



1. Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to explain Elwood City Soccer Club's ("the Club") approach to its Development Teams.

Our Development Team program is intended for players with a strong commitment to developing their soccer skills and playing at a high level.

2. What is a Development Team?

Our Development Teams are high performance teams focused on skill-building and player growth. These teams emphasise individual skill development, tactical awareness, and game understanding. Key features include:

- Skill Development: focus on refining individual player skills, such as ball control, passing, positioning, and game strategy.
- Experienced Coaching: teams and players are coached by our most experience and qualified technical team.
- Pathway for Progression: The Development Squad prepares players for elite levels, including Senior teams, [National Premier League](#) teams, [Football Victoria's Skill Acquisition Program](#) or [Football Victoria's Talent Identification and Development Centre](#)
- Growth-Focused: Prioritises player medium to long term development and improvement over immediate player or team results.

The Club aims for Development Teams to play in the highest grade suitable to the team's talent and progression. While we aspire for teams to play either Kangaroos or A Division we make individual team assessments each season, as we balance growth with enjoyment and commitment.

3. What is expected of a Development Team player?

The Club requires all Elwood City players to adhere to our Code of Conduct, and to meet our standards for behaviour both on and off the field.

The Club also expects players to have:

- A strong desire and commitment to learning and improvement
- Respect for teammates, coaches, the Club and the sport
- An ability to commit to two training sessions per week, with optional additional training available, and play in all scheduled matches
- Aligning with our communication timeframes for notifying absences and avoiding any disciplinary issues.

Please note that failure to meet these expectations throughout the season could result in movement across teams, although we would anticipate this would only occur in exceptional circumstances.

4. Joining the Development Team Program

The Club will hold trials to select players to join our Development Program, typically around October/November each year. All players, both returning and new to Club, are welcome to attend the trials.



We encourage all Kangaroos and Wallabies players from prior seasons to attend the trials.

A team of Club coaches, led by the Technical Director, will oversee the trials and collectively decide player outcomes. In the event of a disagreement, the Technical Director will have the final decision.

The Technical Director is not required to provide individual feedback upon parent or player request.