

Junior Selection and Team Placement Policy

Policy Number: NBC-5
Effective Date: By resolution of the Committee on 17 August 2026
Authority: An operational policy made under Rule 19 of the Norths Basketball Club Constitution.
Review Date: By the Committee if required due to changes in Basketball ACT regulations or Club operations.

1. PURPOSE

This policy establishes a fair, transparent, and consistent framework for the selection and placement of junior players into Norths Basketball Club teams.

The policy aims to:

- provide every player with an opportunity to participate;
- place players in teams appropriate to their current level of development;
- support long-term player development;
- ensure selections are made objectively and consistently;
- promote positive experiences for all players.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all:

- players;
- parents and guardians;
- coaches;
- selectors;
- Club officials involved in the selection process.

Relationship with Policy Number NBC-6: This policy governs the Club's initial selection and placement of players into teams. Where a player is considered for additional participation in a higher division or higher age group for development purposes, NBC-6: Development and Higher Age Player Policy applies.

3. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Norths Basketball Club is committed to selection processes that are:

- fair and impartial;
- based primarily on basketball ability and team requirements;
- transparent and consistently applied;
- respectful of player welfare and development;
- aligned with Basketball ACT competition requirements.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Club Committee

The Committee will:

- approve this policy;
- determine the timing of trials each season;
- appoint or approve the selection panel where required;
- administer any appeals arising under this policy.

Junior Head Coach

The Junior Head Coach will:

- oversee the trial process;
- coordinate selectors and coaches;
- ensure assessments are conducted consistently;
- support the selection panel in applying this policy.

Coaches and Selectors

Coaches and selectors will:

- assess players objectively;
- provide recommendations based on observable performance;
- maintain confidentiality throughout the selection process;
- declare any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest.

5. SELECTION PANEL COMPOSITION

The selection panel will be appointed for each selection period and will be responsible for assessing players and making team placement recommendations in accordance with this policy.

The selection panel should, where practicable:

- consist of at least three suitably experienced people;
- include the Junior Head Coach or a delegate appointed by the Club;
- include coaches or selectors with relevant junior basketball experience;
- be structured to ensure balanced and objective decision-making.

Where possible, the panel should not include only one person responsible for assessing an entire age group or division.

The composition of the panel may vary depending on:

- the number of teams being selected;
- the age group involved;
- the availability of suitably qualified coaches and selectors.

6. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All persons involved in the selection process must act in the best interests of the Club and the players.

A conflict of interest exists where a person involved in selection may be influenced, or may reasonably be perceived to be influenced, by personal, family, coaching, friendship, financial or other interests.

Selection panel members must:

- declare any actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest as soon as it becomes known;
- not participate in the assessment or discussion of a player where the conflict may affect, or be seen to affect, impartiality;
- withdraw from decision-making where their child, relative or close personal associate is being considered, unless the Club determines otherwise in writing;
- maintain confidentiality regarding all selection discussions.

The Junior Head Coach or Club Committee may adjust the composition of the selection panel to manage conflicts of interest appropriately.

7. SELECTION PROCESS

Where trials are conducted, they will occur in accordance with Basketball ACT competition requirements and within the timeframe approved by the Club Committee.

Trials will be conducted using a structured assessment process designed by the Junior Head Coach in consultation with senior coaches.

Final team selections will consider:

- trial performance;
- coach assessments;
- previous playing history;
- player development needs;
- overall team balance.

8. SELECTION CRITERIA

Selection decisions will generally be made in the following order of priority.

8.1. Basketball Ability

The primary consideration is each player's demonstrated basketball ability relative to others within the same age group.

Assessment may include:

- fundamental basketball skills;
- decision making;
- athletic ability;
- game awareness;

- attitude;
- coachability;
- communication;
- positional suitability;
- ability to contribute to overall team balance.

8.2. Club Commitment

Where players are assessed as being of comparable ability, preference may be given to existing Norths Basketball Club players who have demonstrated commitment and loyalty to the Club.

This preference does not apply where exceptional circumstances exist, including players relocating to Canberra.

8.3. Team Composition

Selectors may consider:

- maintaining appropriate positional balance;
- creating teams that support player development;
- ensuring suitable competitive balance.

8.4. Player Requests

For social competitions, reasonable consideration may be given to:

- friendship requests;
- requests to remain with an existing team.

For higher division teams, these requests will only be considered where they do not compromise the primary selection criteria.

9. NEW PLAYERS

New players are welcome at Norths Basketball Club.

They will be assessed using the same basketball ability criteria as existing players.

Where players are transferring from schools or other basketball programs, the Club may also consider:

- eligibility requirements;
- transfer approvals;
- intended commitment to Norths Basketball Club;
- the impact of short-term registrations on team continuity.

Players intending to participate for one season only may not ordinarily be selected in Junior Premier League/Open or Division 1 teams unless exceptional circumstances exist.

For clarity, this policy governs initial team selection and placement. Additional development participation in a higher division or higher age group is governed by Policy Number NBC-6 and does not replace or alter the player's initial team placement under this policy.

10. SELECTION WITHOUT TRIALS

Where formal trials are not conducted, the Club may select teams based on:

- previous season team composition;
- coach recommendations;
- player development;
- player requests;
- known playing history.

Existing teams may continue with minimal changes where appropriate.

New players will be allocated to teams with available positions or assessed during training sessions before placement.

11. PLAYERS UNABLE TO ATTEND TRIALS

Players unable to attend scheduled trials may still be considered for selection.

Assessments may be based on:

- previous performances;
- coach observations;
- existing knowledge from Norths Basketball Club coaching staff;
- other relevant basketball experience.

Attendance at trials is strongly encouraged but does not guarantee selection.

12. CONFIDENTIALITY

Selection discussions, assessments, and deliberations are confidential.

Only final team selections will be communicated publicly.

13. APPEALS AND PROCEDURAL REVIEW

A player, parent or guardian may request a procedural review where they believe the selection process was not conducted in accordance with this policy.

A review or appeal under this policy may only consider procedural matters, including whether:

- the policy was applied fairly and consistently;
- the Selection Panel was properly constituted;
- conflicts of interest were declared and managed appropriately;
- relevant information was considered; and
- the selection process was conducted in accordance with this policy.

A review or appeal cannot be used to challenge the Selection Panel's assessment or selection judgment and does not permit:

- re-running trials;
- re-assessing a player's ability or performance;
- substituting a different selection judgment; or
- re-selecting teams or players.

A request for procedural review must be lodged in writing with the Club President at President@northsbasketball.com.au within 7 days of the team announcement unless the Club approves an extension in exceptional circumstances.

The written request must clearly explain the reasons for seeking the review, identify the procedural matter or provision of this policy that the applicant believes was not followed correctly, and provide any relevant information supporting the request. A request based solely on disagreement with a player's assessment, team placement or selection outcome will not constitute grounds for a procedural review.

The review will be undertaken by the Club Committee or a delegated review group whose members were not directly involved in the original selection decision.

The review may:

- confirm that the selection process was conducted in accordance with this policy;
- identify a procedural issue requiring administrative correction; or
- recommend further internal review of the process.

The review body will not alter team selections or substitute its own selection decision for that of the Selection Panel.

The outcome of the procedural review will be final under this policy.

Where a matter concerns additional participation as a development player or higher age player, the review provisions in Policy Number NBC-6 apply.

14. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Basketball ACT Competition Rules
- Norths Basketball Club Constitution
- NBC-1: Code of Conduct Policy
- NBC-6: Junior Development and Higher Age Player Policy