

Team Selection at Solway Basketball Club

The following is the club guidelines regarding team selection, registration, coaching appointments and grading to be applied by the committee, staff, Age Group Coordinators, coaches, team managers and parents. These guidelines include the guiding principles to be followed during the process.

Guiding Principles

Solway Basketball Club Inc. (Solway) is a domestic basketball club that seeks to provide a safe and enjoyable environment where children can both enjoy the game and equally develop their basketball skills. Solway endeavours to foster a love of the game, while developing good sports behaviour and teamwork, through equal participation. Teams are organised by the club to play in competitive basketball games against other clubs, primarily with the Waverley Basketball Association (WBA). WBA is an affiliate of Basketball Victoria (BV), so our guiding principles are based on WBA & BV's. We operate as an elected Committee, under a Constitution, with Codes of Conduct and policies including a Child Protection policy.

The WBA runs two competitions, Girls and Juniors, which are arranged by age groups (e.g. U8, U10) according to published age cut off dates, set by WBA. There are a number of sections in each age group (Division 1, Division 2, etc) with 1 being the highest standard. This is so teams can play against other teams of a similar standard, and players can develop to the maximum of their ability.

Solway seeks to select teams that will allow all participants to play at a level commensurate with their current playing ability. We value inclusivity and try to create opportunities for all players, existing and new to participate in basketball.

These guidelines seek to set out how teams are selected, the processes undertaken, and the expectations of each role involved.

Expectations of Key Roles Involved in Team Selection

Player Expectation

When a player registers to play in a competition, they are expected to be available to play the majority of games within a season, as scheduled by WBA. If a player is aware that they will not be able to commit to all games within a season at registration, they are expected to advise the club in writing by emailing admin@solwaybasketball.com. An inability to play the entire season will not preclude a player from participating, but it may affect the number of players selected to play in their team.

Equally, when a player registers to play, once allocated to a team, they are expected to attend scheduled games and training sessions. If there are specific days / times when they are absolutely unable to train, then the club should be notified in writing by emailing admin@solwaybasketball.com prior to team selection. Players should be aware, that as training times are set based on coaching availability, if they nominate an inability to train on a day that suits their coach, they may be moved

to another team during team selection, or during Grading games. We understand there will be occasional absences due to sickness, injury, school or family events, but Coaches and Team Managers should be advised of any absences in a timely manner. In particular, if a player is going to miss playing a game, Team Managers and Coaches should be advised as early as possible of the absence.

Players are expected to adhere to the Players Code of Conduct (available on our website).

Parent/Guardian Expectation

Parents/Guardians are expected to register their children within the advised registration period.

Parents/Guardians are expected to fully complete the registration form to the best of their knowledge and to advise the club of any matters the club should reasonably be expected to know about their child, in order to provide a safe and enjoyable environment for all players within a team.

Parents/Guardians are expected to pay the advised fee during the registration period. If this is not possible, please contact the club by emailing admin@solwaybasketball.com before the close of registration.

Parents/Guardians are expected to provide the club uniform, a correct sized ball and drink bottle for their child. Solway Basketball strongly recommends the use of a correctly fitted mouthguard.

Parents/Guardians are expected to support their child through modelling good sportsmanship, resilience and teamwork. Parents are expected to support their Coach and Team Manager by engaging with timely and respectful communication, including any issues or concerns.

Parents/Guardians are expected to encourage good behaviour of their child/children at training and games, and manage poor behaviour accordingly.

Parents/Guardians are expected to participate in scoring and training supervision duties during the season as advised by their Team Manager.

Parents/Guardians are invited to participate more substantially by taking on the volunteer roles of Coach and / or Team Manager for their child's team. Parents can nominate for these roles during their child's registration.

Parents/Guardians are expected to adhere to the Parent Code of Conduct (available on our website).

Club Administration:

The bulk of roles undertaken within Solway Basketball Club are by volunteer parents. These roles are expected to be shared broadly amongst the parent cohort and all parents who register their children to play with the club should anticipate fulfilling one of these roles at some point during their child's time with the club.

The club is administered by a Committee of Management, which is drawn from volunteer parents of current players. Supporting the Committee are the Club Administration and Operations Management.

Club Admin is responsible for all processes required to register players, organise uniforms and perform administrative functions, such as bill payment. Operations Management is responsible for

team selection, venue hire, liaising with WBA, as well as overall management and communication with Coaches, Team Managers and the Members.

