



POLICY FOR REGISTRATION, GRADING AND FORMATION OF JUNIOR TEAMS

REGISTRATION

1. Registrations will normally be taken over two consecutive weekends, as soon as practicable in early February of each year. Early registration of players ensures a smoother transition into grading and team placement.
2. Online registration and relevant forms can be made available on the website prior to and during the sign-on days. After the last sign-on day online registration will be password protected and/or only available by request.

This is to prevent late registrants believing their registration has been automatically accepted.

3. Players who register prior to or at one of the sign-on days get preference for acceptance into the nominated age group over those who register after the last sign-on day.
4. Players who register and pay their fees in full get preference for acceptance into the nominated age group over those who haven't paid their fees or who have only partially paid their fees (regardless of whether or not they have filled out registration forms).
5. Players who fail to pay their fees in full will not be permitted to train or play for the club. Full payment must be made prior to the last week in June – after which only then will they be permitted to train and play for the club.
6. The club encourages players to play in their correct age group but cannot guarantee that any player will be placed into any particular team or age group. Players are registered to play for the club and not for a specific team or age group.
7. The club committee may, at its discretion, reject any application for registration. Persons whose application for registration has been rejected may appeal the decision to the club committee, however the club committee is not compelled to provide justification. Possible reasons for rejection of registration may include:
 - History of bad behaviour or breaching code of conduct
 - History of not paying fees on time or failure to pay previous years fees
 - No space in nominated age group
 - No teams in nominated age group
8. Any paid registration that is rejected will be refunded in full by the club.

GRADING AND FORMATION OF TEAMS

Non-Competitive Juniors (Gr6-11)

9. The junior non-competitive subcommittee will make every reasonable effort to place players in balanced teams, taking into account gender, placement with friends, numbers in each age group, distribution of players from various schools or localities (so as to avoid 'clicks' where some players are excluded). Once established, every effort is taken to keep teams together during non-competitive years.

Note however that as player's progress up the grades that team sizes increase and rationalisation of teams must naturally occur with some players having to go into different teams by necessity.

10. For Gr10/11 the junior non-competitive subcommittee may, at its discretion, take into account player ability when forming teams. This may occur where it is obvious that teams are unbalanced in ability and need to be evened up. Where this occurs, in order to determine player ability, informal grading sessions may be conducted by appropriate independent person/s, as appointed by the junior non-competitive subcommittee. Advice may also be taken from coaches and/or persons who have a good knowledge of the players' abilities.

11. Provision for an 'extension' team for Gr10 and Gr11 small sided football should be made each year. This is to allow advanced players a better development pathway and increased readiness for competitive football. This should be advertised at sign-on and if there are enough players and coaches then the 'extension' team/s can be formed.

If more than enough players apply then informal selection sessions should be run by appropriate independent person/s to identify players with the most potential to be part of extension team/s.

The club committee should request FFNC to place such teams into pools with no other Villa teams.

Care should be taken to not promote extension teams as first division or 'top' teams but rather the grouping of talented players so as to create a better environment for player development. The emphasis of the 'extension' team/s should not be for each team to win every game or each player to score the most goals but rather learning correct technique and putting it into practice.

Competitive Juniors (Gr12-16)

12. Player grading and the placement of players of like ability into teams will commence as soon as practicable after registration. Depending on team strengths, nomination for teams to go into particular divisions will be made to Football Far North Coast (FFNC) for inclusion into the competition.

Note however that FFNC does not guarantee that team nominations will be accepted and does not guarantee what divisions teams will be placed into. Even though the club may appeal to FFNC regarding the placement of a team into a particular division, FFNC will ultimately decide what division each team will be placed into.

If the placement of players into teams will be affected by what divisions teams are placed in then the announcement of teams may be delayed until after FFNC advises the competition structure. However, the top 11 players from a first division or 'top' team won't be affected by this and these players should be announced as early as possible so that training may commence.

13. No player should assume that their position within a graded team is determined by their previous seasons grading. All players should be encouraged to attend all grading sessions to provide maximum exposure of their ability to the grading panel.

