



# TEAM SELECTION POLICY

## BACKGROUND

Towards the end of each season Whitehorse Mustangs (the Club) accept registration of players for the following season. The registered players are then formed into teams, coaches and team managers are assigned and the teams are published.

This policy and procedure outlines how teams are selected by the Club. The intended audience is any Club member or prospective member.

## POLICY

Many factors are considered when putting teams together. Information is collected from registration forms, coaches feedback and past history. At times, player assessment sessions may be run to gather further information, especially if there are a number of new registrations in one age group.

The Selection Committee will put together teams based on the following criteria:

### Age Group

The Mustangs prefer all players to play in their correct age group based on their date of birth. Every six months the age group that a player plays within changes. This is the main cause of players in teams moving around, as players with birthdays in the first half of the year and the second half of the year will not always qualify for the same age group. There may be exceptions to this (eg. if players are asked to play up an age group to strengthen the first team in the older age group, or if numbers of players in an older age group require that younger players play up in order to have sufficient numbers to enter that team).

### Player Standard

The Mustangs obtain feedback from the players current season coach as to how the player is coping within their current team and grade. The Selection Committee members may also observe how players are contributing within games. This is a major consideration when selecting teams. When a player is placed in a grade above or below their ability their development and enjoyment can be affected. Grading by player standard complies with the Basketball Victoria coaching Code of Conduct guidelines.

### Team Size

At the Mustangs we consider 7 players to be an ideal team size under ideal conditions. Selections however are constrained by the number of registrations that are received in an age group. The Selection Committee will balance team sizes across an age group so they are all a similar size. Another strong factor that may influence team size is player availability (due to injury or other commitments).

### Availability

Player training and game time availability is taken into consideration when selecting teams.

### Past History

Consideration of previous teams the player has been part of and who they have played with is made. Where possible, the Mustangs attempt to ensure a player is playing with one or more players they have previously played with.

## Special Requests

The Mustangs do receive special requests via the registration process. These are considered on a case by case basis.

## Friendship Requests

Reciprocated friendship requests will be accommodated where possible, but rarely would that be done at the expense of the other criteria listed. We will make every effort to ensure players have at least one friend in their team. Where there is a skill difference between the players, they will be ranked in a team suited to the less-skilled player (noting that this may mean that the team is graded at a higher level). One-sided requests will not be considered. These requests must be included in the designated area within the registration form. One of the fantastic things about playing for the Mustangs is the opportunity for a player to make friendships outside of their usual social circle.

## Custom Teams

U08/09 and U15/16 and above

In general, the club reserves the right to ensure the top 1 or 2 teams in each age group are selected based on merit/ability/talent. This is designed to make sure the club is competitive in all grades/sections. We understand there will be players wanting to play together, and while we will do our best to accommodate, we cannot always make this happen due to the size of our playing group.

For this reason, Custom Teams are only offered for U08/09 and U15/16 and above. Reciprocated friendship requests are available in all age groups.

### Criteria for Custom Teams

- Provide the majority of a playing group (min 7 players)
- All players are in the same age group
- Provide a Coach
- Provide a Team Manager
- All players must be able to play and train at the same time

### Conditions of Custom Teams

- The Club is released from any obligation to intervene should issues arise within the team
- The Club will not be liaison between different parent groups trying to organise a team.
- The Club reserves the right to add players to a custom team, if necessary- this would be discussed with the Team Manager in advance and before any additions are made
- Custom teams may be refused if players are not all in the same age group

### Process for Registering a Custom Team:

- email the names of the players, coach and team manager to our Registrar: [registrar@whitehorsebasketball.org.au](mailto:registrar@whitehorsebasketball.org.au)
- the Registrar will then reply with a special "Participant to Club Team" registration link that the players, coach and team manager must use to register

Option: For custom teams U17/18 and above, we understand that a mid-week training may not be required. If this is the case, please let us know when registering. This helps us understand our court space requirements for training.

## Second Game

Requests to play a second game will be considered but only to make up numbers in the second team to a maximum of 7. Beyond this, requests will only be considered under special circumstances (eg. managing injury, other commitments limiting ability to participate on game day) and are the discretion of the Club.

Players and parents should be aware that teams will change from season to season. Our team selection committee are volunteers dedicated to providing a positive team environment for every player. Sometimes this comes with the added bonus of making new friends. Whilst we know that children make friends fast, the initial disappointment can be challenging to navigate for parents and children alike. We have a wonderful Mustangs community filled with welcoming individuals who share a common interest in basketball. Every season is a new opportunity for each player to either contribute more or be challenged more. And every season is an opportunity for parents to get involved more within the team as Coach or Team Manager, or within the Club as a volunteer.

There are sometimes concerns raised around team selection. To facilitate prompt review by the selection committee, any questions or concerns in relation to team selection must be submitted via the online form <https://bit.ly/selectionissues> within 72 hours of teams being released. If possible, any issues regarding player placement, will be dealt with prior to Round 1. Further movement can be made in Rounds 1 and 2 at the discretion of the Club. Communication with the league of any changes will need to be made. Changes after Round 2 require special permission from the league, especially if moving a player down a grade.

## Club Contacts

Any information that might affect team selection should be noted on the registration form. Failing this, it must be sent to the team selection committee via email as soon as possible after registering: [teams@whitehorsebasketball.org.au](mailto:teams@whitehorsebasketball.org.au).

The registration form that you submit, clearly states you will accept selection decisions by playing in the team in which you are placed. If you wish to be considered to assist with future selection processes, please contact us.

All information is kept private and confidential within the Team Selection Committee according to Australian privacy laws.