



Grading, Team Composition & Game Time Policy



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1. Key Principles and Objectives

The Club is committed to its objective of providing a positive sporting experience for all players irrespective of their perceived levels of skill and ability. In order to achieve this, soccer at our Club is based on the principles of player development, participation, fun, enjoyment, fair play and good sportsmanship.

The Club recognises the importance of winning and the development of excellence; however, these values must not take precedence over the Club's principles.

In order to foster such an environment and given that children develop at different rates and in different ways, it is also necessary to take into consideration the appropriate level of competition necessary to nurture, develop and accommodate a variety of players with differing capabilities, skills and ambition.

Grading ensures that teams comprise of players of like ability and these teams will play in competitions against other teams of like ability. This environment will allow players to develop their skills, improve their level of competitiveness and ultimately enjoy their football more.

As a Club, we want to develop and retain our Sub-juniors and Juniors and offer them the opportunity to play a high level of Senior football at Pascoe Vale Football Club (PVFC).

2. Grading

FFV competitions for sub-Juniors consist of three different categories (ie. Joeys, Wallabies, and Kangaroos).

FFV competitions from U12s and above are graded competitions (ie. A, B, or C teams).

The Club does not grade U5s through to U9s. the primary focus at this age is fun, participation, learning and development.

All age groups from U10s and above with multiple teams will be graded every year. All age groups from U10s and above with a single team will be graded every year in the event of excessive player numbers.

Grading will be completed as early as possible during the pre-season, usually over a 3 to 4 week period. A professional, structured, unbiased, and transparent grading process will be followed.

The Club will endeavour to field as many teams as are required per age group in order to accommodate as many player numbers as possible.

Members agree to abide by any decision made by the Club in relation to team selections and grading.

Players may request to play in a lower grade than that determined to be the appropriate level by the Club. Permission will be granted at the discretion of the Committee after taking into consideration the impact on team members, team balance and the availability of a replacement player for the higher grade.



3. Age Groups

The Club requires all players to compete in their appropriate age group. Under no circumstances will the Club permit a junior player to compete in a younger age group without FFV special dispensation. Requests for sub-junior players to play in a younger age group will be considered by the Committee in accordance with the same special dispensation criteria followed by the FFV. The Club reserves the right to request identification from a player to validate their age.

Players may request to compete in a higher age group when completing their registration.

Players are permitted to compete in a higher age group if it does not contravene any FFV rules.

If the Club requires players to play in a higher age group, the Club will ask for volunteers. If there are too many players volunteering, those who are deemed to be the most appropriate to play in a higher age group will be selected.

4. Team Sizes

The minimum and maximum team size will be the number defined by the Committee as the appropriate number necessary to field a team in an age group or division.

The following numbers of players is deemed appropriate for each age group and defines the ideal minimum and preferred maximum number of players that will be placed into any team.

Players per Team Min/Max	On the Field	Optimum	Players per Team Min/Max	On the Field	Optimum
U7 – 10 to 14 players	2 x 5	12	U13 – 12 to 16 players	11	15
U8 – 7 to 10 players	7	9	U14 – 12 to 16 players	11	15
U9 – 7 to 10 players	7	9	U15 – 12 to 16 players	11	15
U10 – 10 to 13 players	9	12	U16 – 12 to 16 players	11	15
U11 – 10 to 13 players	9	12	U18 – 12 to 18 players	11	16
U12 – 12 to 16 players	11	15	Senior – 14 to 18 players	11	16

As stated previously, the Club will endeavour to field as many teams as are required per age group in order to accommodate as many player numbers as possible.

In the event of either excessive or insufficient player numbers in a particular team or age group, all efforts will be made to accommodate players by seeking to attract additional players to form another team, or by moving them to different teams or age groups (if appropriate). It has never been the policy of the Club to turn away players but where it is not possible to arrange players so that all teams are within their maximum or optimal size, registrations regrettably will be declined, and a full refund will be made.

5. Game Time

It is the collective responsibility of the Club, coaches, team managers and parents to ensure that every player who participates at the Sub-junior level is given equal opportunity to enjoy their football. All children are to be given fair game time. Ideally, this would involve all players receiving

equal game time either on a weekly basis, or over the course of the season. In addition, the club requires all coaches to encourage players to try different positions at the Sub-junior level.

U12 and U13 players should be given equal game time or reasonable playing time. Reasonable playing time is defined as approximately one half of a match. With the continuous interchange rule, there is no reason why players should not have equal or reasonable playing time on a weekly basis, or over the course of the season.

As players progress through their teenage years, the game becomes more competitive and winning assumes a higher priority. To accommodate these changing attitudes, coaches of U14s and above are progressively allowed greater flexibility and discretion in the area of game time.

6. Representative Teams

The Club participates in tournaments throughout the year.

The team Coach is responsible for selecting the representative team for each age group.

The Coach may seek advice and input from the Technical Director and/or the Committee when selecting the representative teams.