



TOURNAMENT POLICY

ALL GRADES

Each season, DUFC players attend tournaments under the DUFC banner. Sometimes they attend as their club team (ie. the team that plays together every Saturday) and sometimes they attend as a specially formed Tournament Team.

We periodically receive complaints from players, parents & coaches stemming from tournament issues so this Policy is designed to avoid misunderstandings and conflicts.

The DUFC Code of Conduct states: Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, **ability**, cultural background or religion.

In line with Northern Region Football, NZ Football & FIFA expectations, our policy for teams attending tournaments under the DUFC banner is as follows:

In all instances, priority should be given to registered DUFC members to participate. Players from other clubs should only be considered if there are no DUFC players available to participate from Championship or Community Div 1 or Div 2 teams. Players from lower division teams should also be considered if their ability is sufficient to be competitive.

It is the responsibility of the team organisers (coach/manager/assistant) to ensure all players are eligible to participate as per this Policy and the specific tournament regulations. This may include:

- being the correct age
- being a registered DUFC member or member of a club affiliated to Northern Region Football or another NZ Football federation

It is the responsibility of the team organisers (coach/manager/assistant) to inform the Club of the tournament you are attending and supply a list of players participating as you are playing under the DUFC banner in DUFC strip and therefore representing our club.

It would also be great if photos & story were provided after the event for the club website to share the team's experience.

CLUB TEAMS

If you are entering your normal club team in the tournament, the expectation is:

- i) that all usual members of the team should be given first refusal to participate
- ii) that only if they are not available should players be sought from other DUFC teams
- iii) that only if other DUFC players are not available should players be sought from outside of the club

TOURNAMENT TEAMS

If you are entering a 'tournament team' specifically formed to attend a tournament, the expectation is:

- i) that all DUFC players who are eligible under the tournament regulations to participate will be invited to trial for a place on the team (ie. for an U10 tournament, all 9 & 10 year old DUFC players)
- ii) that those selected and not selected will be informed of the team placements directly & promptly
- iii) that only if DUFC players are not available should players be sought from outside of the club, and those non-DUFC players must be of superior ability to DUFC players not selected

If you intend to invite or trial players from a DUFC team other than your own, it is common courtesy to inform those team's coaches of your intent BEFORE you proceed.

SUBBING & GAME TIME / POSITIONING & ROTATION

Tournaments are highly competitive and teams enter to win.

It may be necessary at times to field players strategically to win a game to be able to progress to the next round. The Club expectation however is that all players attending a tournament will get roughly equal playing time over the duration of the tournament.

It is not acceptable for players to get considerably less game time based solely on ability or to be strategically used as a sub just to give other players a short break. They are team members, not subs.

It is the responsibility of the coach, manager &/or designated subbing person to ensure this happens. All teams have range of abilities amongst their players and correct way to work with this is strategic placement on the field.

If the coaching team decides that the coach will sub & field players as they see fit to win games and that equal game time for all players is not a main consideration and/or unlikely to happen, this must be made clear to players & their parents IN WRITING (an email of the tournament game plan will suffice) and before the team final selection is made. Then players/parents can decide if they are willing to participate under this condition.

Please copy in the Club Manager of this written statement of intent or it will be assumed that equal subbing will ensue.

Likewise regarding player field positions, if players are expected to play in set positions for the duration or bulk of the tournament, let them know this. It may be conditional that they are on the team because of their strength in a given position. It may also be necessary to change the line-up around as injuries occur. Again, the key point is to explain clearly and honestly to players & parents what the plan is so they make an informed decision on whether to participate.

IE. if the plan is to have the same player in goal or as a back or forward for every or the majority of games, make that clear. Don't agree to rotate or give time in other positions if it's not going to happen. Don't rely on informal conversations or vague statements as misinterpretations do occur.

If you have questions about this policy or the ethos behind it, please contact the Club Manager for clarification.

A list of upcoming tournaments can be found on the NRF website:

<http://www.aucklandfootball.org.nz/Community/Community-Noticeboard/Tournaments-1>