



## COMPETITION POLICY

### 1. PURPOSE

This policy aims to define the processes clubs and the NTJFA follow when managing players and teams for competitions either in single age groups, or divisions.

### 2. RATIONALE

The NTJFA endeavours to form fair, even, and competitive competitions that enable young players of all abilities to have fun, actively participate and improve their knowledge and skills of the game. The intent of the policy is to:

- a) clearly outline the team nomination process.
- b) Provide guidance on how clubs can allocate players to teams in instances where there is more than one team in a year group or competition.

### 3. TEAM NOMINATIONS

- a) The NTJFA will establish a date each year where clubs will submit team nominations for each competition in which they wish to field teams for the upcoming season.
- b) The NTJFA will consider all team nominations and where possible shall include teams in divisions as nominated.
- c) All team nominations are to be in accordance with the National Community Handbook and NTJFA reserves the right to review team lists to ensure compliance.
- d) The following table is a guide to assist Clubs with determining the appropriate age group for players:

Age Group	Minimum age to participate in age group (age as at 31 December in the year prior to the applicable playing year)	Age turning in the applicable playing year
Under 8	7 - subject to Section 3.1(b)(i)	7 or 8 - subject to Section 3.1(b)(i)
Under 9	7	7, 8 or 9 - subject to Section 3.1(b)(i)
Under 10	7	8, 9 or 10
Under 11	8	9, 10 or 11
Under 12	9	10, 11 or 12
Under 13	10	11, 12 or 13
Under 14	11	12, 13 or 14
Under 15	12	13, 14 or 15
Under 16	13	14, 15 or 16
Under 17	14	15, 16 or 17
Under 18	15	16, 17 or 18
Under 19	16	17, 18 or 19
Seniors	16	17 or older

- e) A player that receives multiple NTJFA best and fairest votes in more than one game during a roster round will only be awarded the highest vote in any one game.



#### **4. PLAYER POINTS POLICY**

All team nominations must be compliant with the NTJFA Player Points System Policy 2026.

#### **5. ENTERING MULTIPLE TEAMS IN A COMPETITION/DIVISION**

If a club enters more than one team in a competition or division, then the following to apply:

- a) Each team nominated by the respective club must be done so in such a way that each team is competitive within its nominated division.
- b) If a club has two teams in one competition, it must be done so in such a way that each team is competitive within that competition.
- c) If a club has two teams in a competition and one or more of the teams is not competitive or too competitive at the conclusion of Round 5 or 6, they will be requested to provide evidence to the competition that they have taken steps to improve the evenness of the teams, including reallocating players between teams within the competition.
- d) If a team in a division is not competitive after the completion of Round 5 or 6, that team may be moved up or down as determined by the NTJFA with the following to apply:
  - i. Teams that move up or down will be allocated the median premiership and e -points of the competition they are moving to, along with the median percentage of that competition.
  - ii. All the accrued NTJFA best and fairest votes for players that move competitions, will move with the players to the new competition.
- e) It is recommended that a minimum of twelve (12) of the best players in each division one team for boys' competitions, and ten (10) of the best players in division one teams for girls, remain in the Division one teams all season as restricted players. This is to prevent Clubs trying to improve their division 2 teams for possible finals qualifications. The NTJFA reserves the right to monitor teams in divisions to ensure compliance.
- f) The remaining players may play in either the Division One or Division two teams but once a player plays more than five (5) games for any one team, they are deemed to be a permanent member of that team and may no longer move between the two teams for the remainder of the roster games in that season (exceptions are fill-in players reference clause 5 Rules).



## 6. TEAM NUMBERS

### JUNIOR

Competition	Players on the field	Interchange	Minimum numbers for a match
U8 B & G	6	N/A	6
U9 B & G	9	N/A	6
U10 B & G	12	N/A	9

- There is no cap on benches for the **Junior** age groups, however, should you have excessive players (i.e. > 6) on the bench the expectation will be your club work with NTJFA and AFL Tas to submit a second team.
- Where a team is short on players and the opposing team has extra players available, clubs are encouraged to loan those additional players to the opposition to help balance team numbers.

### YOUTH

Competition	Players on the field	Interchange	Minimum numbers for a match
U11/12 B & G	12	4	10
U13/14 B & G	15	4	13
U15/16 B	18	4	16
U17 G	16	4	14

### RULES

- a) All players must play a minimum of two (2) full quarters of football unless injured.
- b) Fill-in players must play a minimum of one (1) quarter of football in the second game and can only play based on following conditions:
  - i. It is not at the expense of any of that team's regular players.
  - ii. Can only make the numbers up the required on-field players as per above table.
  - iii. Interchange players - if the opposition team will have interchange players, permission may be sought from the competition manager to allow fill-in players to be used as interchange players providing.
    - the number of interchange players will not exceed the opposition team's interchange numbers.
    - permission is requested at least 48 hours prior to the match being played.
  - iv. Does not apply to restricted players.
- c) All matches must be played with the same numbers of players per team on the field in all age divisions. The exception is where a player is issued a red card and that player is removed from the field, the opposition is not required to adjust their number of players.



