

Team Selection Policy

Our Philosophy

It is the purpose of the Whyalla Wildcats Basketball Club Inc. to:

1. Promote and encourage community participation in our basketball club.
2. Provide training opportunities to develop skills and competition in an enjoyable and safe environment;
3. Encapsulate Club pride by supporting and fostering the ideology of team spirit.

To ensure that delivery on our club philosophy, we have developed a set of guiding principles to assist in the process of building teams from player registrations.

Guiding Principle 1 - Player experience

What we Do

- We look at existing players who will remain in the age group.
- We look at players that will be coming into this age group from a lower age group level, e.g. U/11 to U/13 based on their age.
- We look at new players that have registered, playing for the first time.

Why we do it

- Ensure that new players have the opportunity to develop foundation skills, with reduced likelihood of experienced players dominating the game.
- Ensure like skilled and experience players can continue to develop and stretch their skills at the required level of their game development.

By Under 11s, many players will have a number of seasons experience. It is recognised from this age group that skill levels differ as well as physical maturity of players. Given this, players with comparable skills will be teamed together to maximise skill development and confidence levels across all teams.

Outcome

- Builds confidence among newer players, build on existing skills for experience players.
- Enables skill development at level relative to the players experience and understanding of the game.
- Ensures all players and teams are competitive when playing in their appropriate competition grade - this may rely on the WBA having divisions.

Guiding Principle 2 – Friendship Groups of all players

What we do

- We may ask players to nominate friends that they would like to play with in the upcoming season.
- For age groups up to under 11 – friendship groups are a priority principle
- We look at potential player clashes within the group.
- In age groups of under 13 and higher, friendship groups principle will have less focus and player skill level will become the priority principle.

Why we do it

- Players in the under 7 to 11 age groups are still developing the confidence and skills in team sport and are often motivated and more confident to try new things when they are with their friends. Game experience at this level is varied.
- For players under 13 and higher, feeling like you 'fit in with the team' will become more important. Big Gaps in skill levels between players can create unproductive competitiveness and potential friendship issues.
- Potential unproductive behaviour through player clashes are pro-actively managed.

Outcome

- If players are having fun with their friends, they will be more likely to develop an interest in the game, improve their skills and therefore enjoy increased self-confidence.
- In the under 13 and higher age groups, players become more competitive and aware of skill levels. At this level, players of equal ability need to be teamed together to ensure positivity and maximised skill development continue. Happy, motivated players build on friendship groups and foster a competitive and productive team spirit

Guiding Principle 3 – Coaching Availability within the Group

What we do

- Through the player registration process, nominations for coaching positions are sort from parents, guardians, friends and extended family.
- If a potential team in a specific age group has two nominations or more for coach, the Committee will discuss to ensure a mutually beneficial outcome is reached if possible.

Why we do it

- All junior teams registered must have a nominated coach that can attend both training and on game day.
- Once teams have been finalised if a team does not have a coach assigned, the Club Registrar will contact all families within that team to try and resolve the issue.
- If a coach cannot be sourced by that team, the team will not be registered with the WBA.

Outcome

- All teams have equal access to the best coach resources available within the club.

Overall Process

To help apply these guiding principles, the Wildcats Basketball Club Management Committee will select a 'Team Selection Panel' prior to each season. The Team Selection Panel will be made up of the Director of Coaching & 3 or more other individuals to work with the club registrar to build teams for the upcoming season. They must have adequate knowledge of the sport and are able to be objective in their evaluation of registered players and declare any conflict of interest they may have in assessing any individual player. They must have read and understood this team selection policy.

- 1 Once registration data has been received, a comprehensive review process is conducted to build teams based on the club philosophy and the application of the guiding principles.
- 2 Club registrar finalises coaches for each team.
- 3 Team listings are drafted, with proposed team grading presented to the WBA.
4. Once WBA grades approved, team listings will be sent to the coaches.
- 5 Team Registrations are lodged with the WBA.

Special Accommodations and Exceptions to the team Selection policy

Team selection has become a challenging process, and there will always be cases where team selections and practice time allocations do not meet player and parent expectations. The committee has found that once a season starts, the new season teams quickly form a strong team bond.

