



# SWJFL Rules & Regulations - Team Selection Policy - 10A

## POLICY BACKGROUND

This document provides clubs with a clear & transparent process for forming fair, even and competitive competitions which enable young players of all abilities to have fun, actively participate and improve their knowledge & skills of the game. The intent of this policy is to;

- a) Clearly outline the team nomination process.
- b) Provide guidance on how clubs can allocate players to teams where there is more than one team in the same year group.

SWJFL highly recommend clubs encourage multi-teams in the same competition train together throughout the season, which helps develop harmony amongst the cohort at the club and hopefully keeps kids playing footy.

A Coach Coordinator or a neutral assessor of trial games & training to assist with team selections to remove the decision making from coaches. Whilst coaches can drive the team selection process, they should not have the final decision making of teams.

Ideally, SWJFL will fixture any multi-teams from the same club/year group to play within the first five rounds of the season, which will ascertain teams are of equal & competitive sides.

## TEAM NOMINATIONS

SWJFL advises clubs are required to submit team nominations each season to the Competition Coordinator, four (4) weeks for the teams they wish to field prior to season commencing. Clubs nominating more than one team in the same age group, team selections are required to be submitted to the SWJFL three (3) weeks prior to the season commencing.

## RULES

### 1. TEAM NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS

<b>1a.</b>	Each team nomination should include the name and other relevant details of the following people:
i.	An accredited coach capable of teaching players the laws and skills of Australian Football in line with the Spirit of the Game and the WAFC's True Sport Codes of Conduct
	ii. A manager capable of assisting the coach by carrying out clerical and other duties relating to the efficient functioning of the team
	Please see the template below where clubs can utilise, which contains contact details of coaching staff and player names and their rating added for the Multiple Team Selection process.

### 2. ENTERING MULTIPLE TEAMS IN A DIVISION/YEAR GROUP

If a club enters more than one team in a single division in any year group or has multiple teams in a year group, then the following is to apply.	
<b>2a</b>	Each team nominated by the respective club must be done so in such a way that each team is competitive within its nominated division.
<b>2b</b>	If a club has two teams in one division, it must be done so in such a way that each team is competitive within that division.
<b>2c</b>	If the teams are viewed to be uncompetitive by the SWJFL, in line with WAFC within the first five rounds as per Rule 4 of this document, SWJFL has the power to direct the club to re-allocate players.
<b>2d</b>	If the club is directed to re-nominate the teams, the club will resubmit the teams and will be subject to further review by the SWJFL.
<b>2e</b>	Specific competition rules regarding entering multiple teams in a division/year group can be found in the individual Competition Rules documents.

### 3. TEAM WITHDRAWALS

<b>3a</b>	A Club which withdraws a team or teams from any competition without a reason acceptable to the SWJFL, may be liable to a penalty. If a team is withdrawn from a competition after the commencement of a season, the SWJFL shall determine how the fixtures will be re-organised and for which games premiership points will be awarded.
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#### 4. UNCOMPETITIVE TEAMS PROCESS

<b>4a</b>	Prior to the season, the SWJFL Selection Team will formally notify any clubs if they believe a team may be deemed uncompetitive based on the previous year's results, which will include a recommendation to re-allocate players across teams prior to the season beginning
<b>4b</b>	At any point across the first five rounds of the season, the SWJFL Selection Team may formally notify clubs if they believe a team may be deemed uncompetitive and provide a recommendation to re-allocate players across teams.
<b>4c</b>	For a team to be deemed uncompetitive, they must meet the following criteria as a minimum. i. Must have lost a minimum of three matches by 60 points or more across the first five matches. ii. A Competition Official from the Selection Team must have attended two matches across the first five matches and have made an assessment that the team is uncompetitive within the context of the match at both matches.
<b>4d</b>	If a team is deemed uncompetitive at the conclusion of Round 5, they will be requested to provide evidence to the competition that they have taken steps to improve the competitiveness of the team, including re-allocating players between teams within the club.
<b>4e</b>	If a team is deemed uncompetitive and the club refuses to re-allocate players after the completion of Round 5, that team will not be eligible to play for premiership points for the remainder of the season.

#### TEAM ALLOCATION

There are various methods a club may choose to adopt when allocating players between two or more teams in one year group. The SWJDL suggests clubs consider each of the below methods.

- **Even Teams:** Ensuring each team is of equal strength
- **Friendship Groups:** Ensuring players can play with their close friends
- **School Groups:** Ensuring players can play with their school friends
- **Annual Rotation:** Ensuring players can experience playing with different players and are prepared for older year groups when there is an increased likelihood that teams will merge

The below table is designed to assist clubs in managing multiple teams in a year group. It outlines when and how to split players across multiple teams to ensure all teams are competitive within their division and that players are provided with the best opportunity to enjoy playing, learning and developing the skills of Australian Football.

