Onslow Junior Football Club - Tournament Policy

Key Principles

1. Onslow Junior Football Club:
    a. supports as many players as possible participating in one or more tournaments per season.
    b. encourages players of all abilities to participate in tournaments (see *Appendix 1* for a list of tournaments the club supports).

Club Policies

2. Onslow Junior Football Club will enter players in the correct age band as per the New Zealand Football Guidelines and the applicable tournament rules.
3. Players can only participate in a tournament team in the grade they play in that season, unless agreed with the Club Captain. Girls playing mixed can participate in a tournament team for the mixed grade they play in that season and/or their relevant girls only grade tournament team. Girls playing girls only can participate in a tournament team for their in season girls only grade and/or a mixed team in their grade or a mixed team one grade below as per Capital Football rules.
4. As we are a large club dispensation is only an option once all same grade options have been exhausted.
5. Players must be registered with Onslow to be selected for tournaments. Players from outside the club can only be invited once you have exhausted all options in the club and have agreement with the Club Captain.
6. In accordance with The Onslow Way, all members of a tournament team will have the same opportunities to develop (play multiple positions) and participate (equal playing minutes over the tournament).
7. When invited to be part of a competitive tournament team, acceptance is on the understanding that extra commitment is required. This may take the form of extra training and participation in preparation games and other tournaments.
8. A tournament team does not impact the formation of a regular season team e.g. a tournament team doesn't play together at the expense of other team members

during regular season fixtures or other tournaments where e.g a Streamed team is expected to attend

9. For more competitive tournaments (e.g. John McCartney Tournament in Taupo) the club will send its top team/s. Where Onslow registered players are participating in TDP, these players should be offered positions so that the strongest Onslow team attends. At time of writing this applies for CIC and McCartney tournaments.
10. Where a grade doesn't have a single top team or there are multiple regional teams in the grade refer to the "Selection Process" section.

Communication

11. The Tournament Coordinator in consultation with Grade Coordinators has overall discretion as to which teams will attend each tournament. If necessary, this will be discussed with the Club Captain.
12. Communication with tournament organisers should be done solely by the Tournament Coordinator. Coaches, Managers, Grade Coordinators and parents who receive direct communication concerning attendance at a tournament should immediately notify the Tournament Coordinator.

Cost

13. For regional (greater Wellington) tournaments each player is required to pay a nominal fee per tournament to participate and the balance of the tournament fee is covered by the Club. In 2026 the fee is $10, this fee is to be reviewed annually by the Executive Committee.
14. Major tournaments outside of the Wellington region (e.g. John McCartney Tournament in Taupō and Christchurch International Cup) are to be funded by teams. The club may pay for the initial entry fee, which must then be reimbursed to the club no later than one week prior to the tournament.
15. All other expenses (such as transport, marquees and accommodation) are met by players.
16. If families need support with costs to attend tournaments, they should discuss this in confidence with their Grade Coordinator.

