



Preston Bullants
Junior Football Club
Information - Booklet

Edition – 2014

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HISTORY OF THE PRESTON BULLANTS JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

The Preston Bullants JFC was born in August 2000. The club entered the Yarra Junior Football League and fielded under 11's and under 13's teams in 2001. Our first year resulted in an early wake up call as the gap between Auskick and fair dinkum footy competition was highlighted. While victories were few and far between, the club set about reviewing its operations and determined a plan for the future, which would see the club grow successfully and provide an environment, respected throughout the competition. This resulted in the two teams fielded in 2002, under 10's and under 11's, both winning premierships.

From its inception the P.B.J.F.C.'s home ground has been the Cramer Street Oval, home of the Preston Bullants V.F.L. team from which the baby Bullants derived their playing strip and name. Home games at Cramer Street and Northcote Park, when the former was unavailable, allowed the children to play on two exceptional grounds.

Since 2001 the club has added one new team each year fed largely by girls and boys who received their introduction to football through the Preston Auskick program and in 2012 fielded teams in Tackers, under 10's, under 11's, under 12's, under 13's, under 14's, and one team in Colts. From those early days when the club had about 25 eager footballers registered the number of registered players has grown to over 220.

Nine teams entered in the Yarra Junior Football League have also meant some logistical problems, not the least of which is ground availability. Preston City Oval remains the spiritual heart of the Bullants and therefore the club has and must continue to work together with the Darebin Council and other tenant clubs namely Northern Blues and Northern Knights to ensure the ground surface remains at a high standard.

A measure of the club's continuing success has been several premierships;

- 2002 - Under 10 Green and Under 11 Brown,
- 2005 - Under 10 Green,
- 2006 - Under 12 Green,
- 2007 - Colts Section 3,
- 2008 - Under 14 Green and Colts 1,
- 2009 - Under 15 (2) and Colts 1.
- 2010 - Under 11 Blue and Under 14 Green
- 2013 - Under 15 (2)

Other highlights include competition in the highest divisions of their age groups and the number of older age players who have won selection in representative Yarra Junior Football League teams and Northern Knight's development squads competing in T.A.C.

All of those early morning Auskick days, years of training at Cramer Street & HP Zwar Park, hard work by committees and coaches and miles of travel to and from games will reach full circle when our young men start to win A.F.L. selection!

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE & VALUES

The Preston Bullants Jnr Football Club aims to provide an opportunity for the youth of our area to participate in Australian Rules Football and enhance their health and wellbeing through organised sport. The Club, will at all times, endeavour to provide for the health, welfare and well being of its players, supporters and spectators. This aim will be achieved by promoting and developing the following values and objectives:

- A sense of social and community values
- An environment to nurture the physical and mental development of our youth
- Respect for officials, opposition players and supporters
- The virtues of fair and disciplined play
- Equal opportunities for everyone

They will be realized by providing as far as reasonable:

- Competent coaches and assistants
- Adequate facilities, amenities and equipment
- Supervised social functions encouraging family participation
- Regular communication and consultation with players and parents
- Active leadership and management of the Club

All players, Coaches and Officials, Parents, Supporters and Committee Members have a responsibility at all times when representing the Preston Bullants Jnr Football Club to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner consistent with these values and of Codes of Conduct.

CODES OF CONDUCT

The codes of conduct below are based on the YJFL Codes of Conduct.

The aims are:

- Provide guidelines for the behaviour of participants - officials, players, parents, spectators
- Encourage sporting behaviour
- Provide a supportive environment for junior footballers
- Ensure all participants enjoy their involvement in football.

Coaches and Officials

Abide by the Laws and Rules of the game, the YJFL and the club, with regards to game day.

Demonstrate your commitment to the rules. Children learn through copying behaviour.

Ensure your behaviour is acceptable and complies with the Laws and Rules.

Group players competitively.

Game time is subject to consistent attendance at games and training by players

Avoid overplaying talented players.

In the Tackers to Under 13's during the home and away season all players should play at least three quarters a game. For Under 14's and older, all players should play at least two quarters a game during the home and away season.

