



# Team Selection Policy

**Version Approved:** Feb 2026

**To Be Reviewed:** Feb 2028

## Registration & Team Composition

A completed Registration with the nominated fee must be received by the Club Secretary by the due date. After the due date, registrations will only be accepted if there is a vacancy in the relevant age group.

Teams shall be made up of 8 or 9 players.

A team will have 10 players if that is the number of registrations received by the nominated due date for that age group and there is no opportunity to move players into a higher age grade.

A team may also have 10 players, if it is deemed necessary, to ensure enough players are available for each game. (players returning from injury, work commitments, etc.)

## Team Selection

Trials will be conducted in all age groups from 11 & under upwards where there are enough registered players to affiliate more than one team in a given age group.

Players are placed into teams first by age group and then by position, skill level and player past commitment and attitude. The best player in each position is selected first, while the remaining 1 or 2 places are selected based upon positional balance, utility players or combinations (work well with the different players). Where possible, positional balance across all teams within an age group is desired.

The process that occurs for 8&U and 9&U age groups will vary depending on the number of teams, and the varying levels within the age group. Formal trial processes will not take place in these age groups.

Teams will be selected by a Grading Committee, which will include experienced club coaches and at least 1 member of the HCNC Committee. The HCNC Committee will determine the composition of the Grading Committee each year, prior to trials commencing.

Each age group will have one member of the Grading Committee coordinating the trials process with the other Grading Committee members assisting. The Grading Committee will also ask for input from past and current coaches of the player cohort, as well as from Committee members and senior players.

## Player Requests

Players/Parents can make requests to play in the same team as another player. These requests must be received by the Club Secretary in writing prior to the commencement of trials/squad training.

Only reciprocal requests will be considered by the Grading Committee but cannot be guaranteed, as the priority of the Grading Committee is to create strong, well-balanced teams across all teams and age groups.

If a request can be met, both players will be graded on the ability of the lower division player.

## **Playing Out of Age Group**

Selecting players out of their age group will be considered by the Grading Committee on an individual basis.

Reasons for a player playing out of their age group include:

- If the club is not able to have a team within a player's eligible age group that matches the players' standard or ability; or does not have a team strong enough for players to play at the same or higher standard/division as the previous season.
- If the age group above does not have enough players to create teams with the ideal number of players
- If an age group has too many players to create teams with the ideal number of players

Players playing out of their age group will be selected in an appropriate standard team but will not take the place of a similar standard player playing in their age group.

If it is proposed that a player be moved out of age group, both the player's and their parent's permission will be sought before the player is selected in the team.

## **Trials**

Trials are the process used to select teams. Trials will take place over a minimum of 2 sessions; however, the Grading Committee may choose to add additional sessions if they are deemed necessary.

Trials are compulsory for all players in the age groups that trial. Non-attendance can impact team placement.

Junior players will be given approximately equal court time during trials, with priority being given to their first two preferred playing positions. However, if too many players nominate for similar / identical preferred playing positions, and to allow all players the opportunity to trial in their preferred positions, some players may also be asked to trial in a position that is not one of their preferred playing positions, ensuring enough players are on court for trials to proceed.

Open players and 17 & Under players will be trailed in their first two preferred playing positions, with the emphasis on their first preference. Any overabundance of players for a particular position will result in those players receiving less court time at trials than players that have nominated their preferred playing position as one that few other players have nominated.

Players who do not attend trials will be placed into teams, at the discretion of the Grading Committee.

Following Trials, the Grading Committee will meet to form teams using the information they have from the trials, previous knowledge of the players, information provided by past coaches and with the input from other individuals who were present at trials and observing each age group

Team Placements are final upon being released to players and coaches. Changes to the announced teams will only be made, in exceptional circumstances, at the discretion of the Grading Committee.

Once teams have been selected, coaches are then appointed to teams based on nominations received.

## **Summer Team Selection**

As players remain in the same age groups for the Summer Season as they were in for the previous Winter season, the club does not conduct a formal grading or trial process. Instead, a paper grading takes place, where the emphasis is on keeping Winter teams and players together where possible. Any new player to the club for Summer will be asked to supply information of playing history and preferred positions and they will be placed into a team of an appropriate level where a vacancy occurs.