GOLDEN GROVE CENTRAL DISTRICTS BASEBALL CLUB INC.

ABN 67 381 347 618 www.ggcdbaseball.com.au

JUNIOR SELECTION AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Version 3.0 – Aug 2024

Review date ……29 August 2024…….

Purpose

The Golden Grove Central Districts Baseball Club recognises two distinct player pathways within the Junior Program, (Performance Pathway and Development Pathway) with the exception being the U11 minor league. The Junior Selection and Participation Policy aims to ensure positive player development within both pathways that provides opportunities within club, and at state representative level, and is developed to enable successful transition to senior baseball.

Under the policy guidelines, all junior baseball players will be able to hone their skills in a supportive and equitable atmosphere. The primary goal is to ensure fair play, by placing players on teams according to their physical attributes and ability levels for their present developmental stage.

This policy forms the framework of the junior program goals and should be carried out carefully and openly.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

GGCD BOARD

● Ensure adherence to the Junior Policy.

JUNIOR OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

● Ensure adherence to the Junior Policy.

● Ensure all relevant club members, (players and parents) are aware of the Junior Policy.

● Provide Junior Policy guidance to coaches and assist with policy application.

* Ensure all Coaches are Accredited and have an up to date Working With Children Certificate (WWCC)

GGCD JUNIOR PANEL (in conjunction with Junior Operations Director)

● Provide Junior Policy adjudication as required.

COACHES

● Comply with the Junior Policy.

● Ensure all relevant club members, (players and parents) are aware of the Junior Policy.

● Provide junior player information to Junior Operations Director and Board if requested.

● Discuss with Junior Operations Director/Junior panel any potential issues or disputes.

1. Team Selections

Players will be required to attend preseason training in the appropriate age group whereby basic skill competencies will be assessed. Teams will be selected by the appropriate coaches, who will seek input as required from the Junior Operations Director, other coaches, and previous coaches if available for input.

Players will be placed after consideration of, but not limited to, the following:

• Ability

• Experience

• Positions played

• Team dynamics

• Behavioural issues

GGCD acknowledges that some junior players will be unable to attend preseason training. In this situation, selectors can consider previous playing experience and performance and draw upon reports from previous coaches and statistics if available. Players who are unable to attend training are encouraged to regularly communicate with either the Junior Operations Director or relevant coach as to their availability.

1.1 Re-grading

Re-grading will be introduced at Junior level throughout season. This gives coaches the opportunity to address any selection issue that may occur after teams have been named, and as team performance and dynamic may dictate. It encourages players to perform at their best and rewards those players who deserve promotion.

Any decision will be made in consultation with the Junior Operations Director, and GGCD committee if required.

1.2 Grievances

Whilst the Golden Grove Central Districts Baseball Club supports the selection decisions made by coaches appointed by the Committee, queries regarding selection decisions can be made as follows:

1. by approaching the coach either by phone or at an appropriate time.

2. by approaching the Junior Operations Director by phone or at an appropriate time.

3. by approaching the Junior Panel.

Any communication regarding selection decisions should be made in an appropriate manner.

2. Age Group Policy

The intent of this policy is to ensure fairness and impartiality of opportunity is applied at all Junior grades.

Whenever GGCD has multiple teams within the same age division, coaches will collectively determine the team player lists based on physical attributes and ability levels for their present developmental stage, and this will inform whether a player is selected within a Performance team or a Development team. If there are multiple teams within a pathway, teams are to be selected as fairly, and evenly as possible.

2.1 U11 (no separate pathways)

The primary goals at U11 age level are:

• Player participation and retention

• Game enjoyment (fun)

• Basic skill development

• Represent GGCD in the best spirit of the game

Winning is not considered a priority at this level.

Players will be provided an opportunity at **all positions** during season, with the child's safety and eagerness to be considered. Equitable field time is to be provided to all players in each game.

Throughout the season, the batting line up is to vary each game to ensure players are provided equal opportunity to hit at different line up positions.

All league rules and bylaws must be adhered to.