Game time in finals is a **minimum of one quarter**, at the coach's discretion

Provide positive feedback and constant encouragement to your team

Maximize fun: place winning in perspective.

Stress safety always.

Consider maturity levels. Ensure activities are suitable for the age and ability levels.

Develop team respect and respect of players, officials, umpires, parents and spectators.

Recognize the importance of proper injury treatment.

Keep up to date with coaching techniques and developments.

Attain accreditation. The Club will meet the cost of accreditation.

Avoid derogatory language based on gender, race or ability and teach the players such behaviour is unacceptable.

Must avoid behaviour which brings team, club and league into disrepute

Club uniform is to be worn when representing the club

Ensure your team wears correct uniforms

All coaches, trainers and runners over the age of 18 must obtain a volunteer Working With Children check, regardless of whether their child is in the team or not.

Players

Play by the rules at all times.

Never argue with an official. If you disagree, discuss the matter with your coach/official after the game.

Work equally hard for yourself and/or for your team. Your team's performance will benefit and so will you.

Be a good sport. Applaud all good play whether it is by your team or your opponent's.

Control your temper. Verbal and physical abuse of officials or other players or provoking an opponent is not acceptable.

Treat all players, as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player.

Co-operate with your coach, teammates and opponents. Without them there would be no competition.

Play for "the fun of it" and not just to please parents and coaches.

Avoid using derogatory language.

When playing ensure you wear the correct team uniform

Parents and Spectators

Encourage children to participate, if they are interested.

Encourage children to always participate according to the rules.

Teach that honest effort is the victory, not the winning.

Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a game.

Remember that children learn best from example. Applaud good play from all players including the opposition.

If you disagree with an official, raise the issues through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official's judgment and honesty in public.

Support your club and association's officials to foster high standards of behaviour.

Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse of all umpires, players and opposition officials and supporters.

Support and recognize the value and importance of volunteer coaches and officials.

Remember that children play organized sport for FUN. They are not playing for the entertainment of the spectators nor are they miniature professionals.

Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches, officials or players.

Encourage players to follow the rules and the umpire's decisions.

Demonstrate the appropriate social behaviour by not using foul language, harassing players, coaches or officials.

Never enter the playing arena during the course of the game. Only designated officials will be permitted to enter the arena during the course of the game.

All Parties

Smoking will not be permitted in clubrooms and on the playing arena during match day at quarter time and three quarter time huddles and at half time and on training days

Consumption of alcohol by person or persons in any form at PBJF matches is strictly prohibited on the ground, terraces, change rooms and any other viewing areas.

Breaches of Conduct

Any breaches of conduct will be referred to the Code of Conduct Sub- Committee

Any serious breaches of conduct will be subject to investigation and may lead to disciplinary action being taken

ISSUE RESOLUTION POLICY & PROCEDURE

Policy

The Preston Bullants Jnr Football Club requires that all issues are resolved to the satisfaction of the members and Committee in a timely fashion. Accordingly, the following issue resolution procedures have been developed to enable this objective to be fulfilled. All members have a responsibility to participate in reasonable actions to resolve issues. The procedures below detail the level of involvement for expediting issue resolution.

Procedure

1. Any person wishing to raise an issue shall do so as follows:

ISSUE	RAISED WITH
Football or team related	Team Manager or Coach
General nature	Committee Member

Where possible the person reporting the issue should make suggestions that may resolve the issue. As soon as possible after an issue has been reported, the Team Manager, Coach and/or Committee Member and the claimant must meet and try and resolve the issue.

2. Where the initial parties cannot resolve the issue, the Team Manager should refer the matter to The Committee through the **Coaching Coordinator or President** as soon as possible.
3. In attempting to resolve the issue, all parties should take into account the following factors:
 - 3.1 *The extent of the issue, i.e., if it is likely to have a wider effect in the Club*
 - 3.2 *The number of players or teams affected*
 - 3.3 *Whether appropriate temporary measures are possible or desirable*
 - 3.4 *The expected time before the issue can be addressed*
 - 3.5 *What resources may be needed to resolve the issue?*
4. The consent of the Committee must be obtained before any external parties are involved in the Resolution of Club issues. Only the Club President is authorized to make public statements on Behalf of the Club.
5. The Team Manager and/or Coach may at any time call on Committee Members for assistance.

