

# REPRESENTATIVE INFORMATION GUIDE



# BACKGROUND & HISTORY

Since 1974, AWFA has proudly administered a successful Representative Program, featuring teams from U10 to U16. Each year, more than 250 talented players are selected through a comprehensive trial process held between September - October

Our Representative Program provides players with opportunities to further their footballing careers, offering access to elite coaching and development right here in the Albury-Wodonga area. Our teams compete in various prestigious tournaments across New South Wales and Victoria, including events in Bathurst, Geelong, and Shepparton. These competitions give players valuable exposure and the chance to showcase their skills in some of the country's most prominent regions.

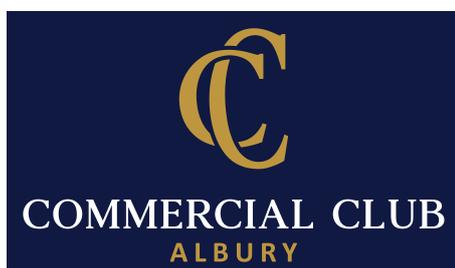
With the development of new and improved local facilities, such as the state-of-the-art Baranduda Fields completed in 2024, we anticipate hosting more high-profile tournaments in Albury-Wodonga in the coming years.

A highlight of our program is the annual Representative Dinner and Gala Day, a special event where players and their families come together to celebrate the season's achievements and strengthen our community bonds.

To make participation as accessible as possible, AWFA seeks new sponsors at the start of each representative season, inviting parents and community members to explore our available sponsorship packages. Through these valuable partnerships, we can offset program costs, providing new uniforms included in the program fee and ensuring no additional cost to families for a level playing field.

For information on sponsorship opportunities, please contact us.

## KEY PARTNERS



# ELIGIBILITY

## *PLAYERS*

In order to be selected for an AWFA Representative squad:

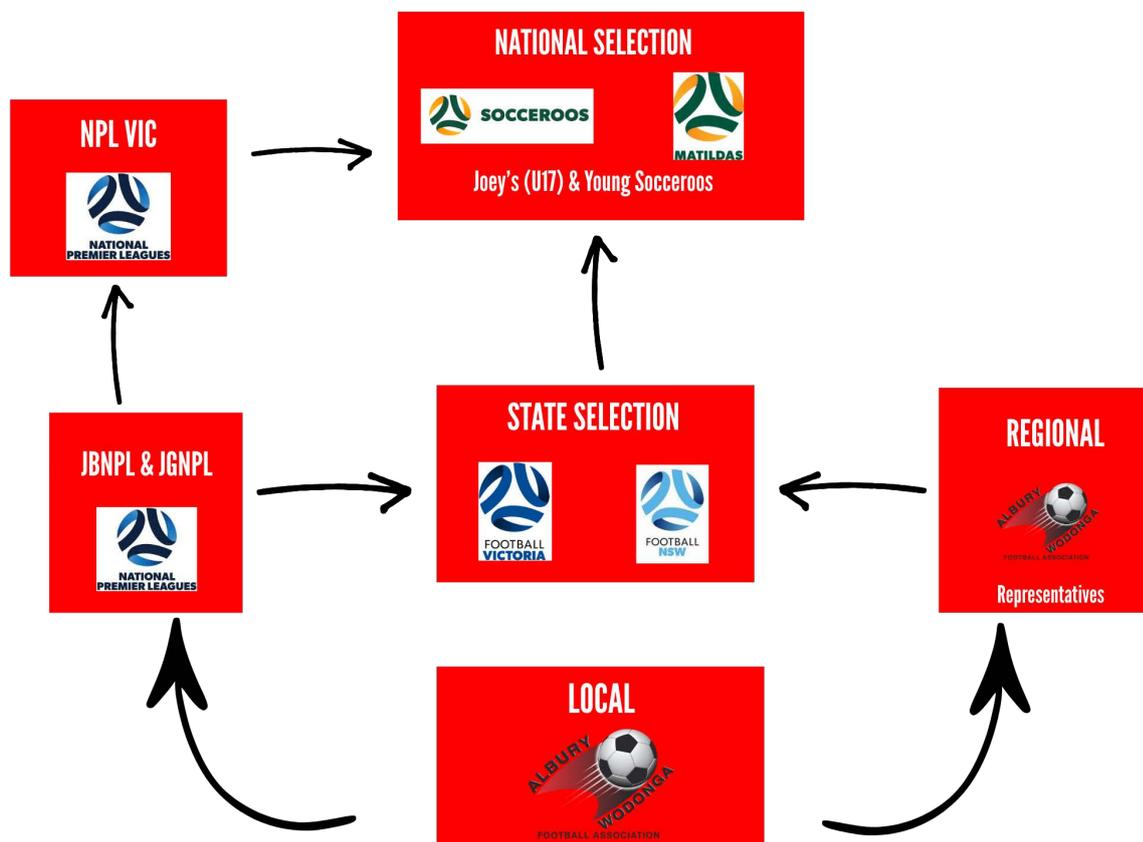
- A player **MUST** be registered to an AWFA-affiliated club for the season in which they are playing.
- Each player must be registered under the age group specified on 1st January of the year in which they are playing
- A player **MUST** play in their age group unless special exemption is granted by AWFA Executive Committee.