Selection Process - Major or Streamed Tournaments

17. The club recognises that some tournaments are specifically designed to be highly competitive, whilst other tournaments are designed to encourage participation. This should be taken into account when selecting teams and/or composite teams to attend tournaments.
18. As required, the Grade Coordinator in conjunction with the Tournament Coordinator will consider composite teams.
19. For a major or streamed tournament, the Grade Coordinator will invite expressions of interest from regional team players, non regional team players put forward by Coaches as standouts in their team and at their discretion the Grade Coordinator can extend an invitation to additional non regional players. Where a grade doesn't have regional teams, this invite should go to all players in the grade. For U13 mixed and girls only the Youth Ready Program top team players are offered spots in the team in the first instance. If extra players are needed, these players will be selected from the Youth Ready Program 2nd team and at their discretion the Grade Coordinator can extend an invitation to additional non Youth Ready Program players.
20. For Wests Graded Champs, from U11 our Streamed teams and YRP teams will attend as their selected teams for the season. Selection of teams U10 and under is by EOI.
21. The Grade Coordinator will invite expressions of interest from coaches, managers, referees (from U9) and parents to support the team. These roles should be appointed with input from the Club Captain. Every tournament team must have two coaches and a Manager.
22. The Technical Director and selectors with oversight from the Grade Coordinator select the team. The Club Captain with input from the Vice Club Captain has final sign off on all tournament teams, Coaches and Managers.
23. Where players are considered to be of similar abilities, preference should be given to players who are known to be committed and play showing the Onslow RISE values.
24. The Club Captain and Grade Coordinator may consider organising games or other mechanisms for the interested players to assist with player selection. These will be specified when the expression of interest is sent to parents.
25. Reserves for major tournament teams are to be identified at time of selection and are given first option if a spot opens up in a tournament team. At the discretion of the Grade Coordinator, the reserve/s may train with the tournament team.
26. The Club may hold selection days to select tournament teams to participate at major tournaments.

27. In the event the Club has the opportunity to send an additional U13 or U12 team to a streamed tournament to enable all Youth Ready Program players an opportunity to attend a tournament, the second team players will be offered spots in the first instance and additional players can be selected from the first Youth Ready Program team and non regional team players at the discretion of the Grade Coordinator.

Selection Day process

28. For grades without regional teams sessions will consist of a warmup, a selection of short drills to allow selectors to assess ball skills/control and small sided games.
29. Age groups will rotate throughout the day with sessions lasting 75 minutes.
30. The Grade Coordinator at their discretion with input from the Club Captain will invite Coaches, Independent Selectors (i.e. Coaches/Managers from other grades) and the Technical Director to help with selection.
31. The Festival Day held pre-season will also function as a mechanism to identify talent to feed into this selection process.
32. For grades with regional teams with the exception of U13, sessions will consist of a short warm up and games. Short drills may also be included if needed to allow selectors to assess ball skills/control

Selection for U13 Major or Streamed Tournament

33. Players in the Youth Ready Program for both U13 mixed and U13 girls only are automatically offered spots for a streamed tournament team in mixed and girls only respectively. If additional players are required these players will be selected based on feedback from Coaches and performance at training sessions as assessed by the Technical Director with input from the Grade Coordinator and oversight by the Club Captain or Vice Captain.

Selection Process - Participation Tournaments

34. A Grade Coordinator will invite expressions of interest from all players in the grade. This will also include from coaches, managers, referees (from U9) and parents to support the team
35. Composite teams are put together by Grade Coordinators with input from Coaches if needed, without special selection. These teams are for players who

are not part of other tournament teams and are interested in gaining tournament experience.

36. Teams will be established taking into consideration volunteer support, previous participation in tournaments and friendships. If a full team wishes to enter a local tournament, the club will endeavour to enter them as a team but not at the expense of giving other players the opportunity to participate in a tournament.

Behavioural Expectations

37. It is expected that all teams (players, coaches, managers and spectators) attending tournaments adhere to the rules of the respective tournament, the club policy in terms of acceptable standards of behaviour and uphold the club's RISE values.
38. Behaviour not aligned with the above clause, may impact a player's selection for future tournaments.
39. The Club will allocate a representative (OC member or TD) on site at the McCartney tournament to serve as an escalation point. This will allow any concerns about non-adherence to our tournament expectations (e.g. player participation, sideline behaviour) to be raised with a desire to resolve asap. This representative and their contact will be identified in pre-tournament comms to all families attending.

Resolution of Issues

40. Any unresolved issues relating to tournament participation or this policy will be referred to the Club Captain for a final determination.

Review period

41. This policy will be reviewed annually. Next review prior to 2028 season commencement. (Last reviewed November 2026)

Addendum:

At the EC meeting 02/11/26, it was agreed that the 2027 per player tournament entry fee for local, participation tournaments remains at $10.

A record of tournaments and their recent entry fees are available here.