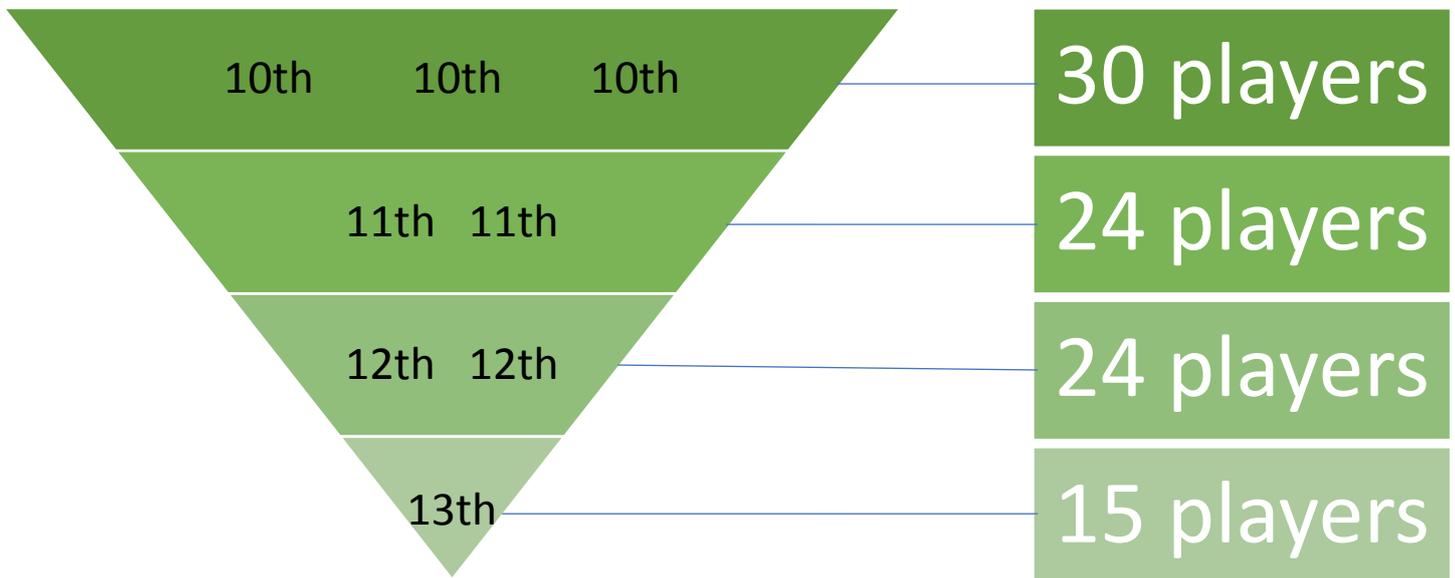




Junior Club A Band Philosophy



To clarify the team selection policy in the junior age groups leading in to 13th grade where teams play full field 11 a side for the first time.

In the Junior space we conduct trials for A band teams in 10th, 11th and 12th grade. From the image above you can see how the numbers filter down from 30 players in 10th grade to 15 players in 13th grade and beyond. We do this for a number of reasons

- To keep the net open as wide as possible in the first trial opportunity at 10th grade as players develop at vastly different rates in these young ages. The best player at 10th grade may just be more physically developed at this stage so we do not want to rule out late developers by being too exclusive too early. The trial experience can be challenging for some players the first time so we do not want to completely rule a player out early on because of these factors.
- In the junior space our main focus is on development and players having fun! At a club our size we could certainly pick one strong team and likely win the league, however, this would not be serving the best long term interest of the players. We whole heartedly encourage a competitive approach and recognise everyones desire to win, however, never at the expense of fun and development at these valuable ages.
- We offer a lot of opportunities for more competitive players to come together and train and compete in the CTFC Academy where we have higher qualified coaches on great facilities. In these training programmes we do tier players based on ability.

We are aware that utilising this strategy can come at the expense of winning games, eg we could pick one very strong team in 10th grade that would likely win a lot of games but it would come at the cost of the great development opportunities above and not serve the best long term interest of the players and the club.

This is something that we monitor each year based on the number of players available but the core principles behind the philosophy will always remain.

Regards,

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