



Policy

Junior Selection and Participation

Version Control and Change History

High level summary of change to the document

Version	Date from	Review Date	Amendment
1.0	Original	January 2019	Original version
2.0	February 2019		Transferred to new format, added point 2, 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 4, 6 and 8.

1. Purpose

The Junior Selection and Participation Policy is about ensuring positive player development, optimising juniors' opportunities at state representative level and for developing a successful transition to senior baseball leading to overall club success. This policy has been designed to allow all junior players to develop their baseball skills in a positive and fair environment. The focus of this policy is to group players in teams which suit their physical capabilities and skill levels for their current stage of development and ensure fair play. This policy is an integral part of this goal and should be conducted carefully and transparently.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

Executive Committee

- Ensure compliance with the Junior Policy
- Provide guidance to the Junior Coordinator
- Provide adjudication/judgement in relation to matters of this Junior Policy
- Operations Manager to represent the Executive in matters relating to the application of this Junior Policy

Junior Coordinator

- Ensure compliance with the Junior Policy
- Ensure all players and parents are aware of the Junior Policy
- Ensure coaches understand the intent of the Junior Policy
- Provide guidance to coaches in the application of the Junior Policy

Coaches

- To comply with the Junior Policy
- Provide information regarding individual players when requested to the Junior Coordinator and/or Executive Committee.



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3. Procedure Details

3.1 Team Selection

The preseason program will include a minimum of (2) combined age specific group trainings. These trainings will include practicing the basic skills and mechanics of throwing, fielding, hitting and running. During these trainings, the coaches will be assessing these four key areas and recording the player's competency, for selection review and future training focus. The competency reviews will also be used for end of season reviews, to judge the success of the junior programme, with regards to the player skill improvements. Previous seasons performances will not be considered, and every player will be given the opportunity to impress the coaches, without prejudice. If players are late to start preseason trainings or injured during this period, an initial placement will need to be made on the player's previous playing experience. An assessment needs to be recorded after the first couple of trainings and the team placement changed to suit the above-mentioned criteria.

The player's mental development is an important aspect for team selections, particularly with the younger age groups. Consideration of the players attitudes towards the game and mental development need to be addressed, with regard for the players confidence when playing in the higher-level teams. If a player cannot cope mentally in the higher-level teams, the longer-term confidence of the player needs to be addressed, so that the game remains enjoyable.

The selection process is to be performed by taking a committee approach with full agreement for the selections based on above criteria.

Selections based on team success should not be the focus of junior player selections. Player development should be paramount, which ultimately will rely on the coaching staff to develop the players into a successful team. A collaborative approach should be used when managing the development of a player and if required movement between divisions should be considered to ensure optimal exposure.

3.1.1 Playing in Lower Grades

If parents request to have their child play in a lower age group, the reasons and relevance needs to be considered, to make sure the junior player continues to play baseball.



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3.1.2 Playing in Higher Junior Grades

If a parent requests to have their child play in a higher junior grade, the reasons and relevance needs to be considered. All requests to play in a higher junior grade must be brought to the attention of the Executive Committee by the Junior Coordinator. Independent analysis can be sought from the senior coaching staff, Baseball SA and other junior coaches to determine the players current projection in the sport and club. The decision to allow a player to play in a higher junior grade will consider the parents and players wishes but will ultimately be based on a collaborative discussion looking at the players ability, psychological development and projection. Playing numbers, impact on game time, representative requirements and the bearing on other individuals will be strongly considered.

If approved, the junior player will then be classified as a representative in that higher grade. Any request to play in a lower junior grade will require Executive Committee approval.

3.1.3 Juniors Playing in Senior Grades

The ability for junior players to participate in senior grades is strongly encouraged. Whilst no guarantee can be made that junior players will be required each week to cover senior grades; every endeavour will be made to provide as much senior grade exposure as safely possible.

Parents can request to have their child participate in a senior grade(s) via the Junior Coordinator, or if the request is from a senior coach then the Operations Manager, with a recommendation presented to the Executive Committee for approval.

Each request will be determined on its merit and factor in ability, physiological development of the junior player and required game exposure (ensuring the potential for overuse injuries is managed).

3.2 Age Group Policies

Fair and equitable play will be the aim of this policy. In all age groups, the below playing time policies will be adhered to.

3.2.1 Under 11

Players will be rotated through all positions during the season, with consideration given to the child's safety. All players will be given the opportunity to pitch and catch, if the player desires and



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it is deemed safe for them to do so. Where safety is a concern, this should be monitored and when safe and appropriate the opportunity should be provided. This should be continually reviewed throughout the season. The batting line up is to vary each game, to make sure all players are given an opportunity to hit in different line up positions during the season.

