

The RDFNL has a team selection policy which requires the participating clubs to assess players for both football and netball according to the players skills, size and abilities.

Beginning in the 2023 season the Gisborne Giants committee has made the decision to fall in line with the league's policy and coordinate team selection for the Under 11's and above football and Netball teams. The committee agrees with the league's explanation of this policy which points out the development of the individual player and to play within their skill levels.

Gisborne Giants Football Netball Club Team Selection Policy.

Aims and objectives

The aim of the Squad Selection policy is to ensure that team selection is conducted fairly and effectively and in the best interest of the players and the club.

Squad Selections will occur in all age groups of junior football and netball where numbers permit for two or more teams in a particular age group the RDFNL.

The objective of Squad Selection is to:

- Create teams of similar skill and ability
- Allow teams to play in a suitable competitive environment
- Allow the Gisborne Giants Football Netball club to be represented in line with the RDFNL policy.

The Gisborne Giants Football Netball Club acknowledges that players enjoy playing with friends, therefore we will use our best endeavours to ensure most players be placed with a friend of similar ability. However, this is not always possible and the committee believe that playing outside of such friendship groups is a good opportunity to meet and foster new friendships and community engagement within the Gisborne Giants family.

During the Squad Selection process:

- Every player is treated as an individual member irrespective of previous team, grade or club
- Every player has an equal opportunity
- Feedback from previous coaches will be considered during the grading process where applicable

Football Selection Criteria

During the assessment process, in no particular order, the following will be taken into consideration:

- Fundamental football skills (i.e., kicking, marking, ground balls)
- Game based decision making
- Physical size and fitness
- Sportsmanship and attitude
- Coachability

Netball Selection Criteria

During the assessment process, in no particular order, the following will be taken into consideration:

- Footwork
- Speed and agility
- Ball handling skills
- Attacking skills
- Defending skills
- Fitness
- Versatility
- Sportsmanship and attitude
- Coachability

Players and parents should be aware that success for a team one year does not ensure they will remain together the following year. Due to the nature of change, new registrations and differing development rates from season to season, player movement may occur.

Parents, players and non-club personnel are not to approach assessors at any time during the assessment process in an attempt to influence selection and team formation.

Squad Selection Process

Selection will be coordinated by the club football and netball coordinators, coach's coordinator as well as two independent senior club coaching members.

Selectors/assessors will be a team of objective experienced people who will assist in the assessment process. There will be consultation between selectors and coaches when assessing game play. The objective of the selection process is to assess players in an unbiased and fair manner.

Selection will take place during early season training sessions and any practice matches leading up to the season proper. RDFNL grading games may also be taken into consideration when determining the final team selection. Players will be assessed and placed in the team according to which team will best suit their development requirements.

Team Formation:

Football: Teams will ideally consist of 22-24 players, a coach, assistant coach and a team manager.

Netball: Teams will ideally consist of 8-10 players, a coach, assistant coach and a team manager.

When assessing players and forming teams, positions will be taken into consideration to ensure a fair spread of positions as well as:

- Grading performance
- Developing the ability to play in multiple positions
- Selectors and coach's assessment
- Ability to play in multiple positions to meet the teams dynamics.
- Sibling alignment
- Sportsmanship, attitude and coachability
- Age
- Friendships

The outcome of the Squad Selection is to develop teams that will be of a standard for each division of the RDFNL competition.

Parental support and communication with coaches is required to ensure a smooth transition of players into new teams by encouraging children to make new friends. When forming teams, the aim is to achieve strength and balance in a team.

Where a coach has a child playing in the age group. They automatically qualify for that team. As coaching is a big commitment to the club.

Where there are siblings in the same age group, the club and the family will discuss the opportunity for siblings to play in the same team.

All squad selection and assessments will be open and transparent to the players, noting the areas improvement where needed. Where a player excels or a team is short player /players throughout the season, the opportunity to play up remains within the RDFNL rules.

Final Announcement of teams

Players and families will be informed prior to the start of the season via Operoo.

All information pertaining to team formation and Squad Selection is confidential and will not be discussed outside the selection committee.

Once teams are allocated, no changes are permitted except for the following circumstances such as:

- Player leaving club
- Late player registration

Changes will not be made for players who wish to play with their friends or are unhappy with the team they are placed in.