



Rowville Football Club: Juniors

Dear Families,

Rowville Football Club has an Athletic Development Focus. Our mission is to provide an environment to promote "Active for Life" children.

To facilitate this, we encourage and foster participation of children to develop their Athletic Ability, while having a fun and rewarding sporting experience in our football program. The developmental ages of children, from Auskick to Senior Football, show different rates of biological growth that we must consider. At a very young age, football is non-competitive and is focused entirely on developing athletic coordination, balance, and skills. Transitioning from this age, we encounter 'coming of age' and 'growth spurts' where some children age biologically more quickly than others, as a Club we must accommodate for this variation.

Teenagers are the most affected by the variation in growth spurts, some children advance more quickly than others and some become clumsy and lose coordination for a period.

Rowville Football Clubs position is to accommodate for this change in the teenage growth cycle by grading from the age group of under 14. The under 14's and above teams are always being scrutinized for selection into various Talent Pathways, such as EFNL Interleague and Coates League, and they only look at the "A Teams". We want to give the kids the best opportunity to take their football to higher levels.

Our intention is also to keep kids playing football and to best do this we need children playing with similar standard children, thus enabling them to have increased involvement in their games. Children traditionally drop out of sport and/or don't develop if they are not involved in the action because the team is above their current skill levels. Similarly, kids that are playing in a grade that is too low for them dominate but don't develop.

Whilst it is difficult for some parents and children to have an accurate understanding of the abilities of the children compared to their peers, our coaches must make a subjective decision about where each player sits in their respective teams.

All players and parents have the option of not being involved in the grading process and these children will be put in the lower ranked grade to continue their fun experience. Kids who want to be in the higher ranked team will have the option of trying out for these teams.

The Committee of Rowville Football Club