



THE AJFC ACADEMY

One of Abbotsford Juniors Football Club's core values is to promote participation and achievement at all levels (Respect and Development). Accordingly, the Club is committed to cater for players who wish to play both at a competitive level and those who play for social/friendship purposes.

In 2017, Abbotsford Juniors introduced the concept of AJFC Academy teams and football trials associated with the creation of these teams. The AJFC Academy is focussed upon providing the platform each year for boys and girls to play at the highest CDSFA competitive level in their age group.

Academy teams will be formed each year through publicised trials open to all players who register, whether or not they played for AJFC in the previous year. Participation in Academy trials is optional. Players do not need to attend the trial session if they want to play for social/friendship purposes or if they want to continue to play in an already constituted team. Players who do not trial will be able to participate in AJFC teams formed by the Club in March upon completion of the registration period.

Players who are selected and accept a position within an Academy team will be offered priority access to additional paid skills development training coordinated and run by the AJFC Academy program.

Players will also be entitled to purchase an Academy training kit package for their team (the contents of which may vary from year to year).

The following rules and guidelines govern the formation of an AJFC Academy Team and the operation of public trials:

1. An AJFC Academy team can only be formed through the completion of an open and public football trial process conducted by the Club.
2. Players must register their interest to trial and participate in the trials when scheduled to be selected in an academy team.
3. Players who played in an AJFC Academy team in the prior season do not automatically qualify for that team in the following season. That is, all players who aspire to play in an academy team in the following year must participate the relevant trial process for their age group to be considered.
4. Players who wish to trial but are unable to attend their age group's trial session must email the Club with their particular circumstances prior to the trial commencing. These players may be considered for the Academy Team in their age group based on their playing history with AJFC (or other Club) including coach feedback from the previous year.



5. For the avoidance of doubt, players and their teams who are of a Division One standard (as graded by CDSFA) and who wish to remain in their playing group without an open trial process can continue to remain as a team and play in a Division One graded competition for their age group. These teams will not be considered AJFC Academy teams and will not qualify for any academy benefits.
6. Players may seek selection in an Academy team as a Goalkeeper. Such players will be assessed for their football skill like any other player and additionally assessed on their goalkeeping skill.
7. Player selection criteria will be documented and shared up-front with the coach prior to the trials and will cover as a minimum:
 - a. Football skill – running with the ball, striking the ball, first touch and 1v1
 - b. Ability to take Instruction
 - c. Behaviour and Attitude
8. The Club, as directed by the AJFC Academy program, may elect not to conduct trials for an age group where there are insufficient players numbers in an age group, or players do not meet a minimum skill level sufficient to play in a Division One graded competition.
9. If the Club does not receive sufficient pre-registrations for an age group trial, it may also at its discretion, cancel that age group's Trial session with the result that no academy team is formed for that age group in that year.
10. Where sufficient skilled players are identified through the trials, the AJFC Academy Program may choose to form more than one Academy team in that age group.
11. Should AJFC receive insufficient player acceptance by players, the AJFC Academy Program may at its discretion, elect not to form an Academy team for the age group in that year.
12. Player selection for Academy teams will be performed by a panel appointed by the Club with input from the Coach. The panel will consist of 3 assessors. These will be appointed by the Club as the Director of Football (Paid Coach), a qualified Club Committee representative and the existing/proposed Coach of the team (where available). Where a role is unavailable, a Club Committee representative may substitute.



The AJFC Academy Trial and selection process

1. All players must arrive at the specified time (generally 30 minutes prior to the scheduled trial commencement time) to sign-in on the day and receive a trial number from the club. Players must wear football boots, shinpads and sunscreen and bring a water bottle.
2. Trials will be run by the Club who will also appoint assessors for each age group's trial session.
3. Trial sessions will be held for each age group at the scheduled times. Players should attend the correct session for the age group they intend to be registered to play for in that year.
4. Trials will typically be run for 60 minutes with drinks breaks as required.
5. The aim of the trial and selection process is to select a squad per age group as follows:
 - a. U8 and U9 = 10/11 players
 - b. U10 and U11 = 12/13 players
 - c. U12 to U17 = 15/16 players
6. Upon completion of the trial sessions, the Club appointed panel will discuss each player and commence the process of selection of the Academy team. These assessments will be provided to AJFC's Academy Program, who will finalise the team selection. The Panel may also nominate one or more players to participate in a re-trial session to be organized and conducted by the Academy team coach.
7. The AJFC Academy Program may, at its discretion, discuss a prospective player's footballing skill, attitude and behaviour with their previous coach(es) as an element of finalising the team selection.
8. Selected players will be offered a place in the Academy team for their age group via email. These offers must be accepted by a parent or guardian on behalf of the player via email by the deadline date.
9. Players not selected in a squad will be allocated by the Club to a team in late February / early March following completion of the registration process.
10. Finalised Academy teams will be announced on the AJFC website prior to Christmas.