



BELLARINE SHARKS A.F.C.

JUNIOR TEAM SELECTION POLICY

Our commitment:

We believe that junior sport should be safe, enjoyable, inclusive and maximize individual participation. Our club acknowledges that positive experiences in junior competition will contribute to children developing a lifelong love of sport.

What we will do:

- Emphasise to coaches and parents that junior sport is about participation, not competition.
- Modify rules and equipment where possible to include children and young people of all abilities and encourage their participation (if our sport offers modifications).
- Try to match junior players with others of their own ability (e.g., if there are enough players, have two teams in an age division).
- Provide junior players with a broad range of experiences (e.g., participating in different positions).
- Provide equal playing time for all juniors, regardless of their ability.
- Consider boys and girls under 12 years of age playing on the same team, particularly if a team could not otherwise be fielded and rules have been modified.
- Ensure that all team members play in the finals.

What we ask you to do:

Coaches:

- Focus on promoting participation, not winning, and losing.
- Ensure all team members have the chance to play, rotate through positions and receive equal playing time.
- If you coach your own children, treat them like all other team members (e.g., rotations, playing time or participation).

Parents:

- Help out the coach where possible at training and games.
- Focus on your child's effort and performance, not the score.
- Encourage your child and other team members.
 - Respect the selection decisions of the coach.