## *COACHES & MANAGERS*

In order to be selected to Coach/Manage an AWFA Representative squad:

- A coach & manager **MUST** have a valid NSW & VIC Working With Children Check
- A coach **MUST** have valid FA/FNSW coaching qualifications.

# PATHWAYS



# PLAYER SELECTION

In preparation for the Representative season (commencing in December), AWFA teams will hold trials across September and October. These trials will run over three weekends and include a mix of training sessions and games.

At the conclusion of the trials, each coach—together with their selection panel—will name their final squad. Selection is based on player performance and overall suitability.

Coaches must submit their final squad to the High Performance Executive Committee Member within 48 hours of the last session. Once confirmed, AWFA will publish the team lists on the website and official social media channels.

## ***PLAYERS REQUIREMENTS***

Once teams are published, selected players are required to confirm their acceptance by notifying their coach and completing the online registration.

A \$150 non-refundable acceptance fee must be paid at this time, which will be deducted from the final Representative fee.

Players are expected to attend all training sessions. If a player is unavailable, they must provide written notice explaining their absence (e.g. injury, medical certificate, family reasons, or higher-level training/competition).

Failure to communicate absences may impact a player's selection in the AWFA Representative program.



# PLAYER EXPECTATIONS

- Follow and abide by the Representative Player Code of Conduct

## *Player Policies (as per AWFA Rules and Regulations)*

- 6.4.2 Every player registered with an AWFA club is encouraged to make themselves available for selection in representative teams.
- 6.4.3 Any player who is not registered with AWFA cannot play in any championships or competitions in which the team is entered.
- 6.4.4 Any player who does not attend training or matches to the best of their ability may jeopardize their position in the squad. This will be at the discretion of the coach following consultation with the EC.
- 6.4.5 Any player who after notification of their selection fails to meet their representative commitments shall be suspended for no less than two club matches.
- 6.4.6 Representative players wishing to move from one club to another club may do so only after lodging a form 31 and getting the approval of the AWFA Executive Committee and so long as their movement does not result in that club having more than five representative players from the current representative program in a single representative team. This includes train on, below age and development players. U12's only four representative players are permitted from the current representative program in a single team. This includes train on, below age and development players.
- 6.4.7 No REPRESENTATIVE player is allowed to move to a club and team of representative coach who is coaching the equivalent team at representative level.

## *Disciplinary Policies*

- 6.7.1 Any player or club being found guilty of acting against or not abiding by these Regulations shall be guilty of an offence and subject to any penalty the EC, MC or DC shall decide.
- 6.7.2 Any incident or send off reports sent to the AWFA from a representative tournament competition organiser will be handled by the AWFA DC.



