

Team Formation Policy

Kotara South Football Club



Effective Date: 10 February 2026

Document Category: Policy – Team Formation

Document Control

Version	Date	Author	Owner	Approval	Remarks
1.0	Jan 2018	N/A	Kotara South Football Club	N/A	Superseded
2.0	30/01/2025	N/A	Kotara South Football Club	N/A	Superseded
3.0	10/01/2026	S. Aebi	Kotara South Football Club	KSFC - Committee	10/02/2026

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a clear and consistent framework for team formation at Kotara South Football Club (KSFC) for MiniRoos (U5–U11) and Junior Competition teams (U12–U18). The policy aims to:

- Foster social connections and inclusivity among players.
- Support skill development while maintaining enjoyable and competitive matches.
- Provide a transparent and fair process for team allocation.
- Ensure the club’s community culture is upheld through socially-oriented team formation.

2. Background and Context

Historically, KSFC has used individual grading to form teams in the U12–U18 age groups. While this approach has had successes, it has increasingly required negotiation and repeated exceptions to the grading process, particularly regarding players wishing to be placed with friends.

Following discussions by the Executive, Committee, and individual stakeholders, the 2025 season marks a transition to a socially-oriented team formation model. This approach aligns with practices already in place for MiniRoos and Senior teams.

The club will continue to nominate a grade for each team to ensure appropriate levels of competition but will no longer use individual grading as the default starting point for team formation.

3. Policy Statement

From 2025 onwards, team formation for U12–U18 players will prioritize social connections while also considering skill balance and club loyalty. Key principles include:

3.1 Social Connections

- Players may submit requests to be placed on the same team as friends.
- Teams should include a mix of long-term members and new players to foster new social connections.

3.2 Skill Balance

- Skill level is secondary to social connections but will be considered to ensure enjoyable and competitive matches.

3.3 Club Loyalty

- Returning players and teams from the previous season are given preference, subject to registration deadlines and maximum squad size limitations.

4. Guiding Principles for Team Formation

4.1 Returning Players

- Preference is given to players returning from the previous season. These players will be placed in the same team unless they indicate a different preference in the registration system (PlayFootball).
- Players must register and complete the “additional information” section before the returning player preference cut-off date (published at the start of the registration period).

4.2 New Players

- Where a team from the previous season is not continuing, KSFC will place players in another appropriate team or age group, prioritizing returning players over new registrations.
- The club enforces maximum squad sizes; no exceptions will be made.

Age Group	Players on Field	<i>Maximum Team Size</i>
Under U6/7	4	6
Under U8/9	7	9
Under U10/11	9	11
Under U12-18	11	16
Senior Teams	11	20

5. MiniRoos (U5–U11) Specific Guidelines

- Players must be registered in the age they turn in the playing year, regardless of previous season placement.
- Pre-determined team lists from coaches, managers, or parents will not be accepted.
- Parents may submit preferences for teammates via the PlayFootball “additional information” section.
- If no preference is indicated, players will remain in their previous year’s team where possible.
- As MiniRoos teams progress through age groups, team numbers may increase and teams will be combined to meet maximum squad sizes.
- Parents must not advise others that a team is “full”; KSFC reserves final authority for team placements.

6. Junior Competition Teams (U12–U18) Specific Guidelines

- Age group coordinators may contact parents, players, or nominated coaches/managers to discuss team sizes and placement.
- Returning players will be accommodated first, based on registration date and payment status, until maximum squad sizes are reached.
- Where multiple teams cannot be formed due to insufficient registrations, placement decisions will consider:
 1. Returning players registered and paid in full before the preference cut-off.
 2. Order of registration from earliest to latest until the maximum squad size is reached.

- Additional returning players registered outside these parameters may be placed in a mixed team if numbers allow and the player agrees.
- KSFC reserves the right to make final team placement decisions in the best interests of the club and its members.

7. Filling Vacancies in Teams

- When maximum squad sizes are not reached, vacant positions will be filled by new players in order of registration.
- Players may recruit friends to fill vacancies, subject to approval by the age group coordinator and coach/manager.
- KSFC will advertise externally for vacant positions where appropriate.
- Recruitment for vacant positions may only occur after confirmation of available spaces by the age group coordinator and appointed coach/manager.
- KSFC reserves final authority for all team placements.

8. Implementation and Authority

- KSFC has final authority to place players in teams, considering social connections, skill balance, club loyalty, and team size limits.
- All placements are subject to registration confirmation and payment in full.