#### 5. ADOPT A CLUB MENTALITY OVER A TEAM MENTALITY

Clubs are encouraged to adopt a club mentality rather than an individual team mentality. This will encourage long-term friendships that extend beyond school groups and past teammates and minimises the impact of players having to move or merge teams during their Junior Football career.

The SWJFL encourages teams from the same club, in the same year group to train together as one. The benefits of doing this include:

- Building a strong club culture
- Encouraging strong friendships between a larger group of players and parents making any reallocation of players less daunting for players and their families
- Players moved to a different team can still train together with friends in a different team
- Ability to run more effective training sessions with larger numbers at training, implementing a hub training model which keeps players engaged and exposes them to a variety of coaches and coaching styles
- Sharing of resources – green space, coaches, equipment, etc

#### 6. WHEN SHOULD CLUBS MERGE OR SPLIT TEAMS?

With a focus on participation, the SWJFL looks to maximise the number of opportunities for as many young players as possible to play the game. Denying registrations and turning players away is always discouraged, however the SWJFL understands the complications involved when deciding whether to enter one or more teams in a year group. The below table will act as a guide to assist clubs in working through these decisions.

Year Group	1 Team	Requires Action	2 Teams	3 Teams
12-a-side Competitions	9 – 18 players	19 – 22 players	23 – 34 players	35+ players
15-a-side Competitions	12 – 23 players	24 – 28 players	29 – 46 players	47+ players
18-a-side Competitions	15 – 28 players	29 – 35 players	36 – 56 players	57+ players

## 7. WHO SHOULD SPLIT PLAYERS BETWEEN TWO OR MORE TEAMS?

The Club President and/or the Club Coaching Coordinator, in consultation with the head coaches within a year group should decide on how players should be split into multiple teams. SWJFL Selection Team can assist clubs if they require help on team selections

## 8. HOW SHOULD PLAYERS BE SPLIT BETWEEN TWO OR MORE TEAMS?

The SWJFL suggests clubs should endeavour to make their teams as even as possible, splitting players based on their skills, size, speed, and overall ability. The method below has been employed by several Junior Clubs in the past with splendid success.

**Step 1:** Assign each player a rating from 1 through to 5 (1 being the strongest). Example of player ratings

Player Name	Rating (1 being the strongest)	Player Name	Rating (1 being the strongest)	Player Name	Rating (1 being the strongest)
Billy Thorpe	4	Roger Daltrey	4	Steve Miller	2
John Fogarty	2	Tommy Emmanuel	3	John Cougar	3
David Bowie	3	Mick Jagger	2	Mick Fleetwood	5
Neil Diamond	5	Tex Perkins	2	Steven Tyler	1
Dave Grohl	1	Bryan 'Dexter' Holland	4	Dave Gleeson	4

**Step 2:** Allocate Coaches, Assistant Coaches and a Team Manager to each team.  
*See Team Sheet Template on the last page.*

Team 1		Team 2	
Coach:	Billy Gibbons	Coach:	Billie Joe Armstrong
Assistant Coach:	Dusty Hill	Assistant Coach:	Mike Dirnt
Team Manager:	Frank Beard	Team Manager:	Tre Cool

**Step 3:** Sort the list of players numerically from 1's through to the 5's

**Step 4:** Start allocating players to alternate teams so that the 1' – 5's are evenly distributed to each team

**Step 5:** Make any changes to players, allowing for volunteer's children, who are a given on each team. Players should only be swapped for players with equal rating. Please see the example within the Team Selection Policy of the WAFC booklet, or you can speak to the Selection Team for guidance if you are unsure

**Step 6:** Assess the teams in the competition, consider how they would compare in a match, and fine tune the teams by making necessary changes to ensure teams are as even as possible in terms of players' physical size, speed, and overall team balance

### Considerations

Please consider the below when following the above procedure:

- Upon request to the SWJFL, clubs will have the ability to make changes over the first two rounds of the Home & Away season, providing flexibility to get team balance right
- After teams have been split, they are still encouraged to train together as per our recommendation, above
- The SWJFL encourages clubs to follow this process and reallocate players to a new team each season. The idea behind this is to promote players' individual development and allow them to experience the game playing with different teammates. It also promotes a club over team mentality where players are exposed to different coaches and coaching styles and encourages new friendships in both the player and parent groups