The Operations Manager coordinates team selection with the assistance of the Age Group Coordinators (AGC's), who are volunteer parents of current players, and are nominated prior to the commencement of each season. Age Group Coordinators are expected to select the most appropriate team for every player, within the constraints of team size, numbers of players registered, individual player ability, player requests, coaches feedback, AGC's personal observations, previous knowledge, Committee advice and any other consideration / factors deemed important.

Club Administrators are expected to adhere to the Administrators Code of Conduct.

Team Managers:

The role of a Team Manager is to maintain the general running of a team to enable the coach to concentrate on the coaching and training aspects of the team. This involves advising the team of their playing fixture each week and ensuring a minimum number of players are available to play. Team Managers also roster parents for scoring and training supervision. The Team Manager assists the coach by providing feedback to their AGC as and when required. The Team Manager acts as the conduit between the team and the Operations Manager ensuring all appropriate information is passed on to parents in a timely manner.

The Team Manager role is critical to the team functioning and should require minimal time – less than ten minutes per week during the season. In the absence of a volunteer parent during registration, AGC's will appoint one randomly from the players selected in a team, excluding the coach's child (if any). Once appointed, it is the Team Manager's responsibility to recruit a replacement from amongst the team families if they are unable to take the role on. It is a condition of registering to play with Solway, that families agree to take on this role if appointed. If no parent takes on the role of Team Manager, the team cannot be entered into the competition.

Please note, if a Junior Coach is appointed, the Team Manager should refer to the Junior Coach Policy for further information.

Team Managers must register on PlayHQ. Team Managers must have, and provide proof of, a current Working With Children Check.

Although there is no specific Team Manager Code of Conduct, they are expected to adhere to the Parents & Spectators Codes of Conduct (available on our website).

Coaches:

The role of the coach is to teach the skills and fundamentals of basketball, in a safe and enjoyable way, that incorporates each team member's individual requirements as much as possible. They will attend all games and training, and if unable to, will provide a suitable replacement and notify the team accordingly.

This vital role is mainly drawn from parent volunteers. Teams require a coach to be registered in the competition. In the absence of a volunteer parent, the club may appoint a junior coach if one is available.

If a Junior Coach is appointed, there are additional requirements and expectations, please refer to the Junior Coach policy for specific information.

The club will support the coach with training material and assistance as needed. Coaches are expected to develop basic level skills appropriate to their knowledge and the team's requirements. It is also expected that coaches model good sportsmanship and manage the sportsmanship of their team during games. Please refer to the Coaches Reference guide for more information.

Coaches must register on PlayHQ. They must have, and provide proof of, a current Working With Children Check.

Coaches are expected to adhere to the Coaches Code of Conduct (available on our website).

Registration Process

Following announcement of the new season by WBA, Solway will open registration for a period of no less than fourteen (14) days. Current players will be advised by email from the Operations Manager and the website will be updated with details regarding the competition playing dates, competition age groups and age cut off dates. All registrations must be made through PlayHQ, and requested fees paid during this process.

During registration, parents are asked for an expression of interest in taking on the Coach and / or Team Manager roles for their child's team. This is not considered a binding offer on either the parent offering or the Club to accept.

Team Selection Criteria and Inputs

Team Selection is a difficult and time-consuming process requiring the often-competing criteria of player ability, team balance and friendships.

Teams are formed by the AGC's. While coach feedback is considered, teams are not formed by coaches.

Solway will make every attempt to form teams of 6-9 players, with a strong preference for teams of 8 players. A team of 8 players is considered ideal as allows for the coverage of occasional player absences without compromising court time by having too many players.

Teams will be formed from registered players **as at the close of registration**. Late registrations will only be accepted and placed into teams if team spots are available.

During registration, important information from parents is gathered which is used to assist in team selection. We rely on accurate, comprehensive responses from parents in order to place their child in the most suitable team. Parents are also able to advise the club of any matters that they would like considered during team selection by emailing admin@solwaybasketball.com during the

registration period. Special circumstance requests should be submitted in writing, and these will be considered together with other criteria when formulating teams. The Club cannot guarantee that any special circumstance requests can be met, including but not limited to, preferred friends and training times.

During the season, AGCs attend games to observe the team in action. Towards the end of each season, all coaches are requested to provide feedback on each current players' skill development (refer attached coaches matrix). Game statistics and player history are also sourced from ClubExpress (Jamware), the WBA statistics vault. For new players, information on previous playing experience is requested from parents.

