



East Brighton Vampires Junior Football Club

Match Day Game Management Policy

Effective Date: March 2026
Approved: General Committee
Review: January 2028

Team Selection and Game Day Guidelines for Coaches

All coaches (Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches) must adhere to the SMJFL Bylaws, and minimum/maximum player numbers as set in those by-laws when selecting and managing teams.

All Coaches' qualifications and accreditations must be current prior to the commencement of each season.

Game Day

When signing up to play with the East Brighton Vampires Junior Football Club, each player is promised the following:

- A minimum of three quarters (3/4) of playing time in each home and away, and Lightning Carnival games.
- A minimum of one half (1/2) of playing time for all finals matches.

Coaches are reminded that it is their responsibility and duty to maximise participation and enjoyment for all players regardless of ability. We empower coaches to achieve this balance autonomously but will constructively support those who require assistance in finding player rotation balance.

Player Safety

Our Coaches are in the best position to monitor and stress the importance of safety. As such, it is the Coaches' responsibility to:

- Always strictly adhere to the "no mouthguard, no game" rule.
- Ensure no game is conducted without a qualified Trainer being present.
- Abide by the judgement of any suitably qualified Trainer / Medical Officer as to the welfare of a player – including the "if in doubt, sit them out" concussion policy.

Player Development

Modified Rules (U8–U10):

The modified rules years are crucial for building all-round game intelligence. To ensure this, game day position rotation is mandatory.

- The "3-Zone" Rule: Every player must play a minimum of one quarter in each of the three zones (Defence, Midfield, and Forward) during every match.
- Minimum Playing Time: Adherence to this rule guarantees that every child plays at least three out of four quarters per game.

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Non-Modified Rules (U11 and above)

From U11 and above, Coaches are expected to expose players to different lines of play across the course of the season. For the avoidance of doubt, lines of play are Forward, Midfield and Defence.

Exceptions will apply for all finals matches.

Conclusion

A key focus for Coaches is to prioritise long-term skill development over short-term scoreboard gains. Players are to be given the opportunity to develop across multiple positions, as limiting players to fixed roles can hinder their growth and is a common factor in player dissatisfaction and drop-outs.