



ASQUITH SOCCER CLUB TEAM ALLOCATION POLICY

This policy applies to all players registered with Asquith Soccer Club from Under 6 to Under 18. This policy does not apply to players registered in the senior competitions.

Team selection is always a difficult time for sporting clubs as players and parents differ on their opinions of how teams should be selected. Above all we feel that football should be fun and challenging and to that end this policy has been designed.

We understand that a firm selection policy can create very rigid and inflexible situations within clubs, leaving no room for compromise or differing circumstances. With this in mind, the Asquith Soccer Club Team Allocation Policy has been designed as a guideline only.

Some players want to play in teams with their friends or only with players from last year's team, where others want to play in the highest or lowest grades depending on their abilities. While we will attempt to meet these requirements, it's important to remember that as a club we are limited by the number of players we can register into any team, so depending on player preferences we may not always be able to satisfy everyone.

FFA NATIONAL FOOTBALL CURRICULUM

DISCOVERY PHASE (U6 – U9)

The discovery phase is all about:

- Discovering one's possibilities through trial and error
- Natural development: 'learn FOOTBALL by playing football'
- Replicating the 'street/park football' environment of the past
- Emphasis on building a love of the game

SKILL ACQUISITION PHASE (U10 – U13)

The foundation of the Skill Acquisition Phase is built upon:

- The coach focusing extensively on providing a solid foundation of technical skill.
- Skill foundations not developed during this phase may be difficult to make up later.
- No amount of fitness or competitive spirit will ever compensate for deficiencies in functional game skills.



APPLICATION

NON-COMPETITIVE (U6, U7, U8, U9)

At these ages, the aim of the Association is to develop player skills in a non-competitive environment. While not visible to players and parents, the Association will place teams of similar skill in the same division. The Club's main priority is about players having fun with their friends, however the Club also recognises that some children begin to develop their competitive tendencies at this age and may prefer the challenge of playing with and against individuals of a similar skill level. All teams are designated by a team mascot.

In Under 6 – Under 9, where possible the Club will endeavour to place players in a team with their friends and as a result, players are not graded. Each team does not have a defined skill level.

TRANSITIONAL NON-COMPETITIVE AND COMPETITIVE (U10 and Up)

At this age, the Club and Association will prepare players for competitive football. In non-competitive age groups (U10 and U11), the Association will continue to place teams of similar skill in the same division in a way not obvious to players and parents. The Association will regularly adjust each division during the season to ensure teams are always placed with other teams of a similar level.

In competitive age groups (U12 and Up), the Association will place teams in a division with other teams of similar skill with the divisions grade from 1 to X. In these age groups, unless there is an extremely large disparity in the standard of teams within a division, teams will remain in the same division for the entire season.

In Under 10 and Up, the Club will grade 1 or 2 squads per 3 or 4 teams respectively where it considers there are sufficient players registered and resources available to do so in a fair and reasonable manner. The remaining 2 teams of an age group shall not be graded but maintain a mix of skill ranges and be based on social groups and previous years teams. The Club requires a minimum of three complete teams and suitable interest from that age group to participate in the process:

U10 & U11: a minimum of 12 players showing interest from a minimum age group number of 30;

U12 – U18: a minimum of 14 players showing interest from a minimum age group number of 35;

Grading is optional not mandatory. If a player opts out of the assessment process it should not be assumed that the Club will be able to satisfy the player's subsequent playing preferences.

OBJECTIVES

The fundamental objectives of the selection process are as follows (not in any order):

- To fill teams with players of similar skill levels in positions appropriate for their individual and natural bias;
- To allocate players into an appropriate division for competitive football;
- To allocate teams in a fair and impartial process by means of thorough assessment of player skills, abilities and mental application of the game;



- Promote club loyalty and competitive participation throughout the process;
- Give every player a fair playing time; and
- Promote club growth and player development.

Note: Football by nature is a competitive sport. The Club also seeks to encourage club loyalty. As with any competitive sport sometimes these two objectives will be in conflict. The club will always endeavour to grade a division 1 team in all competitive age groups with reference to the above objectives. However, should a higher graded player wish to play with friends who have been graded into a lower division then the club may place the higher graded player in the lower division. This may not always be possible however due to the number of players in an age group.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Assessment days are the Clubs main opportunity to assess players for the coming season. A player's abilities can increase or decrease over the course of the off season due to extra coaching and practice, which could have improved abilities or injuries which may have decreased abilities.

At the start of the year, the Club will schedule assessment sessions for U10 and up where the above minimum requirements are satisfied. The assessment sessions will be run by an independent group and will help provide the Club with information on potential areas of development and will assist the club in nominating teams in the correct division at the start of the year. At this time, the players will also be assessed to confirm or adjust their current team allocation accordingly.

Participation in the assessment sessions and/or the selection process is optional. The assessment sessions are not exclusive to those players who wish to participate in the selection process and the Club encourages all players to participate in the assessment sessions where applicable. However, if a player would like to participate in the selection process, they must attend the relevant assessment sessions.

To ensure impartiality, the Club will utilise the services of an independent panel to assess player attributes on assessment day. The final selection decisions will be made by the Asquith Soccer Club Junior Committee.

ASSESSMENT RULES

1. On assessment day parents must remain away from the designated assessment area until assessment is complete;
2. Communication must be with the designated registrar or committee member for the day, or if post assessment with the Club President or Vice President – Juniors. Please do not approach the assessors;
3. If excess player numbers are present, the committee, in consultation with parents, will:
 - Attempt to recruit additional players;
 - Place additional players into a lower graded team;
 - Give the player the option to register with another club.
4. Players must be registered and play within their correct age group. Playing up will only be allowed if doing so does not create an imbalance in another age group and purely at the club's discretion;



5. If a player is trialling for a higher age group and has equal skill level with a player in the correct age group then precedence will be given to the player in the correct age group;
6. Players who have not registered will not be allowed to participate in assessment and will not be placed into a team;
7. Players who come late or do not attend the assessment without advising the club will be allocated to a team where numbers permit and skill level is appropriate at the ultimate discretion of the committee;
8. At the end of the previous year, the Club Coach Coordinator will request the coaches of each team to assess the players in his team and give feedback to the club on the players' skill and improvement within the year. This feedback will be used by the selection committee along with the feedback from the assessors in allocating players to teams in the current year.

In the interest of protecting the role of last year's Coaches, the Junior Committee and the players themselves, all information pertaining to the selection process will always be kept confidential.

A friendly reminder...

Our club is run by volunteers. They give their time at no cost to the Club to help in its running. The Club requests that you respect the decisions made in the assessment process and be respectful to those involved. The Club will do all it can to accommodate individual requests, however it may not always be possible or practical to do so. The Club understands that mistakes are sometimes made, and in that instance we are more than happy to answer any questions or alleviate any concerns you may have as long as it is done in an appropriate manner and with respect.