Any football or team related issue reported to the Committee, where the Team Manager and/or Coach has not been given the initial opportunity to resolve any such issue, will be referred back to the Team Manager/Coach.

All Persons must take reasonable actions to avoid situations that could cause serious injury or harm to health to players, officials or the public. If any hazard is identified the Committee are to be informed as soon as possible.

TEAM SELECTION POLICY

The concept of the Preston Bullants Junior Football Club is to provide an equal opportunity for all boys and girls to participate in competition football.

The Club registers up to the following maximum of players:

Tackers to U14 - 28 Players

U15's to Colts – 26 Players

Coaches and Team Managers do not have the authority to set the maximum number of players per team.

Only the Executive Committee can authorise the maximum number of registrations per team

During the home & away season only 24 players can play during a game

During Finals, all registered players in the team may be able to play. (Subject to clause 5 below)

The following rules should apply when selecting teams:

1. Players who attend training during the week prior to the game should be the first selected. The only exception to this rule is when a player is unable to attend training due to one of the following reasons:
 - a) *Illness and the Coach or Team Manager is advised accordingly.*
 - b) *The player is not home from school in time for training*
 - c) *The player is participating in other training. This can include training with a combined team such as the YJFL League Representative Squad or has genuine school or other sporting commitments that fall on the same night as our organised training night.*
 - d) *At the discretion of the football sub-committee players can be excused from training for reasons such as family circumstances, distance or other compelling factor*

All exceptions must be made known to the team when it is announced so that all players, officials and parents are made fully aware of the situation.

2. Schedules recording training attendance are filled in at each training session and returned to the Football Sub Committee. These schedules will be used when selecting teams or discussing training attendance with interested parents and/or guardians.

3. Excess players will be rostered off equally during the course of the season. To assist families with planning a weekend away etc, agreement between the Coach & Parents will be sought. The roster will nominate which home and away round each player is to be rostered off.

If a player is called up to play when rostered off due to shortage of players that player is still deemed to have taken their turn of being rostered off unless a swap sanctioned by the Coach/Team Manager is agreed between the players and their parents/guardians.

Coaches are to also encourage rostered players to attend the game and if practicable, participate in game day off field duties (i.e. Take stats, fill water bottles)

4. Players rostered off will, if practicable, be offered a game in a higher age group. Coaches must consult with each other as soon as they become aware of the shortfall in player numbers. The Football Sub-Committee must be consulted prior to any decisions being made in playing younger aged players up.

At all times the club, coaches and its representatives must abide by the YJFL bi-laws in relation to top up and rotation of players.

Where a player from a lower group tops up in a higher age group the lower group player should not take the field in place of player of the higher age group (i.e. the lower age group player must start the game on the bench and will be interchanged during the game for injured players or as part of game day rotations).

5. **In the younger teams (Tackers to Under 13s)** the players will be rotated **at the end of each quarter** during each game. In games the players will participate in at least 3 quarters, subject to training attendance and attitude.

In the older age groups (under 14s, under 15s and Colts) every effort will be made to rotate the players so that they get at least 2 quarters and selection will be based on training attendance and attitude.

6. **Finals:** In all Age Groups, every player participating in all finals games is required to play a minimum of 1 quarter of football. Coach's discretion should be used in regard to how this is achieved, with consideration to team structure and team balance.

The Coaching Co Coordinator or another member of the Football Sub Committee will attend training and games on a regular basis so that assistance can be provided to the Coaches working within this Policy.

Initial inquiries regarding team selection should be directed in the first instance to the age group coaches, and secondly to the Coaching Co Coordinator.

COACHING PHILOSOPHY & POLICY

Every effort must be made to ensure that all players have equal opportunity to develop and enjoy their football. We recognize that the maintenance of equity has a profound effect on players self esteem, skill development, fitness and understanding of the game. We also acknowledge however, that as players move through the age groups, the implementation of equity may vary slightly.

