



# **Balaklava Football and Netball Club**

## **Football Bylaws 2023**

Updated: BFNC AGM 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022

## BFNC Football Bylaws

### 1. Coach selection-

The Football Operating Committee shall have the power to appoint coaches after recommendations to the Management Committee. The Operating Committee must appoint a coach before the first league match in each season. The Committee may advertise for applicants for playing or non-playing coaches not later than the 31<sup>st</sup> of January each year. Advertisements for same to be inserted in the local paper and any other paper deemed necessary. Such advertisement will appear at least twice, not necessarily consecutively, and will be worded in accordance with directions as laid down by the Operating Committee. Upon coaches being appointed their remuneration will be arrived at by mutual agreement of the committee and themselves. They will be bound by an agreement to safeguard the Club against default or unforeseen circumstances. The Operating Committee will see that only an applicant with the best coaching ability and integrity is appointed. In the event of no applications or suitable applicant being received, the Committee shall have the power to approach whoever it wishes forthwith. The Committee shall appoint a coach for all grades.

### 2. Selection committee-

- a. The Senior selection committee shall consist of the senior coaches and captains, the senior football manager and the player representative. The Operating committee can appoint 1 additional member to the senior selection committee. This decision must be reported to the management committee. The Junior and Senior Colts coach and/or coaches along with the captain and Vice-Captain of each of those grades shall be the selection members of those grades.
- b. Unless expressly advised otherwise by the Football Operating Committee, the A Grade Coach acts as the Chairperson of the Senior selection committee. If a dispute occurs between members of the selection committee the chairperson shall have the final say.
- c. All coaches will communicate selection decisions directly to the affected players. This communication shall consist of the reasons behind the selection decision and how they can improve. The coach must encourage the player to still be involved and included in their team.

### 3. Team Selections criteria-

The below criteria are to be used to strengthen and prolong the success of the Balaklava Football Club. Any player seen to not fit these criteria to the best of their abilities should not be used as a priority selection.

#### a. Performance/Form

Performance/Form is the primary criteria for player selection as this allows the club to field its most competitive sides for any fixture. However, this does not mean that for one good/disappointing performance that promotion/demotion is applied. Where possible, players will be given a reasonable time to perform and develop in any particular grade.

#### b. Youth Development

The BFNC will adopt a long-term view towards youth development. In working toward this objective, we will take all reasonable steps to ensure that we maintain the balance

between 'high football standards' and 'high participation rates' within our junior and senior football teams. To that end, the selection committee will be responsible to ensure that its selection practices produce sustainable high standards of football over the longer term. Such practices will ensure that within the B grade youth will continue to be developed.

c. Training Attendance

All players are required to attend training sessions scheduled by the respective coach. Standard sessions will be Tuesday and Thursday nights, 6.30pm to 8.00pm. If players are unable to attend, it is the player's responsibility to advise the respective Coach of their situation and attend when possible. Where a player cannot commit to regular trainings they must discuss a plan with their coach, who will discuss with the selection committee and seek approval from the Operating Committee. A lack of communication will be seen as detrimental to selection. Travelling players will be required to attend training in Balaklava on Thursday night and one other night independently as required by the senior coach.

Where a player has a legitimate reason for non-attendance at training sessions, such as work, family or medical reasons and this information has been conveyed to the coach, it is the selection committee's prerogative to exclude their training attendance and select on form and other selection criteria.

d. Team Balance

Team balance is critical for all grades when selecting teams. There will be instances where changes will be made, and these will not be based on performance, but purely to achieve team balance and may require the Selection Committee to promote/demote players on that basis. Credence will be given to winning teams and therefore changes would be less likely. If players are performing well in lower grades, they are to be encouraged to continue that form and apply pressure on players in higher grades. A point to note is that individuals playing well will lift their team's spirits and this in turn assists the club to prosper.

e. Player Welfare

First and foremost, the BFNC will ensure that player welfare is not compromised via the player selection process. To that end, coaches and the selection committee will take all reasonable steps to ensure that every player selected is fit (physically and psychologically) to participate and represent the BFNC on game day.

f. Financial Membership

Players must be a financial member before being available for selection. Payment plans may be available, these must be requested through the senior football manager and approved by the operating committee.

g. Attitude & work ethic

It is the expectation of the BFNC that all players will approach training sessions in the same way that they would approach a game. All players are expected to work hard during training and support each other at all times. No player will leave a training session without notifying the coach prior to their absence. Any player carrying an injury, and unable to train, should attend training for rehab from trainers, alternative fitness methods or may be required to assist the coaching staff as directed.

h. Match day punctuality

All players are required to arrive at least 60 minutes (or earlier if directed by the Coach) prior to the commencement of a game. A player that has not been selected or is injured should support their respective team. Poor punctuality and attendance will

affect selection prospects unless prior arrangements have been made with the Coach. The BFNC endeavours to accommodate all reasonable circumstances, provided the player communicates effectively with the Coach.