- d) If during a match a player is injured and there are no interchange players to replace them, the number of opposition players must adjust their playing numbers as soon as practicably possible.
- e) In the female Youth games, if both teams have sufficient players on the bench, and both the coaches agree, the number of players allowed on the field is 18 per team.

## 7. MERGING OR SPLITTING TEAMS

With a focus on participation, the NTJFA looks to maximise the number of opportunities for as many young players as possible to play the game. As such, denying registrations and turning players away is discouraged, however the NTJFA understands the complications involved when deciding whether to enter one or more teams in a year group. The below table will act as a guide to assist clubs in working through these decisions.

**Table B:**

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>1 Team</b>	<b>Requires Action</b>	<b>2 Teams</b>	<b>3 Teams</b>
12-a-side comp.	9-15 players	16-22 players	23-24 players	25+ players
15-a-side comp.	12-23 players	24-28 players	30-46 players	47+ players
18-a-side comp.	15-28 players	29-35 players	36-56 players	57+ players

### **Action required:**

If a club sits within the above “Requires Action” column for any of their year groups, the below options are available and should be considered:

- 1) Recruitment:**  
Work together with AFL Participation Manager to recruit additional numbers in order to enter a second team.
- 2) Team Mergers:**  
Work together with neighbouring clubs who may also be low on numbers in the same year group, to enter a merged team.

### **Considerations:**

The below considerations must be made, particularly when numbers sit within the “Requires Action” column in the above table:

- Entering one team with too many players results in excessive interchange sizes, reduced game time and fewer coaches per player.
- Entering a second team with too few players increases the number of coaches and volunteers required, and in some cases forfeits.
- Priority should be given to returning and new players over players transferring in from other clubs.



## 8. RESPONSIBILITY OF SPLITTING PLAYERS

The Club President and/or the Club Coaching Coordinator in consultation with the head coaches within a year group/division should make the decision on when and how players should be split into multiple teams.

## 9. HOW PLAYERS SHOULD BE SPLIT BETWEEN TEAMS

The NTJFA suggests that clubs should endeavour to make their teams as even as possible, splitting players based on their skills, size, speed, and overall ability. The method below has been employed in other junior associations with great success.

**Step 1:** Assign each player a rating from 1 through to 5 (1 being the strongest).

Player Name	Rating
Billy Hobbs	3
Peter Smith	1
Jonny Jones	4
Jack Brown	2
Jimmy Kent	2
Jesse Williams	3
Harry Palmer	5
Sam Perry	5
Robert Walsh	4
Scott Cook	3
Luke Walker	3
Cameron Green	2
Jackson Keogh	1
James Taylor	3

**Step 2:** Allocate Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and a Team Manager to each team.

Team 1	Team 2
Coach Walker	Coach Smith
Asst. Coach Hobbs	Asst. Coach Jones
Team Manager Walsh	Team Manager Green



**Step 3:** Sort the list of players numerically from the 1s through to the 5s.

Player Name	Rating
Peter Smith	1
Ben Cox	1
Jack Brown	2
Jimmy Kent	2
Cameron Green	2
Billy Hobbs	3
Jesse Williams	3
Scott Cook	3
Luke Walker	3
James Taylor	3
Jonny Jones	4
Robert Walsh	4
Harry Palmer	5
Sam Perry	5

**Step 4:** Starting at the top of the list, allocate players to alternate teams.

Team 1	Team 2
Coach Walker	Coach Smith
Asst. Coach Hobbs	Asst. Coach Jones
Team Mgr Walsh	Team Mgr Green
Peter Smith (1)	Ben Cox (1)
Jack Brown (2)	Jimmy Kent (2)
Cameron Green (2)	Billy Hobbs (3)
Jesse Williams (3)	Scott Cook (3)
Luke Walker (3)	James Taylor (3)
Jonny Jones (4)	Robert Walsh (4)
Harry Palmer (5)	Sam Perry (5)
<b>Total Rating: 20</b>	<b>Total Rating: 21</b>



**Step 5:** Make any changes to ensure volunteer's children are on the required team. At this point, players should only be swapped for players with an equal rating.

Team 1	Team 2
Coach Walker	Coach Smith
Asst. Coach Hobbs	Asst. Coach Jones
Team Mgr Walsh	Team Mgr Green
Peter Smith (1)	Ben Cox (1)
Jack Brown (2)	Jimmy Kent (2)
Cameron Green (2)	Billy Hobbs (3)
Jesse Williams (3)	Scott Cook (3)
Luke Walker (3)	James Taylor (3)
Jonny Jones (4)	Robert Walsh (4)
Harry Palmer (5)	Sam Perry (5)
<b>Total Rating: 20</b>	<b>Total Rating: 21</b>

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

NTJFA Forfeit Policy  
NTJFA By-Law Breaches and Penalties  
NTJFA Finals and Qualification Policy  
NTJFA Player Points Policy 2026  
AFL National Community Football Handbook