



ESSENDON HOCKEY JUNIOR SELECTION POLICY

Essendon 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 if they have sufficient skills. They should play in a team where they are more likely to use all their skills.

Generally our policy is for players to play in their own age group but occasionally circumstances may make it more appropriate for a player to play out of their age group. Such a decision would be made after discussion with the player, parents and agreed by the Junior Committee.

In Age groups where Essendon Hockey has multiple teams, a selection process will be carried out. For other teams players will be allocated on the basis of comparable team ability, team balance, position played etc; friendships and car pooling will be taken into account, where possible, if the year level coordinator is advised prior to the date for the initial selection (usually the final training session prior to start of the season). The number of players in each team can change each year and is dependent on the total number of players in that age group in that particular year.

A Selection Panel will be formed for each age group consisting of the age group coaches and appointed selectors, if required. The initial selection process will occur during the pre-season training and practice match sessions. The Panel will be looking for physical attributes such as speed, strength, agility, endurance, power and flexibility; and skill attributes such as technique, tactical awareness, potential, coachability, positional qualities and specialist skills.

The Panel will take into consideration:

- Previous form (e.g. last year for those who played at Essendon Hockey)
- Attendance at training
- Performance at training and practice matches
- Performance in games
- Match game availability
- Physicality

Selection is a continuing process therefore players may be promoted or demoted during the season depending upon how their performances are rated against the above criteria. If players or parents are not happy with the result of the selection process, then please feel free to discuss it with the Junior Coaching Coordinator. Any discussions around selection should not be with the coaches. If the matter is still unsatisfactorily addressed it should be brought to the attention of the Junior Convenor.

It is important for players and parents to remember that the selection process is sometimes painful for both players and officials. Please also remember that all coaches and officials are volunteers putting in a considerable amount of time and effort to enable all the children to play hockey. Without them we have no club. Some players set themselves unrealistic goals. Frequently an athlete's own assessment, or more commonly, their parent's assessment is very subjective. Our aim with this policy is to be as objective as possible.

Junior Committee
January 2022