Where there are more than 9 players the coaches will aim to ensure all players receive equal playing time. Participation is calculated based on availability for scheduled games.

Participation, learning the game and playing the game in a manner which reflects the spirit of the game, is to be the focus for this playing level. Winning is not a priority.

League rules and bylaws for this playing level are to be adhered to.

3.2.2 Under 13 (All Grades)

Players will be continually rotated through different positions during the season, at the coach's discretion, which is to be based on a players physical and skill capabilities. Each player will be taught at least two positions during the season at trainings, with gameday positions at the coach's discretion.

A minimum of at least 5 players will be trained and used as pitchers in games during the season. All pitchers must be utilised equally in all aspects of the game, from starting through to relieving, with an aim for balanced innings.

Coaches will continue to develop a minimum of 2 catchers at this level, where it is deemed safe and appropriate. Where only one catcher is deemed suitable this must be escalated to the Junior Coordinator.

Where there are more than 9 players the coaches will aim to ensure all players receive equal playing time. Participation is calculated based on availability for scheduled games. Playing time in Finals is at the discretion of the coach.

League rules and bylaws for this playing level are to be adhered to.



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3.2.3 U15 (All Grades)

Players may be rotated through different positions during the season, at the coach's discretion, which is to be based on a player's physical and skill capabilities. Each player will be taught at least two positions during the season at trainings, with gameday positions at the coach's discretion.

A minimum of at least 4 players will be trained and used as pitchers in games during the season. All pitchers must be utilised equally in all aspects of the game, from starting through to relieving, with an aim for balanced innings.

Coaches will continue to develop a minimum of 2 catchers at this level, where it is deemed safe and appropriate. Where only one catcher is deemed suitable this must be escalated to the Junior Coordinator.

Where there are more than 9 players the coaches will aim to ensure all players receive equal playing time. Participation is calculated based on availability for scheduled games. Playing time in Finals is at the discretion of the coach.

League rules and bylaws for this playing level are to be adhered to.

3.2.4 U17 (All Grades)

Players will play in positions that the coach decides suits the player's psychological, physical and skill capabilities.

A minimum of at least 4 players will be trained and used as pitchers in games during the season. How these are utilised will be at the discretion of the coach but should take into consideration recommendations from the senior coaching staff.

Where there are more than 9 players the coaches will aim to ensure all players receive equal playing time. Participation is calculated based on availability for scheduled games. Playing time in Finals is at the discretion of the coach.

League rules and bylaws for this playing level are to be adhered to.



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4. Game Time Considerations

- a) Participation is calculated on games the player is available to play in.
- b) Any breach of the Code of Conduct or general poor behaviour will be considered when determining appropriate game time. Where on discussion with parents improved behaviour has not occurred a loss of game time may occur.
- c) A player not attending the required training sessions as determined by the team coach without cause can mean less playing time when compared to other team members that are attending the required training sessions.
- d) Failure to notify the coach of a player's absence from training or games can result in reduced participation in games.

5. Training/Game Requirements

All players are required to attend a minimum of 2 training session per week, unless agreed upon prior, with the team's coach. If a player is going to miss a training session, it is the player or parent responsibility to notify the coach at least 1 hour prior to the training session, to allow time for the coach to adjust their training plans to suit. If a player is going to miss a game, it is the player or parent responsibility to notify the coach at least 1 day prior to allow adjustment to the starting line-up and rotations.

If a player is going to be late to trainings or games, it is the player or parent responsibility to notify the coach as soon as possible so the coach can adjust the training plan or starting line-up.

Every player is required to bring suitable training equipment, which includes the club hat, training top, glove, helmet and playing equipment. A drink and hat are mandatory and if not provided, the player will not participate in the training session.

6. Equipment

Players MUST provide their own batting helmet and glove which are to be brought to trainings and games.

The club will provide teams with the appropriate equipment (other than the above) for all grades. Whilst every attempt is made to ensure equipment is suitable for most participants, this is not always possible, so individuals are encouraged to utilise their own personal equipment where



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possible. All personal equipment must meet the requirements of the league and comply with all safety standards.

7. Appendices

Nil

8. Supporting Documents/Links

a) Play by The Rules - Team Selection Juniors

<https://www.playbytherules.net.au/got-an-issue/team-selection-juniors>

b) ETBC Grievance Policy