

Mount Martha Junior Football Club

Team Rotation Policy



April 2026



MT MARTHA JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

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1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide Coaching Staff with the guidelines to ensure all players continue to develop their skills in multiple positions.

It will ensure parents know what to expect in terms of playing time and positions, along with how they can raise concerns regarding their child's game day experience.

In the following sections, the club provides the coaching guidelines for the respective age groups.

2 Position Rotations

2.1 Under 8 – Under 10

All players are rotated through all three zones in every game (minimum of one quarter of playing time per zone).

2.2 Under 11 and under 12

All players rotated through at least two zones every game and through all three zones over a two-game period so that they are:

- Not rotated through the same two zones each week
- Given an opportunity to play in different positions every few weeks.

2.3 Under 13 – Under 18

As players mature they may spend more time playing in a primary position, but they still need to play multiple positions throughout the course of the season.

We know children all develop and mature differently. For example, some kids may be tall at age 12 but mid sized by age 15. If experienced in a range of positions, they will adapt far more easily to this change in relative body size.



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3 Time on the Ground

On any given match day, coaches should use their best endeavors to ensure all players play at least three quarters of a game. Should this not be achieved in a particular game, playing time should be adjusted in subsequent games.

4 Rostering off players each week

Where teams have enough registered players to exceed 4 players on the bench, the Coaching Staff for that team can decide on the number of players they would like to have on the bench each week.

Coaching Staff will create and maintain a roster by the start of the season showing players rostered off throughout the season. Coaches will be required to share this information with the MMJFC Executive Committee should it be requested.

To the best of their ability the coaching staff will roster players so that each player has the opportunity to play equal games throughout the season with equal game time, however it is understood Coaches are also required to field a competitive side.

5 Behavior Expectations (Impact on Rotations & Playing Time)

MMJFC is committed to providing all players with development opportunities through fair playing time and position rotations. These opportunities are supported by minimum standards of behavior, effort and respect - both on game day and at training..

If a player does not meet expected behaviors, Coaching Staff may adjust:

- the player's position rotation, and/or
- the player's time on ground, and/or
- the player's match-day selection (in cases of repeated non-attendance at training without communication)

This section exists to ensure expectations are clear and consistent across the season.



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



INCLUSIVITY



COMMUNITY



POSITIVITY



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5.1 Expected Behaviors

Players are expected to:

- listen to and follow coach instructions
- treat teammates, coaches, umpires and opponents with respect
- show good sportsmanship
- demonstrate reasonable effort and engagement
- behave in a safe and appropriate manner
- attend and participate in training
- advise the coach if they cannot attend training (ideally with as much notice as possible)
- arrive on time and prepared for both training and games
- demonstrate a positive attitude toward learning, improvement and teamwork

5.1.1 Training Attendance Expectations

Training is essential for player development, team cohesion and safety. Players are expected to:

- attend all scheduled training sessions unless ill, injured or unavailable
- communicate absences directly to the coach or team manager
- make a reasonable effort to catch up on missed instructions or team structures
- participate fully in training unless restricted by injury (with modified involvement encouraged where appropriate)

Repeated unexplained absences may impact:

- match-day selection
- playing time
- position rotation opportunities

These adjustments are not punitive — they reflect the importance of preparation, safety and fairness to teammates who consistently attend training.

5.2 Behavior Management Process

Where concerns arise, Coaching Staff should apply a consistent and transparent process:

1. Reminder / coaching conversation
2. Second warning (with clear explanation of consequence)
3. Short rotation / time-out
4. Reduced time on ground and/or restricted position rotation for that match day
5. Impact on match-day selection for persistent non-attendance at training without communication

For serious incidents (e.g. abuse, aggression, unsafe conduct), Coaching Staff may implement immediate consequences and escalate the matter to the MMJFC Executive Committee.



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5.3 Communication

If a player's game time or position rotation is impacted due to behavior, Coaching Staff will communicate this to the parent/guardian after the match (or at a suitable time), and not during game day.

This policy must be communicated to parents and players prior to Round 1 and applied consistently throughout the season.

6 Finals

In the event a team makes finals, all available players are given the opportunity to play in the team. Current league bylaws do not limit the number of players that can be on the team sheet during a finals match.

In finals, coaching staff are permitted to instigate a selection policy where the best performers in the team can have maximum game time. All players will still have time on the ground, but a minimum game time policy will not be enforced in finals.