As children progress through each age group, it is important that they compete in a team that will best help their basketball development and enjoyment. Teams are selected by balancing the following criteria:

- Player ability (grading) – general skill level, specific skills, physicality, training attendance, attitude, coachability and motivation
- Team Balance – including height, physicality, skill set, offensive/defensive ability, age, attitude, scoring ability, and total number of players.
- Friendship requests – please see below section on Friendship request.

Friendship Requests

We understand the importance of children playing with friends. We also understand that important or lifelong friendships can be made in basketball, both within current friendship groups and those yet to be made.

During registration, up to three friends can be nominated as preferred team members. Reciprocal friend requests are preferred. There is **NO guarantee** that a player will be placed with any or all nominated friends.

We heavily weight friendship requests during younger age groups (8's and 10's), however as the skill gaps (may) become wider during the middle age groups (12's and 14's), it can become more difficult to meet friendship requests where there is a discrepancy between playing abilities, and therefore friendship requests are a smaller part of the selection process. Heading into the older age groups (16's and 18's), friendship requests are considered, along with other selection criteria. During the older age groups we find that friendship requests align with skill ability, and are therefore easily accommodated.

At all times there are other factors involved, which have been outlined in this document, and whilst we aim to be "transparent", at times, due to the sensitive nature of team formation, we cannot relay specific factors considered in team selection.

Player Grading

At Solway Basketball, Player Grading is a continual process, and occurs throughout the season, and at various stages during the registration and team selection process.

While Solway does not undertake formal grading activities, such as 'selection' days, there is a level of player grading based on coaches' feedback, player statistics, parent communications and AGC game observations throughout the season.

It is important that all players have the opportunity to play at a competitive level according to their current skill and ability level. It is for this reason that all team places are declared vacant and teams are selected each season, so that children who have developed their skills more quickly can play against more challenging teams and children that need more time to develop their skills are not deterred by playing with "strong" players, and/or against higher skilled teams.

Solway believes this is a more comprehensive process that ensures players who cannot make a 'selection' training are still equally considered. It also allows players who struggle with anxiety under the pressure of a 'selection' training to be observed over multiple occasions in real game situations. This process also understands that players can have 'off' days and they are not judged on a one-off training.

Playing Up or Down an Age Group

PlayHQ will automatically assign your child to their respective age group during registration. Players are generally expected to play in their own age group in most circumstances. Any requests to play in a different age group will need to be made in writing at the time of registration by emailing admin@solwaybasketball.com

Requests to remain down an age group can only be approved by WBA and can only be requested via the club.

The ability to request to play down an age group is in place to support children of varying abilities to participate at an appropriate level. If a player has additional needs, delays in development such as physical or processing, WBA, at the club's request, can make exemptions for them to play in a lower age group than their age. This exemption can sometimes be extended to support younger players to prevent isolation, such as the only player in a friendship group to go up an age group etc. Generally, this is for players whose birthdate falls within a month or two of the age cut-off date and from lower divisions. WBA expects clubs to only submit requests they deem to be fair and reasonable and that would have minimal to no impact on the competition and the fairness of play.

The Parent/Guardian should submit a request via email to Solway with all supporting information. The operations manager will review the request, and if required discuss with the AGC's and club president before deciding to submit the request to WBA for consideration. The parents and appropriate AGC's will be notified of the outcome prior to teams being announced. Requests to remain down are expected to be treated confidentially.

If you feel your child needs to remain down an age group, but would like to discuss the contributing factors or you have sensitive, confidential information you wish to discuss, you can contact the operations manager directly by emailing operations@solwaybasketball.com

Requests to play up an age group are at Solway's discretion and will be considered based on:

- Spaces available in the older age group
- Potential impact on current age group (i.e. Team numbers)
- Skill level and physical development

- School year group
- Note: While friendship groups will be considered, this is not sufficient for a request to age up to be granted. A player should be able to play at a similar skill level to be promoted to a higher age group.

Solway reserves the right to place a child in a higher age group, if that is the most appropriate team available for that child. This will be discussed with the parent/guardian prior to team announcement.

Team Names

Team names are drawn from lists approved by the Committee of Management. Each Competition and Age Group has a different theme – for example in Winter 23, the Girls U12 are all Birds (Eagles, Ravens, Swifts, etc) and Juniors U12 are all large animals (Lions, Tigers, Bulls, etc).

Generally, teams that are predominantly the same players as a previous season that are still playing in the same age group will retain their name for the following season, however this is not guaranteed.

