



Earlwood Wanderers Football Club Team Selection Policy

Team Selection Policy

Earlwood Wanderers Football Club (EWFC) is a community oriented sports club and believes in promoting participation in our game, equal opportunity for all players, development of football and team skills, and above all, enjoyment of the game.

EWFC recognises that players and their parents have a variety of motives in playing football and subsequently possess different levels of aptitude and interest in the game dependent on their background, experiences, skill level, playing ability and age. With these and other factors in mind, EWFC's Team Selection Policy is an attempt to place players in a division and team that is appropriate to their level of skill development and general interest in the game. It allows players to play at a level appropriate to their ability and aspirations, to ensure they gain maximum enjoyment and development as a player and as an individual.

While the club encourages all players to take part in the team selection process, **it is not compulsory**. As a club, we are aware that grading is **not for everybody** and we provide opportunities for all players who wish to participate and be involved in the game, be it at a purely social/recreational level or at a more competitive level.

Why elect players and when?

The aim of selecting players for various teams is to give them the opportunity to develop at their own level. Players with similar levels of ability and motivation will play alongside and against each other. Researched findings and relevant reasons for our policy:

- *A player of a higher football level playing in a lower division will inevitably dominate the game, taking on much of the responsibility themselves. Therefore, the other team members do not develop or enjoy the game.*
- *A player of a lower level playing in a higher division comes under so much pressure to perform with his/her team or opposition that there is not much chance of development.*
 - *In both cases the player doesn't learn anything and their development may even go backwards.*

Players of similar skills, assigned to their correct age and competitive division, will contribute more to their own and their team's development.

This comes back to enjoyment of the game. Players must enjoy football to have the right motivation to learn and remain interested in the game. A player should therefore be playing at an appropriate level for their skill.

Teams/Divisions Policy of Individual Player Grading

The composition of teams based on "individual player" grading is not compulsory for our members and our Club has no problem with Coaches, Managers and Players continuing to play with their friends. Teams choosing not to grade will be scheduled to play in the same division as last season, depending on the age group, number of EWFC teams and CDSFA Grading Review.

All teams - graded or not - are subject to the grading policies and decisions of CDSFA.

The final decision on which division a team plays in rests with CDSFA and is based on previous player and team results.

EWFC will make grading sessions available for players who wish to play and compete at the highest level available within the CDSFA competition. eg; Division 1 and/or Division 2 (should the age group have sufficient numbers to undertake the trial process).

Where there are insufficient player numbers to form a graded team in a particular age group, returning EWFC players who attended the grading session may be offered the opportunity to join existing teams playing at a higher level or, where the opportunity exists, to play up in a higher age group.

EWFC can assist in making division recommendations to those teams not involved in the individual player selection process.

Implementation/Selection

EWFC's Head Coach, Coordinators, and Independent Selectors will conduct the grading process. Consultation with Coaches will be at the discretion of the clubs Age Coordinators may assist in managing the grading process and initial parent enquiries should be addressed to the Age Coordinator.

How are Players selected?

There are four criteria that generally form the basis of our evaluation. The evaluation follows EWFC's Football Development Model that takes into account core Football Essentials.

These essentials are:

- Technical
- Tactical
- Intelligence
- Athleticism

SELECTION CRITERIA

FOOTBALL ESSENTIALS

TECHNICAL

Passing, receiving, dribbling, shooting, heading

TACTICAL

Movement off ball, supporting, defending, transitional (or loose ball)

INTELLIGENCE

Creativity, composure, communication, vision, problem solving

ATHLETICISM

Speed, strength, agility, balance

Technical & Tactical

Team selection always begins with an assessment of individual players. The first and most critical quality for all football players is their technique. This includes the player's overall range of techniques with which they secure and make use of the ball and particularly how the player handles such situations under pressure. This becomes the most obvious starting point in evaluating players.

Tactical insight is the second of the football essentials and the evaluation of this area looks at how players engage in tactical play and how well they apply their skills in a structured game. Evaluation is based on a players' demonstration of their qualities and flexibility to any (or multiple) roles and positions within the team.

Intelligence & Athleticism

The third essential is intelligence, and it is here that players will catch a Coach's eye. In evaluating, it is easily apparent that players come with an assortment of qualities. Some have exceptional dribbling skills, some have excellent passing range, while others dominate in the air; some are resolute defenders, while others impress by their ability to read the game and lead others; some players simply score goals, while others create chances for others through their set-up play. Players who possess Football Intelligence or good game awareness will perform the above attributes with vision, creativity and composure, basically "pull out something extra that other players cannot see".

The fourth essential is athleticism. While the grading process is primarily about the skill level of individuals and the team collectively, athleticism will always be part of an overall assessment. Acceleration, speed, agility, stamina, the ability to protect the ball, along with a high work rate on the field are all important aspects of the modern game.