

Equal Game & Playing Time Policy

These guidelines are by no means all inclusive.

They are a foundation to build on and if they are followed then every player will have a great football experience. Westbury Sports Club is a community-based club which promotes participation, development, and enjoyment of the game above all other factors. The Club has a strict policy of “EQUAL GAME TIME” for all registered players from Under 7’s to 11’s and a modified PLAYING TIME Policy for all registered players from Under 12’s to u18’s.

This Policy takes into consideration the developmental needs, ability, and safety of players as they grow and mature. This Policy consists of two Parts:

PART 1

Equal Game Time Policy for Under 7’s to U11s, this age group is deemed non-competitive, which means results and scores are not recorded hence should not matter, as it is for the development of all players. All selected players are to be given EQUAL GAME TIME each week with NO EXCEPTIONS. This means Coaches MUST TRY to provide three quarters playing time per game for all players, with an absolute minimum of half a game (the only exception to this is injury or a player not wishing to continue). THIS POLICY ALSO APPLIES TO ANY CUP COMPETITIONS.

In this Foundation phase of football, the focus should be on developing individual players rather than results of the team. Children will get better by taking part and playing.

In relation to the management of a team this should mean that in a game or over a course of games that a squad of youth players should experience a range of situations – starting, starting as a substitute, coming on as a substitute, being substituted. The aim is to offer all squad players comparable game time.

PART 2

Playing time policy for u12’s to u18’s, recognises the competitive nature of this age group. It is the Club’s desire to provide an environment for players to be able to play in a competitive nature in the youth development phase.

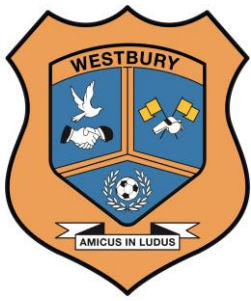
Westbury Sports Club believes at this phase coaches should administer a best practice minimum of 50% of the games allocated time, the club provides coaches with a degree of discretion on how they administer the game time policy based on

- the calibre of the opposition;
- the safety of the player concerned.
- the status of the game; and
- the preparation of the player.

The game time can be administered in either.

- one full half (first or second)
- split into equal parts
- or as an exception across two games.

However, Westbury sports club realises that there is always a degree of exemptions from the policies as to where players are injured, they don’t want to go back on, the weather may have an influence on the decision or the coach has an agreement with the parent and player prior to kick off where the players game time is agreed.



Development

The meaning of "development" may change in the context of positional rotation as players progress through the age groups. In the junior years of Under 7's to 11's, it is important the players experience the challenge of playing in as many positions as possible. This will introduce players to the different requirements of each area of the pitch and assist coaches in matching the individual to the suitable positions in years to come.

As players progress through the years (under 12 onwards) coaches will consider the players size, strength, skill level and game sense when rotating players positions. This may result in players playing in fewer positions. In turn, however, this will enhance the opportunity for the coach to help the player develop their knowledge of positional play.

The Coach's discretion will be applied in the case of injury, fatigue, or poor attitude.

A note to Coaches regarding the above Policies:

As Coach, the most important rule to bear in mind is that every member of your team wants to play in the game. That's why the players joined in the first place. You must never ever lose sight of this reality. You might notice that the parents come to many of the games. Don't fool yourself — the reason why parents come to watch the games is to see their son or daughter play. As a secondary consideration, parents will tell you it's nice the team wins, but their number one priority is to see their child participate. If you keep this simple principle of equal participation in your mind when the game begins, you'll be on your way to a very successful season — regardless of whether the team wins or loses. That means not letting the less talented players play in the last few minutes when the score is lopsided, and the game already decided. This principle should be instilled in all of your players throughout the game. That way, every player will come out of the game knowing — win or lose — they helped contribute to the team's effort.

The Committee can provide support and assistance to any coach who would like to discuss the implementation of this policy, as it is a **mandatory requirement of Westbury Sports Club that ALL coaches follow this policy**, if they wish to be a part of our club.