



TEAM ALLOCATION AND PLAYER GRADING POLICY

The Jets Juniors Football Club aims to field at least one team in each age group of the EFNL Junior competition. Wherever possible and subject to EFNL playing list size, more than one team will be entered into an age group. The Club will finalise and advise players and parents of the number of teams it will be expecting to field at each age group level in the upcoming season as soon as practical after registration day, or as required by the EFNL.

Two or More Teams in an Age Group

Where two or more teams are entered into a particular age group, the following will apply with regard to the allocation of players to teams:

Non-Competitive Age Groups (Under 8's, Under 9's and Under 10's)

Players in these non-competitive age groups will be allocated to teams with consideration given to any of the following:

- School and friendship groups
- An equal allocation of players per team
- Team numbers - capped at a maximum stipulated by the EFNL

Competitive Age Groups (Under 11's through to Under 18's)

Players in the EFNL competitive age groups will be allocated to teams with consideration given to any of the following:

- Ability grading – refer to player grading and team selection process outlined below
- An equal allocation of players per team based on total numbers within the age group
- Team numbers - capped at a maximum stipulated by the EFNL

(Note: The EFNL is a graded competition from Under 11's upwards with teams allocated to Divisions based on previous year team performance and requests from clubs. The Jets Juniors will submit grading requests to the EFNL, taking into account the ability of the playing group of each team)

Player Grading and Team Selection Process

The player grading and selection process will be undertaken by the respective age group coach(es). The recommendations of the coach(es) will then be considered for endorsement by an *independent* Football Sub-Committee of three, including Director of Football, Football Operations Manager, or nominated Committee member(s). Any of the coaches involved with the recommendation cannot sit on the independent sub-committee for this decision.

Players will be graded and allocated to a team through a selection process based on the following criteria outlined below. These criteria are designed to balance the key elements of player performance, development, safety, enjoyment and also team competitiveness:

- Previous playing performance and demonstrated ability
- Knowledge and understanding of the game
- Pre-season training, practice match form and, where required, early season game performance
- Overall attitude and level of commitment including training attendance
- The need for team balance of across the teams within a given age group

Movement of Players between Teams

Movement of players between the two teams in the same age group will be permitted during the first four weeks of the season, in accordance with EFNL rules, in order to finalise grading selections. This should only occur as a last course of action required to determine the appropriate team selection for a very small number of players. Coaching staff will manage this movement with the support of the Football Sub-Committee.

After the first four games player movement will only be allowed where there is a genuine shortage of numbers in the higher graded team, where permitted by EFNL rules.

Football Sub-Committee

The Football Sub-Committee will consist of three *independent* members: Director of Football, Football Operations Manager, and nominated member(s) of the Committee. The Football Sub-Committee will take overall responsibility for the grading process and all player team allocations across the entire Jets Junior Football Club, and will act as the sole contact for parents in relation to team allocations.

Training Arrangements for Age Groups with Two or More Teams

Where two or more teams are fielded in the same age group the following training arrangements will be implemented:

- Teams in ***the non-competitive age groups*** will train together as a single squad. However, a small portion of each training night can be dedicated to individual team development which will require the squad to be separated into team groups.
- Teams in the ***competitive age groups*** should train together as a single squad for at least a portion of their training time. For example, both teams undertake a warm-up, cool-down, and some skill-development drills together. Teams could then be split into their respective squads for other parts of the training session.

Age Groups

The Jets Juniors Football Club believes that all under-age players are best served by playing in their appropriate age group in order to allow for the sequential and progressive development of their football skills and understanding of the game. This also helps to ensure the health and safety of the players.

At the discretion of the Football Sub-Committee, and in exceptional circumstances, requests may be made to players/parents to play in a different age group to enable the club to field full and/or effective teams - subject to permit process and approval with EFNL. However, in such circumstances a player will only be permitted to play up a single age group (for example, an Under 13 player will only be able to play at Under 14 level). The Football Sub-Committee will ensure parental approval before players are selected in an age group other than their own.

Grievance Procedure

Families that wish to provide feedback or to make a complaint in relation to team allocation or grading can refer to the Jets Juniors Football Club Feedback Policy.

Effective Date

This policy is effective from 2025 and is to be reviewed every 3 years unless a significant event or legislation requires a sooner review.