



Boomerangs Objective 2.1 – Policy – Player Selection

Reference

Boomerangs FS Strategy and Governance

Version Control

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Introduction

The Reference details Boomerangs Goals and Objectives. Boomerangs Goal 2 is to have the best players available by identifying, attracting and nurturing with a clear development pathway Canberra's elite players. In support of this endeavour, Objective 2.1 (Acquire top futsal playing talent) seeks to effectively identify, attract and select top futsal playing talent. This policy document supports Objective 2.1.

Player identification

Members of the Boomerangs Futsal Sub-Committee¹ and appointed coaches will actively identify playing talent suitable for competing for Boomerangs FS through:

- Knowledge of a player's past involvement and performance with Boomerangs FS
- Active observation of local soccer and futsal competitions
- Testimonials/referrals from trusted/reliable coaching and playing sources (e.g. for players moving to the Canberra region from interstate)
- Pre-season training.

Pre-season training

Pre-season training is an important component of player identification. While players are identified through any of the methods detailed above, Boomerangs FS provides the opportunity for all players to be identified as having the potential for selection. This ensures that otherwise unknown players have the opportunity to be seen and are not overlooked in favour of established players. To do otherwise would defeat the intent of Objective 2.1.

Boomerangs FS will run pre-season training for all teams prior to any competition. Train-on squads will be formed to enable competitive training for a period of two to six weeks prior to any competition to allow.

Attendance at pre-season training does not guarantee selection into any playing squad.

Selectors

The appointed coach of a team is the team selector. The coach may be assisted in selection decisions by any appointed assistant coach (if applicable) or by any member of the Futsal Sub-Committee or Futsal Advisory Group.

Selection criteria

Selectors are to consider the following Futsal Selection criteria for selection of any player:

Futsal selection criteria

- Futsal intelligence – often referred to as “vision”, both in attack and defence

¹ See the Reference, Figure 1, Boomerangs FS Administrative Structure.

- Technical skill – the player’s competence on the ball, particularly in tight situations
- Athleticism – the player’s athletic prowess and general fitness
- Team orientation and team ethic
- “Coachability” – the player’s willingness to receive and act on the feedback of the coach, and a demonstrable capacity to learn and improve
- Attitude, social skills and behaviour – how the player interacts with his/her coach(es), fellow players and officials
- Potential – the player’s capacity to improve over the course of the season in comparison to other players
- Age – the player’s suitability for a particular age group in consideration of their physical and mental maturity².

Club selection criteria

Selectors may also consider the following Club Selection Criteria that may be used to assist a selection decision are:

- Dedication to Boomerangs FS playing commitments (teams will travel to Sydney at least 7 times during a NSWPL season)
- Work ethic – the player’s desire to work hard and improve mentally, physically and technically
- Desire to succeed in futsal (educationally and vocationally).

The above criteria apply to any method of player identification. Where a player has been referred from a reliable coaching source and the selector has not themselves seen the player, then the selector should:

- seek an assessment against the futsal selection criteria by the referring coach;
- ascertain the commitment of the player or the player’s parents to potential Boomerangs FS playing commitments; and
- make efforts to themselves assess the player in a competitive situation, such as by inviting them to pre-season training.

Playing Squads

For adult teams, selectors have no restrictions on playing squad numbers; the squad is subject to game-to-game selection over the course of a season.

For junior teams, selectors will select playing squads of eight outfield players and one to two goalkeepers. It is important that junior players are not subjected to extended time on the bench.

Selection

Selection criteria are not equally weighted; that is, no selection criterion has precedence over any other criterion. It is the sum total of the selector’s evaluation of each player in consideration of all

² Some competitions operate in two-year age ranges and the developmental range of players across two years at an elite level of futsal can be stark.

criteria that is important. Emphasis on one at the expense of others can result in the selection of players that diminish the team's and the club's competitive advantage. For example, a clearly technically gifted player can destroy the fabric of the team if they do not have a team orientation or do not have sufficient athleticism to play to their capacity for the duration of a game.

Selectors are to document selection decisions in the form of a Team Selection Report. They are to provide the report to the Futsal Sub-committee for ratification. It is to assess, based on futsal selection criteria, each player's capacity to compete with his or her peers for available playing positions. The Selector may also refer to club selection criteria.

In meeting the intent of Boomerangs Goal 3³, coaches are themselves selected by the President with the input of the Futsal Advisory Group based on skills, experience, qualifications and competence. To support Boomerangs Goal 1⁴, the Selectors are therefore given the authority to select what is, in their informed and qualified opinion, the best team possible to achieve success.

The Selector may call upon any member of the Boomerangs Futsal Sub-committee or Futsal Advisory Group to assist with any difficult selection decisions.

In addition to the Playing Squad and depending on the strength of the overall group in any given trial, the selector's may:

- Offer training positions to players where it is assessed in the best interests of:
 - the player for their development and future selection in future years (e.g. an U13 player who has the potential to be a very strong candidate U14 player in the following year)
 - the team in its ability to have effective training sessions throughout the season.

For U16s teams, if the pre-season training group is sufficiently strong, and an appropriate coach can be identified, the Futsal Sub-committee may decide to create a second team to compete in appropriate men's and women's divisions in the local ACT competition.

Any players offered a training position may, depending on game-to-game absences of playing squad players, be considered to fill a playing squad position throughout the course of the season.

Selection of players during the competition season

Coaches may during the course of the season, in circumstances where the team is clearly not competitive and club competition status (e.g. in the NSW Premier League) is in jeopardy, seek the support of the Futsal Sub-committee to supplement the team with additional high calibre players. Any such decision may result in the development of a playing roster to ensure no more than eight outfield players are in any given game (particularly with respect to away games in NSW).

Selection complaints

Players and parents are asked to support Boomerangs FS and its coaches in selection decisions. Junior players in particular can greatly vary in their competitiveness with their peers from year to year as they develop physically and mentally.

³ To have the best coaches available, see the Reference.

⁴ To compete in elite competitions, see the Reference.

A player not selected for a playing squad position, or their parents in the case of junior teams, if dissatisfied with the Selector's decision, may request a selection report of the Selector. The report is to be informed by the Team Selection Report and is to compare the player against the group as a whole and not against individual players.

If there remains contention following the presentation of a selection report, the player or parent may raise their concerns in a written submission with the Futsal Sub-committee. The submission will be considered and responded to. Any decision by the Futsal Sub-committee in response to a submission with respect to a player's selection or otherwise will be final.