Players who cannot attend some or all grading sessions must advise the club in advance so that graders have the opportunity to make alternative arrangements to assess the players' ability. However any alternative arrangements are completely at the discretion of the graders and any non-attending players should assume they will be graded lowest.

14. Grading for each age group will be conducted by a panel consisting of a coordinator and assistant graders as appointed by the junior competitive subcommittee. All graders must be impartial and not have any family or coaching association within the age group for which they are grading. The grading co-ordinator for each age group will make any final decisions on the grading recommendations submitted to the junior competitive subcommittee.

Graders should refer to player profiles from the previous year to help them gain a better understanding of each player's ability. Also, coaches from the previous year may be consulted directly to get insight into player's strengths and weaknesses. However such advice should only be treated as a guide and player's performance during grading should be the focus.

At the conclusion of grading, the appointed grading co-ordinators shall submit their recommendations for player placement and team division nomination to the junior competitive subcommittee.

15. Where there are multiple teams within an age group, only one first division team should be nominated. However where there must be more than one first division team within an age group or where there is only one division, there should still be a single 'top' team that the strongest players are placed into.

The strongest players should always be placed into a single 'top' team in the highest appropriate division. This is so that each age group always has at least one team where the strongest players can get maximum development and competition.

16. Further, there should only be one team nominated for each division within each age group. However, where there must be multiple teams within one division (other than the 'top' teams division), teams should be balanced in order to give each team the same opportunity to compete.

Where there are exceptional circumstances, the grading panel may submit a request to the junior competitive subcommittee for a deviation from the above grading policy. Any such requests will be considered on an individual basis and the junior competitive subcommittee will make a decision.

Coaching

17. Coaching appointments will lapse at the conclusion of each season. Appointments for the new season will be made by the junior competitive subcommittee as soon as practicable for each age group after grading is completed.
18. It is desirable that the coaching and playing philosophy of the club (as overseen by the coaching director) be put into practice in every team (at the appropriate level) from the senior teams down. To assist in this, players from the top senior teams should be encouraged, where feasible, to take on a coaching role with a junior team.

Special Requests

19. Parents or players may make various requests concerning team placement of players. Requests must be made in writing at the time of registration. Requests made after registration will NOT be considered.

The relevant subcommittee will evaluate such requests and make a deliberation.

Note however that in general players must play in the teams they are placed in as a result of the grading or placement process and that wanting to be in a different team because of friendship or convenience is not a valid request.

It has been the observation of the club that where a player is placed into a team where he/she has no close friends that the player soon makes friends and finds their place within the team.

20. Players MUST play within their own age group. However, where there are exceptional circumstances an application to play out of grade may be made.

Exceptional circumstances **may** include the following:

- Siblings need to be in the same team for extraordinary reason/s
- A player has been playing up a grade for 2 or more consecutive years
- Team numbers require that some players must go up a grade

Note that wanting to play out of grade for friendship reasons, to have more competition or for greater opportunity to succeed are not considered exceptional circumstances and players should not apply to play up a grade for such reasons.

Requests to play out of grade must be made in writing at the time of registration using the appropriate form. Only genuine and valid requests will be considered. Requests made after registration will only be considered should extra players be required in order to form teams.

The relevant subcommittee will evaluate such requests and make a deliberation.

Any approvals will be dependent on the number of placements available in the older age group. No player in their correct age can be displaced by a younger player.

Pre-Season

21. No team is to participate in pre-season training or matches until registration and formation of teams has been completed unless specifically permitted by the club committee.

Committees

22. The junior non-competitive subcommittee is made up of the junior non-competitive vice-president, the junior non-competitive registrar, the coaching director and any other persons appointed by the club committee. The junior non-competitive subcommittee reports to the club committee.
23. The junior competitive subcommittee is made up of the junior competitive vice-president, the junior competitive registrar, the coaching director, the junior competitive grading coordinator and any other persons appointed by the club committee. The junior competitive subcommittee reports to the club committee.
24. All decisions of the club committee are final!