

Representative Football Nominations

Effective Date: October 2025
Approved: General Committee
Review: October 2026

1. Purpose

This policy outlines the process by which East Brighton Vampires Junior Football Club (EBVJFC) nominates players for representative football opportunities, including:

- Next Generation Academy (NGA) squads (U12 – U15), run by St Kilda Football Club in partnership with the SMJFL.
- Sandringham Dragons Talent Pathway (U16 – U18), part of the Coates League.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure nominations are conducted fairly, transparently, and in the best interests of players' development. The Club recognises that the final decision for selection rests solely with the SMJFL (for NGA and Interleague) and the Sandringham Dragons. EBVJFC's role is limited to nominating players.

2. Guiding Principles

- Fairness & Transparency – Nominations are made consistently, based on player ability, potential, and alignment with program objectives.
- Player Development – Emphasis on long-term growth and experience, not just short-term performance.
- Collaboration – Decisions are made in consultation with coaches, age group coordinators, and football operations.
- Consistency – A standard process applies across all eligible age groups.
- Communication – Parents and players are informed about the process and understand that the club nominates but does not select.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all junior players at EBVJFC in the U12–U18 age groups who are eligible for NGA or Sandringham Dragons programs.

4. Process for Nominations

Step 1 – Identification of Players

- Coaches identify players who demonstrate outstanding skill, game awareness, athleticism, and commitment to club values.
- Attitude, effort, resilience, and coachability are also considered.

Step 2 – Consultation

- Coaches meet with the Age Group Coordinator to review potential nominees.
- The Football Operations Manager oversees the process to ensure fairness and consistency.

Step 3 – Shortlisting

- A shortlist is agreed upon by the Coach, Age Group Coordinator, and Football Operations.
- Where appropriate, input may also be sought from other coaches or the Director of Coaching.

Step 4 – Final Nomination

- EBVJFC submits final nominations to the SMJFL (for NGA/Interleague) or highlights noteworthy players to the Sandringham Dragons within required timelines.
- The SMJFL and Sandringham Dragons have full discretion regarding selection outcomes.

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5. Communication with Parents & Players

- Parents will be reminded that nominations are limited, competitive, and that selection is determined by the SMJFL or Sandringham Dragons, not the Club.
- Players nominated will be notified directly by EBVJFC.
- Players not nominated will be provided with constructive feedback and development support within the Club.

6. Disputes & Feedback

- All concerns must be directed to the Football Operations Manager, not to individual coaches.
- Feedback may be provided, however final nomination decisions are at the discretion of EBVJFC, and final selection decisions rest with the SMJFL or the Sandringham Dragons.

8. Registration of Players

It is a Club requirement that all players nominated by the Club for the NGA and/or Interleague program be registered to the Club.

If registrations are not open at time of nomination, the players family must register the player as soon as soon as registrations are opened. Registrations are usually open early to mid-December of the nomination year.

The Club reserves the right to withdraw the player's nomination should registration be not made by 31st December in that year.

9. Non-Acceptance of Nomination

The player or their family reserves the right to not accept the nomination. If this is the case, the family are asked to contact the Age Group Co-Ordinator.

7. Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually by EBVJFC's Football Operations Committee to ensure it remains aligned with SMJFL, NGA, and Sandringham Dragons requirements.