcastle Football Association set a cut off date for player and team registration which is beyond the control of the Club.

TEAMS SELECTED AND TRIAL TIMES

8. Small Sided Football (SSF) Players U6 – U8 are not selected. U9s are selected for development squads. Selection trials for competition teams take place in February and March unless otherwise specified by the Director of Coaching.

GIRLS AND WOMEN TEAMS

9. The Club will field all-girl teams, where there are sufficient numbers. Teams playing on Saturdays can consist of both male and female players. All-girl teams play on Sundays and have competitions at the U12, U14, U16, U18 and All-Age levels.

SPECIAL REQUESTS

10. If parents or a player have special requests for team placement, these can be noted on the registration form. Player team placement is ultimately at the discretion of the Club Coaching Panel or in the case of U6 to U8 players the discretion of the Registrar in consultation with the Small Sided Football Coordinator. The Panel and Registrar will ensure that the overall interests of the Club and majority of members are taken into account when considering the wishes of individuals.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

11. The Club Coaching Panel places players according to set criteria. There may be cases where a parent disagrees with a child's placement. If a parent or player has concerns, then for U6 – U8, they should address the matter with the Registrar in the first instance. Should they still not be satisfied, they can write to the Management Committee, via the Secretary to have their concerns or requests considered. From U9 and upwards player requests should be addressed in the first instance to the DOC and if not satisfied then write to the Management Committee via the Secretary with their concerns.

TEAM COACH & MANAGER

SELECTION OF COACH

12. Each team coach is approved and/or appointed by the Coaching Panel. Each U6 and U7 team are to nominate a coach. (Coach subject to approval).

Coaches for the U8 and above teams are generally appointed by the Coaching Panel, having reviewed all applications. No experience is necessary. The Club will endeavour to provide the necessary training and help where required. Volunteers can indicate their interest on the registration form or make application via the website.

COACH & TEAM INTRODUCTION

13. Upon completion of team lists, "Coach and Team Introduction" sessions are conducted, (usually at the Tomaree Sports Complex). Parents and players are advised of their team placements, meet other team members, their parents and are introduced to their coach. Every effort is made by the Committee to have a coach assigned. Where a team is without a coach, the team will be required to ensure that at least one person volunteers for the role. The coach does not have to be from the team's parent group.

MANAGER

14. The team manager is not appointed by the Club. The coach seeks a volunteer. To assist the novice manager the Club provides a "Managers Guide" at the "Coach and Team Introduction" sessions.

SMALL SIDED FOOTBALL (SSF) - NON COMPETITION

INTRODUCTION OF SSF

15. Football Federation Australia introduced games with fewer players on smaller fields nationally commencing with U6 & U7 in 2008, progressing through to U11 in 2012. These are fun games that encourage and allow players to have more touches of the ball. SSF is an important component of junior programs throughout the world.

SSF TEAM NUMBERS

17. Team numbers, playing time and field sizes:

U6 & U7

4 players + 2 substitutes. **No goalkeeper**, 2 x 10min halves, 30m x 20m field.

2 games per week

U8 & U9

7 players + 2 substitutes. Goalkeeper, 2 x 20min halves, 40m x 30m field.

1 game per week

U10 & U11 TEAM NUMBERS

18. **U10 and U11 in 2011 & 2012** – 9 players + 2 substitutes. Goalkeeper, 2 x 25min halves, 60m x 40m field.

TEAM TRAVEL

19. Due to the large number of players in the U6 and U7 age groups, the club is usually able to have its own hub and play internal matches. Accordingly, there is no travel and all games are played at the Tomaree Sports Complex.

Teams from U8's upwards are required to travel. The SSF teams 8's upwards play against teams from the Newcastle Football Association. Competition teams travel to play against teams from the Newcastle Football, Macquarie Football and Hunter Valley Football Associations.

UNDER 6- 7 PLAYER PLACEMENT

20. U6 – U7 player placement in a team is based upon i) school attended ii) geographics iii) parental request e.g. player friendship/s iv) the need to evenly fill teams. Not every wish can be satisfied.

UNDER 6- 7 PLAYER PLACEMENT REQUESTS

21. Registration forms provide an opportunity for parent/s to express wishes for team placement. In general terms, children will usually have the option to remain within the same team while playing U6 – U7.