# COACH & MANAGER EXPECTATIONS

## *COACHES*

- Provide high quality coaching and training for their squad
- Prepare players for competitions/tournaments
- Conduct appropriate quality football activities to enhance the players' experience within the Representative Program
- Create a fair and inclusive environment
- Sign and return applicable forms

## *MANAGERS*

- Ensure all players are appropriately dressed in AWFA Representative gear for both matches and training
- Oversee the effective management of the team
- Prioritise the welfare and wellbeing of players under their care
- Handle off-field matters promptly and professionally
- Provide support to the coach and other team staff as needed
- Complete and return all required forms

## *Coaches and Managers Policies*

- 6.3.1 All representative coaches and managers shall have a current NSW Working with Children Checks
- 6.3.2 All representative coaches and managers must complete registration in accordance with 4.25. (Registration)
- 6.3.3 No coach shall be permitted to move to a club to coach in the equivalent age group which they are the representative coach.



# PLAYER FEE BREAKDOWN

A copy of the Representative fee breakdown can be made available upon request



# WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE UNIFORM?

Included in your registration fee is a uniform pack for each player.

**U10 Sap & New players to the program receive:**

- Playing Strip (Shirt and Shorts)
- Training Shirt
- 2 Pairs of Socks
- AWFA Representative Polo
- AWFA Representative Tracksuit Jacket and Pants
- AWFA Representative Bag

*Additional items not listed in the included uniform package can be purchased on the Uniform Try On Day*

*Payment for the additional items will be made on the day*

**Returning players / Train on players receive:**

- Playing Strip (Shirt and Shorts)
- Training Shirt
- 2 Pairs of Socks
- AWFA Representative Tracksuit Jacket

# WHAT'S IN IT FOR PLAYERS?

Registering to play Representatives presents many benefits for players and their families. These include, but are not limited to:

- Access to high-quality coaching (JDL Programs)
- Access to scouting and accelerated progression through the footballing pathways
- Increased training & developmental sessions
- Exposure to higher level of competition at tournaments throughout NSW and Victoria
- Potential selection to state and national-level representative teams
- Family-friendly community
- Make new friends with players & families they wouldn't normally play with.



# REPRESENTATIVE CALENDAR & TOURNAMENTS

AWFA require teams to minimally attend the following tournaments for each corresponding age group. It is up to the coaches and managers of each team's discretion if they wish to enter tournaments outside of the following. Coaches and managers **MUST** notify AWFA High Performance if they wish to enter a tournament outside of the following. They must also notify players well in advance their intentions.

- AWFA Activities
- FV Competitions
- FNSW Competitions
- FNSW Riverina Competitions

## REPRESENTATIVE CALENDAR

	September	October	November	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September
U10 & U11 Boys	Representative Trials			Selections		AWFA Junior & Senior Season						
					JDL NSW	Boys & Girls FC						
U12 BOYS	Representative Trials			Selections		AWFA Junior & Senior Season						
					JDL NSW	Boys & Girls FC				VIC Country		
U12 GIRLS	Representative Trials			Selections		AWFA Junior & Senior Season						
					Proctor Cup	Boys & Girls FC				VIC Country		
U13 & U14 BOYS	Representative Trials			Selections		AWFA Junior & Senior Season						
					Bathurst Cup					VIC Country	Assoc Champs	
U14 & U16 GIRLS	Representative Trials			Selections		AWFA Junior & Senior Season						
					Proctor Cup					VIC Country	Assoc Champs U14G only	
U15 & U16 BOYS	Representative Trials			Selections		AWFA Junior & Senior Season						
					Bathurst Cup					VIC Country		

These are **approximate dates** and are open to change depending on the organiser's discretion. Any tournaments that the AWFA Representative decide to enter beyond the above will be up to the discretion of a team and their availability. All Representative players must make themselves available for each Representative commitment to the best of their ability.

# AFTER SELECTION

Team selections will be announced shortly after the conclusion of all Representative team trials. These teams will be announced via social media and our website [www.awfa.asn.au](http://www.awfa.asn.au).

Players can also be selected as a 'Train-On' player, a train-on player is still involved with the representative team they trialled for, however they will act as a 'reserve' for tournaments and games. Any additional gear can be purchased at player's expense.

