

East Malvern Junior Football Club

Best & Fairest Voting Policy



Application

This Policy applies to all age groups within the East Malvern Knights Junior Football Club (EMJFC) and it is to set out the way in which best and fairest votes and awards for a particular team are allocated and how those votes may be used by the EMJFC.

What Trophies Will be Handed Out

Each season, each team will award a trophy for the player voted the best and fairest in that team, together with a runner-up and a third best and fairest, determined by the number of votes accumulated by a player throughout the season and otherwise in accordance with this Policy. The player with the highest number of votes is awarded the best and fairest player award with the runner-up and third place holder being the player with the second highest number of votes and third highest number of votes respectively.

In the event that there is a tie in the number of votes then an award can be shared such that if one or more players have accumulated an equal number of votes in a season then they will share the relevant best and fairest award and be awarded a trophy each subject to the following:

- if three or more players tie for best and fairest then they each will be given a trophy for best and fairest and there will be no award for runner-up or third place getter;
- if two players tie for first place, then they will each receive an award for best and fairest for that team and the player (or players, if more than one), with the next highest number of votes will be awarded a trophy for third best and fairest. In this scenario there will be no award for second best and fairest for that team;
- if there is a clear winner for best and fairest and two or more people tie for runner-up, then those players who tie for runner-up will each be given a trophy as runner-up best and fairest and there will be no third place trophy awarded;
- if there is a clear winner of best and fairest and a clear runner-up but more than one player ties for third best and fairest, then each player who ties for third place best and fairest will be given a trophy each.

Not Only BEST but “FAIREST”

These awards are given to the players voted not only best but also “fairest” in a season. A player will be ineligible to receive an award under this Policy if, during the season in which the votes are accumulated, they are suspended from play for one match or more either by reason of a sanction imposed by the SMJFL or the EMJFC. For the avoidance of doubt:

- a player who is shown a yellow card in a season will not be ineligible to receive an award unless it is their second yellow card received within a 12 month period and the receipt of that second yellow card results in them being suspended for one match or more;
- if a suspended sentence is imposed on a player in a season, which does not result in the immediate suspension of them from playing one game or more in that season, then they remain eligible to receive an award in that season;
- if a player receives a sanction, suspending them from play in that season in any representative game, for which they have qualified by playing for the EMJFC (such as Interleague and/or Coates league) then they will be ineligible to receive an award;
- being ineligible to play for any other reason other than suspension by the SMJFL and/or the EMJFC (for example by reason of being subject to concussion protocols) will not preclude a candidate from receiving an award.

Sources of Votes

There are two sources of votes for each game:

- the coach and assistant coach (**coaching panel**) will award votes for the five best players on the ground with 5 votes being awarded for the best player, 4 votes for the second best player and so forth down to 1 vote for the fifth best player;
- a different parent/guardian representative will be appointed each match to award votes in the same manner as the coaching panel.

The coaching panel and the parent/guardian representative must give their votes to the team manager at the end of the game so that the team manager should receive two lots of votes; one lot of votes from the coaching panel and one lot of votes from the parent/guardian representative, so that the most votes one player can receive each match is 10 votes.

The awarding of votes is in the absolute discretion of the coaches and the parent/guardian representative.

The votes awarded are to remain confidential and entered into any electronic system used by the SMJFL and/or EMJFC to record these votes. The total number of votes accumulated by players throughout the season are used in determining the order of awards for best and fairest for that team, subject to any preclusion by reason of suspension.

The votes accumulated can be used by the EMJFC to assist in future seasons for grading of teams.

Policy Review

This Policy was passed by the Committee on 30 April 2025 and is effective from and including season 2025.

This Policy will be monitored and reviewed each year by the Committee and updated where appropriate.