



## 7.1. Player Participation Policy

It is reasonable to assume that parents of players should understand their “minimum” expectations of match time. All identified players contribute to the team’s performances and development. In forming these guidelines, consideration has been given to providing Coaches with enough flexibility to choose teams best able to compete with an? opposition of varying quality and to make tactical changes during games.

All players need to start and finish in matches over the course of the season. Ensure that your team’s selections take this into consideration so that the same players do not always start in every game.

### **SMALL SIDED FOOTBALL (U6 – U12)**

In non-premiership football (U6-U11), the aim of the Coach should be to give all players equal time on the field in all games. Obviously, several factors will impact on this, including injury, absence, the health of players on the day of each game and the mathematical logistics of splitting time evenly.

### **COMPETITION AGE JUNIOR (U13+)**

Several factors will impact game time for each player including injury, absence, health of the player on game day and the mathematical logistics of splitting game time. Notwithstanding, the following should apply:

- Each player should play a MINIMUM of 60% of total game time, balanced over the season.
- Each player should play a MINIMUM of 25% of every game (refer to exceptions)
- If all players have met with the above criteria in its entirety throughout the competition and the squad has successfully reached the finals the Coach will be obligated to select his/her best performing playing squad for any finals game (semi/grand finals).
- With the last point in mind, we encourage all Coaches to make every effort to include the entire squad even during finals.

### **SENIOR MENS AND WOMENS SQUADS**

Coaches of Senior playing squads are in a competitive playing environment and as such are expected to field teams that are perceived as the strongest competitive squad.

The Coach is responsible for the harmonious atmosphere within their side and will have to establish expectations commensurate with the team's philosophy. Additional to this is the necessity for providing player pathways for younger players and the management of the process to ensure they maintain enthusiasm to want to play.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

For players in competitive age groups to be considered for the starting line-up of a competitive match they must attend ALL training sessions in the preceding week and be injury free prior to the match.

The only exemption to this is when a player has been selected into a Football Queensland / Queensland Academy of Sport / Football Federation Australia identified player program which clashes with club training.

## **RECORD KEEPING**

Coaches and Managers will maintain records of players participation time to ensure we are working within this policy. Please note that the expected percentages are listed as a 'safety net' and it is envisioned that players will well exceed these times.

They are not to be used as a target to be reached. The Club will recommend an appropriate phone "App" to assist Managers & Coaches maintain complete game time records.

## **EXCEPTIONS**

The above provisions are to occur except in the following circumstances where this might not be possible:

- The player is the goalkeeper.
- The player sustains an injury preventing them to contest a game to the best of their ability or endangers safety.
- The player is ill and is unable to perform due to health restrictions.
- Due to disciplinary reasons or suspension.
- Unavailable due to personal reasons e.g., holiday, family/personal commitments.
- If the player requests to be taken off or left out of a particular match.

## **EXTERNAL COMPETITIONS**

For any competitions conducted outside the auspices of the regular competition season (e.g., pre-season tournaments, knock-out competitions, carnivals etc.), the players will expect the same rate of participation as indicated for the season proper, for all group games.

If all players have met with the above criteria in its entirety throughout the competition and the squad has successfully reached the finals the Coach will be obligated to select his/her best performing playing squad for any finals game (semi/grand finals).

### **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

Avoid over-playing talented players. Eventually they will need a break and other players need and deserve opportunities and experiences to develop their technical and tactical appreciations of the game. Over-playing players may lead to injury.

The Holland Park Hawks FC is a development club. We believe all our players should be given the chance to develop to their full potential even if this means that some games are seen as having been lost due to the fielding of perceived 'weaker' players.