



BRUNSWICK CITY SOCCER CLUB JUNIOR RULES 2011

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1. INTRODUCTION

This document relates to the Junior Rules of Brunswick City Soccer Club and includes such things as team composition, match playing time, coaching expectations and codes of conduct and has been developed from the principles of fun & enjoyment, ample participation for all players, fair play, good sportsmanship, skill & fitness development and providing a positive, encouraging Club environment. Although the club recognises the importance of winning & the development of excellence, these values must not override the club's commitment to the provision of a positive sporting experience for all players without regard to their perceived levels of ability. It must be remembered that children develop at different rates and in different ways and there are many examples of under-developed children who have, with positive and caring encouragement, developed into fine athletes and soccer players over time.

Team composition and match playing time have always been two of the most controversial issues in junior sport. Since this club is in the business of promoting soccer in the Brunswick area, the interests of its players must take precedence. To ensure that the club continues to thrive, there must be a defined set of rules that govern these issues and it is **expected that all coaches, managers and club officials** will abide by these rules both in letter and in spirit.

2. PLAYING PHILOSOPHY

2.1 SMALL SIDED FOOTBALL (SSF – U7/9)

At the SSF level the emphasis is clearly in favour of fun, participation, social interaction and learning. Since small children do not regard winning with quite the same fervour as many of their parents, SSF match results are not recorded and it is expected that team officials and parents will not let their own ambitions spoil the enjoyment that the children obviously gain from playing the game of soccer. Although these principles dominate our approach to SSF, the club also recognises that this is the best time for soccer players of the future to learn the basic skills. For this reason, the club encourages SSF coaches to attend recognised FFV coaching courses.

2.2 JUNIORS (including U11SSF)

As players progress through their teenage years, the game becomes more competitive and winning assumes a higher priority. To accommodate these changing attitudes, junior coaches (U11 +) are progressively allowed greater flexibility in the areas of team composition & playing time although this does not mean that winning should override the principles of fun & enjoyment, ample participation for all players, fair play, good sportsmanship, skill & fitness development and providing a positive, encouraging Club environment, nor abandon those players and families who have supported and helped develop the Club over previous years.

Although the club believes that junior teams (U11+) should be competitive and we endeavour to appoint only experienced, professional coaches, our primary objectives are to encourage, educate and continually improve rather than winning individual games and producing league champions (although we would like to think we can still do this by meeting the above objectives).

3. GRADING/TEAM SELECTION

3.1 SMALL SIDED FOOTBALL (SSF)

The SSF program is highly dependant on the support of volunteers; coaches, team managers and parent involvement during match days. Without the support of volunteers, Brunswick City Soccer Club is not able to run a successful, fulfilled program.

The U7, U9 and U10 Sub-junior teams are usually formed based on friendship groups. The U11 teams will be determined in a similar fashion to the juniors (U12 upwards – refer to Section 3.2)

3.2 JUNIORS

FFV competitions from U13 upwards are graded competitions (i.e. A, B, C, teams etc.). In addition, the FFV has requested that U10, 11 (SSF) and U12 teams be informally graded (Kangaroos – for more experienced teams, Joeys – for newcomers to the game). Therefore from U10 upwards, Brunswick City Soccer Club teams will be graded if more than one team competes at any age level.

- 3.2.1 Grading involves selecting a team with the best ability from the pool of players in any age group.
- 3.2.2 Other teams in that age group will also be graded and players will be assigned to teams based on their ability and experience, also taking into account friendship groups.
- 3.2.3 Where it applies, team grading will take place pre-season with at least 4 training (grading) sessions occurring before preliminary team assignments are made. The process must involve consultation between age group coaches, managers, and coordinators. All returning players will be invited to attend these sessions and should be encouraged by their coaches and team managers to do so.
- 3.2.4 Final team assignments will be made as soon as possible in order to meet the club registration deadline.
- 3.2.5 Returning players will only be cut from their previous team if:
 - they are playing at an age level above the one they rightfully belong in and aren't up to the required playing ability of this age level (in these cases they will (where possible) be placed in a Club team at an age level they belong to),
 - the Club is able to field a second team which will enable the player to continue playing in their rightful age group,
 - there are too many existing players in the squad to accommodate all players (in such cases alternative options will be sought e.g. playing in an age level above their actual age or speaking to other local Clubs to determine team vacancies) – refer to clause 4.2.3 for further details.
 - The ability/skill level, attitude and/or behaviour of a player(s) has a detrimental effect on the team's overall potential. In such circumstances (and where possible), players will be put into teams of a playing ability closer to their own.
 - The behaviour of individuals has warranted their exclusion from the team.
- 3.2.6 It is expected that a player may decline the invitation to be on an "A" team if selected. The club recognises that "friendship groups" sometimes play a part in a player's enjoyment of the game and may determine whether he/she continues to play. Players who decline an "A" team selection will be accommodated, if possible, in another preferred team.
- 3.2.7 The Club Committee (representative) will make the final decision with respect to final playing lists in consultation with relevant coaches and coaching coordinator.
- 3.2.8 The Club will endeavour to maintain team composition by retaining a majority of the previous year's team. This is believed to help maintain team structure, spirit and encourage continual improvement. A maximum of three (3) new players may be accepted into an existing team unless additional players are required due to vacancies.
- 3.2.9 In instances where positions in a team are not available for a player(s) due to their lack of skill/ability, a 'train only' option may be offered. The 'train only' option will attract a reduced fee for the subject team (to be determined by Club

