

BJFC Streaming Policy

Introduction & Objective

The objective of the streaming policy is to enable Brunswick Dragons players:

- to play at a level that is aligned to the individual's abilities and level of commitment
- to play with and against players with a similar level of skill, ability and confidence so that all players feel they are fully involved and valued members of their team
- to be challenged, experience achievement and enjoy the game
- with talent and the desire to develop and play in higher grades to be better placed for consideration for development programs and elite pathways.

Brunswick JFC promotes a culture of positive encouragement and inclusion. The club aims to support players of all abilities. Coaches and officials will actively monitor players' behaviour and will take appropriate action to address and prevent any negative comments or behaviour, in particular derogatory comments about the ability of players and their selection in either team.

The Brunswick JFC will not force players into higher teams.

This policy applies to teams in age groups U13 and above where there is more than one team in the age group.

'**Streaming**' refers to organising players into teams based on skill level (and other criteria) where there is more than one team per age group. Typically, clubs in the YJFL commence streaming teams from U13.

Player Selection Criteria

Team selection will be guided by:

- proven performance from the previous season
- performance at pre-season training and practice matches
- player ability
- attitude, coachability and commitment
- good sporting behaviour
- training and match day attendance
- team positional requirements.

Selection Process

1. Feedback from coaches of the prior year will form an initial 'on-paper' team split that they will provide to the BJFC registration team in the preseason.
2. The playing group will train together as a squad for the preseason.
3. At least one internal practice game will be held to help identify player ability.
4. Team selection will be completed shortly after the internal practice match.
5. The squad player numbers will be capped at 52. The difference in the number of players between the two teams will be plus or minus two.

Selection Responsibility

1. Coaches who nominate to coach the two teams can nominate their preferred team to coach. If there is more than one applicant for a position, the director of coaching and head of football operations will select the coach, taking into consideration which team the coaches' children are best suited to.
2. The coaching group across the two teams will be primarily responsible for selecting and streaming players. However, selection will be guided based on the advice of two external reviewers. These external reviewers will be either committee members or individuals appointed by the committee.
3. Coaches should be appointed to teams before final team nominations are submitted to the league for the season.

Player/Parent Communication

1. The BJFC will inform all parents and players in existing teams of the club's intention to stream players into teams for the following season. The intention to stream will be communicated to families early in the pre-season.
2. Players who do not want to be considered for the higher division team will have the opportunity to inform the club and coaches.
3. Where parents/players do not agree with the selection outcome, they can:
 - a. Seek clarification from the coaching group about the reason for selection. If there are extenuating circumstances (e.g., sickness or personal issues affecting player performance during the selection period), coaches might agree to reconsider a player's allocation to a team.
 - b. Seek clarification and review from the head of football operations. The head of football operations will have the final decision on the selection process.

Parents are welcome to submit feedback or express any concerns in writing to the committee through the club secretary (secretary@brunswickjfc.org.au).

Player Movement Between Teams

Teams will be assessed every year, giving players an opportunity to be in either the higher or lower-division team depending on their performance in the previous year.

Depending on player numbers, players may be able to move between teams during the early part of the season to enable a further assessment of which team they are best suited to.

Restrictions on the movement of players between teams are driven by the YJFL. The number of games a player may play at a level before being unable to play at a lower level is regulated by the league. The relevant rules are outlined in the YJFL bylaws, which all clubs are bound to.

Players Moving from the Lower to the Higher Division Team

Players from the lower division team can play up in the higher division team to the point where they have played 5 games. At that point, they become a player for the higher team and cannot play in the lower division team except under special circumstances as determined by the YJFL bylaws.

Players Moving from the Higher to the Lower Division Team

Until players have played 5 games at the higher division they may play in the lower division team. After this, if the lower division team has a genuine shortage of players (and would not otherwise be able to field a team), players from the higher division team can play in the lower division team as stipulated in the YJFL bylaws.

POLICY REVIEW HISTORY:

2024 - Modified by J. McCay BJFC Vice President and endorsed on 13/12/2024 by the club executive.

2023 – Modified by K. Athanasopoulos BJFC Vice President and endorsed on 25/10/2023 by the club executive.

2019 - Created by C. Gunn following consultation with Director of Football Luke O’Connell, Football Operations Dom Perrone and the four U13 Boys coaches of 2018. Endorsed at the Committee Meeting on 15 July.