



AGE POLICY

It is the intention of the Mt Barker Football Club to ensure all players participate in age appropriate teams. However, in some circumstances, predominantly for player development, the following will apply:

1. Players can play up 1 level in order to enhance their football development. No player can move through 2 levels (ie. U11 to U13 Div 1 and miss U13 Div 2.)

2. These players are to be identified by their coaches and there must be joint approval from both coaches, parents and player concerned.

The criteria for selection is:

- a) The player has the necessary skill set to play in a higher grade
- b) The player has the physical maturity to play in a higher grade
- c) Psychologically the player is capable of playing a higher grade
- d) There is capacity for the player to play in a higher grade

3. Occasionally, players will be allowed to "play up" due to extenuating circumstances. This can only be approved by the Junior Director and Football Director and must be for legitimate reasons.

4. Players playing up should not displace any player or preclude any player from the team above from playing.

5. Players performance must be reviewed weekly.

6. In the case of 2 sides playing in the same age group:

- Div 1 side to have best 18 selected at all times, Div 2 side set up as a development side. The best 8 will be selected by the Div 1 and Div 2 Coaches.
- Div 1 Interchange numbers will be at the coaches discretion, to best suit match day.
- It is envisaged that most players be provided the opportunity to play in the Div 1 side, although not guaranteed.
- Both teams train together.

- Utilise players from lower age to fill gaps in player numbers when necessary. Must be top age players moving into the higher age group in the following season wherever possible
- MBFC to fully support this side, with equal promotion such as post match presentations at the club on Saturday nights for U16 and U18 teams.

7. In the case of finals, selected teams will be made up of "age appropriate" players unless team numbers permit underage players. Finals teams will be sanctioned by the Football Operations Group to ensure the above policy is adhered to.