Committee Representative(s)). The team coach and Club Committee will make the final decision as to whether this option is available.

3.3 APPEAL PROCESS

If a player or his/her parent or guardian believes that he/she has been unfairly overlooked for a position in an 'A'/Kangaroo Team squad, he/she or his/her parent or guardian should in the first instance write/email to the Secretary of the Club, who will respond within two weeks. If the player or his/her guardian wishes, he/she may put his/her case to the next Committee Meeting, and the full Committee will decide on an appropriate next step. The Committee's decision is final.

3.4 GENERAL

- 3.4.1 Once assigned to a team, players will train with their respective coaches.
- 3.4.2 Ideally, all teams in an age group will train at the same time to allow interaction between teams as the coaches deem fit. However, this is not always possible as training times are dependent on the schedules of each individual coach.
- 3.4.3 Coaches shall meet regularly and are encouraged to discuss their teams and players' capabilities.
- 3.4.4 During the season, players may move between teams but only as allowed for by the FFV "Rules of Competition" and as felt necessary by their coaches.
- 3.4.5 The coaches in any age group should act for the benefit of all players in that age group and not just for the members of their team.
- 3.4.6 Gala Day/Tournament Selection: For both SSF and junior teams, coaches are permitted to select the club's most capable players to represent the club. Final team composition will be determined in consultation with coaches, coaching coordinator and Club Committee (representative). This decision will be FINAL.

4. TEAM COMPOSITION

4.1 AGE GROUPS

- 4.1.1 All players are encouraged to play in their own age group unless there are valid reasons for playing in an older group.
- 4.1.2 There are NO circumstances that will permit any player to join a team in a younger age group. This prohibition on the use of over-age players also includes unofficial, practice & 'friendly' matches.
- 4.1.3 A player may be allowed to join a team playing in a higher age level if the player's parents, team coaches, and relevant coordinators consider that it would be in the best interests of the player concerned or if there are excess numbers in the player's own age group and there are vacancies in the older group.
- 4.1.4 A player may occasionally be invited to play in an older age team if the older age team is short of players or it will benefit the younger player's development. Players in an existing team should not be displaced or denied adequate playing time as a result of players being brought in from another team.

4.2 TEAM SIZES AND SELECTION

- 4.2.1 The following are the recommended minimum, optimum & maximum squad numbers for junior age groups. Requests for numbers different to these will need to obtain Committee approval beforehand.

Age Group	Field Numbers	Minimum	Optimum	Maximum
Juniors 10-11	9	10	12	12
Juniors 12+	11	12	14	16

- 4.2.2 Junior and SSF coordinators, coaches and managers must accept correct age group players on a "first come, first served" basis up to the optimum squad size

(i.e. preference for team assignments will be given to returning players registering prior to the registration deadlines followed by other players registering prior to the registration deadline). Once this number has been reached, additional players may be accepted up to the maximum team numbers after discussion and agreement between Coach, Coaching Coordinator and Vice President - Juniors.

