



## **Lockleys Football Club Junior Coaching Philosophy**

### **Coaches and Coaching Staff**

Coaches go through a formal selection and review process annually in line with our Coaches Selection Policy. It is expected that all appointments of junior coaches will be finalised prior to pre-season start dates, which falls in February each year. Our coaches are formally announced prior to the commencement of the season once player numbers are confirmed and are expected to adhere to our Junior Coaching Policy during their tenure.

Coaches will only have a maximum tenure of 3 consecutive seasons per age group unless overruled by the club committee of the day. The performance and behavior of junior football coaches is critical to the culture of the Lockleys Football Club. All coaches are expected to coach and manage their teams as per the guidelines and policy of that the club has set down (Lockleys Football Club Coaching Policy)

### **Junior Philosophy**

#### **Auskick, Under 7s to Under 10s**

The emphasis is on participation, skill and social development. Our aim is to build a love of the game, facilitate new friendship groups (players and parents), and develop base football skills and an interest to return each year. Accordingly, we have adopted the following guidelines:

- In the first year at the club we will attempt to put the child with some players they know; from either school or other friendship groups
- We will create teams with children from a mixture of schools to expand the players social group;
- Aim to create teams that are relatively even in capability as best determined by past understanding of player capability;
- Under 7s to Under 9s team will not keep the same team as the previous season, this is to foster new friendships and build resilience.
- From Under 9s, we will start working a game plans and tackling
- In Under 10s it is one squad, teams will be rotated through/ swapped around approx. 4 times throughout the season to foster strong playing relationships for the following year where they come together on a full field.
- Coaches will rotate players on and off the oval throughout the game. This will require all players to spend time on the interchange.



- Coaches will rotate players through each zone throughout the game so they get to experience each zone for a minimum of a quarter each game. Each team will be allocated a set of wrist bands, red, white, blue& skins. Each group is to rotate through forward, mid, back and a quarter off. As per table below;

Position	1 <sup>st</sup> Q	2 <sup>nd</sup> Q	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q	4 <sup>th</sup> Q
Forward	Red	Skins	White	Blue
Midfield	Blue	Red	Skins	White
Back	White	Blue	Red	Skins
Bench	Skins	White	Blue	Red

### **Under 11s to Under 14s**

We will continue to develop football skills and game sense, along with the ability to be a great team mate and continue to love the game and return each year. It is through this period where we support those that exhibit high levels of talent early on through nomination in development squads, and equally support those players that require some further support from our program to help maximise their potential. The rules we have adopted are:

- Our aim is to allocate teams to a Division in which they will be competitive, as well as challenged.
- If we have two teams, we will have graded teams.
- In the U11 grade, it is expected that Coaches will rotate players through a minimum of two positions per game and provide all players with the opportunity to play in a variety of positions over a 4 week period.
- Coaches will aim to rotate players on and off the oval throughout the game and provide all players with the opportunity to play the equivalent time equating to a minimum of 3 quarters of football over the course of every game.
- We will aim to have more players in the squad than can play each week. This is because over the course of the year every team is hit with sickness, injury, players unavailable due to holidays or other reasons.
- The expectation is that over the course of the season, every player has the opportunity to play the same number of games as every other player in the team. There is to be no favoritism within teams
- No set positions up until under 13s/14s



## **Under 15s to Under 16.5s**

The focus through these age groups is about preparing the players for senior football, whereby the coaching approach and expectations will increase, noting we still focus on skills and game sense at a more sophisticated level, as well as getting the players to be more accountable for their own commitment to the club, team mates and themselves. We will invest in other non-football programs that assist players through this period such as alcohol and drug awareness through sanctioned association programs. During these ages, some players will end up focusing more on elite development programs through the SANFL teams or School system. We will support them in this, as well as continue to invest in those players whose immediate path is through to the Lockleys Football Club Senior program. The rules we will follow are:

- Our aim is to allocate teams to a Division in which they will be competitive, as well as challenged.
- Coaches will aim that players have a minimum of 60% game time each week, which includes all players spending time off the ground.
- We will aim to have more players in the squad than can play each week. This is because over the course of the year every team is hit with sickness, injury, player's unavailability.

