



Elwood City welcomes all players (boys and girls) and their parents to our Club.

Every person: spectator, player, club member, official, participant, administrator, coach, parent or member of the community involved with the sport, should work to ensure:

- inclusion of every person regardless of their age, gender or sexual orientation
- inclusion of every person regardless of their race culture or religion
- opportunities for people of all abilities to participate in the sport and develop to their full potential
- respect is shown towards others, the club and the broader community
- a safe and inclusive environment for all
- elimination of violent and abusive behaviour
- protection from sexual harassment or intimidation

### Players

Coaches have a really good understanding of the game and are focussed on player development and for the players to grow as a team and to have a fun and successful season.

Typically there are more players in the squad than positions on the pitch. This means that at times, players will be sitting on the bench waiting to be called up. The coaches' advice is to take every opportunity given, even if it's not the player's preferred position.

At all times the coaching staff have absolute final say on squad selection/playing positions based on the following;

- attendance at training
- participation
- attitude and behaviour
- team work
- player development

### Parents/Guardians/Carers

All participants and supporters are asked to show appreciation for coaches, officials and managers and maintain positive relationships by being courteous and constructive in all communication with them. Parents are reminded to follow the [Parents Code of Conduct](#) and [Spectator Code of Conduct](#) at all times.

On game day coaches will require all parents/guardians/carers to keep well clear of squad, during pre-game warm up, half time huddle and post-match addressing. In addition, positive and supportive encouragement is welcomed during the game, but instructions should not be issued from the sidelines as this is the role of the coaching staff. This is very important to keep all players focused on the game and coaches.

Parents/guardians/carers are to use the group communications channels set up by team management to notify the team manager of attendances and general information eg WhatsApp group chat, Team App. Non-attendance to training or game day must be posted well in advance to assist coaches with planning. Group communication channels are to be used only for general communication of the team, support, attendances, updates, photos, etc....



The authority of coaches and managers should be respected and it is inappropriate to question or confront them at the sports venue or during training sessions in front of other spectators and players. Please remember, some coaches, assistant coaches and team managers are volunteering, to ensure your child has a valuable experience.

If any parent/guardian/carer has an issue or a problem with the club, any of the coaching staff, parent or player, then all correspondence should and must only be forwarded to the team manager directly, not in the group communication channels. Grievances should never be broadcast in group communication channels.

Parents/guardians/carers must show respect to other parents and officials and for your team's opponents. Without them there would be no game. The Club has a zero-tolerance policy on any behaviour from any players and parents that breaches the Club Codes of Conduct.

All families will be required to help out and assist on game day from time to time eg helping with pitch set up. A roster is usually set up to facilitate this. If you are unable to assist on that given day then you'll need to find a replacement by using the group communication channel well in advance.

It takes a great team to win the game, but it takes a whole team of parents/guardians/carers to make that happen!



### Questions & Answers

Why is the club introducing a Team Formation Policy?

As a community soccer club, we have a responsibility to ensure that our players are offered the best environment to develop their skills, grow their confidence and enjoy the game.

Grading allows the club to create the most suitable pathways for our players, based on their skills and experience, while assisting the long-term viability of our Club through improved player development and retention.

What if I want my child to play with their friends?

In the younger age groups the club will seek to accommodate friendships, where this doesn't disrupt the grading process as outlined above.

In the older age groups teams will be formed on skills and experience levels, but we will try to accommodate friendships requests where this doesn't disrupt the grading process.

In extenuating circumstances, the Juniors Committee may consider friendships in Team Formation, however the players will be grouped in the lower league relevant to the respective players grading assessment.

How will the grading process be undertaken?

Grading is the responsibility of the club's Technical Director, supported by an independent Club official, who will conduct a training and match simulation session to assess each player's skills and experience.

Players will then be graded into teams, and teams allocated to leagues.

Can I appeal the grading decision?

If you have any questions relating to the grading process or its outcomes for your child you may contact the Club's Technical Director.

What if my child cannot make, or joins the club, after the grading process?

The Club will seek to accommodate extenuating circumstances for all existing and new players. If teams have been finalised, any ungraded player will be allocated to the lowest level team depending on player numbers.

Please ensure that you contact the Club's Technical Director if your child cannot make their grading session.

Will grading outcomes be carried from one year to the next?

No. Given changes in player development and the introduction of new players to the Club, grading will occur each year for all players, where required under the Team Formation policy.

How will coaches be allocated to graded teams?

Ensuring that each team has a suitable coach is the responsibility of the Club's Technical Director.