- 4.2.3 If the number of players that are registered in any particular age group causes a team size to exceed the targeted number of players for that age group, all efforts will be made to move players up to the age group above or up from the age group below so that all team sizes fall within the targeted team sizes. Where it is still not possible to create teams for that age group within the targeted team size, registrations will be declined after considering the following:
- Registrations received after the last advertised registration date;
 - Players with registration fees that have not been paid by key publicised dates (and at the discretion of the Committee in the event of financial hardship);
 - Player skills/ability, attitude and behaviour and Club/Team loyalty;
 - Based on the number of successive years that each player has played at the Club;
 - Based on previous attendance at training sessions and participation in the club's activities;
 - Based on the family's involvement in volunteer Club roles such as coaching, managing, committee and other volunteer involvement;
 - Players area of residence i.e. proximity to Club.
- 4.2.4 Unless a shortfall of returning players, teams will not be altered by more than three (3) players with respect to player composition from outside the Club without the approval of the Club Committee. 'New' players must attend at least four (4) training sessions (trials) to be eligible for selection.
- 4.2.5 If a squad has less than the optimum number for its age group then players may be accepted from a younger age group. Under no circumstances may a coach or team manager directly approach an underage player. Under age players may only be accepted after consultation with the Vice President - Juniors, junior coaching coordinator, the coaches & team managers of the lower age group and the parents of the under age player.
- 4.2.6 In circumstances where 'mixed age group' teams are formed, all endeavours will be made to have an even spread of players from the two subject age groups e.g. An U14'B' team should where possible be made up of seven 13y/o's and seven 14y/o's.

5. MATCH PLAYING TIME

5.1 SMALL SIDED FOOTBALL (5 TO 10 YEARS OF AGE)

- 5.1.1 All registered and financial players who take part in the Small Sided Football program must be afforded equal playing time **without regard to ability**. If necessary, team managers should request help from parents to manage equal playing time.

5.2 JUNIORS (U11SSF - U14)

- 5.2.1 Although it is recognised that in this age group a player's ability may begin to partially determine playing time, all registered and financial players who regularly attend training sessions must be given "ample and fair" playing time. With the continuation of the interchange player rule, there is no reason why players should not have ample playing time in all matches. It can be reasonably expected that

players who do not attend all training sessions will be afforded less playing time than those that do.

5.2.2 It must be remembered that children develop at different rates and in different ways so ample playing time should be afforded to all players.

5.2.3 Players should be encouraged to try playing in different positions.

5.3 JUNIORS (U/15 & ABOVE)

Although selection and playing time may be made on a 'best team' basis, ability should not be the only factor. All registered and financial players who regularly attend training shall be allowed to play as frequently as possible.

5.4 GENERAL

5.4.1 **Unregistered players shall NOT be permitted to play in any match under any circumstances.** The "NO PAY - NO PLAY" policy will be strictly enforced.

5.4.2 If players from any team are invited to help make up numbers in another team, they shall not displace existing team members. While such invited players will receive some playing time, they should only be regarded as reserve players.

6. COACHES

Without our Coaches we do not have teams, nor a Club. The Club will aim to:

- Support Coaches with an interest in developing their abilities;
- set standards so that Coaches know what is expected of them;
- find ways that our more experienced Coaches can help our new and less experienced ones

All coaches are required to have a current valid 'Working With Children Check' card. Coaches are also expected to have the appropriate level Coaching License. These are as follows:

- U7SSF - Grassroots
- U9-11SSF - Junior Certificate/License
- U12-U15 - Youth Certificate/License
- U16+ - Senior Certificate/License

6.1 COACHING SUPPORT

The Club will endeavour to provide as much support to its coaching staff as possible. This will include:

- A coaching coordinator to work with all coaches to lift skill levels
- Encouraging older players to assist coaches with training sessions of younger players
- Improve skills of coaches through:
 - development of more and better materials for all coaches
 - Coaches' newsletter
- Providing a forum for coaches to regularly meet and discuss training/playing techniques and other topical issues.

6.2 PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

Coaches are expected to develop the confidence, enjoyment, skills and ability of the players within their squad. At Brunswick City we strive to further develop all our players

who we consider to be part of the Brunswick City family. Coaches at junior levels up to at least U15 are encouraged to develop their existing squads rather than chase players from other Clubs to strengthen the team. Where vacancies exist within squads, coaches will be encouraged to select the best possible players which may be undertaken through training sessions or specialized trials.

Where individual players require additional attention, coaches are expected to commit appropriate time to assist these or seek the assistance of the Coaching Director or other Club support.

All players who are part of a team are expected to turn up for training on time and to game day at the time requested by the coach. During training and game day players are expected to abide by the directions given to them by the Coach.

All coaches shall keep abreast of the performance of younger players with the view of promoting or offering them opportunities to train and play at a higher level in order to aid their development. Where such opportunities arise, consultation between junior coaching coordinator, coaches, team managers, Vice President - Juniors and parents will take place to ensure all parties are satisfied.

6.3 PLAYER DISCIPLINE

The Club Committee may discipline any player or member persistently bringing the Club into disrepute. This may take any form of suspension. Any player persistently disrupting training sessions may be asked to leave the session. Coaches are permitted to use their discretion in regard to player discipline. It is mandated that the Vice President - Juniors be approached to discuss any issues prior to making any decisions regarding players.

