

General Policy

Endorsed by WJFC Committee: September 2014

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the general policies of the Warrandyte Junior Football Club (WJFC).

Introduction

The policies contained in this manual apply to all players, parents, supporters and officials of the WJFC and are to be read in conjunction with the separate coach, player and parent codes of conduct as well as the Yarra Junior Football League (YJFL) rules and procedures. These policies have been created to create an environment where the players of the WJFC can play sport in a *safe* enjoyable and supportive environment.

The Committee would ask that all players, parents, supporters and officials read and follow these policies.

The Committee reserves the right to alter these policies as required. Where there is conflict between the WJFC and YJFL rules, the more stringent rules will take precedence.

Warrandyte Junior Football Club

The WJFC is an incorporated body and a member of the YJFL. This League is one of the largest junior football leagues in Australia.

The Club fields teams from the Under 8's to the Colts (under 17s).

The home ground of the WJFC is Warrandyte Reserve, Taroona Avenue Warrandyte. We share this facility as equal tenants with the Warrandyte Football Club, Warrandyte Netball Club and Warrandyte Cricket Club.

All players of the WJFC must be registered with the YJFL.

Age Group Policy

The WJFC currently fields teams from Under 8 to Under 17. The date of eligibility is the 1st of January each year (e.g. a player that is sixteen as at the 1st January but turning seventeen during the year is eligible to play Under 17's). It is club policy that players must be at least seven years of age to be eligible to be registered with the WJFC.

League rules also determine that females may only participate up to and including Under 14 years of age as at 1 January in the year of play.

A yearly registration fee is charged which is fully inclusive of any match fees.

The Committee is open to discussions with any parent who may have difficulty in making registration fees and match payments. The Club is about ensuring players play football - not about how much money is made.

It is the WJFC policy and preference that players play within their age group. This is for the benefit and safety of the player. However, the club also recognizes the importance to some kids of playing with their mates. Therefore, where a player has a significant friendship group in a higher age group, the club will consider allowing the player to play in that higher age group if it is deemed appropriate and provided it is safe to do so. This will be decided on a case by case basis by the Executive Committee upon an application by the player's parents.

The only other exception to the policy of playing within the correct age group would be in a situation where there is an excess of players in one age group and a shortage of players in the next age group. In this situation a player or his parents may request that they be played in the higher age group. The decision on whether this is to be allowed will be made by the Executive Committee and will be assessed on a case by case basis. Factors that will be taken into account in making this decision will be the player's age, ability, size and maturity with the safety of the player being the overwhelming consideration.

No child will be asked to play up an age group against the wishes of themselves or their parents.

Wherever possible, this decision will be made prior to round one of the season.

If a player is permitted to play up an age group it will apply for the current season only.

The Management Committee reserves the right to review this decision at any time during the season.

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At no stage will a player playing in his correct age group be allowed to be disadvantaged by a player playing in a higher age group.

Canteen

A fully stocked canteen is provided for the benefit of players, parents, and supporters of all teams. The Canteen is an important revenue generating body of the Club. All teams are to provide people to staff the canteen on a roster basis. The Club reserves the right to impose such a roster if one can't be developed within the Team.

Discipline procedures

Discipline is an issue that the Committee takes very seriously. Discipline issues may take place during a football game or at training. It may also take the form of bullying, abusive behaviour or any such behaviour that may affect the positive atmosphere of the WJFC. A discipline committee exists within the WJFC. The two core members are the President and Secretary (or their representatives).

Parents, Players and Coaches are required to sign the Code of Conduct at the time of registration or appointment. If a Player or Parent (or Carer) breaches the Code of Conduct at any time throughout the YJFL football season, the WJFC Committee will follow the process outlined in the WJFC - Misconduct Investigation Policy and at its discretion, determine if the Player or Parent can continue as a member of the WJFC. Where membership is to be revoked, membership fees or part thereof will not be refunded. Parental behaviour is covered by the Parents Code of Conduct which the club takes very seriously. The Team Manager for each team shall be the Code of Conduct Co-ordinator and is to refer any issues to the Management Committee as soon as possible.

First Aid

It is the policy of the WJFC that a person trained in first aid is available to every team. The Team Manager is to seek names from parents as to who may fulfil this role. The WJFC will sponsor any person willing to obtain a sports trainers certificate for the purposes of fulfilling this role. The WJFC Trainer Co-ordinator ensures a fully stocked first aid kit is allocated to each team at the beginning of each season.

Grounds

The WJFC Ground Manager in conjunction with parent volunteers will ensure that our ground is thoroughly checked and that it is in a safe condition before any matches are played. A ground audit procedure is in place and will be followed as per YJFL requirements.

