



## **Junior Selection Policy (updated Feb 2014)**

YVHC's selection policy is based on providing the most enjoyable playing and social experience for players at a level appropriate to their skills, and within the context of the competitions in which teams participate. Selection is always conducted with due regard to the overarching principles of equity, personal development, respect and team viability.

Yarra Junior Hockey is keen to provide hockey for all players at an appropriate standard. Players should have the opportunity to play in the highest grade possible for their skill level.

Most players should play in their own age group but occasionally circumstances may make it more appropriate for a player to play in a higher age group. This may occur if there is a need to distribute players to ensure teams are well balanced or at the request of the player/ parent(s). In all cases the Junior Committee will make the final decision after consultation with the Selection Panel, player(s), parent(s).

### **PROCESS:**

In age groups where Yarra has teams in multiple grades and one is Shield or Pennant grade, a selection process will be carried out. For other grades (Under 10, District, etc.) players will be allocated on the basis of comparable team ability and team balance. Friendship groups and car pooling will also be taken into account, where possible. Girls may choose to play in girls teams (when available) or in mixed teams or in both when circumstances permit. YVHC actively supports girls and mixed hockey options but on occasions girls may not be able to receive their first preference.

A Selection Panel will be formed for each age group consisting of the age group coaches and other club members with coaching experience. Members of the junior committee are not directly involved in team selection unless they are also coaches. The Panel will be looking for physical attributes such as speed, strength, agility, endurance, power and flexibility. Skill attributes such as technique, tactical awareness, potential, coachability, positional qualities and specialist skills are also considered.

The Selection Panel will take into consideration:

- Previous form (e.g. last year for those who played at Yarra)
- Attendance at training
- Performance at training
- Performance in selection trials (where required)

Teams will vary in size depending on numbers of players available, coaches preferences and the grade of the team. In under 10 teams players will usually be divided evenly between teams. In under 12 and above the highest grade mixed team usually has around 14 players and district grade teams may have slightly higher numbers. Numbers in girls teams are more influenced by available player numbers with aim of minimum of 13 players. Minor adjustments may be made to teams during the season depending on performance and player availability. This should involve consultation between players, parents, coaches and the age-group co-ordinator .

#### **OBJECTIONS:**

If children or parents are not happy with the result of the selection process, then please feel free to discuss with the Age Group Co-ordinator who will forward their concerns back to the Selection Panel.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

It is important for players and parents to remember that the selection process is sometimes difficult for both players and officials. Some players set themselves unrealistic goals. Frequently an athlete's own assessment or their parent's assessment is subjective. Our aim with this policy and the Selection Trials is to be as objective as possible.