

SAWTELL FC

TEAM SELECTION POLICY



CLUB PHILOSOPHY

Sawtell FC is the largest club in the North Coast Football (NCF) region. We are focused on creating an enjoyable and inclusive playing environment where friends can play football together in competitive teams and also have an opportunity to develop their skills and improve as players.

Our club philosophy develops through the age groups from “playing for fun” in the non-competitive age groups to playing technical adaptable possession based football in senior teams.

These guidelines have been developed to increase transparency for parents and players. It is expected that coaches make players and parents aware of club team selection policy at the start of the season.

NON-COMPETITIVE JUNIORS (Mini roos to U11's)

Sawtell FC non-competitive junior teams are all about having fun, learning to play in a team, being a good sport and developing football specific skills. Sawtell FC non-competitive teams usually train once a week but older teams may train twice a week.

Team selection focuses on players playing with their friends and is based on overall numbers and overall skill levels. We will mix players to make teams even across all age groups.

On occasion - players in the U10 and U11's age groups will move up into competitive junior teams. If a player wants to play up an age group to extend themselves, they will need to coordinate with the committee and coaches early in pre-season to allow adequate time for team selection.

It is also sometimes possible for players to play down an age group depending on team sizes and overall ability. The club needs to apply to NCF and playing down might not always be possible.

Priority is given to players who sign up early. Players who sign up later may not be able to play in their desired team.

Throughout the season, coaches are expected to give non-competitive junior players equal playing time. This should be regardless of player ability. Coaches are also encouraged to play players in a variety of positions on the field throughout the season.

COMPETITIVE JUNIORS (U12's to U16's)

Competitive junior teams are focused on players having fun, playing in a positive team culture, developing football specific skills, developing an understanding of game strategy and being competitive in their division. Competitive junior teams usually train twice a week.

Team selection is based on players playing with friends where possible and also making teams competitive in their division/age groups. Priority will be given to players who have played in a team the previous year and also to players who register early.

*Throughout the season, coaches are expected to give competitive junior players fair playing time. This means that **all junior competitive players (U12 - U16) should play a minimum of half a game each week.***

Coaches are encouraged to play players in a range of positions on the field throughout the season - developing core players and positions once strengths are identified.

If a team reaches the semi-finals it is expected that all players play a minimum of a quarter of a game. If a team reaches the grand final or regional finals the coach is encouraged to choose their best 11 players but give all players some time on the field during the game.

Sawtell FC understand that this policy will mean some players will not play much time in the grand final. While this is disappointing for players we would encourage parents to emphasise the role their child had in making it to the semi and grand finals.

If an age group is split into divisions (eg: A and B), teams will be selected based on ability. This selection will be based on skill level and decided by the coach and the club executive.

If an age group has only one division but more than one team, teams will be selected based on several factors. We will firstly prioritise previous year players and their coaches. Players who sign up early will be the next priority but new players will predominantly be placed to ensure teams are as competitive as possible. When possible, friends will be put into same teams.

If an age group only has one division the year after having two divisions, but still has two teams (last years A and B team) coaches and club executive will work to make the teams as even as possible while still maintaining the core of each team. We understand that this will sometimes create inequality in teams in the same division. We will endeavour wherever possible to make every team as competitive as possible.

COMPETITIVE JUNIORS (U17 BOYS and U16 GIRLS)

Older competitive junior teams are focused on players enjoying the game, playing in a positive team culture, developing advanced football specific skills, developing an advanced understanding of game strategy and being highly competitive in their division and age group. Sawtell FC older junior teams train twice a week.

*Throughout the season, coaches are expected to give older competitive junior players fair playing time. This means **all players should play a minimum of 20 mins each week and longer when possible. If a team reaches the semi-finals or the grand final the coach is encouraged to choose their best 11 players but give all players some time on the field during the games.***

Some older junior players will play in senior teams as well as these divisions. As many players will be moving into senior football from these teams, we want players in these age groups to work hard and improve as players. In the older junior competitive age group, each player is a part of a team and should be rewarded for their level of commitment and development as a player.

SENIOR MEN AND WOMEN (17+ to 30-35)

Sawtell FC want our senior teams to have a positive and supportive team culture, be highly competitive in their division and committed to playing technically strong and dynamic football. We encourage all of our senior players to volunteer at the club either by coaching younger teams or by helping out on game days.

Senior teams are selected based on overall skill level, player commitment and focus, positions available in the team and overall player attitude. Team selection is made by the head coach. There is no pre-requisite for playing time and each player is selected for each game based on all of these factors.

Pre-season training starts mid-January each year and teams will train twice a week as a squad until head coaches select teams closer to start of season.

MASTERS TEAMS (30+ WOMEN'S OR 35+ MEN'S)

Over 30's women and O35's mens teams are selected based on applicants and available space in each team. A maximum of twenty players are selected for each team.