

Junior Development and Higher Age Player Policy

Policy Number: NBC-6
Effective Date: By resolution of the Committee on 25 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. OBJECTIVE

To set out the Club's approach to junior player development through participation in a higher division or higher age group, while maintaining fairness to players and teams.

The Club prioritises player welfare, enjoyment, and development over competition outcomes.

2. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this policy:

- Development player means a player who is registered to a primary team and is approved to participate temporarily with another Club team for development purposes.
- Higher age player means a player who is approved to participate in an older age group, either as a development player or, where permitted, as a permanent team member.
- Primary team means the team in which the player is officially registered, and which has priority for the player's training and games.

3. SCOPE AND RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Norths Basketball Club supports development opportunities that may include playing in a higher division within the player's own age group or playing in an older age group.

All arrangements under this policy must comply with Basketball ACT (BACT) by-laws, competition regulations, eligibility requirements, and any other applicable competition requirements.

Policy Number NBC-5 governs the Club's initial selection and placement of players into teams. This policy NBC-6 applies to additional development participation after initial team placement. An arrangement under this policy does not replace or alter the selection criteria or initial team placement process under NBC-5.

4. APPROVAL AND OVERSIGHT

All arrangements under this policy require approval by the Junior Head Coach before participation begins, with oversight by the Club Committee. This requirement applies to temporary development participation, higher-age-group participation, permanent additional-team participation, and arrangements made to maintain team viability.

Before approval is given, the Junior Head Coach will consult the relevant coaches as appropriate and consider BACT requirements, the needs of the player's primary and additional teams, player welfare and workload, venue capacity, and the suitability of the proposed arrangement.

Any material change to an approved arrangement must also be approved by the Junior Head Coach. The Club Committee may review arrangements as part of its oversight role.

5. DEVELOPMENT AND HIGHER-AGE PARTICIPATION

5.1 Development Within the Same Age Group

A player may be invited by a coach, or nominated by a parent or the player, to participate with a higher division team in the same age group for development purposes. The arrangement must be discussed with the relevant primary and development team coaches before approval under Section 4.

5.2 Primary Team Priority and Participation

A development player's registered team remains their primary team. The player is expected to attend all primary team training sessions and games unless otherwise approved by the Junior Head Coach. If a scheduling conflict occurs, primary team training and games take priority.

Once approved, a player may participate in development games scheduled on a different day and in development training that does not conflict with primary team commitments, including training on another night or training that continues after the primary team session.

Development arrangements may be amended, suspended, or withdrawn where they are no longer appropriate, are not in the player's best interests, adversely affect the primary team, or are inconsistent with team needs or competition requirements. Any such change is subject to Section 4.

5.3 Court Time and Fair Participation

Development participation is an additional opportunity and must not replace meaningful participation with the player's primary team. Permanent members of the development team should not receive less court time because a development player is participating, and a development player should not receive more court time than permanent members of that team.

Where more than one development player is eligible to participate with the same team, coaches may rotate development players from week to week to provide fair development opportunities while protecting the participation of permanent team members.

Approval as a development player does not guarantee participation in every game or any minimum amount of court time. The development team coach will determine court time having regard to the circumstances of the game, team needs, and the principles in this policy.

5.4 Playing in a Higher Age Group

The same development principles apply to a player participating in a higher age group. This pathway may be appropriate where there is no suitable higher division available within the player's own age group.

Higher-age participation must comply with BACT by-laws, competition regulations, and eligibility requirements, and is subject to the approval and oversight requirements in Section 4.

5.5 Permanent Higher-Age Placements

In some circumstances, a player competing in a higher age group may be a permanent member of that team rather than a development player. Examples include where:

- the higher age group team is the player's only registered team;
- the player wishes to play with friends and is permanently placed in that team;
- additional players are required for the team to be viable; or
- a group of players is placed together to compete permanently in a higher division or higher age group.

A permanent member has the same rights and expectations as other permanent players in that team. Where the placement is part of the Club's initial team selection and placement process, Policy Number NBC-5 applies. Where it involves additional participation in another Club team after initial placement, this policy applies, including Section 4.

5.6 Fees for Additional Team Participation

A player approved to participate in an additional Club team will not incur an additional fee where the arrangement is approved for player development, higher-age participation or maintaining team viability.

Where a parent requests participation in an additional Club team and the request is approved, full fees apply for both the player's primary team and the additional team.

6. REVIEW OF DECISIONS

A player or parent/guardian may request a review of a decision made under this policy. The request should be submitted in writing to the Club President at President@northsbasketball.com.au within seven (7) days of being advised of the decision.

The request should identify the decision to be reviewed, explain the reasons for the review, and include any relevant information that may not previously have been considered.

Where appropriate, the Club may ask the person who made the original decision to reconsider the matter in light of any additional information. If further or final review is required, the matter will be referred to the Club Committee.

In reviewing a matter, the Committee may seek information from the player, parent/guardian, relevant coaches, the Junior Head Coach, or any other person it considers appropriate. The Committee will consider the objectives and requirements of this policy, including player welfare and development, fairness to players and teams, team needs and applicable BACT requirements.

The Committee may confirm, vary, or set aside the original decision and may make any other decision it considers appropriate under this policy. The Committee's decision following a review is final under this policy.

This review process applies only to decisions made under this policy. Initial player selection and team placement matters are dealt with under Policy Number NBC-5, and conduct or disciplinary matters are dealt with under the Club's applicable policies.

7. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Basketball ACT Competition Rules
 - Norths Basketball Club Constitution
 - NBC-1: Code of Conduct Policy
 - NBC-5: Junior Selection and Team Placement Policy
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