Coaches must ensure that they avoid prioritizing winning over maximizing participation, enjoyment and improvement for all players regardless of ability. All coaches are to ensure that every player is recognized as being an equal member of the team with a valuable contribution to make. We also recognize that goals are best achieved by working as a team and by fostering team harmony at all times.

We seek to create an environment where we encourage players to perform to the best of their ability and take pride in their performance - regardless of the scoreboard. The aim of each team should be to 'be the best team they can be' not just to 'be the best team'.

As a general principal, we aim to play each side in the highest division in which they will be competitive rather than trying to grade them to lower division just to aim to win a Premiership as we believe this is far better for their football development.

Skill development of all players is a major focus of our club. Each year we will appoint a **Coaching Coordinator**. This role will be to provide an additional resource and assist coaches to achieve a greater level of player and coaching development. This position will be a member of the Football Sub Committee.

Parental involvement at training is also to be actively encouraged and will be managed by the Coach.

Tackers to Under 13s

The emphasis is placed on participation and enjoyment. Additional goals are the acquisition of football skills and the nurturing of physical and emotional development and well-being. Coaching strategies are to revolve around game plans which enhance the development of all players so that the team does not become overly reliant on too few as this is not sustainable in later years.

Skills must be taught that are appropriate to the age of the kids so that a gradual progression is achieved. It is accepted that mistakes will be made while the kids are learning and that this is a natural and in fact, desirable part of the process which they should be taught to learn from.

All players are to be given the opportunity to be involved in the game while on the field hence providing real participation as opposed to token participation. Those with more ability should be encouraged to help bring others into the game. This not only teaches the more advanced players to be team orientated hence entrenching good habits which will hold them in good stead for the future, but it also increases the confidence and involvement of the others in the team.

During the course of the home & away season, players are to be given the opportunity to play in a variety of positions as possible so that they can gain experience and learn how to play different areas.

Under 14 ,15,Colts

This is a very important and challenging time for young players. It is crucial that coaches lead by example and show leadership rather than authority. Whilst a great emphasis is placed upon individual and team performances; player skill development, personal development, player retention are still the major focus. Coaching methods are to be appropriate to the players age, skill level and relevant the level of competition being played.

COACHING POLICY

The Executive Committee appoints the Football Sub- committee to conduct all Coaching interviews and make appointment recommendations to the Executive Committee for ratification. All applicants will be subject to an interview regardless of whether they are the only applicant.

It is expected that all coaches appoint an assistant coach(s),who is expected to have to adhere to club policies & philosophies. Where a coach doesn't appoint an assistant, the club will make this appointment.

The general policy is that each Coach shall coach a team for one year, this does not preclude the Coach applying for that team the following year. As a general rule, no coach shall coach the same group for 2 consecutive seasons. The Committee feels that development of the players is of utmost importance.

For a coach to be eligible to apply for further consecutive year/s with the same group of players; The Football Sub Committee will consider the following:

- The coach has not been placed with another team.
- A suitable candidate has not applied.
- Considerable effort has been made to find a suitable applicant.

Objective

- Provide new opportunities for players and officials
- Eliminate risk of complacency and generate enthusiasm
- Enhance player development by exposure to as many quality coaches as possible.

The Executive Committee and Football Sub Committee place full support in the Coach of a team. If there is a concern, it should be referred back to the Coaching Coordinator in the first instance.

Best & Fairest Voting

The club awards trophies from Under 10s to Colts teams. The awards are Best & Fairest, Second Best & fairest & Third Best & Fairest. The voting also includes final games. **One set** of Votes are given as follows: 5,4,3,2,1. **The Coach, Assistant Coach & and one other person of their choosing award the votes.**

Other trophies given are Best Finals player (as determined by the votes), Coaches Award, Most Improved.

OUT OF AGE POLICY

I request that my child _____ DOB _____ be permitted to play in the under team for the _____ season.

My child should be permitted to play above the appropriate age group because:

I understand that Club policy is for young people to play in the appropriate age group.

I agree to indemnify the Club committee, team coach and officials from any action should the Club agree to permit my child to play out of age.

I understand that the Club may not approve this request.

I acknowledge that any approval to play out of age is for the current season only.

