

2017

# Junior Team Management Guidelines



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### 1. Introduction

The Team Management guidelines ensure a consistent and fair approach is taken across all our junior teams for 2017, covering competitions from U11 right through to U17's. Depending on the effectiveness and feedback of these guidelines, some may become club policy from 2018.

The U9 team is managed under the Auskick program, so is not covered by these guidelines.

The most important members, other than the players, of any team are the Coach and Team Manager.

- **The Coach** is entrusted with developing the skills and ensuring all players enjoy their time in football at Keilor Park. A detailed description of their responsibilities is listed in the Coaches Position Description on the internet.
- **The Team Manager** ensures all off field activities are coordinated to ensure the smooth running of the team so the coach, players and families can gain maximum enjoyment. A Team Manager Position Description and Checklist is also available on the internet.

The below areas are covered in these guidelines –

- Volunteer positions
- Jumper number allocation
- Bench & Position rotations
- Team numbers
- Best & Fairest voting
- Playing in higher age brackets
- Coaching variety

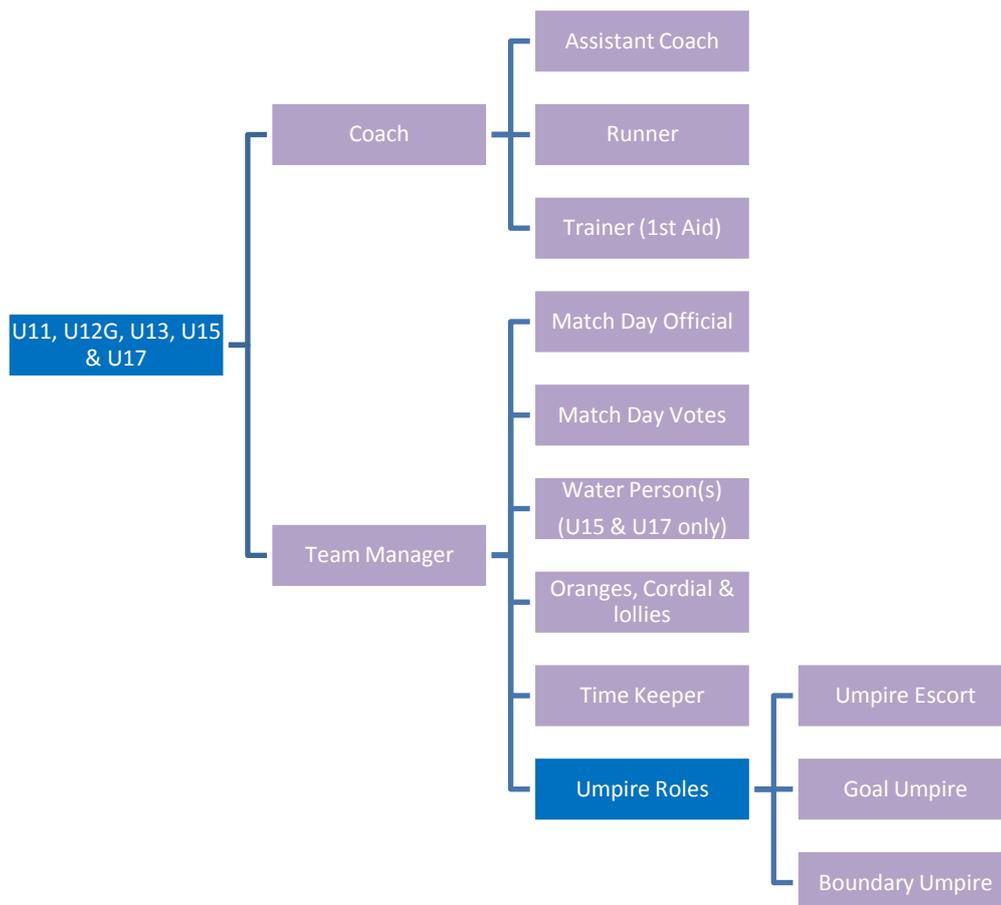
## 2. Volunteer Positions

For a successful junior game of Australian Rules football to proceed, **13 volunteers** are required. These positions all have detailed position descriptions available on the internet.

At the commencement of the year, the Team Manager will ask for permanent volunteers for any of the below roles. The more roles that are filled by permanent volunteers the easier game day is for everyone and families can support their children in roles that most interest them. Roles in which permanent volunteers are preferable include, Assistant Coach, Runner, Trainer, Boundary Umpire & Water person.

For those roles where a permanent volunteer has not been identified, then these roles go into a roster containing all families who have not taken up a permanent volunteer role.

If there are any roles in which families are not suited, please contact the Team Manager before the season starts.



### 3. Jumper Numbers

All jumpers remain the property of Keilor Park Football Club with each team having 26 jumpers available to them.