If any parent or guardian has any specific concerns around team selection, effort will be made to consider special situations under their own merit, however player requests for the following are unlikely to be met:

- Requests for specific coaches
- Requests for specific training time slots
- Exemption from attending training for the season

Team Training Policy

Summer

Juniors:

- Compulsory Team training weekly when Coach available (Combined players must attend minimum 50% of the Trainings)
- Where courts available, ½ court per team minimum
- U17 A team/s to train with A & /or A reserves where coaches available
- Where NO U17 divisions, U17 players in A / A reserves squads to train with these squads
- Juniors in Senior teams (non social) with separate trainings:
 - Must complete 50% of junior team trainings, which will be credited to Senior training
 - A / A Reserve grade permanent team members must attend Senior training and minimum 50% junior team training

Seniors:

- A / A Reserve Compulsory Team training weekly when Coach available
- Other Senior teams Club selected (non Social) Compulsory Team training weekly when Coach available
- Where courts available, ½ court per team minimum
- Social teams requiring training will be allocated courts once club selected teams training requirements have been met

Winter

Juniors:

- 'B' division team training when Coach available – if Coach training weekly, players to train minimum 50%.
- 'A' division teams compulsory training weekly when Coach available
- Where courts available, ½ court per team minimum
- U17 A team/s to train with A & /or A reserves where coaches available
- Where NO U17 divisions, U17 players in A / A reserves squads to train with these squads
- Juniors in Senior teams (non social) with separate trainings:
 - Must complete 50% of junior team trainings, which will be credited to Senior training
 - A / A Reserve grade permanent team members must attend Senior training and minimum 50% junior team training

Seniors:

- A / A Reserve Compulsory Team training weekly when Coach available
- Other Senior teams Club selected (non Social) Compulsory Team training when Coach available, 50% attendance required
- Where courts available, ½ court per team minimum
- Social teams requiring training will be allocated courts once club selected teams training requirements have been met

Summer & Winter

A & A Reserves to train together if coaches available.

Where 2 teams exist in the same A / A Reserve grade, separate team training may be requested.

Absences from training with genuine reasons are ok; however the coach MUST be notified prior.

Consequences of missing training

- Start on the bench.
- Less court time
- Continual absences may see the player demoted to another team

Juniors in two junior teams

- Training requirements as above, are for their correct age group
- Training for a higher grade is voluntary

Juniors playing Seniors fees Policy

- 1) A Junior who is to be a member of a senior team and as such is nominated as a player with this team for the purpose of Team Nominations is to pay Senior Registration Fees for that season.
- 2) A Junior who is to be rotated between A grade & A Reserve senior teams, with a game in one of these teams each round and as such is nominated as a player with both teams is to pay Senior Registration Fees for that season. This takes precedence over 3)
- 3) A junior, not named in a senior team at nominations but subsequently becoming a permanent member of a senior team, is to pay / upgrade to Senior Registration Fees if:
 - There are seven or less currently registered senior players in said team and,
 - The senior team has a minimum of four games remaining in season.
- 4) A junior, not named in a senior team at nominations but subsequently used in an ad hoc manner by one or more senior teams will not be required to pay / upgrade to Senior Registration Fees
- 5) A junior who only plays senior basketball must pay Senior Registration Fees. This takes precedence over 3)

For the purpose of this policy, a JUNIOR is as per the WBA classification & any WBA bylaws regarding junior eligibility for senior basketball are to be applied.

Junior Player Supervision Policy

“Our club is committed to providing a safe environment for the participation of children and young people while providing the best learning environment for all children.

We request that the Under 7 to Under 13 players are supervised at training and games by a parent or guardian. This is in the best interests of all the young players.

Where the child has shown that they can behave and feel secure with the coach, the coach and the parent may come to an agreement that it is OK for the parent to leave the child. In this instance the parent is to pick their children up on time. Please inform the coach about any changes in arrangements for picking up your children.

Thanking all parents for their understanding,
President Whyalla Wildcats Basketball Club Inc. “