



MT MARTHA JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

PO Box 188 Mt Martha VIC 3934 E mtmartha@mtmarthajfc.com.au

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Mount Martha Junior Football Club

Team Formation Policy

& Grading Guidelines



October 2025



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1 Purpose

The Purpose of the policy is to detail the guidelines for the team formation process for the Mount Martha Junior football club (MMJFC).

These guidelines are important in providing equal opportunity to all players to be able to not only play at an appropriate level, but to be able to play to their own values. It ensures MMJFC can:

- Maximize participation and enjoyment by providing appropriate competition levels, training environments, and commitment based on each player's abilities.
- To focus on retaining existing players and attract new players.

MMJFC places high emphasis for its team selection on its five pillars Respect, Resilience, Inclusivity, Community and Positivity.

Players are only able to participate in preseason activities and be considered in Team Selection once they are Registered.



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2 Team Formation

MMJFC adheres to the AFLSE & MPJFL by laws as detailed in the AFL South East Junior Competition By laws (version 5) Section 7.1 Teams, subsection (b).

Therefore the following section details how teams are formed in two separate groups:

U8 – U12 Age Groups

U13 – U18 Age Groups

2.1 U8-12 age groups

As detailed in AFL South East Junior Competition By laws (version 5) Section 7.1 Teams, subsection (b):

In the U8-U12 age groups and in accordance with, once a team is formed players will remain in that team from season to season. Clubs can apply (on the prescribed form) from 1st February for the coming season to their relevant League to move a player from one team to another where the following exists;

- *Players are not returning to the team and therefore team numbers are low*
- *Special family circumstances*

Before moving any players or submitting any applications (U8 to U12 age groups), clubs must ensure that the player and the parents are engaged in the decision making process.

2.1.1 Multiple Teams in u8-12 Age Groups

When there is the capacity to field more than one team in an age group for the first time, MMJFC will endeavour to make the teams as balanced as possible to create equally competitive teams whilst trying to place players in the same team as their friends.



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Where possible, teams will train together once a week during the season, fostering a 'one-club' mentality and to continue to achieve development across each age group.

2.2 U13-18 age groups

As detailed in AFL South East Junior Competition By laws (version 5) Section 7.1 Teams, subsection (b):

In the U13 to U18 age groups, clubs are able to move players from one team to another without restriction during preseason. This ensures the League can offer competitive competitions and also enables clubs to allocate players to team best suited to their skills and ability.

These movements must be made prior to round 1. Clubs are also required to advise "The Committee" via email of any player movements before they are made

2.2.1 Multiple Teams in u13-u18 Age Groups

Where there is the capacity to field more than one team in an age group MMJFC will apply the grading policy detailed in Section 3.

2.3 Players Per Age Group & Team

2.3.1 U8-12 age groups

Registration will stay open for the entire preseason, with MMJFC endeavouring to field as many teams as possible in each age group.

If there are enough players in the age group to field two teams of maximum player numbers on the ground (see Table 1 below), the age group will then create two teams adhering to the previous season teams as per AFLSE & MPJFL policy.

In circumstances where there are not enough returning players registered to form two teams, a rotation policy will be instigated for the team in that season.



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



INCLUSIVITY



COMMUNITY



POSITIVITY



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The below is a table that details the leagues requirement in relation to the number of players on the ground and the maximum number of players permitted on the team sheet:

Team	Number of players on the ground	Maximum Numbers on Team Sheet
Under 8 Mixed	12	16
Under 8 Girls	12	16
Under 9 Mixed	18	26
Under 10 Mixed	18	26
Under 10 Girls	10	16
Under 11 Mixed	18	26
Under 12 Mixed	18	26
Under 12 Girls	16	24

Table 1. Player numbers under 8-12

2.3.2 U13-18 age groups

2.3.2.1 Returning Players

Registrations will first open to MMJFC players returning from the previous season. Returning players will have three weeks to Register to guarantee themselves a spot on the team. After the three weeks has passed, registration will open to everyone.

In circumstances where there are not enough returning players registered to form two teams, a rotation policy will be instigated for the team in that season.

2.3.2.2 Registration open to everyone

Registration will only open to age groups that have the capacity to accept players without them being added a waitlist.

A waiting list will be created for players registered after the age group has reached its maximum number of players for its first team.

Waitlists are dissolved on the 1st of March to allow players on that list to find another club to play at for the season ahead.



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If there are adequate waitlisted players, the Committee will announce that the age group will field two teams. An adequate number of players for two teams is deemed to occur when there are enough players to field two teams of maximum player numbers on the ground.

Table 2 (below) details the league's requirement for the number of players on the ground and the maximum number of players permitted on the team sheet.

Team	Number of players on the ground	Maximum Numbers on Team Sheet
Under 13 Mixed	18	26
Under 14 Mixed	18	26
Under 15/16/17 Boys	18	26
Under 14/16/18 Girls	16	24

Table 2. Player numbers under 13-18

If the officials of a team wish to have less players on the team sheet for a game than the maximum permitted, the team may request such from the MMJFC Committee.

3 Grading Guidelines (U13-18)

Grading will not occur until such time as there is an adequate number of players to form two teams for an age group.

3.1 Introduction

At the beginning of each season, in age groups where there is the capacity for more than one team, players may elect to be graded or ungraded.

It is not compulsory for a player to play in a particular team, moreover, if a player wishes to play in a lower graded team they may do so. This desire is required to be communicated prior to team formation or as soon as practical at the time of teams being determined.

Only players that have elected to be graded are involved in this grading process.

If less than 50% of the age group elect to be graded then the MMJFC Committee will outline options for the age groups parents to vote on.



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If less than 25% of the age group elect to be graded then players will be allocated as per the previous season.

3.2 Grading Considerations

Grading will be based on the following:

- Coaches' observations of all players during the pre-season "try-out" period. All players nominating to be graded will be assessed during the pre-season try-out to be held over several sessions.
- An independent consultant will assist with team formation recommendations.
- Input from prior year coaches as required
- Input from the MMJFC's Senior Football Director.
- Input and approval of the MMJFC Executive Committee.

The team deemed the highest graded team in that age group will be referred to as the "White" team.

For players who have opted **not** to be involved in the grading process, they will be consulted with and placed into a team after consultation and in line with the MMJFC Team Formation policy generally adopted for teams aged U8 to 12.

4 Responsibilities for Team Officials

Coaches, Teams Managers & Support Staff must act in accordance with this Policy, the Clubs Constitution and AFLSE & MPJFL Codes of Conduct. They must always with act in the best interests of MMJFC.