



WUSC - Junior Selection Criteria

1. Pre-season Registration Procedures (Juniors)

1.1 Overview

The Pre-season period is a busy and complex time. The Club has sought to learn from the experiences of previous seasons to create procedures that will assist in the timely and fair organisation of teams and registration of players.

At Whitehorse United:

- Families are to be provided with information via the website/email informing them of pre-season procedures, registration and club policies.
- Each individual player is to fill out the WUSC Team Trial Registration Form regardless of whether they are new or returning players.
- Trials will be run in a predetermined set period. There will be one week following the trials for additional sessions to be held if required.

1.2 Database / Registrar / Communications Coordinator

A spreadsheet database of all pre-season players is to be generated. It is specific for the relevant season's pre-season period only.

Families are to enter accurate contact details via an online portal, which is accessible and easy to use. If junior players have provided their own personal contact details it is also important that contact details for responsible adults have been confirmed.

The Communications Coordinator is to oversee the function of the online portal. The spreadsheet generated is then to be made accessible to the club Registrar (and team). The Registrar can then format the data into age group lists. These can be then used to generate hard copy lists for use at training to confirm details, record attendance and manually add first-session players (who ought have their details recorded electronically as soon as possible).

1.3 Roles of Age Group Coordinators and Team Managers

Age group coordinators for the Pre-season may be appointed. Their role would be to manage the printed list for their age group at training, attending to the following:

- Confirmation of contact details
- Attendance recording
- Ensuring that first-session walk-up players complete pre-season registration

2. FFV Registration and Fee Payment

Once players via Football Victoria's Online Portal and pay Registration Fees to the Club. The procedure to follow will be outlined on the Club's website and via printed information provided to families.

3. Selection Policies

3.1 Overview

Selection policy will be applied for every age group at the club.

Selection procedures should facilitate the involvement for all players who wish to play at Whitehorse while still allowing for selection of teams to be based on choosing the best players for each position.

It is imperative that selection of teams occurs in a timely manner that enables players in excess to find alternative arrangements well before the start of the season.

All players involved in grading trials and pre-season training need to have completed the Pre- Season Registration process.

3.2 Team sizes

Squad sizes aim to be a maximum of "players on the field + three".

U8-U9 – Squad size of 10 maximum

U10-11 – Squad size of 12 maximum

U12-18 – Squad size of 14 maximum

Variations to squad sizes will be considered when required - particularly so in instances where increasing squad size enables players to play whom otherwise could not be accommodated.

3.3 Selection trials

Each age group (whether it is Kangaroos, Wallabies, A, B, C) will hold grading sessions for players who wish to trial. The Technical Director, team coach and other coaches within the club will conduct grading.

Allocated Trial Sessions occur. These sessions include general training as well as practice matches. All players, new or returning, will be strongly encouraged to attend these training sessions if their intention is to play in any team.

All team selections will occur after the completion of the allocated Trial Sessions.

Should a final decision not be reached, an additional session may be requested in the week following the trial period.

3.4 Timing of trials

It is imperative that all team selections are complete well before the start of Round 1 to enable players consider options if they have not been chosen in a team of their preference.

Assuming season commencement in early April, it is recommended that selections are complete at the start of March. Ideally all teams will be finalised within one week of the Trial Period, but some circumstances (ie looking for additional players/coach changes) we may require more time to finalise a team.

3.5.1 Notification of squad selections

It is imperative that the notification of selections is done in a sensitive and informative matter. Prior to families being notified, coaches are to discuss this process with the Junior Coordinator or Club President and make use of the supports available (email templates etc). Initial squad offers may change in the days following our initial selection - see 3.5.2.

3.5.2 Change of squad notifications

There are numerous circumstances in which players may need to be moved to a different squad after the initial squad selection has been made.

All efforts will be made to try and ensure players are more likely to be "promoted" into a higher grade team rather "relegated" to a team in a lower grade.

Please note this is not an exhaustive list of examples, and each situation will be judged on its merits by the Technical Director in consultation with other coaching team members.

Example 1: All players in one age group squad accept their places, and in another squad in the same age group there are 6 players that choose to not accept their place in the squad. If this is to occur and we are not able to find new players in an appropriate time frame, we will look to balance the teams by moving the most appropriate players from one squad to the other to ensure both teams can fulfil their duties.

Example 2: Mistakes have been made in the initial Team Trials period and the player is playing at a level that is no longer appropriate to their development.

Example 3: A player playing above their age group may be unsafe playing against older players and may need to return to their own age group.

3.6 Not enough players

It is important that decisions are made early about whether there are sufficient players in an age group for a viable team. Our main priority is to have players out on the park playing. Of course we'd love to see everyone playing in the WUSC colours, but we will do everything we can to make sure we make the correct decision first and foremost to assist each child's development.

**In addition the following should form a framework for Under 12s and higher:*

If by the first week following the Trial Period there are only 6-8 players available for a squad then a "Recruitment Period" of two weeks is declared. At the end of this two-week period if there are still 7 players or less the team will be declared non-viable and we will assist you in finding a new club. If there are 8-10 players, we will see another "Recruitment Period" enforced. If after the second "Recruitment Period" 11 or more players are in the squad, it will be declared viable and the team will go ahead. If there are 10 or less, we will assist you in finding a new club or make other arrangements. There will still be one month left before the commencement of the season even at this point, so we are confident we won't have left it too late for you to find somewhere to play!

3.7 Too many players

In the event that there are players in excess and there is no obvious position for the players within the club, we may need to move some players on to other clubs. We work with other local clubs to ensure each player can find somewhere to play.

These following conditions will give a rough guide to how we may select players if the squad size is too large. However in cases where there are players who are of a clearly more

advanced skill level (determined by our Technical Director), they may still be selected ahead of those players who fit into the following areas.

- Played at WUSC in the year prior.
- Have siblings at WUSC.
- Has played at WUSC in the past (not the year prior).
- Attended the WUSC Summer Program.

If a squad has less than the optimum number for its age group then players may be accepted from a younger age group. Under no circumstances may a coach or manager directly approach an underage player. Under age players may only be accepted after consultation with the coaching committee and the coaches & managers of the lower age group.

A player may occasionally be invited to play in an older age team if the older age team is short of players. Players in an existing team should not be displaced or denied adequate playing time as a result of players being brought in from another team.