

Western Spirit Football Club (WSFC)

Fair Game Time Policy

Policy Statement

WSFC is committed to all children regardless of age, division or ability to have “fair game time”.

Application of policy

This policy applies to children in age groups U6 through U16.

Introduction

It is the policy of Football Federation Australia (FFA) that children are treated fairly with an emphasis on fun and enjoyment. As Small Sided Football (SSF) is not an official competition and scores are not kept (there is no win/lose) there is no justification that children are not all given, as far as possible, equal game time. It is the responsibility of coaches and managers to ensure this occurs. Children playing in divisional, Brisbane Junior League (BJL) or other sanctioned competitions are to be given “fair game time”. For the purposes of clarification, each child in the team over the course of the season is to play approximately 75% game time subject to the below exceptions.

Exceptions

It is acknowledged that there will be a variety of reasons where the “fair game time” policy cannot be fully implemented. This includes where a child is ill, injured or disciplined. Where a coach is of the view that a child should not be given fair game time due to discipline issues, the below steps must be followed. Ongoing issues should be discussed with the Junior Chairperson where the child plays in SSF or the Director of Coaching for children playing divisional football.

Steps in discipline

Where a decision has been made that a child is to be disciplined, the parent/s or guardian/s is to be informed of the basis of the decision and the duration of the discipline. It is to be noted that this is a last resort and only to be applied where all other attempts to address and resolve the issue have not met with success.

Examples

Examples of where the fair game time policy is **not** applied include the child consistently missing training without justification or notification of the coach or manager, ongoing unruly and disruptive behaviour at training or games or refusal to follow the reasonable instructions of the coach. Please note this policy is not to be confused with Football Brisbane Inc Disciplinary Policy. Coaches and managers should also have regard to FIFA’s “fair play” code. Both of these policies can be accessed at Football Brisbane Inc website.

Last Resort Measure

Players, parents and coaches are all subject to the FFA’s national code of conduct. This policy can also be accessed at Football Brisbane Inc website. Where the player, parent/guardian or coach are in breach of the code of conduct including bringing the name of WSFC in ill repute, WSFC reserves the right to ask the player, parent/guardian or coach to leave the club and terminate their association with the club.

Grievance Procedures

Where a player, parent/guardian or coach is of the view that they have been treated unfairly, the complaint process as detailed on Football Brisbane Inc website is to be followed.