

ADVICE FOR CLUB TEAM SELECTIONS

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Having clear selection policies that are openly available for viewing, enables Organisations to provide programs that maximize enjoyment, participation, and player development.

It is essential that Organisations have carefully chosen selection committees and the procedure for selection of such committees is also outlined in a clear and transparent manner. Keep in mind that policies take time to devise and implement and need to be specific to the Organisation's objectives.

It is also important to complete ongoing evaluation and modification to keep policies relevant and specific to player needs.

To achieve certainty and consistency in selection, consider:

- Developing concise and clear policies, procedures and criteria.
- Communicating these policies, procedures and criteria effectively to all concerned well in advance of timelines.
- Ensuring consideration and counselling for those who are not selected.
- Providing feedback for those who are not selected.
- Seeking the input of experts before problems arise.
- Changes in emotional, physical and psychological growth of players and develop policies that are specific to each relevant age group.

PLANNING

Consider the following:

- Aims and Objectives of your Organisation
 - Aim to keep club-based decisions in line with your Organisation aims/objectives
 - Are you aware of your Organisation's current By Laws?
 - What are the player pathways that your Organisation provides?
- Aims and Objectives of your Organisation
 - How can your Organisation encourage and provide opportunities for players to realise and maximise their potential?
 - How can your Organisation provide the best possible sporting experiences to encourage lifelong participation in sport?
 - How can your Organisation provide all players access to participation, regardless of sex, age, religion, race?
 - How does your Organisation cater for the disadvantaged or players with special needs?

ADMINISTRATION

Consider the following:

- How do you advertise for players?
- What are the player application procedures?
- What information is provided by the players who apply to play?

- What are the age groups in your Organisation?
- How many teams in each age group can be catered for? ie. taking into consideration court numbers, volunteers, equipment, coaches etc.
- What are the selection procedures - do you run selection days, make team choices by team entries or devise teams from application forms?
- Who is making the decision regarding team selection? What information are they provided with?
- What procedures are provided to challenge a decision?

SELECTIONS

- What are your Organisation objectives for the particular age group?
- Past playing teams – do you intend keeping teams together from last season?
- Will players be able to play with friends?
- Are there teams that wish to enter as an entire unit – e.g. school teams.
- How will you cater for males? Do you have mixed competitions?
- What policy will there be on team sizes? – dependent upon age
- How do you cater for any players with special needs?
- Do you spread talented kids throughout or are they grouped together to form more dominating teams?
- What procedures are put in place for teams where players have left – i.e. due to injury.

THINGS TO NOTE: GENDER

- Schools and Organisations must make participation in netball available to boys and girls. It is unacceptable to exclude either boys or girls under the age of 12 years from any competitive or non-competitive netball activity.
- The Commonwealth Sex Discrimination Act specifically states that:
 - *“Strength, stamina and physique are not considered relevant for children under the age of 12 years”*
 - Therefore, Netball competitions for children under the age of 12 years (11&U) will have no restrictions placed on the male – female playing ratio.
- The following guidelines should be adopted for children and youth 12 – 17 years ie. competitions for 13&U, 15&U, 17&U:
 - Schools and Organisations must endeavour to provide all children and youth with the same opportunities for participation in netball.
 - In line with Netball Victoria’s Gender Regulations, equality of access to participation may be achieved by:
 - ✓ Providing both a separate girls only and boys only competition.
 - ✓ Providing a mixed or modified mixed netball competition.

For further information please contact:

Member Services on (03) 9321 2255 or email memberservices@netballvic.com.au