2.2 U13 Development Pathway

Primary goals at U13 Development level are:

• Player participation and retention

• Game enjoyment (fun)

• Basic and position specific skill development

• Represent GGCD in the best spirit of the game

Winning is not considered a priority at this level.

Players will be provided an opportunity at **all positions** during season, with some allowance given for coaches' discretion (players safety in key positions to be considered). Equitable field time is to be provided to all players in each game.

Throughout the season, the batting line up is to vary each game to ensure players are provided equal opportunity to hit at different line up positions.

All league rules and bylaws must be adhered to.

2.3 U13 Performance Pathway

At the discretion of the coach, players will be rotated through different positions during the season, depending on their skillsets and capabilities. Each player must be provided the opportunity to learn a minimum of two positions, (to include infield and outfield).

Considering the above, gameday positions are at the coaches' discretion. Coaches are to ensure all players receive equal game time, with consideration for individual players efforts and attitude, however at this grade coaches are afforded more discretion on what is appropriate in the interest of the team.

Finals game time and player position is at the coach's discretion.

At least five players to be trained as pitchers during the regular season, and all team pitchers must be provided opportunity to start and relieve. A minimum of 2 catchers to be developed.

All league rules and bylaws must be adhered to.

Note: Player specific skillsets are being identified at this level, and GGCD encourages coaching staff to seek specialised position-based training for individual players as appropriate. While not listed as primary goals, player participation & game enjoyment should always be a priority at all levels.

2.4 U14 all grades

At the discretion of the coach, players will be rotated through different positions during the season, depending on their skillsets and capabilities. Each player must be provided the opportunity to learn a minimum of two positions, (to include infield and outfield).

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All league rules and bylaws must be adhered to.

Note: Player specific skillsets are being identified at this level, and GGCD encourages coaching staff to seek specialised position-based training for individual players as appropriate. While not listed as Primary goals, player participation & game enjoyment should always be a priority at all levels.

2.5 U15 all grades

At the discretion of the coach, player positions will be determined depending on their skillsets, capabilities, and attitude towards the team goals.

Coaches are to ensure all players receive game time appropriate to the team dynamic whilst ensuring fairness and the opportunity for all players growth.

Each player must be provided the opportunity to learn at least two positions, (to include infield and outfield).

At least four players to be trained as pitchers during the regular season, and all team pitchers must be provided opportunity to start and relieve.

A minimum of 2 catchers to be developed.

All league rules and bylaws must be adhered to.

Note: Player specific skillsets are being identified at this level, and GGCD encourages coaching staff to seek specialised position-based training for individual players as appropriate. While not listed as Primary goals, player participation & game enjoyment should always be a priority at all levels.

2.6 U17 all grades

At the discretion of the coach, player positions will be determined depending on their skillsets, capabilities, and attitude towards the team goals.

Coaches are to ensure all players receive game time appropriate to the team dynamic whilst ensuring fairness and the opportunity for all players growth.

Each player must be provided the opportunity to learn at least two positions, (to include infield and outfield).

At least four players to be trained as pitchers during the regular season, and all team pitchers must be provided opportunity to start and relieve.

A minimum of 2 catchers to be developed.

All league rules and bylaws must be adhered to.

Note: Player specific skillsets are being identified at this level, and GGCD encourages coaching staff to seek specialised position-based training for individual players as appropriate. While not listed as Primary goals, player participation & game enjoyment should always be a priority at all levels.

3. Training and Game considerations

• General poor behaviour or violations of the acceptable conduct expected will be a consideration when determining appropriate game time. If improved behaviour has not been demonstrated after discussion with parents/caregivers a loss of game time may occur.

• If players have not demonstrated valid reasons for not attending training sessions as determined by the coaches, less playing time than other players could result.

• Failure to notify the coach of a player's absence from training or games can result in reduced participation in games.

• All players are required to attend training sessions as per the coach's direction.

• All players are required to bring their own baseball glove and baseball cap to training and games.

• All personal equipment must meet the league requirements and comply with all safety standards.