

Trials for Goalkeepers

Philosophy

It is disadvantageous for young players' development to specialise for a specific team position too early. It is Majura FC policy that players should experience the various playing positions and not to aim for specialisation until the Game Training phase (U13 and up). However, Majura FC acknowledges that goalkeeping is a specialised skill set that should be developed from the skills acquisition phase starting with U10. It is therefore desirable to identify players with an interest in goalkeeping from this early age group during the annual grading/trial process.

Competence Profile

The Goalkeeper is a unique position in the Majura FC playing format which is based on the National FFA curriculum. The Goalkeeper's main task is to keep the opponent from scoring in any possible way within the rules of the game. Majura FC requires its Goalkeepers to show leadership and understanding of the game and to proactively organise the backline and anticipate challenges to the defence. Goalkeepers must have the physical (i.e. speed, agility, hand eye coordination) and mental (i.e. spatial and game awareness) characteristics required to be a successful . A prerequisite for the Majura FC playing style is that Goalkeepers must also have the skills to play in the outfield as the game play dictates. A Goalkeeper with good outfield skills is a prerequisite for possession based football where the Goalkeeper is an indispensable link in making the team offensive and defensive plays work.

Goalkeepers in U10 - U12

It should be noted that, during the skills acquisition phase, players should not yet specialise in any position (or competency). However, during trials player may make themselves known to assessors as a Goalkeeper and will be invited to a 30-minute Goalkeeping trial where they will be also graded based on the Majura goalkeeper competency profile. Any players participating in the trials and selected to fill a Goal Keeper position, will be given the opportunity to participate in specialised training sessions once selections are complete.

The decision in what team a player will be selected will be a combination of the outcome of the selection and the player's competency as a Goalkeeper. Any player selected as Goalkeeper will still play in other positions during the season and will need to display the necessary competency as an outfield player appropriate for the division of the team.

Goalkeepers in U13 - U18

Starting with U13s, competency and specialisation becomes more relevant. The Goalkeeper has a special place because of the unique competencies required and therefore consideration should be given to identify goalkeepers and, if necessary, hold separate trials for goalkeepers. Goalkeepers may be selected on the goal keeper competency alone. However, Goalkeeper trials should include open play to assess the keeper's ability to direct the defence and to be an effective keeper-sweeper. Any players identified as a goalkeeper during the trials will be given the opportunity to participate in separate specialised training sessions once selections are complete.