



CANTERBURY JFC TEAM SELECTION POLICY

The Canterbury Cobras Junior Football Club is a community based Club with the goal to provide a platform for children to play competitive football from the ages of seven through to seventeen, in a safe and friendly environment. We aim to not only develop the children's skills as footballers, but also as human beings by instilling values of teamwork, selflessness, and discipline. The Club also provides a wonderful opportunity to broaden the friendship base of both children and parents.

It is the preferred position of Football Victoria, the YJFL and this Club that children play in the correct age group. We realize that this policy may not suit some players and parents as it may prevent a player playing with his classmates by virtue of age difference. However we believe that a player who plays in the correct age level are easily able to extend their friendship/peer group, and that they develop better in football, social and intellectual aspects. Certainly football development experts consider it desirable from a player development perspective, and for health and safety reasons that children play within their own age group. Listed below are age groups for season 2010.

Age group	Year of birth
Tackers (Under 9)	2001, 2002 or 2003
Under 10	2000
Under 11	1999
Under 12	1998
Under 13	1997
Under 14	1996
Under 15	1995
Colts (Under 16/17)	1993 or 1994

In 2010 Under 15 and older age groups will play with our affiliated team Boroondara Hawks
<http://www.boroondarahawks.com.au/default.aspx>

Under exceptional circumstances the Canterbury JFC may consider allowing a player to play outside his/her age group. This would be unusual however, and both the request and permission would be given in writing and with the understanding that it would not be considered a precedent for future years. The committee of the Canterbury JFC will be the sole arbiter of what is considered "exceptional circumstances." Please note that the threat of not playing football at all for the Canterbury JFC does NOT constitute exceptional circumstances.

Selection of players for teams is done by the Club each year, with the above as our framework. For teams Tackers (under 9) through to Under 12 (normally the final year primary school) inclusive the Club has a policy of NOT grading the children based on any perceived playing ability. Rather we want the children to be able to play with mates (plus make new ones), have fun and learn basic football skills.

From Under 13 onwards (where there is more than one team in the age group) teams will be graded to ensure that children are playing at a level commensurate with their size and skill levels. Please note that the Yarra Junior Football League grades teams from Under 10 onwards, however we feel that the beginning of High School, combined with the various levels of physical maturity at that age, makes for a much more appropriate time.

The selection of the teams at the younger age levels is done by the Football Department members of the committee (who it should be noted are volunteers and have to undertake this very time consuming and involved task in their own time). Every endeavour is made to place each child with at least a couple of nominated friends/school colleagues, but at the same time creating teams with a diversity of origins. Early Registrations (ie those received on Registration Day or in the week immediately after) will be given precedence in allocations to teams with nominated friends. We are not a platform for pseudo school teams, and where there are large numbers from a particular school our policy is to split them at least in half. We also have to attempt to have an even balance of numbers in each team so that every child can get equal game time.

However despite our best efforts we sometimes overlook a specific legitimate request, or just plain get it wrong. If anyone is seriously aggrieved by the team allocation as nominated by the Club please contact us. However before doing so, we request that you find a willing "swap player" from the team you want your child to go to so that we can maintain team balance. Without this it makes it extremely difficult to accommodate such requests.

Canterbury Junior Football Club
21 January 2010