Grading will be overseen by the Junior President and Junior Coaching Coordinator. Grading will be informed by feedback from prior year coaches, observed pre-season training and trials, attitude and conduct aligned to the LFC values

### **Finals**

We have adopted a Finals Team Selection policy which is to be referred to by coaches

### **Non-Permanent Playing Up Policy**

Players can only play up when the higher team is short of players. Where teams are short of players, players shall be promoted from lower graded teams within the same age level before sourcing players from a lower age group. No player who is playing up shall get more game time in a game than a primary player of that team who is available to play. Where players are needed to play up, the decision as to which players shall play up in a particular round will be made by the coach of those players' primary team. Players are not to play up if it makes them unavailable to play for their primary team in a particular round and where another player could have been sourced from an alternate team.

LFC also follows the SANFL guideline that all children will be placed and play in their eligible age group, as determined by the SANFL age criteria. There is criteria around a child playing up, including age & ability. If by chance a child does play up in one season, it is only for that season



and will return to their correct age group the following year. It is also club policy that no child will continue playing up past under 10s. It is also noted that if the team above has the maximum squad size, the younger child automatically is placed in their correct age group. We will also not hold spots for children to play up as part of the squad for the following year. All playing up requests are to be sent to the Junior President for assessment.

### **Age Group Eligibility**

The SANFL determines that age group eligibility is based on calendar year basis. As a club we follow these age group eligibilities and it is the LFC Junior Football Club policy that all players play in their correct age group. There is a possibility for exemption in this but such exemption is only granted in conjunction with the club and with club request to SANFL.

### **Permanently Playing Down An Age Group**

As a general rule, SANFL will not grant a player permission to play down an age level. Any players seeking an exemption will need to discuss their reasons with the committee and the committee can apply for an exemption to SANFL on the player's behalf.

The LFC provides opportunities for children to play football between the ages of 6 and 17.

In accordance with SANFL Policy, players must be:

- 7 years of age on 1 January of the competition year to participate in the SANFL Juniors competition; and
- 6 years of age on 1 January of the competition year to participate in the SANFL Minis competition.

The age group for any player is determined by their age on the first of January in the competition year. (As an example, a player who is 8 on the first of January will be eligible to play in the Under 9 competition, a player who is 12 on the first of January will be eligible to play in the Under 13 competition). In instances where the Club does not field a team in a particular age group, players may be allocated to the next higher age group (with the exception of the Under 8 competition).

### **Presentation Day/Night Awards**

Each team from LFC will have a presentation event for their individual team at the conclusion of the season. This will be at a time set by the Junior Committee.

Under 7, 8, and 9, under 10 & under 11 - All players who represent the LFC will at the end of the season receive participation medallion to commemorate their performance in representing the club.

In the grades where players play for Premiership points (Under 12s to Under 16.5) there will be individual trophies awarded to five players from each grade only, namely:

- Best & Fairest



- Best & Fairest Runner Up
- Most Improved
- Best Team Man
- Coaches Award

The awarding of these five trophies will be the responsibility of the Coaching staff.

### **Milestone Games**

We believe it is important to celebrate all milestone games if they have or not been played at LFC. Each milestone game the players could receive;

#### **50 Game Players**

Players who play 50 games for the Lockleys Football Club as recorded by the Metro South Junior Football League/SANFL Junior League\* will receive:

- An LFC 50 game award

#### **100 Game Players**

Players who play 100 games for the Lockleys Football Club as recorded by the Metro South Junior Football League/SANFL Junior League\* will receive:

- An LFC 100 game award

#### **150 Game Players**

Players who play 150 games for the Lockleys Football Club as recorded by the Metro South Junior Football League/SANFL Junior League\* will receive:

- An LFC 150 game award

\*Players must be registered and appear on the weekly registration sheet to record a game played.