If a selected member of the Representative team cannot fulfill their commitments, or wishes to not be involved in the team, these players will be the next selected (at the discretion of the coach).

Your coach and team manager will be in contact shortly after the team selections are announced to inform you of the next steps. This includes all forms to be signed and returned, information on training and communications, uniform requirements, and registrations.

The registration fee can be paid in four installments. A non-refundable deposit of \$150.00 upon accepting of selection is required, and the remaining balance is due in January, March and the final payment in May.

Players will register as they do with their AWFA club, through PlayFootball, selecting AWFA Representative as the club - you are able to use Active Kids vouchers to register. A link with packages will be sent out via the manager.



# TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION

Travelling and booking of accommodation if/when required for tournaments throughout NSW, Victoria and the ACT is the responsibility of the individual i.e. a player and their family/guardian, a coach, a manager, a volunteer.

AWFA may subsidise travel for those who transport AWFA equipment to and from tournaments – this is up to the discretion of the Executive Committee.

# FUNDRAISING

AWFA must be notified of any proposed fundraising prior to it occurring. All funds raised by representative teams shall be solely that team's cash flow for the time of their participation. Any residue must be forwarded to AWFA together with a financial statement at the completion of participation.

# PHOTOGRAPHY

During the course of the season, a player may be photographed, or video recorded during the game or at an event, either individually or as a part of a larger group. That photograph or image may then be published, with identifying information, via the AWFA website or social media channels.

**Please inform your Team Manager that you wish to opt your child/s out of these photos.**



# FAQ'S

## **How do I know when and where training is?**

Your team manager will contact you via your nominated contact information and ensure that you and your child knows where and when training is, and that you have access to the team communications for further updates where required.

## **What if my child/s cannot attend training/a match/a tournament?**

Inform your team manager of the lack of availability and the next steps will follow.

## **What if my child/s circumstances change and have to withdraw from a team?**

Please inform your team manager, who will inform the coach and the High Performance Executive Committee Member. The High Performance EC member will then inform you of next steps if required.

## **If I have an issue with any matter, who do I speak to?**

Inform your team manager who will speak to whoever deemed appropriate and take the appropriate actions.

## **I cannot afford the registration fees – what are my options?**

Please notify your team manager, who will provide details on the payment plan process. If further support is still required, your manager will provide you with the *AWFA Form 21 - Application for Representative Player Financial Assistance*. This will then be sent to the Executive Committee for consideration. 20th of January will be the closing date for consideration of financial assistance for rep fees.

## **Can I play AWFA Representatives and with Murray United?**

You can play for both your AWFA club and for Murray United in **non-NPL competition ONLY**. As it stands, these are those teams participating in the Shepparton Junior Soccer Association (SJSA). Follow the instructions set out in the *Dual Registration Process - AWFA SJSA* document, and contact the AWFA Registrar for further help if required.

# AWFA REPRESENTATIVE FORMS & DOCUMENTS

[AWFA Rules and Regulations 2.7](#)

[AWFA Form 21 - Application for Representative Player Financial Assistance](#)

[Representative Coach Position Description](#)

[Representative Team Manager Position Description](#)

[AWFA Representative Team Manager Guide](#)

[AWFA Representative Coach Selection Policy](#)

[AWFA Representative Player Selection Policy](#)

[Representative Player Code of Conduct](#)

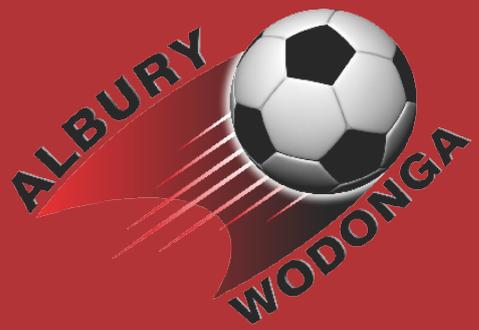
[Dual Registration Process - AWFA SJSA](#)

[Regional Player Pathway - Football Victoria](#)

## **Key Contacts**

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