There is no hierarchy implied by the team name selected. Teams are not permitted to select their own name.

Team Selection Process:

The team selection is undertaken under the supervision of the Operations Manager by the Age Group Coordinators approved by the President.

The Administration Officer, at close of registration, provides registration records by age group to the Operations Manager for distribution to the Age Group Coordinators. These are distributed along with coaches' reports, any emailed parent requests and any other inputs such as player statistics available.

All current team positions are declared vacant and the Age Group Coordinators review the available inputs and determine the team compositions in line with guidelines as described above. The Operations Manager reviews the teams as selected for consistency with the guidelines before they are announced.

Once teams are selected, the Age Group Coordinator appoints a coach from parent volunteers, if any. In the absence of a volunteer parent, the club may appoint a junior coach. The appointed coach nominates a minimum of two preferred training days and times.

A Team Manager is also appointed from volunteers during the registration process, or according to the guidelines outline above.

The Age Group Coordinators will assign registered players to teams in the PlayHQ portal according to team selection. They will also assign Coaches and Team Managers in PlayHQ.

The Operations Manager will meet with the Age Group Coordinators to develop the season Training Grid based on expressed preferences from coaches.

Team selections are kept confidential until announced to the Club via the Club website.

New season team announcements are made following the last game / final of the current season that a Solway team is involved in **and** after the current season Presentation Day. For Child Safety purposes, team announcements only include the player's first name and the first initial of their surname. If two players have the same first name and surname initial, additional surname letters may be used to differentiate the players. The training information will be removed from the website following the first round of games played each season for child safety purposes.

Team Grading

Once teams are selected, AGC's nominate which division / section each team is entered into in the WBA competition for their age group. All participating clubs are governed by grading rules, which include that a maximum of 3 teams from each club may be entered into each level of the competition per age group.

The WBA competition commences each season with rounds of grading games (usually 5 rounds, split into an initial 2 rounds, re-grading process, then individual review after each of the third, fourth & fifth rounds). During this time, WBA may move teams into different divisions within the age group. The Operations Manager is the conduit for all communications regarding grading between Solway and the WBA. Solway is able to request a review of a team's grading, but there is no guarantee that a request will be granted. During grading it is also possible that players may be moved into different teams at the discretion of the Operations Manager.

It's important to remember that it doesn't matter which Section/Division your child's team is placed in, rather that they will be playing teams estimated to be of similar skill for a competitive season.

Complaint Resolution and Refunds

Complaints:

If there are any queries or feedback on team selection after teams are announced, this can only be provided by emailing the Operations Manager operations@solwaybasketball.com. Parents are not to approach any coach, team manager or Age Group Coordinator as all correspondence **must** be through the Operations Manager only.

The Operations Manager will only review respectful and informative requests. We have a zero-tolerance approach to abuse or threats, and these matters will be directed to the Club President for further consideration.

While it can be disappointing to have a team that has played a season or more together changed, or a friendship request unable to be fulfilled, it is important to remember that all decisions have been made to balance the needs of all players within the age group, with a view to ensuring all players can participate to the best of their ability. New teams are an opportunity to build new friendships, new coaches a chance to build new skills.

The Operations Manager and AGC's will review all requests and provide relevant feedback. Occasionally it is necessary to move players and in this event, we will facilitate this move. Normally this is not required, and the player will remain in their allocated team.

Refunds:

Once Registration Fees are paid, Solway Basketball Club will place the player in a team according to this guideline.

Requests for refunds made **prior** to the advertised date for close of registration will be approved.

As outlined above, once teams are selected, the Club has financial commitments/liabilities according to the number of players and teams registered. Therefore any Refunds after this time must be considered on an individual basis, and will not necessarily be approved.

During Team selection and upon Team Announcement, Refunds will **NOT** be provided for 'change of mind'. Transfers to other Clubs will be considered as a 'change of mind' registration if your child has been placed in an appropriate team.

All requests for refunds should be emailed, with reasons and necessary details, to admin@solwaybasketball.com.

If a player is unable, or unwilling, to play and the parent/guardian believes a refund is appropriate, they should email admin@solwaybasketball.com with details. Total / Partial refunds will be considered for serious injury or illness. Please send details to Club Admin for consideration.

All Refunds need to be approved by the Club President, in consultation with Club Admin & Operations Manager.

The Club is unable to refund Basketball Victoria fees.

Disclaimer

The Committee and its authorised office holders may determine to **NOT** apply this policy or guidelines at any time if it is considered in the best interests of the club to do so.