Parent/Guardian signature: _____

Name (please print): _____

Date: ____/____/20____.

Out of Age Policy

The Preston Bullants Junior Football Club believes that young people should play with others of their own age. It is the policy of the Club that players must seek registration in the team appropriate to their age. For reasons of equity, safety and personal development the Club insists that players participate in the correct team.

- While sympathetic to the wishes of some children to be placed in teams with their friends, the overall goals of the Club are best served by playing with children of similar ages.
- PBJFC will try to satisfy requests from individual parents and children, however, club and team goals are our first priority. The club views children playing with children from other schools and backgrounds as an excellent opportunity to make new friends.

Players should be given the opportunity to experience a variety of coaches and it is not recommended that a coach coaches a team longer than 2 consecutive seasons.

It is only in exceptional circumstances where a compelling case is put by the player's guardian/parents, that the Club may permit a person to play out of age, above the appropriate age group, by one year only.

In making its decision, the Club will have regard for the skills and physical development of an individual, the number of players in the teams involved and whether or not the person has previously played at the higher level.

Any decision by the Club to permit a person to play out of age in a year is for that year only.

The Club may not give approval in circumstances where the viability of a team may be compromised.

Where approval for a child to play out of age is sought, parents/guardians will be required to complete and sign the above document acknowledging their consent.

(PBJFC Committee use only)

Approved Not approved

Coach notified

Parent/player notified

REGISTRATION FEES

A yearly registration fee (incorporating a Fundraising levy) and match day fee is charged.

Registration fees are fully refundable up to round 4. The Fundraising levy is fully refundable.

PBJFC does not prevent players from participating through genuine financial hardship. The Committee is open to discussions with any parent/guardian who may have difficulty in making registration fees and match payments. The Club is about ensuring players play football – not about how much money is made.

Parents/Guardians are to contact either President or Treasurer to discuss fees if they are experiencing difficulties.

FIRST AID

It is the policy of the PBJFC that where possible, a person trained in first aid is available to every team. The club will sponsor anybody willing to obtain a sports trainers certificate for the purposes of fulfilling this role. The approval of the Executive Committee is required prior to any first aid training being undertaken.

The team manager is to seek names from parents as to who may fulfill this role. A fully stocked first aid kit is allocated to each team.

INSURANCE

The club will provide adequate public liability and player insurance as required by the YJFL. Claims forms are available through the Club. Whilst each player is covered by the club's insurance policy, it is highly recommended that each player is covered by their own family's private health insurance.

MOUTHGUARDS

Must be worn by every player in every age group.

Players will not be permitted to play in game or train without a mouthguard unless the prior consent of their parent/guardian

INTERNET POLICY

The club has an internet site <http://www.prestonbullantsjfc.com.au> which is to be used for the purpose of conveying information to all parties interested in the activities and policies of the Preston Bullants Junior Football club.

No content posted on this web site is to be of any nature which is likely to offend, humiliate, intimidate, condemn, ridicule, incite, threaten, or racially vilify any person including those from opposition clubs, bearing in mind it will be viewed by those of all ages.

No photo of any child will be posted on the website against the express wishes of their parents.

MEDIA POLICY

According to YJFL rules No Club shall permit any of its officers, players or members to make any statement to the media (including radio, television and all newspapers) in connection with any Policies or acts of the EMG or in relation to any incidents relating to any games conducted by the League without the prior approval of the EMG. To do so shall render the Club concerned liable to:

- (I) a fine at the discretion of the League;
- (II) suspension from the League;
- (III) expulsion from the League in accordance with the Rules of the League.

The Club President is the only club officer authorized to deal with the YJFL regarding seeking approval from the YJFL to make comments to the media.

NO SMOKING & ALCOHOL BAN POLICIES

One of the main purposes of the Preston Bullants Jnr Football Club is the promotion of health and well being through playing Australian Football and associated social/recreational activities. The Preston Bullants Jnr Football Club respects the rights of individuals to make their own choice in relation to the smoking of cigarettes and other tobacco products and the consumption of alcohol based on the following points.

