



STJFL Policy Multiple Teams Same Age Divisions

All STJFL member clubs to select even teams when they have more than one team in an age group.

STJFL shall determine in consultation with club which competition if there is more than one division which division the teams will be allocated to.
Both teams to compete in same division.

Even teams required in boys' competitions from U8 through to and including U14.
Even teams required in girls' competitions from U9 through to and including U15.

If clubs do not co-operate with League in nomination and fielding of even teams, then those teams will be suspended from competition until this direction is followed.
Club may incur a financial penalty.

Divisions

Teams not to be split as Divisional teams between U8 – U14 boys and U9-15 for Girls.
League guidance would be required if there are divisions as to which division any multiple teams would be nominated to.
Divisions maybe considered by the League for top age Boys Divisions U15, 16.5 if sufficient team nominations warrant this.
For girls top age Division would be U17.5 if sufficient team nominations warrant this.

Multiple Teams same Age Group

Participants ideally should train as a squad and be selected in teams for GameDay.
In juniors (U8-12) players can be rotated between teams if this help.
Teams to be selected as even teams.

Youth Leagues

Participants ideally should train as a squad and be selected in teams for GameDay.
In youth (U13-18) each team to have a minimum number of participants that cannot change team.
This is known as a restricted player list. League to confirm what this number is for each competition.
The balance would be allowed to interchange between teams with eligibility rules around any final's participation.

Retention

The facts are that when clubs have uneven teams within a division the number of participants will decline the following season.

Coach Education through AFL Tasmania – Jay Schulz to support this.

Use of **Interchanger App** recommended by League for all club teams to manage player game time for match day across the season.

Below is extracts from the National [AFL - Australian Football Match Policy](#)

AFL YOUTH POLICY

PLAYER ROTATIONS & TACTICS

Once children reach youth age levels, the emphasis shifts from players rotating through all positions on the ground to them gaining a level of competency in different positions. The difference is youth players should be left in a position on the field until they have acquired that position's basic strategies and skills. Only then should they move to a new position.

To ensure all players feel an essential part of the team, regardless of their age, size, sex, ability, or the competition they are playing in, it is critical they have an equal amount of time on the field during the season.

This will keep players in the game and reduce the likelihood of them leaving to pursue other sports. It also satisfies parents' expectations that their child will be given a fair go. It is recommended coaches keep records of the weekly game-time of each player to ensure each has equal playing time.

Ethically it is the responsibility of coaches to provide the best possible teaching and learning conditions; therefore, the use of negative defensive tactics where the opposing player's sole objective is to prevent a player from gaining possession is strongly discouraged at this age level. Tactics such as tagging and flooding are elements of the modern game, however, they are contrary to the philosophy of providing an environment that maximises the desired fairness, fun, speed, skill, and competitive elements of the game at this level.

LEAGUES

The AFL Youth Policy recommends junior leagues implement divisional competitions where teams are graded provided team numbers permit. Leagues may choose to conduct a grading round or a series of grading matches.

This will ensure all teams and players participate in a competition that matches their skills and ability.

CLUBS

In the event a club enters more than one team in the same age group competition (no divisions), the AFL Youth Policy **recommends players be allocated to each team, so they are evenly matched.**

In the event a club enters more than one team in an age group with a number of competition divisions, it is recommended players be allocated to a team in the division that best suits their skills and ability.

Although a player's peer group and the opportunity to develop and maintain friendships are of the utmost importance, this should not override the needs of the team and club when allocating players to appropriate teams (players should be engaged in the decision-making process).