



# GEELONG RANGERS GRADING AND SELECTION POLICY

Geelong Rangers Soccer Club (GRSC) believes that our player's football (soccer) experience should be safe, enjoyable, and inclusive and maximise individual participation. Geelong Rangers Soccer Club acknowledges that positive experiences in junior competition will contribute to children developing a lifelong love of the beautiful game. Our team selection policy has been developed to enable junior players to aspire to playing at a higher level as well as offering the opportunity for those that want to play socially. Players will be selected to play at an age appropriate level with team members of similar skill level. Geelong Rangers is and will always remain a community club. However, we do endeavour to field junior teams in both Geelong and Melbourne.

## **Grading/Selection Period & Attendance**

- Grading will be held at Myers Reserve for each age group between end of season and November for returning players.
- Subsequent grading for new players will be held periodically per age group following season commencement
- There will be more than 1 grading session per age group
- Dates will be advertised on the club website, social media and via email to existing members and to any non-members who are waitlisted through an expression of interest.
- It is the players and guardian's responsibility to check via communication channels and ensure they are able to attend grading.
- Attendance at all grading is recommended to enable the player to be placed in the most appropriate team for their level of skill.
- All players attending grading must be registered with Geelong Rangers with a current email address, mobile number, name and date of birth or they will not receive any correspondence from the club. Details of how to register with the club will be posted on our club website.
- Players unable to attend grading should notify the club in writing to [GeelongRangersfc@gmail.com](mailto:GeelongRangersfc@gmail.com) so that the club may apply the appropriate consideration for the player.

## **Grading/Selection Panel**

- The club will appoint a coaching panel to oversee grading for each age group.
- Players will be assessed on technical and tactical skill as well as attitude.
- Squad selection will be made by the coaching panel with advice from the age group coaches and the club Technical Director.
- Where multiple squads are available in an age group being selected in an age group squad does not constitute being selected in a specific team.
- The Players current seasons performance and attitude both during games and training will also be a consideration in the final selection.
- Due to players developing at different rates No player is guaranteed to be in the same team/squad from year to year.

- Prior knowledge of the player (including feedback from previous coaches) will also be taken into consideration for the final selection.

### **Age Group Selection**

- Teams determined by the number of coaches available per age group.
- The number of teams in each age group will depend upon the number of players available in that age group.
- Geelong Rangers will have a base team policy for each age group to be released after returning member grading.
- Players will grade and play in their respective age range. Exemptions are only permitted upon application to the club in writing. It is the club policy that players will only play above their age range if their football skill level is assessed as high. For example, players from U7s will only be selected to play in U9 Kangaroos (not U9 Joeys)
- The number of positions in the final squad shall be based upon the age group, gender and number of teams competing in the age group. The number of positions shall be decided by the club for each age group and publicised before the commencement of grading.
- Geelong Rangers returning players will be given a position with the club upon the payment of a deposit and space being available in the age group.
- The club shall define and outline the criteria of team selection. The exact criteria will not be published, however it will include evaluation of the following
  - Positive behaviour towards other players and coaching staff.
  - Attitude and commitment towards training.
  - Past performance and history with the club.
  - Technical and tactical skill level.
  - Team fit and requirements.

### **Completion of Grading/Selection**

- At the conclusion of the grading, training squads will be emailed to all registered participants with a training squad coach and time.
- This group will train together until the final teams are selected. This enables coaches to make final adjustments to the squads.
- Selected players will be asked to confirm their positions with a financial deposit. The deposit will be credited towards registration fees. Non-members may also be asked to pay a one off new membership fee.
- Players who are selected and pay the deposit to hold their spot, who then elect to play or trial elsewhere, shall be deemed to have forfeited both their fee and position within the squad. There will be no exemptions.
- At a nominated date (advertised via social media channels and emailed to guardians) prior to the season commencement, final team squads will be sent emailed to registered and paid players.
- A player will not be placed in a team if they are not registered on [PlayFootball Club Registration](#) and fully paid.

### **Miniroos**

- Expressions of Interest are to be lodged in line with Junior policy.
- No grading sessions will be held for miniroos teams.

- The following criteria applies by age group
  - U7 – An intro to football – play with schoolmates/friends so they can just enjoy playing the game.
  - U9 – as with the U7 but some grading will apply. For example: kids new to the game will play in a more social Joeys team where as those that have played previously and are more experienced/competent will be assigned to a more balanced team, likely to be a Kangas team.
  - U11 - Players will be allocated to a Joeys or Kangas team based on feedback from coaches, their growing technical ability, their enthusiasm and attitude. It is important to remember that this age group moves on to Juniors and it is important to start to nurture the 4 key skills of
    - First Touch - receiving a pass.
    - Striking the Ball - passing and finishing.
    - Running with the Ball - changing direction and running at speed.
    - 1v1 - deception and defending.
- Games will be held pre-season to help coaches make a balanced decision on player allocation to teams.
- Maximum squad numbers for U7 is 6 per team, U9 is 9 per team and U11 is 12 per team.

#### **Points to note for Consideration:**

- Geelong Rangers Soccer Club is a community football club and our primary focus is to build teams with FOOTBALL ABILITY.
- We recognise social relationships are important but there are no guarantees that you will be selected in the same team as you played in the previous year.
- Grading is done on technical and tactical skill as well as attitude. It is not in a player's best interest to be playing with children of greatly differing ability.
- Making new friends is one of life's skills and a team sport is a great way to practice this. Parents/ Guardians and coaches will ask for social relationships to be considered however this will be a secondary consideration when selecting an age group squad.
- Proposed training times for the season will be advertised via the club website and social media channels. Every attempt is made to keep these as accurate as possible but training times also depend on coach's availability (they all work as well as coach), pitch availability and the number of teams the club fields. Training times cannot be changed to suit individual players.
- If a player does not attend any grading then they are unlikely to be placed in one of the higher level (Kangaroo) sides. While the club will endeavour to place that child in a team that suits them, there is unlikely to be much flexibility for movement between teams.
- If the club receives more enrolments than they have coaches, players will be put on a waiting list. Only when a coach is allocated will a further team be opened.
- All our coaches are supported by the technical director and by the club committee, which will pay for any coaching courses, completed by coach volunteers, as well as paid coaches.