#### 4. Junior Selection in a higher age grade.

A junior players' responsibility is to their age group first and foremost. Our philosophy is that juniors should compete at their age-appropriate level in the first instance. Playing a higher age grade as a junior (although a great experience) is a privilege and not a right. With this philosophy in mind junior players selected to play a higher age grade can only be selected on the following basis:

- a. First year players in each junior grade are ineligible to play within the next grade regardless of the circumstances;
- b. The coach of the junior player must give permission for the junior player to be considered by the a higher age grade coach;
- c. The coach or team manager must seek approval from the child's parents or guardian, such approval must be in writing, deemed to be a waiver to ensure the parent or guardian is aware of the potential risk of injury;
- d. A junior player playing up should not take the place of a fully financial junior player from the higher age grade.
- e. Junior players should not play more than two games per weekend for Balaklava
- f. If a dispute occurs the football operating committee shall have the final say.
- g. Game Day
  - i. The umpire must be informed that a junior player is playing up and use his/her best endeavours to protect the child;
  - ii. The child must also be recognised on the team sheet as an underage player;
  - iii. The child must wear an orange fluorescent arm band on his left arm.
- h. The senior grade that a junior player is to be selected for will be based on ability. This will be decided by the Senior selection committee;

#### 5. Junior Selection Policy

- a. Players will be selected in junior grades based on their eligibility for that age group;
- b. Ages shall be taken as at the 1st of January for the upcoming season;
- c. Playing preference will be given to children at the top age level of that grade;
- d. It is our aim that all bottom aged players receive a minimum of half match time during the season;
- e. Should a team make a final, match time will be at the discretion of the coach;
- f. Where a players development has not progressed to the level required, a permit can be sought to allow the player to remain in this age group for another season.
- g. Under 8's
  - i. Ensure all children receive a fair and even go;
  - ii. Ensure all children are rotated through all positions throughout the year;
  - iii. Ensure all children are taught the basic skills required to play AFL, they are;
    - a. Kicking
    - b. Marking
    - c. Handball
  - iv. Ensure all children are taught the basic rules of AFL;

- v. Ensure all children are encouraged at all times and enjoy their time at the BFNC.
- h. Under 11's
  - i. Ensure all children receive a fair and even go;
  - ii. Ensure all children are rotated through all positions throughout the year;
  - iii. Ensure all children are taught the basic skills required to play AFL, they are;
    - a. Kicking a drop punt
    - b. Marking the ball cleanly in their hands
    - c. Handball
    - d. Ensure all children are taught the basic rules of AFL;
    - e. Ensure all children are encouraged at all times and enjoy their time at the BFNC.
- i. Under 14's
  - i. Ensure all children receive a fair and even go;
  - ii. Ensure all children are trialled through multiple positions throughout the year;
  - iii. Ensure all children are taught the skills required to play AFL, they are;
    - a. Kicking a drop punt on both feet
    - b. Marking the ball cleanly in their hands
    - c. Handball both hands
    - d. Have a clear understanding of all positions and how they are to be played
  - iv. Ensure all children are taught the rules of AFL;
  - v. Ensure all children are encouraged at all times and enjoy their time at the BFNC.
- j. Under 17's
  - a. Ensure all Players receive a fair and even go;
  - b. Ensure all players continue to develop their skill sets in readiness for senior football;
  - c. Ensure all players are encouraged at all times and enjoy their time at the BFNC.
  - d. Ensure all players are encouraged to join in with senior footy (eg. Training with the senior teams, assisting with senior game day, given opportunity to play in senior teams if numbers allow)
- k. Girls are welcomed to play football in our junior teams. The junior coordinator is the point of contact to outline how we manage mixed gender teams.
- l. Training
  - i. All players are required to attend training sessions scheduled by the respective coach. Standard sessions will be between 4:00 to 6:30pm on Thursday nights,. If players are unable to attend, it is the player's responsibility to advise the respective Coach of their situation and attend when possible. A lack of communication will be seen as detrimental to selection.
  - ii. Where a player has a legitimate reason for non-attendance at training sessions, such as work, family or medical reasons and this information has been conveyed to the coach, it is the selection committee's prerogative to exclude their training attendance and select on form and other selection criteria.

iii. It is the expectation of the BFNC that all players will approach training sessions in the same way that they would approach a game. Any player carrying an injury, and unable to train, may be required to assist the coaching staff as directed.

m. Behaviour

i. Players must adhere to the BFNC's 'Player Codes of Conduct' and team rules at all times. Breaches of the Player Code of Conduct and or team will be seen as detrimental to selection.

ii. Players that bring the BFNC or the game into disrepute will be required to appear before the Junior Panel Committee and may face disciplinary action.

n. Club/Team Support

i. Football is a team sport and it is expected that players will work together at both training sessions and on game day to help set up and pack away all equipment. This includes but is not limited to, setting up boundary cones at home games, setting up scoreboards, setting up furniture and returning it after the game, returning club equipment to the storeroom, etc.

6. Selection Grievances

a. The selection committee will not always be able to please all players and members. If a player or member has a grievance with the selection decision, they need to address these concerns directly with:

i. Junior Grades: the respective coach or the Junior Coordinator; or

ii. Senior Grades: the Chairperson of the selection committee.

b. The Management Committee has delegated the responsibility for managing grievances associated with player selection to the:

i. Chairperson of the selection committee (senior grades); and

ii. Respective coach (junior grades).

7. Child Safety-

a. Balaklava Football club requires all officials and support staff to hold and supply a copy of a current SANFL approved WWCC (working with children's check)-volunteer check.

8. Subs

a. Subs are payable when registering through PlayHQ (formally SportsTG) or by arrangement with the Footballs Vice president, junior coordinator or senior coordinator.

b. Subs will be set by the management committee.

9. Registration of players, officials and members-

a. Players and officials must register through PlayHQ (formally SportsTG).

b. Associate members are able to purchase associate memberships through the club secretary.