**Junior Football Report for AGM**

**1. Introduction**

The junior football program continues to be a vital component of our club, fostering skill development, teamwork, and a love for the game among young players. This report covers the achievements, challenges, and developments in the junior football division for the year, with a focus on player growth & participation,

**2. Participation and Numbers**

* **Player Registration:** Although the registrations were slow to start, which is typical of Lorne, the U18 team managed to field a full side the entire season, this hasn’t happened for a few years now, however with the growth of the older side this meant that our U14.5’s were missing a good 5-6 senior players.
* **Coaching and Team Structure:** We had **2** qualified coaches and **2** team managers supporting the players..

**3. Achievements**

* **Team Success:**
  + The **Under 14** team was low on numbers and the players were a young bunch of boys, unfortunately no on field success stories, but the eagerness and attitude is commendable and the growth of the players was undeniable.
  + The **U18** team finished 6th, although some great wins against the top 5, unfortunately just not enough to break into the finals series.
* **Player Development:**
  + A few of the older players were selected for reserves games, reflecting the eagerness to play in the older age group and preparing for 2025.
  + We introduced new training programs focusing on individual player skills, which saw significant improvement in key areas like passing, fitness, and ball control.

**4. Challenges and Areas for Improvement**

* **Coaching Resources:** Although we have 2 certified coaches, there were often times when one of the coaches was unavailable requiring senior players to step in and assist. It would be great to see a few of these players certified early on in the season.
* **Retention:** Always a tricky one for our area. Numbers are always low early on and we will continually have some of the local boys playing school football when required to.
* **Facilities and Equipment:** While our facilities are amazing, we have identified a need for additional equipment (mostly balls).

**5. Key Initiatives for the Coming Year**

* **Coaching Development:** Offering online coaching clinics and certifications to ensure all coaches are up-to-date with modern training techniques and player safety protocols.
* Streamlining the gap between junior and senior football coaching skills to ensure the transitions between the 2 teams is honouring the development of the juniors in preparation for senior level. This will ensure that all 4 teams have the same vision.

**6. Conclusion**

The junior football program continues to thrive, thanks to the dedication of coaches, parents, and volunteers. As we move into the next season, we are committed to building on the progress made, addressing challenges, and ensuring that every player has the opportunity to develop their skills and enjoy the sport in a supportive and enjoyable environment.

We look forward to an even more successful year ahead!