



AHJSA Representative Team Policy (Revised August 2016)

The AHJSA as an affiliate of the SAJSA runs a representative team programme which participates in the SAJSA State and Country Carnival Championships each year. The representative programme is the main avenue through which advanced development of players is progressed by the AHJSA.

This document describes the manner in which the “rep” programme is structured and managed. It formalises the *ad hoc* approach used in the past to manage the “rep” teams, and follows earlier AHJSA guidelines. This formalisation allows all participants to be clear on the approach taken by the AHJSA with respect to representative teams. Aspects of the process are regulated through the AHJSA by-laws and SAJSA Competition Rules.

The programme allows talented players of competitive age (11 years and up) to be selected into representative teams. Players in the teams receive additional focussed training with the objectives being to

- Improve their individual and team skills, and
- Prepare them for competition at the SAJSA State and Country carnivals.

In addition, the programme provides a development pathway for players wishing to move from the grass-roots nature of the AHJSA competition into higher level competition.

The structure of the “rep” programme is described below.

1. The AHJSA selects players into a Representative Team

- 1) Players are selected by competitive trial into the representative team. The teams are aligned with the SAJSA carnival age groups, *viz* U12D, U12, U13, U14, U15, U16, U13G and U16G.
- 2) Trials for selection are held in August-September each year for the following year’s carnivals. The trials are conducted after the SAJSA Country Championships, and prior to the end of the AHJSA league competition.
- 3) Trials are held over a minimum of two sessions and are open to all players of correct age.
- 4) A representative team of no more than 16 players is selected from these trials.
- 5) The minimum number of players in a team is 15 (assuming sufficient suitable players are available).
- 6) All players must trial in their age group, which is determined by their age on 1 January in the year of the carnivals (eg the U13 age group is for players aged 12 on 1 January).
- 7) The minimum age for players is:
 - U12D Turning 11 in the year of the carnival
 - U12 Turning 12 in the year of the carnival

- U13G Turning 11 in the year of the carnival.
- 8) The minimum age may be varied by the AHJSA in special circumstances.
 - 9) If the team is under strength (fewer than 16), the AHJSA may invite players to join the team.
 - 10) Once a player is selected into a team he/she is not eligible to move to new team (either directly or after leaving the representative programme) without the approval of the AHJSA. Only in exceptional circumstances would players be allowed to move between teams of different age groups.
 - 11) The team is selected to represent the AHJSA at the SAJSA State and Country championships. However, the team may be reviewed after the first SAJSA Championship and adjustments in the team made. Any change to the team needs to be approved by the AHJSA.
 - 12) The AHJSA Coaching Director represents the AHJSA in matters pertaining to the Representative Team programme.

2. Team Selection

- 1) The selection of players for the team will be done by a selection panel comprising
 - a) The team coach(es) (if appointed),
 - b) The AHJSA Coaching Director or suitably qualified delegate, and
 - c) Other coaches as appointed by the AHJSA Coaching Director.
- 2) Criteria for selection will include some or all of the following:
 - a) Player focus and commitment
 - b) Assessment of individual skills
 - c) Assessment of team playing skills
 - d) Overall performance at the SAJSA carnivals.
- 3) The U12D, U12 and U13G teams are seen primarily as development teams. As such, the AHJSA may choose to select more than a single team in these age groups. The criteria in this case will have a focus on player development. The ability to enter more than a single team is at the discretion of the SAJSA.
- 4) Given the broad age group in the Girls' teams, the AHJSA may select more than a single U16G team. This will depend on the number and capacity of players presenting at the Representative Team trials. The expectation is that these teams will be competitive. The ability to enter more than a single team is at the discretion of the SAJSA.
- 5) The other teams are seen as competitive, and the AHJSA will select the most competitive team from the players presenting at the Representative Team trials. Only a single team will be selected in these age groups.

3. Requirements for Team Eligibility

- 1) General eligibility requirements for selection into a representative team are:

- a) The player is registered to play in the AHJSA competition, and is playing for an AHJSA affiliate club (SAJSA regulation).
 - b) The player has played at least 50% of the scheduled AHJSA league matches in the previous 12 months prior to the appropriate championship (SAJSA regulation).
 - c) The player has played at least 50% of the scheduled AHJSA league matches in the current season up to the appropriate carnival (provision is made for injury or new players) (SAJSA regulation).
 - d) A maximum of 5 players per club per team is allowed (AHJSA By-Law).
- 2) Where allowable, the AHJSA may choose to vary the eligibility requirements for admission to a team of any individual player.

4. Representative Team Management

- 1) As the teams are meant to be competitive, the objective is to put a strong team forward. This means that some players may have reduced playing time. However, it is expected that all players in the team get at least a 50% participation rate, and preferably more.
- 2) Where the AHJSA decides to enter more than one team in a single age group, the general objective will be to select equally competitive teams.

5. Representative Team Coaches

- 1) Application as a representative team coach should be made using the AHJSA Representative Coach Application form. Applications will close in August, and coach appointments will be announced immediately after the SAJSA Country Championships.
- 2) Coaches should nominate their preferred team(s).
- 3) The appointment of coaches will be made by the AHJSA under guidance from the Coaching Director.
- 4) A key quality in the selection is the ability to coach the development of all types of players and personalities, and not to focus on "winning at all costs".
- 5) The appointment will be based in part on
 - a) Suitable qualifications or commitment to attaining these
 - b) Suitable experience
 - c) Previous ability with development teams
 - d) Alignment with the philosophy of the FFA national curriculum.
- 6) The appointment as a coach will require agreement to the conditions of appointment as specified by the AHJSA from time to time. These will include
 - a) A suitable Criminal History Record Check ("police check") certificate
 - b) Registration on the FFA MyFootballClub database as a coach
 - c) Agreement to follow the FFA and FFSA codes of conduct and AHJSA rules

- d) Agreement to follow the team selection policies of the AHJSA
- e) Coaching qualifications are given in the AHJSA Coaching Standards policy. These are
 - A minimum of 2 years of coaching AHJSA junior competitive teams, or equivalent
 - Completion of the Game Training Certificate (or equivalent/higher certification).
- 7) Assistant coaches are appointed by the AHJSA, considering suitability and experience. These would normally be done on the request of the team coach. Assistant coaches are required to have a suitable Criminal History Record Check certificate and a minimum of Skills Training Certificate coaching qualification (or equivalent).

6. Team Training

- 1) Each team will have an assigned coach.
- 2) Each team will normally train separately.
- 3) Training will start for all teams in mid-February, and continue until the final SAJSA Carnival (typically in August).
- 4) Where the team has low numbers, the team may train in combination with another suitable team until numbers have been sufficiently increased.
- 5) Training will be once every fortnight, with weekly training closer to each carnival and at the discretion of the team coach. There is scope for weekly training but this will be assessed on a team-by-team basis, and with regard to the age group of players.

7. Team Kit and Fees

- 1) All members of the team will have a playing uniform which includes top, shorts and socks. The AHJSA may provide other items (eg tracksuit, jacket or bag), but these are optional. All items apart from the top must be purchased by the player.
- 2) The AHJSA will loan each player a playing top which will be used for training and playing. The player will pay a fee for the supply of the top.
- 3) Goalkeepers will be loaned a goalkeeping top. Goalkeepers will normally supply their own gloves and additional clothing. The AHJSA will loan gloves to players if necessary. There is no additional cost for this.
- 4) Costs for the team include
 - a) Rental of the top
 - b) The cost of the uniform
 - c) Team participation fee
 - a) Carnival Player Registration charges.