



# Playing Minutes Policy

## Background

This policy is shared across FC Tauranga Moana (FCTM) and its affiliated clubs to outline a shared responsibility of our members and supporters when representing the club. It supports the NZ Football Code of Conduct (a copy can be found here - [NZF Code of Conduct](#)) to maintain the best environment for players, coaches, officials and supporters.

## Objective

Our club is committed to providing a positive and inclusive environment where every player has the opportunity to develop their skills, contribute to the team and enjoy their experience. To support this objective, we have established the following equal game-time policy.

## Policy

1. **Equitable Playing Time:** Every player registered with FCTM shall receive equitable playing time during the season regardless of skill level, experience, or any other factor.
2. **Rotation Principle:** Coaches have been given the authority to apply a rotation system that ensures all players have the opportunity to participate in matches regularly. This rotation may vary based on factors such as player attendance at training, performance in training, returning from injury etc.
3. **Player Development Focus:** Our club prioritises player development over winning at the junior & youth level. While we value competitiveness and strive for success on the field, we believe that every player's long-term growth and enjoyment of the game are paramount.
4. **Positional Rotation:** Players will be rotated across different playing positions across the year to aid long term player development. Any discordance with this will impact game-time.
5. **Player Load:** Players that participate in other weekend sports (school/club football etc.) will have their minutes managed accordingly during their FCTM game for injury prevention purposes. Game-time will be afforded to those who prioritise FCTM. It is important that player's inform their coach of their schedule & load. Failure to do so will impact game-time.
6. **Variances:** While our club is committed to equal game-time principles, we recognise that there may be exceptional circumstances where deviations from this policy are necessary, such as injuries, availability, disciplinary issues etc. Coaches have the discretion to make such decisions in the best interests of the team, with the understanding that player development and well-being remain paramount.
7. **Communication:** Any adjustments to playing time due to specific circumstances will be communicated transparently and respectfully to all parties involved.

## Review and Revision:

This equal game-time policy will be reviewed annually by the club's leadership to ensure its continued effectiveness and alignment with the club's values and objectives. Feedback from coaches, players, parents, and other stakeholders will be considered in any revisions or updates to the policy.