

Mayne Juniors

Youth Player Selection Process

Purpose:

The purpose of this information is to outline the key selection process for our Youth teams at Mayne Junior Australian Football Club (JAFC).

It also includes protocols with regards to players playing up in age group, either for the entire season or in instances where teams in higher divisions or higher age groups require additional players due to various reasons, either as a once-off or on an ongoing basis.

Youth player team grading and player selection principle:

The aim of team grading and the player selection process is to create competitive teams in the division they compete in. The selection panel will try to ensure a consistent approach to such in order to enhance leadership and development throughout the teams.

Youth Player Selection Process Principles:

- Selection process and criteria to aligned with Mayne Tigers Purpose and Vision
- To ensure we apply this process in a fair and equitable manner
- To ensure Mayne Juniors maintain an ongoing connection with all involved.

Our Club:

Our Purpose

Our purpose is to provide an environment where players, parents and supporters can enjoy the benefits of this great Australian game, in a respectful atmosphere conducive to good sportsmanship, behaviour and most of all, fun.

Our Vision

All children in our catchment experience Australia's greatest game, Aussie Rules, on their sporting journey.

Key Reference information:

- [About | Mayne Juniors AFL](#)

- [2025 Youth Player Movement Summary.pdf](#)
- [AFL-Queensland-Community-Rules-Procedures-2024-1.pdf](#)
 - Including Section 12 – Youth Playing Up specific rules

Mayne Juniors – Youth Player Playing Guidelines

For Youth Teams (U13 to U17):

- Every effort should be made to ensure that all players have the opportunity to play as much football as possible.
- It is expected that all players to play a minimum of 50% , or close to, on the ground each week.
- All Players must be on the field by half time and preferably by the beginning of the second quarter.
- Coaches will make every effort to rotate players through differing positions in order to expand their knowledge of the game and positional play.
- In cases where equity is not possible every week, the on ground equity should be accomplished over a period of two-three games.
- In U15 – U17 age groups, the Coach will have greater discretion in relation to playing times whilst acknowledging that a degree of equity is still desirable.

Finals Selection & Rotation Policy:

It is generally recognised that finals football is different to the normal season and that it is reasonable, within certain guidelines, for Teams to aspire to some success in the Finals and for Coaches to select and manage their Team accordingly.

For Teams in Finals the following Guidelines will apply:

- The opportunity for as many players as possible to experience Finals Football.
- An understanding that player selection, position and playing time gives the team the best opportunity to win.
- An understanding that the Guidelines will provide Coaches in U13-U17 a greater scope for varying the playing time of individual players than for U11.
- In the event of a Team playing in one Final, the required number of players will be selected.
- In the event of playing in two or more Finals, all players will play in at least one Final game.

- In Youth Finals, the Coach will have greater discretion in relation to playing times whilst still acknowledging that a degree of equity is still desirable.

How do the trials/selection process work?

Please ask players to try their hardest throughout the trials so they are placed in a team that is the right level for them.

Players will be placed into teams and graded into division levels.

Please don't ask for players to be moved after the trial process, as this creates extra pressure on our volunteers who need to complete a large number of tasks for players to be able to begin playing.

Occasionally we will need to move players during the team grading process, please be open to any changes requested. The aim is for players to have a positive experience of the game.

Registration Condition: Any player wishing to be considered as part of the selection criteria to play in the highest division team nominated for their age group, must be registered prior to the assessment close off date.

Can players be put into teams with their friends?

We make all efforts to place players in teams based on their skill and ability. This helps ensure that players have a great experience during the season. We do know that some players may want to play with their friends. Players will be placed in teams of similar playing abilities. We can't guarantee that friends will be placed together but we will consider requests only where players are the same playing ability. Requests must be made prior to selection process.

How will I know what team my child has been placed in?

Team lists will be posted via the Mayne Tigers Junior Australian Football Club website once available.

Please also note that during the team grading period after the trials, players may be moved between teams in exceptional circumstances.

How do I contact club committee members?

Please refer to the Mayne Tigers Junior Australian Football Club website for contact details. Please be mindful, all club committee members are volunteers with families and full-time jobs and may not be able to respond immediately to emails.

Timing:

- Registration Close-off
 - A registration close-off date in relation to selection will be communicated where applicable to allow the appropriate team preparations for the season ahead. Please note that registrations will continue to be accepted post this date however player grading will be impacted.

- Assessment Period Closure
 - There will be an assessment period, with teams being nominated by a specific closure date where applicable.

Process:

1. Players will assess against a set of agreed criteria in the first instance.
 - a. The assessment process will include both technical ability assessment and 'in game' assessment via any scheduled pre-season games (both intra club or inter club games) as organised by the club and/or associated coach.
2. Other considerations will then be factored to ensure the associated **Key Youth Player Selection Process Principles** and **Mayne Juniors – Youth Player Playing Guidelines** are considered.
3. Any other factors to be considered and final decisions will be made by the Mayne Tigers Junior Australian Football Club Executive.

Selection Criteria:

1. Skills

- **Ball Control:** Demonstrates strong handling, kicking, and catching abilities under pressure.
- **Game Awareness:** Shows an understanding of game tactics, positioning, and quick decision-making.
- **Consistency:** Performs skills reliably in both practice and competitive scenarios.

2. Attitude

- **Work Ethic:** Exhibits dedication to training, continually strives for improvement, and is willing to push themselves.
- **Coachability:** Open to feedback, actively works on areas of development, and applies guidance effectively.
- **Resilience:** Maintains a positive outlook and determination, even when facing challenges or setbacks.

3. Leadership

- **Communication:** Encourages teammates on the field, shares insights, and listens well to others.
- **Influence:** Sets a positive example through actions and behavior, fostering team morale and unity.
- **Responsibility:** Takes ownership of both successes and mistakes, showing accountability.

4. Teamwork

- **Collaboration:** Works well within a team dynamic, supporting and coordinating with teammates.
- **Unselfish Play:** Prioritizes the success of the team over individual performance, understanding when to pass or assist.
- **Adaptability:** Adjusts effectively to different team strategies and roles as required.

5. Fitness & Endurance

- **Stamina:** Maintains energy levels consistently throughout the game.
- **Physical Readiness:** Shows agility, speed, and strength appropriate for competitive play.