

Clyde Cougars Junior Football Club

Filling In Policy 2025



Introduction

The Clyde Cougars Junior Football Club (CJFC) is dedicated to fostering the growth and development of our players while assisting teams that may require 'fill in players'. The "Filling In" policy outlines procedures for allowing players to fill in for other age groups when needed. This policy supports a 'whole club approach,' while ensuring a players 'original team' is given priority.

Mandatory Guidelines:

1. **Age Group Limitation:** Players can only fill in for teams one age group above or below their true age team without exceptional circumstances and approval by the Executive Committee (Any players playing below their "true age group" must have league dispensation approval).
2. **Coach Agreement:** Both the player's coach and the coach of the team requiring the fill-in must agree to the arrangement.
3. **Organisation Deadline:** The fill-in must be organised by the Friday before the game unless exceptional circumstances exist (This is to reduce last minute rushed decisions).
4. The requesting coach cannot demand specific players. Capable and willing players will be nominated and rotated through the season evenly.
5. The fill-in player must not receive more game time than a regular listed player of the team requiring the fill-in.
6. If it is the player's first time 'filling in' for an older age group in that year, the parents must sign a waiver prior to the player taking the field. Each season a new form is required.
7. No players from Under 8 or Under 9 teams are to be used as fill-ins.
8. Additional players cannot be requested for teams that already have 22 or more players available on game day.

Club Guidelines:

Whole Club Approach

- Support a unified strategy that benefits all teams and players.
- Ensure minimal disruption to the teams providing fill-in players while maximising development opportunities for players.

Game Limits

- Adhere to the AFL recommendation of no more than 25 games per season, including club games, interleague matches, finals, and school games. This helps prevent player fatigue and injury.

Priority of Original Team

- The player's original team should always be prioritised and fatigue monitored. Players should not generally be used as fill-ins if their regular team has a game scheduled after the older team's game. If (as a last resort) this occurs, the fill-in player is limited to a maximum 50% game time.

Request Process

- The coach or team manager of the team needing fill-in players should approach the coach of the potential supplying team no later than Friday for a Sunday game.
- The original coach is to notify the player's parent/carer and receive written consent (via SMS or email) this consent is to be forwarded on to the Football Director.
- Late requests will only be considered under exceptional circumstances. Poor planning does not constitute exceptional circumstances.
- The requesting team must notify the Football Director of the organised fill-in player via email no later than Friday who will record this information.

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Player Selection

- Selection should be fair and considerate of all team members.
- The supplying coach should share opportunities among capable and willing players.
- It is the responsibility of the player's original coach / team manager that only players of one year age difference are to be supplied. This information will be verified by the Football Director.

Communication

- Once players are selected, ensure effective communication between both coaches to confirm player eligibility by Friday for a Sunday game.

Parental Involvement

- Parents should not be involved in the player selection process to maintain fairness and impartiality.
- Parents should only be involved to gain consent for their child to play in an older age group once the players have been selected.

Fair Distribution

- Ensure that 'filling in' opportunities are distributed fairly among players to prevent overburdening individuals.

Game Day

- Players participating in their second game for the day should not play for more than 50% of the game time.

Exceptional Circumstances

- Any requests or actions outside the specified guidelines will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the club's Executive Committee to ensure fairness and the best interest of the players involved. Please refer to the Football Director to gain approval.

Conclusion:

The Clyde Cougars Junior Football Club is committed to providing a positive and developmental environment for all our players. This Filling In policy supports our teams effectively while prioritising player welfare and development.

For any queries or further information, please contact the Football Director.

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