6.4 FINES TO PLAYERS

Any fine imposed upon the Club, player or a supporter of the Club by the FFV or any other governing body will be passed directly onto the parties involved.

7. CODES OF BEHAVIOR

The Australian Sports rule has produced the following 'Codes of Behaviour', which have been adopted not only by football, but also by most sports in Victoria. These codes are deemed to be incorporated into Brunswick City Soccer Clubs Rules and are outlined below.

7.1 PLAYERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

- (a) Play by the Rules and within the spirit of the game
- (b) Do not argue with the match official. If you disagree, have your captain or coach approach the match official during a break in play or after the match is concluded
- (c) Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other players, deliberately distracting or provoking another person is not acceptable or permitted in any sport
- (d) Maintain your focus and work hard for yourself and your team
- (e) Be a good sport and be prepared to acknowledge good play whether it is from your team or the opposition
- (f) Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player
- (g) Cooperate with your coach, teammates and opponents. Without them, there would be no competition
- (h) Play for your own enjoyment, and not just to please parents and coaches
- (i) Remove all jewellery prior to training and match play, as it is a hazard to you and those around you

- (j) Do not accept or use any banned or unauthorised drug(s), including the consumption of alcohol at any time

7.2 PARENTS' CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

- (a) Remember that children play sport for their enjoyment, and not yours
- (b) Encourage children to play according to the rules and spirit of the game
- (c) Encourage all children to participate, do not force them
- (d) Focus on the child's efforts and performance rather than the result of the activity (that is, winning or losing)
- (e) Encourage children to always participate according to the rules
- (f) Never ridicule, yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a game
- (g) Remember that children learn best by example, so applaud good play by both teams
- (h) Support all efforts to remove racial and religious vilification, verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities
- (i) Respect the match official's decisions and teach your child to do likewise
- (j) Show respect and appreciation to Club volunteers, including coaches, officials and administrators. Ensure any issues are raised through the correct channels
- (k) Smart Supporting – not loud and intense but calm, relaxed and at all times positive
- (l) Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion
- (m) Do not smoke or consume alcohol near the team bench (Technical Area) or sideline

7.3 COACHES' CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

- (a) Remember that children participate for the fun of it and that winning is not everything
- (b) Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or being in a losing team
- (c) Be reasonable in your demands on younger players time, energy and enthusiasm
- (d) Teach your players to abide by the rules and laws of the games
- (e) Whenever possible, change the group of players to ensure everyone has a reasonable chance of success
- (f) Avoid overplaying the talented players as all players deserve equal time on the playing field
- (g) Ensure that equipment and facilities meet a reasonable safety standard and are appropriate to the age and ability of the players
- (h) Modify your approach to suit the skill levels and needs of players
- (i) Develop and enhance respect between players, opposition coaches and the decisions of the match official
- (j) Follow the advice of a physician when determining the extent of a player's injury and beyond that, when players are returning from injury to training and match play
- (k) Keep up to date with the latest coaching practices (refer to Coach Accreditation Criteria) and the principles of growth and development in children
- (l) Take time out to teach players (& others) the Laws of the Game, hence raising their awareness
- (m) Remind all players to play within the spirit of the game at all times
- (n) Ensure players are good sports and ensure each team member shakes the hand of their opponents at the conclusion of every match
- (o) Do not smoke or consume alcohol from the team bench (Technical Area) or sideline
- (p) Remember the actions of yourself and your team is reflective of the perception others take away with them

7.4 OFFICIALS' CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

- (a) Help coaches and officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development, and assist in raising the standards of coaching and officiating
- (b) Ensure everyone involved in football emphasises fair play, and not winning at all costs
- (c) Be tolerant and calm under pressure and approach problem solving in a supportive manner as members and players will expect you to set an example for others
- (d) Make every effort to educate persons who breach these guidelines from time to time.

7.5 SPECTATORS' CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

- (a) Remember all children play football for their enjoyment, not just yours
- (b) Applaud good play and performances from both teams, and be forward in congratulating all participants on their performance regardless of the final outcome
- (c) Respect the match official's decisions on the day and teach children to do the same
- (d) Never ridicule or scold a child for making a mistake before, during or after the game, as this may deter that child from continuing in the sport
- (e) Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches, officials or players
- (f) Show respect to both teams when watching matches, because without them there would be no game
- (g) Encourage players to follow rules and accept the decision of the match official
- (h) Do not intimidate, harass or use foul language towards, players, match officials, Club officials or spectators