Jumpers are provided based on the below priority -

1. Jumper fit
2. Jumper number

If a number exists that a child prefers in a jumper that fits, fantastic, but finding a right fit comes first

Preference to jumpers and numbers are given based on player registration order. The earlier a player registers the more options they have with jumper sizes and numbers.

There is no guarantee, although we'll try, a player will receive the same jumper and number as the previous year, as all jumpers must be returned at the conclusion of the season. As all children will eventually go through growth spurts, there will always be a couple of children each year that no longer fit into their previous jumper; hence the need to refit jumpers based on fit as the priority.

Jumpers are also available for sale in special circumstances like premierships; however they must continue to be worn until a replacement jumper for that team is purchased.

If the above guidelines fail to resolve a jumper conflict, then the (1) eldest then (2) longest serving player will take priority.

### 4. Bench & Position Rotations

All coaches endeavor to provide equal ground time and experience in different positions for all players. This is clearly articulated in the Coaches Code of Conduct clause -

*“Group players competitively and give all the players equal attention and opportunities, everyone needs and deserves equal time”*

How this is implemented is up to the individual coaches and differs as the age group rises, but the emphasis is always on fun.

At U9, U11 & U12 Girls levels, the focus is on skills, which includes experiencing every position regularly on the ground.

At U13 level, Team play and fitness start become more of a focus, so players will start to spend more time in positions that best suit the Team style, but should still involve variety.

By U15 and U17 level, players have generally found their niche and prefer to remain in positions that best reflect their skills and team playing style.

### 5. Team Numbers

Keilor Park Football Club prides itself on being an inclusive club for all child who wish to play football. To allow an opportunity for all children to participate, we have developed a guideline that provides the ability to expand to additional teams when required.

#### 5.1. Single Team

If an age group has only a single team, then the maximum number of players that can be registered is 26. Although a match day team can only accommodate 24, with 6 on bench, history suggests that 2 players are absent every week due to injury, illness, suspension, holidays or family reasons.

However; in the unlikely event that on any given weakened 25 or 26 players are available, then a roster system will determine which child misses out. Children who are rostered to miss out are still expected to attend games, in case they are needed, but they can also assist with coaching and other duties.

The roster will be developed at the commencement of year. This roster will highlight which players miss each week throughout the season. This roster will be developed and communicated by the Team manager, in consultation with the coach.

If the team makes finals and more than 24 players are available, then the players who miss out will be up to the discretion of the coach, however no child should miss more than 1 finals game per season.

#### 5.2. Multiple Teams

Having a maximum of 26 also provides the foundation to establishing an additional team in an age group. If interest in an age group is beyond 26, then an additional team will be established **initially** made up of -

- 6 players from the team with 26 players,
- 8 players from a lower age team
- 4 new players who have registered interest

Determination of which players are moved to establish an additional team will be made by the Football Committee on the advice of coaches. Eligible players can be rotated between teams for finals qualification in case of injuries, but should never impact the total playing numbers on any given weekend.

### 6. Best & Fairest Voting

Keilor Park Football Club adopts the same voting process across all junior team. Each weekend, 3 adults vote independently on the top 5 best performed players on the ground.

5 votes – best players

4 votes – 2<sup>nd</sup> best player

3 votes – 3<sup>rd</sup> best player

2 votes – 4<sup>th</sup> best player

1 vote – 5<sup>th</sup> best player

This voting is not an encouragement award, but for the 5 truly best players. A variety of other awards are provided by the coaching staff at the completion of the year to encourage and acknowledge the improvement and courage shown of players. Any voting form that clearly goes against this guideline will be reviewed by the committee for possible exclusion from vote counting if it unfairly impacts the results.

The Coach, Assistant Coach and a parent volunteer vote independently each week and place their votes in a sealed envelope until seasons end. To ensure consistency and excitement for team officials, only committee members not involved in the team may count votes at season end. At the conclusion of Best & fairest presentations, detailed counts are provided to coaches.

### 7. Playing in higher age teams

Children love challenging themselves by playing in higher age brackets and in many instances it enables a team to field a complete team. Also, many Children just love playing two games on a weekend.

However; players should only be allowed to play in a higher age bracket if –

1. The higher age team is short players
2. Coaches current and higher age team agree they are physically ready
3. Parent agrees

Priority will be given to players where their own age team –

- already has 24 players available and they are rostered to miss  
or
- does not exist due to shortage of number

Once an underage player is selected to play on any weekend, they should be treated as an equal within the team by the coach as per the code of conduct -

*“Group players competitively and give all the players equal attention and opportunities, everyone needs and deserves equal time”*

No player should ever play any higher than a single age group.

### 8. Coaching variety

Children learn best when they are subject to different environments and teachers. This is why we try and provide children with a variety of coaches during their junior career.

All our coaches are great, but they all have different strengths and coaching methods that get the best out of the children.

As a guideline the football club endeavour to change a child’s coach every 2 years, but this is very much dependent on the number and quality of candidates for any year.