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EASTERN RAPTORS RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB

MELBOURNE STORM HALF TIME GAME SELECTION POLICY

Version History

Version	Date	Authors	Summary of Changes
1.0	20/2/15	R Sharp	Document Initialisation

Acceptance

Position	Approval Date	Version	Name	Next Review
President	15/3/15	1.0	Richard Sharp	9/2015
Secretary	15/3/15	1.0	Rebecca Marnock	

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to provide *certainty and consistency* in the selection process for committee, coaching staff, players and parents for the U9's and U12's who may, from time to time, play a mini format game of up to 8 players during half time at a Melbourne Storm trial or regular home game on AAMI Park. Acknowledgement must be given to the fact that sometimes the Eastern Raptors Rugby League Club is given a very small window of opportunity to respond to a request.

Inconsistency with the Constitution:

If there is any inconsistency between the terms of this Policy and the Constitution, then (to the extent permitted by law) the Constitution will override this policy, and will apply, to the extent of that inconsistency.

Natural Justice

Throughout this policy reference is made to the notion of 'Fairness'. In law this is called 'Natural Justice.' Whenever selectors/coaches consider a selection decision or an appeal is heard, the most important consideration is the requirement that natural justice has been applied.

What Is Natural Justice?

Essentially, Natural Justice in selection requires the following three elements.

1. The player and parents must be aware of the selection criteria
2. The player and parents must be given an opportunity to put their case to the Director of Coaching and/or President.
3. The selectors/coaches must make their selection without bias. Or in other words "act in good faith"

Overview

From time to time during any given season the Melbourne Storm allow for clubs to field one group of U9's and one group of U12's to play on AAMI Park at a trial or regular home game. These teams are limited to 8 players of both male and female players. The NRL Victoria allows for a certain degree of flexibility in age groups meaning a player can be selected to play if they are older (i.e. U10 or U13) but are not of an overall larger physical characteristic to the other players in the U9 or U12 age groups. The focus should be on fun and not competitiveness. No scores are kept and the focus is purely on allowing children and their families to have a fun and thrilling experience.

The Eastern Raptors Rugby League club operates under the guidance of NRL Victoria and Melbourne Storm representatives at all times. These representatives have the power to over-rule this policy and its implementation. No member of the Eastern Raptors Rugby League Club shall be held to account if these representatives over-rule this policy.



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Infrequently, the Eastern Raptors Rugby League Club may play at an International or State of Origin game. This framework shall apply but will be directly guided by the NRL Victoria as to its application.

Player Selection Criteria

To be eligible to play simple criteria shall apply in the following order:

1. The child is within the age group specified U9 or U12. This means turning that age in the year of the game.
2. The child has never played at AAMI Park before in the age group he/she is eligible for
3. The child is financial
4. The child is registered
5. The child is similar size to players in the U9 or U12 age group (i.e. they are an U10 or U13) who are similar in size to their U9 and U12 counterparts
6. The child is in the immediate age group (i.e. U8 and U11) below and it has been deemed safe by the head trainer to participate.

The coach, assistant coach and team manager shall apply these simple criteria. See overleaf for example flowchart.

It should be noted, the intention of this policy is to allow children who have never had the opportunity to play at AAMI Park to have a fair go and play. Therefore we could have situations where children who have never trained for, or played rugby league (or union) take the field. For example, a player who has joined the club and never played rugby league/union could play a trial match in February before formalised training has begun. In these cases a common sense approach shall prevail, where the Head Trainer and/or Director of Coaching may consult the parents on the suitability to play.

Coaches Selection Criteria

A simple process shall apply for coaches:

1. If the game is prior to the current season and coaches have not been appointed then the Director of Coaching shall give preference to coaches who have not had an opportunity to take a team out onto AAMI Park.
2. If the game falls within the current season then the presiding head coach shall take the team out onto AAMI Park.

It should be noted that if the head coach has had a prior opportunity to take a team onto AAMI Park then he/she should offer his/her position to the assistant coach if they have not had the opportunity. If both have taken teams onto AAMI Park then it should be negotiated between both parties in the interest of fairness and the spirit of the club and the game.

Who to contact about issues?

A player or parent who has concerns about selection should first approach the coach to address their concerns. If this is not possible then the player or parent should approach the junior member representative and/or Director of coaching.

Appeals rights and processes.

In the event that a player or parent wishes to appeal selection of a player, the player, parents and coaching staff should work together following the procedures in Division 3 of the Constitution. A particular focus needs to be placed by all parties on section 26 "Parties must attempt to resolve the dispute." The principle of what is best for the team and club should always be held as the first priority.



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