TEAM PLACEMENT EXCEPTIONS

22. There are exceptions when teams may not be able to remain together. For example:

- a. **U7.** If there have been dominant teams in the U6's it may be necessary to rearrange players to produce evenly matched games and a more exciting and healthy environment for players and parents alike.
- b. **U8** teams will need to be merged or redistributed as the number of players per team increases. The Club may have to assess the skills of players to create parallel even teams, depending upon the type of draw being played.

U9 DEVELOPMENT SQUADS

SELECTION OF DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

23. U9 development squads will be formed each year. The training and game focus will not only be on fun but also skill development and tactical play. The squads will be selected by the Coaching Panel who will assess, attributes such as skills, concentration, willingness to participate , overall abilities, potential to improve, passion and desire to learn and previous year's Coaches input (if available). Emphasis will be placed on the player's attitude, as players who really want to learn are more responsive to coaching.

COMPETITION (UNDER 10 AND UPWARDS)

TEAM / SQUAD NUMBERS

24. The team numbers are as follows:

U10 – U18. 13 players per team/squad up to a maximum of 14 players. Inter District, over 35 & All Age men & women may register more than 14 players.

COACH AND MANAGER

25. As with SSF, competition team coach and manager will probably come from the parental ranks of the teams. Expressions of Interest will be sought from parents wishing to coach and the Grading Panel will appoint and assist coaches where necessary. The Panel will need to select from more than one applicant for some teams whilst having no volunteers for other teams.

COMPETITIVE FOOTBALL

26. Competition football commences at U10's with points tables, semi finals and grand finals for the first time. With the ongoing introduction of SSF competition for the 10's and 11's may be phased out as of 2012.

SELECTION

REASON FOR SELECTION

27. **Why select?** Depending upon numbers it is our policy to select players. If a player is of lesser ability than the players around them he/she will not get their fair share of the play. If a player is of greater ability than the players around them, he/she may dominate the play not allowing their team mates a fair share of the ball and they will not improve their skills. Where selection is applicable, the Coaching Panel does a practical assessment on each player.

COMPETITION TEAM PLAYER PLACEMENT

28. Team placement for U10 and up is by practical assessment. Individuals are selected into a team and then the team is graded within the Newcastle Football Competition so that the players and team alike are playing in a division that equates with their skill level.

COMPETITION TEAM PLAYER SELECTION PROCESS

29. In general terms, selection into the highest graded age team will be strictly via assessment review. However, for the remaining teams circumstances may be considered by the Panel. The Coaching Panel will ensure that a highly skilled player is not team-placed too low, such that an imbalance is caused.

TIME LINE FOR TEAM PLAYER ASSESSMENT

30. After the last registration session, selection sessions will commence in accordance with a schedule that will be made available prior to and during the registration sessions. Assessment will be conducted by the Coaching Panel, details of which follow.

COACHING PANEL

31. The Director of Coaching (Qualified and Accredited) and a group of arbiters who have a wealth of football knowledge with the ability to select players in all age groups are appointed by the Committee to undertake the

selection process. Any member of the Coaching Panel related to a player under consideration for selection must declare their interest and excuse themselves from any decision relating to that player.

COACHING PANEL SKILLS ASSESSMENT

32. The Coaching Panel will select players for teams using similar principles as described for the U9 development squads. They will assess and consider attributes such as skills and abilities, previous year's Coaches assessments (if available), as well as considering the positional balance of the team. (i.e. ensuring that the team does not comprise 14 strikers!).

TEAM PLACEMENT

33. During the selection process, parents and players alike should not assume a particular team placement ('A' team or otherwise). The Coaching Panel will initially use colour groups rather than team designations during selection. Placement can change up until the season starts.

TRANSFERRING PLAYERS INTERNALLY BETWEEN TEAMS

34. Newcastle Football allows for players to be transferred from team to team up until the third week of competition. Movement after the first week of the competition is kept to an absolute minimum. Changes after team selections may occasionally be required to rectify minor problems with overall team placements.

UNDER 13 TO 18 TEAM PLACEMENTS

SELECTION OF TEAMS IN UNDER 13-18

35. NBFC normally has fewer players in these age groups, often only fielding one side. Selecting players is not required. If there are sufficient players for 2 or more teams, then the selection process previously described in this policy for the younger age groups may apply. If more than 14 players register for an age group but insufficient numbers to make a second team, then the final decision on the membership of the team will rest with the Coaching Panel.

DIVISION ALLOCATION

37. After the selection and sign on of players, team divisions are recommended to Newcastle Football. The final decision on competition division allocation rests with Newcastle Football.