



FLAGSTAFF HILL FOOTBALL CLUB INC.

"Success through CLUB SPIRIT, JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT & CONSTANT IMPROVEMENT"

JUNIOR PLAYER ROTATION POLICY

Date Introduced	Last Review Date	Next review Date
July 2008	-	February 2009

INTRODUCTION

The Flagstaff Hill Football Club has experienced significant growth over the last few years. In 2008, the Club fielded a record three senior teams, three junior teams and six sub-junior teams, as well as a thriving AusKick program. Due to the high numbers of player registrations in the under 14s (27 players) and the under 16s (35 players), many players are not given the opportunity to play every week.

While the Club wants to be competitive and reach optimal success in each of our grades, we realise that this needs to be fair and in keeping with our Club values including:

- respecting the talent, potential, developmental stage and goals of each player so that they reach their full potential
- respecting the rights, dignity and worth of every player regardless of their ability, gender, cultural background or religion
- building the character of players, as well as their skills and promoting good sportsmanship

PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY

The purpose of this Junior Player Rotation Policy is to provide guidelines for ensuring players have fair game time by defining what is expected of players, coaches and the Club.

If any given squad is short on players this is not an issue but as a squad gets bigger finding the fairest balance between everyone's needs becomes more and more difficult which is when a policy of this nature becomes increasingly important.

It is difficult to please everybody all the time but the aim should be to be as fair as possible within the parameters of this policy.

WHO THIS POLICY APPLIES TO

This policy applies to all junior players, coaches and officials at the Flagstaff Hill Football Club.

PLAYER ROTATIONS

The fair rotation of players throughout the season is important in giving players the opportunity to develop their skills and experience the roles required in different positions. All players, regardless of their ability should be rotated as fairly as possible throughout the season. They should also be given the opportunity to experience a variety of positions in accordance with their established goals with their coaches.

As the team approaches finals the coach has the right to settle his strongest side and during finals will always play his best available side.

EXPECTATION OF PLAYERS

For players to be considered for selection and fair game time, they are expected to:

- Attend all training sessions and arrive on time
- Contact the coach / team manager in advance to let them know if they are unable to attend a training session or will be late
- Arrive at matches on time
- Show commitment and good behaviour at training sessions and at matches

EXPECTATION OF COACHES

The coach has complete discretion in determining whom and when players are on the field. This policy does not seek to restrict the choices that a coach makes in fielding a team by imposing rigid rules but instead seeks to provide guidelines.

Many factors may be reasonably considered when selecting a side and determining how much time a particular player spends on the field:

- team numbers
- strength of the opposition side
- player commitment and behaviour
- skills balance within the side
- player injury
- tactics employed by the opposition
- ladder position approaching finals

The most important thing is communication. Firstly, the coach must clearly communicate his and the Club's policy on player rotation at the start of the season. Then during the season (and particularly as finals approach) he must communicate constantly with players who "miss out" giving reasons and doing all he can to give them a positive focus.

Overall, the main role of the coach is to develop the football skills of all of his players. A coach who makes every effort to rotate all players fairly could not be criticised if a player does not achieve his quota of playing time by a small margin. On the other hand, if some players are regularly rostered off or positioned where they won't get quality game time then the coach will be asked to explain his actions.

The coach is expected to keep a written record of rostering throughout the season.

EXPECTATIONS OF THE CLUB

In accepting a player registration, the club assumes responsibility for the development of that player as a footballer. The Club ensures that coaches are suitably accredited and that they abide by the Club's Conduct Agreements. However, a further obligation in promoting football development is ensuring that the player plays a fair share of the game. No one can develop as a footballer by sitting on the bench. The Club must emphasise the need for coaches to accept this responsibility in the same way it does with conduct agreements and other policies.

This includes players who are part of development squads with their zoned SANFL club or who are required to make private school football their first priority. These players are also committed, paying members of the Flagstaff Hill Football Club and need to be considered as just as integral to the team.

IMPLEMENTATION

In reality, player rotation and game time will depend on the circumstances of the game. There may be good reason why the policy is not adhered to on a particular day. For example, it is unreasonable to put a small player into a position against a much larger opponent. Similarly, fair game time may be relaxed if the player will play a second game that day. However all opportunities should be used to implement the guidelines. For example, when a team is expected to dominate the opposition, it is a good opportunity to rest key players.

Implementing the policy to the letter does not necessarily address the issue of fairness. On-field time is not necessarily equal playing time. A player placed in a field position where he would not touch the ball for the entire game would get neither fair game time nor wider experience. The spirit of the policy is more important than the measured outcome.

ORGANISATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Flagstaff Hill Football Club will:

- Publish, distribute and promote this policy
- Monitor and review this policy annually

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Individuals bound by this policy are responsible for:

- Making themselves aware of the policy and complying with the requirements

BREACH OF THIS POLICY

Breach of this policy will be addressed by the President of the Flagstaff Hill Football Club and/or the Disciplinary Committee and may result in disciplinary action.