



## **Vasse Soccer Club**

### **Game Playing Policy**

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear, fair, and development-focused guidelines for player participation and game time across all age groups at Vasse Soccer Club. The policy aims to balance player enjoyment, skill development, team success, and club values.

#### **Club Philosophy**

Vasse Soccer Club is committed to:

- Providing a positive and inclusive environment for all players
- Supporting long-term player development
- Encouraging teamwork, respect, and sportsmanship
- Progressively introducing competitive principles as players mature

#### **Game Time Policy by Age Group**

##### **Under 12s and Below (U6–U11)**

- All players are entitled to **equal game time** across each match, where practical.
- Coaches must ensure that playing time is shared as evenly as possible over the course of the game.
- Match results are secondary to player development, enjoyment, and learning.
- Players should be given opportunities to experience different positions.

##### **Under 12s and Above (U12+)**

- Teams will **play to be competitive**, recognising the increased competitive nature of football at these age levels.
- Selection and positional decisions may be influenced by match conditions, opposition, performance, and team needs.
- **Minimum Playing Time Guarantee:**
  - Every eligible player must play **at least half of a full match** (50% game time), provided they are fit, available, and adhering to team and club standards.

## **Exceptions to Minimum Playing Time**

The minimum playing time requirement may be adjusted at the coach's discretion in the following circumstances:

- Player injury or illness
- Disciplinary issues (e.g. poor behaviour, failure to follow team rules, ongoing absences from training etc)
- Player lateness or early departure
- Extreme weather or shortened matches

Any significant or ongoing reduction in playing time should be communicated clearly to the player and, where appropriate, their parent/guardian.

## **Coach Responsibilities**

Coaches are expected to:

- Apply this policy consistently and fairly
- Plan substitutions to meet game time requirements
- Communicate openly with players and parents about expectations
- Act in the best interests of both individual players and the team

## **Player Responsibilities**

Players are expected to:

- Attend training and matches regularly
- Display a positive attitude and good sportsmanship
- Follow team rules and coach instructions

## **Review and Amendments**

This policy will be reviewed periodically by Vasse Soccer Club to ensure it remains aligned with club values and competition requirements. Amendments may be made as needed.

| <b>Created/<br/>Reviewed</b> | <b>Name of<br/>Creator/Reviewer</b> | <b>Endorsed<br/>By</b>   | <b>Updates/<br/>Version</b> |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| January 2026                 | B McRae                             | L Langlands<br>C Haunold | End of 2028<br>season       |
|                              |                                     |                          |                             |