



## EPSOM FOOTBALL CLUB

# Team Selection & Allocation Policy

*Applies to: All registered players and coaches*

*Last Review Date: 15th December 2025*

---

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that team allocation and selections are fair, consistent, transparent, and focused on player development, enjoyment, and participation.

The Epsom Football Club places a strong emphasis on participation, teamwork, skill development, social connection and fun. We aim to provide a culturally, emotionally and physically safe and inclusive environment for everyone.

### **Guiding Principles**

Senior team selection and allocations will be based on the following principles:

- Playing and training performance
- Well balanced team with consideration to playing positions and availability
- Attendance at training and attitude and approach towards training and games

Junior Non-Competitive Teams (Under 6-Under 10) In line with Football Victoria MiniRoos principles:

- The focus is on fun, learning, and participation
- Playing with friends and friendship groups
- Teams are generally formed without formal grading
- Consideration is given to balancing teams to support development and enjoyment
- Match results and individual performance are not the primary focus

Junior Competitive (Under 12-Under16) team allocations are based on the following principles:

- Creating a positive and enjoyable environment for all players
- Supporting age-appropriate development and learning
- Encouraging participation, inclusion, and sportsmanship
- Playing with friends and friendship groups
- Complying with league and association requirements

## **Age Groups**

Players will be allocated to teams based on their age as at the relevant competition cut-off date, in line with Football Victoria regulations.

The Club prioritises placing players within their designated age groups to support balanced competition and appropriate skill development.

Football Victoria provides competitions for both mixed and female only teams, so players may request to be placed in their preferred participation opportunity.

## **Playing Outside Age Group**

In accordance with Football Victoria guidelines, players may be approved to play in a higher age group in limited circumstances.

Consideration may include:

- Player physical, social, and emotional readiness
- Skill level and overall development
- Player welfare and safety
- Team availability and competition rules

Requests for players to play up an age group are not automatic and must be approved by the Club and, where required, Football Victoria or the relevant competition administrator.

The Club is not able to support players playing down an age group, except where permitted under FV regulations. A written request for dispensation will need to be provided to Football Victoria through the Club.

## **Young Player Development**

Epsom Football Club requires that junior teams (Under 6 – Under 12) follows a practice of rotating players through positions and providing equal playing time as part of building soccer confidence and skills. This ensures that no player misses out on crucial development opportunities.

Junior players may occasionally be rotated into higher grade teams or seniors teams across the season to support skill building. This will be done carefully to balance the well-being and development needs of the junior player.

## **Eligibility**

All players must be financial members of Epsom Football Club by the commencement of Round 1 of the playing season. Any player considered not a financial member will be unable to take to the field. Payment plans can be arranged for players who require additional time to meet financial commitments as per the club Fee Policy.

Players must also adhere to the Club Codes of Conduct at all times and uphold the values, behaviours and expectations of the Epsom Football Club and Football Victoria.

## **Selection & Allocation Process**

### **1. Senior Teams**

Selection & allocation will remain at the discretion of Coaches who prioritise fielding competitive teams that ultimately seek to secure a position in the finals.

### **2. Junior Teams**

All team allocations are made by the appointed Junior Coordinators in consultation with the Coaches and Club Committee. Competitive Junior Team (Under 12-Under 16) allocations may consider:

- Maintaining existing player connections from previous seasons
- Player age and stage of development
- Team balance and numbers
- Coach recommendations (if available)
- Competition structure and league rules – ie. Number of teams able to be entered into one age group or age group division

For Non-Competitive Junior Teams (Under 6- Under 10), the focus will be on fun, learning, social connection and participation, rather than ability.

The club will consider requests to play with friends or friendship groups at all junior ages, however requests cannot always be guaranteed. It is important that players are of a similar skill and experience level and that the team is suitable for the players and the competition that they are playing in.

## **Selection & Team Allocation Process**

- 1. Senior teams** will commence pre-season training in December with teams determined at the discretion of the Coaches.
- 2. Junior Competitive** players will commence pre-season training in February which will be used by Junior Coordinators to finalise team allocations in accordance with the Guiding Principles above.

## **Late Registrations**

Late registrations will be placed into teams where space is available or added to a waitlist if teams are full.

## **Dispute Process**

Any concern regarding team selections and allocations should be addressed directly with the Junior Coordinator in writing. The Junior Coordinator will review the concern and may consult with the Coach or Club Committee. Feedback will then be provided.

All discussions and interactions should be handled respectfully and confidentially.

## **Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains fair, relevant, and aligned with club values and Football Victoria regulations.