Smoking

Whilst personal choice is acknowledged, tobacco use and/or exposure to tobacco smoke can be harmful to a person's health. It is therefore the policy of the Preston Bullants Jnr Football Club that all indoor areas at venues operated by the Club are designated as smoke free environments.

The Yarra JFL has a Smoke free policy published as part of League Rules and Regulations. The League does not permit smoking on any Club's playing arena. This also applies to coaches, team managers, trainers, runners, etc. All change rooms and toilet blocks at Club grounds are to be 100% Smoke free. Smoking will not be permitted in any indoor spectator viewing areas or outdoor grandstands within the League.

Any persons breaching this policy will be advised of the no smoking policy, including the identification of areas in which smoking is allowed. In the case of continued non-compliance Club officials will use their discretion as to the action taken which may include asking the person/s to leave the premises or function.

To assist the effectiveness of this policy, the following measures will be implemented:

"No-Smoking" signs will be displayed prominently throughout venues, especially within change room areas, at entry points and food areas.

All ashtrays will be removed from inside Club venues. Smokers will be directed to an outside area, where ashbins are available for their use.

Include on all Club letters and newsletters wording, e.g, "The Preston Bullants Jnr Football Club operates and conducts "smoke free" facilities and events.

No tobacco products are to be sold at the Club's canteen.

Alcohol Ban

The Preston Bullants Jnr Football Club abides by the rule of the Yarra JFL that strictly prohibits consumption of alcohol by person or persons in any form at Yarra JFL scheduled matches. Non-compliance can result in loss of premiership points, fines, and disqualification of individuals, teams or Clubs from the Yarra JFL.

YJFL RULES & POLICIES

The PBJFC follows all other the polices & rules as determined by the AFL & YJFL

AFL VICTORIA VILIFICATION AND DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The PBJFC adheres to the AFL Victoria policy on Vilification & Discrimination. The policy can be found on the AFL Victoria website at:

http://www.aflvic.com.au/fileadmin/user_upload/Documents/AFLV_Web_2010/3._Getting_Involved/Community/Regulations_and_Policies/AFL_Victoria_Vilification_Policy_Final_250612.pdf

HOME TEAM REQUIRMENTS

In addition to usual ground requirements:

Padded Posts
2 Footballs
Bell or Siren
Pair of Goal Flags
Clock / Timer
Stretcher
Scoreboard
One Interchange Steward

Interchange Steward

Must be an adult supplied by the Home Team.

Must wear a White Coat.

Records all interchanges made in the designated area.

Player leaving the ground must cross the boundary line before the interchange can go on.

All interchange players must remain seated at all times.

In the case of an injured player interchange may be allowed on provided that the umpire is notified.

Maintain the necessary time record in the case of an order off ruling. This is for the remainder of the game for a RED card or for one quarter in case of a YELLOW card.

He/She may consult with the umpire at the end of the playing period that the player was sent off to ascertain when the player may go back on.

A coach may consult with the interchange steward to ascertain when their player may go back onto the ground.

Hand the interchange card/sheet to the field umpire at the end of the game.

Trainer

Must wear proper apparel.

May not be used as runners.

Can remain on the field only long enough to treat an injured player.

Are permitted to provide water to players but only when a break in play eg. after a goal is scored

Escort a player sent off for an infringement.

Umpire Escort

An adult provided by the home team to escort the field umpire from the field at half time and at the conclusion of the game.

Goal Umpire

Must wear a white coat.

Record score on official score card which must be handed to field umpire at the conclusion of the game.

Runners

Must wear proper apparel.

Can remain of the field only long enough to deliver two messages then must go back to the coaches area.

Escort a player sent off for an infringement.

Time Keeper

Keep official time of the match.

Signal end of each quarter by bell or siren.

Add time on at the field umpires discretion.

Record score on official time sheet which is to be handed to field umpire at the conclusion of the game.

Boundary Umpire

Minimum requirement is to wear a white top and carry a whistle.

Centre square infringement responsibility of league appointed umpires.

Water Carrier

Must wear proper apparel.

May not be used as runners.

There can be a maximum of 2 water carriers.

They must remain off the playing area during game play and are to be located at each 50 metre goal line

Can only provide water when there is break in play eg. after a goal has been scored.