

Purpose of these guidelines

This document provides guidelines for coaches and managers on AJFC's stance on "fair playing time in games".

1 Principle

All players who are members of AJFC are entitled to fair playing time in matches.

- **For teams in non-competitive age groups (U6 to U11):** As the emphasis is on skill development and player enjoyment, all members of a squad who attend a game should receive approximately equal playing time in that game.
- **For competitive age group teams in the main part of the season:** Each player in the squad should receive "fair" playing time. "Fair" playing time should in principle mean approximately equal playing time over the course of the season (not necessarily in each game), but may be slightly modified at the discretion of the coach considering the factors listed in Section 4.

Under no circumstances should a player attending a match and prepared to play receive no playing time.

- **For games in a finals series:** Playing time for each player is at the discretion of the coach given the unique nature of a finals match. Whilst coaches are encouraged to give all players a reasonable run, match circumstances may not allow for this and a 'what is best for the team' approach should be the main priority.

2. Implementation of the guidelines

Each coach has a discretion how he or she will implement these guidelines, but should adhere to the above principles.

3. Basis of guidelines

The Club regards an entitlement to fair playing time as being based on

- participation in all aspects of the team, and
- displaying respect for other players and the coaching staff.

Players and parents therefore should not view the game as the only part of the team's activities that matters.

As a result, players are expected to attend all games, attend training regularly, be willing to play in different positions, and arrive at the ground punctually to participate in pre match activities.

4. Specific requirements

The coach may consider the following factors in the selection of the team and substitutes on match day (in no particular order, or with no particular weighting):

- (a) Commitment
- (b) Enthusiasm for the game
- (c) Self Motivation
- (d) Keeness to improve and learn
- (e) Willingness to play in different positions
- (f) Fitness and Form
- (g) Overall skill level
- (h) Attitude to -
 - (i) training;
 - (ii) other players;
 - (iii) coaching;
 - (iv) selection;
 - (v) administration;
- (i) Regular attendance at training
- (j) Punctuality at training
- (k) Punctuality at matches
- (l) Suitability to team strategy
- (m) Playing conditions on the day
- (n) Whether a player notifies the coach in advance if he or she is unable to comply with any of the above

5. Complaints

Parents or players who wish to complain or dispute playing time should refer to the club's Communication Policy