Independent Player Tribunals

In the event of any player being reported or sent off during the game, that player must attend an Independent Player Tribunal hearing. This hearing is usually on Monday nights. The Club will be fined and the player automatically suspended if the player does not appear.

The WJFC will provide a player advocate to support the player through this period. Witnesses may be called during these hearings. Parents are encouraged to attend but must remain detached from the process.

In some cases, incidents may not be witnessed by YJFL officials and are not always reported. In these cases, where the WJFC is made aware of player, parent or coach misconduct, the WJFC may exercise the Misconduct Policy to address these issues.

Insurance

The club will provide adequate public liability and player insurance as required by the YJFL. Claims forms are available through the WJFC Secretary. Whilst each player is covered by our insurance policy, it is **highly recommended** that each player is covered by their own private health insurance.

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Internet Policy

The club has an internet site www.warrantyejfc.org which is to be used for the purpose of conveying information to all parties interested in the activities and policies of the WJFC.

No content posted on this web site is to be of any nature which is likely to offend, humiliate, intimidate, condemn, ridicule, incite, threaten, or racially vilify any person including those from opposition clubs, bearing in mind it will be viewed by those of all ages.

No photo of any child will be posted on the website against the express wishes of their parents.

Match Rules

The WJFC follows the football rules as determined by the YJFL.

Match Officials

The maximum number of officials allowed inside the coaches area is four, comprising of the Coach, Assistant Coach, Runner and Trainer. These officials must be appropriately attired in approved YJFL apparel. A second trainer may be positioned inside the fence on the opposite side of the oval to the coaching area.

No other person must be inside the fence during the game.

All interchange players must remain seated at all times when in the Coaches areas.

The Club may be fined if there are more than these officials within the fence.

Parental Questions

The Committee values open, and regular communication and consultative input from the parents of the players in order to improve the player / WJFC environment. Should there be any questions, suggestions for improvement or matters of concern of a general nature, please don't hesitate to contact any member of the Committee. Any team related issue should first be referred to the Team Manager or coach to settle. If no satisfaction is gained then you are welcome to bring it to the attention of the Committee.

Be assured, any communication will be handled with care, confidentiality, concern and responsiveness.

Two Team Policy

In the case of two teams of the same age group in one year, the Committee will field two competitive teams. The Committee does not believe in putting all the players regarded as good in one team with the remainder of players making up the other team. Rather, we will do our best to fairly allocate the players to create two competitive teams.

The following criteria may be used to allocate the players:

- Relationship of the players with the coach (and coaching staff of the teams)
- Mixture of skill in the respective positions required in the teams,
- Overall team balance,
- Relationship between the players outside football (same schools, neighbours etc)

The final selection of the two teams will be ratified by the Executive Committee in conjunction with the Coaches.

The final team selection will gain final approval from the Executive Committee.

As much as possible, teams will be mixed at the commencement of each season for the Under 8's, and under 10's. By the under 11's, the Committee is conscious that relationships and team formulations are starting to shape and premierships become important to the players so there may not be as much remixing of the teams.

In all cases, the team with the overall better player talent and capacity will play in the higher grade. On no occasion will the two teams play in the same grade.

In the case where there is early indications that one team will have difficulty being competitive, the Executive Committee has the option of moving appropriate players.

Uniform

The uniform of the WJFC is registered with the YJFL.

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The playing uniform of the WJFC is a predominantly red football Guernsey with a white V. This jumper is supplied to the player on the condition that this Guernsey remains the property of the Club and is to be returned at the end of the season cleaned and in good order. The Club reserves the right to charge for the replacement of a football Guernsey if there is evidence that the garment has been poorly treated and/or is unclean.

Home games require red YJFL football shorts. Away games require white YJFL football shorts.

Red and white hooped football socks and football boots complete the uniform.

All players in Under 8, Under 10 and Under 11 are required to wear player supplied helmets.

All players at all levels **must** wear properly fitted mouthguards. No child will be allowed to take the field without one.

In age groups from Tackers through to and including U12's, all WJFC players **MUST** wear a helmet to take the field of play.

It is the responsibility of the player to arrive at the game and be attired ready to play.

This includes ensuring player football boots are clean and football studs in good order.

Skins, when worn need to be flesh coloured.

Gloves are banned from being used in all YJFL games.

The WJFC can be fined by the YJFL if a player is inappropriately attired and that player may be stopped from playing if the boots/studs are in poor condition.

No jewellery, earrings, rings etc are allowed.