



8/2/2024

# Willunga Football Club Junior Football Philosophy and Policy

## 1. Introduction

The Willunga Football Club is committed to junior development and the continued success of the Great Southern Football League (GSFL). We are also aligned to the SANFL and AFL philosophies of maximising participation and fun in community football.

## 2. Purpose of Our Policy

The main objective of our Junior Football Philosophy and Policy is to ensure ongoing junior player development and participation for all members of the Willunga Football Club in a fair and equitable manner.

We believe that by creating the conditions for all players to thrive we are building a strong foundation for individuals, the club and the community. We recognise that a more traditional approach of prioritising wins over player development has been detrimental to the culture we are trying to create at Willunga Football Club.

This philosophy and policy also recognises and values the importance of high quality coaching. This will lead to better outcomes for our junior players and the club.

## 3. Philosophy

Our philosophy and policy applies to all junior coaches and registered players.

At Willunga Football Club we aim to develop:

- Love of Football  
Create the conditions for kids to love football
- Teamwork  
Foster positive attitudes towards team sport and understand the requirements of being a team player and being part of a club
- Skills to Take Part Effectively  
Have the football skills to be able to participate and contribute effectively within the team
- Health and Fitness  
Have a knowledge and understanding of the importance of Health and Fitness

## 4. Agreed Measures to Implement the Policy

- Willunga Football Club Registration Policy (see official policy):

Game day considerations:

### **Moddies (U8, 9, 10s), Minis (U12's) and U14 Girls**

- Will be given the same number of games for the season as other players in the team.
- Variation is prioritised – players are to learn a number of roles and positions within the team.
- U/12's carnival will be selected at the coaches discretion.
- Game day rotations - the WFC will aim to give maximum game time with a minimum of 50% game time.
- Junior players are expected to contribute to club training, volunteering and player commitments and failure to do so will impact on playing game time.
- **In the event of the opposition failing to have enough numbers it is an expectation of Willunga players to fill the opposition side to enable a game to go ahead.**

**Junior Colts and U17 Girls:**

- **Focus on development through training, attitude and club culture..**
- Players are provided the opportunity to spend an amount of time throughout the season as a Forward, Mid and Back.
- Junior players are expected to contribute to club training and volunteering and player commitments, failure to do so will impact on game time.
- **In the event of the opposition failing to have enough numbers it is an expectation of Willunga players to fill the opposition side to enable a game to go ahead.**

**Senior Colts:**

- Player Game time will be at the discretion of the coach, there is an expectation on the coach to create a pathway into senior club football. We encourage players to learn and play in various positions.
- Promotion to a higher age group on game day will only be permitted under the following circumstances:
  - If a Senior Colts player is required by the A Grade or Reserves (and permission is granted by parents)

The club encourages all footballers to play at the highest level of football as possible and are free to move between SANFL and GSFL when permitted to return.

***In the event that the club has exceptional numbers within a grade the Willunga Football Club will implement the following:***

**1. Establish Clear Communication Channels:**

Communicate with both players and parents at the beginning of the season about the selection process, expectations, and the club's philosophy regarding player development and team selection.

**2. Set Expectations:**

Clearly outline the criteria for selection, such as attendance at training sessions, attitude, skill level, teamwork, and discipline.

Emphasize that playing time will be fair but not guaranteed, and that decisions will be made in the best interest of the team.

**3. Rotate Players Fairly:**

Develop a rotation system to ensure that all players get a chance to participate in matches.

Rotate players in and out of the squad to give everyone an opportunity to play and develop their skills.

Keep track of playing time to ensure fairness and address any concerns from players or parents.

**4. Encourage Development:**

Emphasize player development. Ensure that all players are given the opportunity to improve their skills and knowledge of the game.

Provide constructive feedback to players to help them understand areas for improvement and how they can contribute to the team.

**5. Manage Parent Expectations:**

Address any concerns or questions they may have.

Encourage parents to support their children's development and to trust the coaching staff's decisions regarding team selection.

Remind parents of the importance of sportsmanship and respect for all players, coaches, and officials.

**6. Create a Positive Team Culture:**

Foster a supportive and inclusive team environment where all players feel valued and motivated to improve.

Encourage teamwork, camaraderie, and mutual respect among players, regardless of their playing time or ability.

Lead by example by demonstrating fairness, integrity, and professionalism in your interactions with players, parents, and officials.

**7. Stay Flexible:**

Be prepared to adjust your approach as needed based on the dynamics of the squad and the specific challenges that arise throughout the season.

Continuously monitor the team's progress and be open to feedback from players, parents, and fellow coaches to ensure that you are effectively managing the squad and meeting the needs of all stakeholders.

By implementing these strategies, we can effectively manage a large squad of players, handle demanding parents, and create a positive and inclusive environment where all players can develop and contribute to the team's success.

**8. Training:**

Variation, game based activities where appropriate, high frequency of touching the ball, focus on specific skill development.

Training is geared to teach aspects of the game: fitness, contest, attack and defence.

