



# LILYDALE JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

## GAME TIME & ROSTERING POLICY

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a clear understanding of the process of game time and rostering processes. LJFC is committed to Fairness, Transparency and Equity. The Club adopts an approach which recognises that teams vary in size, skill and ability but that all players are entitled to be treated fairly.

### NON COMPETITIVE PLAYING SIDES

#### Under 8's, 9's & 10's

#### Player Numbers

Refer to [Team Size & Team Selection Policy](#)

### Game Time

Subject to injury or other extenuating circumstances each player should:

- be afforded the same amount of game time over the course of the season.
- play a minimum of 3 quarters per game
- **No player** should play a full game until all players have had the opportunity of playing at least 3 quarters

### Positioning

Players should be provided with the opportunity to play in all positions (i.e. backline, centre/on ball, forward line and bench), although this may need to be averaged out over several weeks. We believe this to be the best way to provide young footballers with all round development regardless of their level of ability.

### COMPETITIVE TEAMS

#### UNDER 11's - 16's - Home & Away Season

#### Player Numbers

Refer to Team Size & Team Selection Policy [Team Size & Team Selection Policy](#)



## Game Time

Subject to injury or other extenuating circumstances each player should:

- be afforded the same amount of game time over the course of the season.
  - be selected on game day and will play a minimum of half a game
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- No player should play a full game until all players have had the opportunity of playing at least half a game

## Positioning

While some players at this age become naturally suited to set positions, the Club encourages players to try various positions throughout the course of the season. We believe this to be the best way to provide young footballers with all round development regardless of their level of ability.

## UNDER 11's to 16's - Finals

As detailed within the EFNL ByLaws, a player must play a minimum of 3 matches with their affiliated junior club in the home and away matches to qualify to play in the finals series for their junior club. It is generally recognised that finals football is different from Home and Away games. The policy will be based on the following principles:

- An opportunity for as many players as possible to experience finals football.
- An understanding that player selection and playing time for individual players gives the team the best possible opportunity to win.

## Player Numbers

Refer to [Team Size & Team Selection Policy](#)

## Game Time

Subject to injury or other extenuating circumstances, every player selected in a finals game will play a minimum of half a game.

## Positioning

Players should be positioned with regard to their abilities and the needs of the game.

## UNDER 17.5's - Home & Away Season

### Game Time

Subject to injury or other extenuating circumstances each player should:

- be afforded the same amount of game time over the course of the season.
- be selected on game day and will play a minimum of half a game

### Player Numbers



The EFNL limits the number of Under 17 to 30 players per game with 18 on the field and 6 on the bench.

Where sufficient players are available a team of 24 players should be selected to play.

Hence there is the potential for players to be rostered off.

Subject to injury or other extenuating circumstances each player should be afforded the opportunity to play the same number of games as their teammates.

Any player rostered off should be considered an 'emergency' and should attend the game to replace a player who may not be available or to assist the team (e.g. water carrier etc.).

## Game Time

Subject to injury or other extenuating circumstances each player selected may play a minimum of half a game (or equivalent time over the duration of the game).

Coaches may, however, apply some discretion to the selection of players and the amount of game time they play in any particular week having regard to:

- the preparation of the player (incl. attendance and commitment at training)
- the performance of the player (incl. commitment to the game)
- the calibre of the opposition
- the safety of the player concerned
- the status of the game

## Positioning

Players should be positioned with regard to their abilities and the needs of the game.

## UNDER 17.5s - Finals

### Game Time

As detailed within the EFNL Bi-Laws, a player must play at least 3 matches with their affiliated junior club in the home and away matches to qualify to play in the finals series for their junior club.

It is generally recognised that finals football is different from Home and Away games. The policy will be based on the following principles:

- An opportunity for as many players as possible to experience finals football.
- An understanding that player selection and playing time for individual players gives the team the best possible opportunity to win.
- An understanding that the policy will provide Coaches in the Under 17s greater scope for varying playing time having regard to player commitment and the needs of the game.

## Player Numbers

Where sufficient players are available a team of 24 players should be selected to play.

Any player rostered off should be considered an 'emergency' and should attend the game to replace a player who may not be available or to assist the team (e.g. water carrier etc.).

## Player Selection

It is expected that a reasonable and fair selection process will be undertaken should the team continue to progress (i.e. at selection panels discretion to allow the best possible chance of winning).

## Game Time

Subject to injury or other extenuating circumstances, every player selected in a finals game will play a minimum of one quarter (or equivalent time over the duration of the game).

## Positioning

Players should be positioned with regard to their abilities and the needs of the game.

## Movement of Players Between Teams and Age Groups

Refer to EFNL Bylaws - The EFNL poses severe limits on players playing up (e.g. number of games allowed, final's qualifications etc.): coaches should consult with Football Operations before seeking to play a player up. All players in the Under 10 to Under 15 grades (inclusive) may play out of their registered age group.

However, no player may:

- Play more than two years above his/her registered age group.
- Play more than three (3) games out of his/her registered age group in any one season.

The first team a player plays his third (3) match in is the only team they can qualify for finals in. Once a player has qualified in a division they are limited to two (2) matches in a higher division. They cannot move down to a lower division.

All players in the Under 17.5 grade may play out of their registered age group. However, no player may:

- Play nine (9) or more games out of his/her registered age group in any one season.
- Play nine (9) or more games in the senior competition or TAC Cup Competition and participate in the

Under 17 finals in that season

## Summary

LJFC aims to provide clarity and understanding of Game Time along with the process that is in place for Game time, please understand that coaches do the best they can, if you ever have any concerns please follow the Coaches & Parents communication Policy.

Policy last reviewed	October 2025
Consulation	September 2025 Travis Switzer - Culture Vate
Approved by	LJFC Committee
Next Review Schedule date (2 years)	October 2027