

Ipswich Football Club Equal Playing Time



Purpose

The purpose of this Equal Playing Time Policy is to ensure that all players at Ipswich Football Club have the opportunity to participate in matches and develop their skills in line with the club's focus on player development and fair play.

Scope

This policy applies to all players in community teams only such as Calves, MiniRoos, and Junior teams at Ipswich Football Club, covering all matches and training sessions throughout the season.

Community Team Philosophy

Ipswich Football Club prioritises player development and enjoyment over a "win-at-all-cost" approach. We believe that providing equal playing time for all players supports skill development, teamwork, and a positive sporting experience.

Policy Guidelines

Calves and MiniRoos

Equal Playing Time: All players in the Calves and MiniRoos age groups will receive equal playing time in every game, regardless of their ability or gender.

Mixed Teams: Girls and boys play in mixed teams with equal opportunities on the field.

Awards and Recognition: There will be no best and fairest awards. All children will receive a trophy on Presentation Day. The focus is on participation, fun, skill improvement, and social interaction.

Juniors (Under 13 and Older):

General Principle: Equal playing time remains a key objective, but it may not be possible for every single game due to varying match conditions.

Game Conditions: Coaches may adjust playing time based on the strength of the opposition. For example, in games against stronger teams, some players might receive more playing time to ensure competitive balance and player safety. The aim is for equal playing time over the entire season, including equal starting positions to ensure no player is consistently benched at the beginning of games.

Team Management: Coaches will strive to balance playing time throughout the season to give all players a fair opportunity to participate and develop.

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Exceptions:

Injury or Non-Participation: If a player is injured or opts not to participate, their playing time may be adjusted accordingly.

Special Positions: Players who volunteer for less popular positions (e.g., goalkeeper, full back) may be given extra playing time as a reward for their willingness to play those roles.

Communication: Players and parents should be familiar with all Club Policies. It is their responsibility to understand this Equal Playing Time Policy and how it will be applied throughout the season. This understanding will help minimize frustration and ensure transparency

Implementation and Communication

Ongoing Monitoring: Coaches will regularly review and adjust playing time to ensure adherence to the policy and address any issues that arise during the season.

Review and Feedback

Policy Review: This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it meets the needs of the players and aligns with the club's objectives.

Feedback: Players, parents, and coaches are encouraged to provide feedback on the policy and its implementation to ensure continuous improvement.

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