

# ST MARY'S BASKETBALL CLUB TEAM SELECTION POLICY

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## PURPOSE

This policy will outline:

- the process and procedures, that will be followed by the Age Group Coordinators, for assigning players to teams in Under 08, Under 10, Under 12, Under 14, Under 16, Under 18, Under 19 and Under 21 competitions with St Mary's Basketball Club in the Diamond Valley Basketball Association.

## POLICY STATEMENT

### 1. VALUES

St Mary's Basketball Club is committed to:

- ensuring that the team selection process is explained in clear and transparent terms to parents/guardians of existing and prospective players;
- ensuring equal opportunity for all players;
- promoting participation and enjoyment of team sports;
- developing each player's game and team skills by placing them in the team/grade appropriate to their skill level.

### 2. SCOPE

This policy applies to the committee and membership of St Mary's Basketball Club.

### 3. RATIONALE

St Mary's Basketball Club understands that children play basketball for a number of reasons. Some are motivated by the social aspect of team sport while others are also very focussed on the improvement of their skills to be as competitive as possible. Our aim is to ensure that as many children as possible have the opportunity to play basketball.

Players are formally graded (except in U08) to ensure that they are placed in teams with similar ability players to foster the optimal basketball experience for all.

With an average of 300 players each season, and a number of factors that affect Team Selection, our Age Group Coordinators do their utmost to consider all variables to create the most evenly matched, competitive teams possible.

The club asks that all members remain mindful of the fact that St Mary's Basketball Club is governed and managed by volunteers who give of their time to ensure that teams are selected, coaches are recruited and players are on court every season.

### 4. DEFINITIONS

The terms defined in this section relate to this policy.

**Age Limits:** being U08, U10, U12, U14, U16, U18, U19 and U21, for competitions shall be as specified from time to time by the Diamond Valley Basketball Association (DVBA). Children must be six years of age to begin playing in U08.

The criteria for eligibility within each age group are:

- **Spring Season** (second half of the year) – A player must be under the age stated in the relative age group by the **31 December** of the year of the competition.
- **Autumn Season** (first half of the year) – A player must be under the age stated in the relative age group by the **30 June** of the year of the competition.

Age Group Coordinators will be able to advise which age group your child will be playing in.

**Age Group Coordinators:** members of the St Mary's Basketball Club Committee (Age Group Coordinators Subcommittee) one for each sex/age group, who manage team selection and all related matters each season.

**Competitive Age Groups:** the Age Groups that play in finals: U10 – U21

**DVBA: Diamond Valley Basketball Association:** the basketball association of which St Mary's Basketball Club is a member.

**Diamond Valley Basketball Association Junior Domestic By-Laws:** The Rules & Regulations, Playing Conditions, General Information and Fee Schedule of the Diamond Valley Basketball Association (DVBA). The By-Laws by which all of the basketball clubs that make up the DVBA are governed.

**Player Eligibility:** From the DVBA By-Laws:

2.4.1 Within the player's registered club their team and grade is determined by the lower age group team and grade in which the player participates for that season. Governed by the player's date of birth, the individual is unable to play up two age groups

2.4.2 Playing up refers to a player playing in a higher age group.

2.4.3 A player can play up one age group with the same Club during the season and qualify for finals in both age groups, with the exception of A grade players. "A" grade players cannot play in any D grade team games. Acceptable examples as follows:

- A 14A grade player can play in either a 16A, B or C grade team, but cannot play in a 16D grade team.
- A 14B grade player can play in an U16 team in any grade with the same club.

2.4.4 Players may only play in one team per age group.

2.4.5 Fill-in players can be used during the season, where a team has four players or less, in line with 2.4.3.

2.4.6 Players are not permitted to play for any club other than the one to which they are registered unless they have acquired special consideration from the Competitions Manager. Any team playing a player registered to another club will forfeit the game.

**Player Transfer:** is the process of requesting or approving transfers of current or previously registered players between clubs in the DVBA.

**Playing Up:** refers to a player playing in a higher age group than that which is determined by their date of birth.

**Registration:** is the process of enrolling and paying the registration fees, electronically, for a child to become a player with St Mary's Basketball Club for any given season. The electronic registration process is managed by PlayHQ.

**Restricted Player:** *From the DVBA Junior Domestic By laws: 1.4.3.1* A Restricted Player is one who has competed in specific divisions of the VJBL within the previous 12 months. For Girls a Restricted Player is one who has played at the level of VC or VJL1. For Boys a Restricted Player is one who has played at the level of VC, VJL1 or VJL2

**Seasons:** As determined by the Diamond Valley Basketball Association

Autumn Season: February to June; Spring Season: July to December

**PlayHQ:** is the online platform used by basketball clubs in the Diamond Valley Basketball Association to register and manage players and teams. PlayHQ's registration platform is used by members to enter player details and make payment each season.

## 5. SOURCES AND RELATED POLICIES

### Sources

- **Diamond Valley Basketball Association**

Junior Domestic By Laws including Rules and Regulations

### Related policies

- *Coaching Policy*
- *Registration Policy*
- *Registration Fees and Refund Policy*
- *Playing Up Policy*
- *Privacy and Confidentiality Policy*

## 6. PROCEDURES

### The Committee is responsible for:

- ensuring that updates related to the registration process are advised to members prior to and during the registration process;
- ensuring that Age Group Coordinators contact existing teams to advise of registration information ahead of registration opening for the following season;
- ensuring that families are made aware that players who have not registered and paid registration fees will not be placed into teams for the upcoming season;
- ensuring that the Age Group Coordinators place all registered players into teams ahead of each season and advise families of their child/ren's teams by the specified team announcement date.

### Parents/guardians are responsible for:

- following the electronic registration process as advised;
- paying registration fees for each season, in full, at the time of electronic registration (unless special payment arrangements have been made) so that their child/ren can be considered during team selection;
- Advising Age Group Coordinators, **in writing via email**, prior to the close of registration, of any significant issue relating to their child, particularly an issue that might impact on team selection;
- understanding that players who are not registered will not be considered in team selection for the upcoming season;
- monitoring communications for information from Age Group Coordinators, including team announcements, and coaches.

## 7. THE TEAM SELECTION PROCESS

- **Playing Up**

'Playing Up' refers to a player playing in a higher age group than that which is determined by their date of birth. For details of when this is permissible, please see the *St Mary's Basketball Club Playing Up Policy*

### U08

- **Team Selection**

Some children will begin playing in U08 at six years old. Many will be much more skilled by their third or fourth season in the age group and this is taken into account when forming U08 teams. Age Group Coordinators will do their best to accommodate friendships while also catering to skill level and accounting for a number of other factors, including coach availability.

Parents/guardians should advise the Age Group Coordinator, in writing via email, if they have friendship requests, or wish to raise other concerns, in relation to their U08 players.

Teams will generally have between seven and eight players, where possible.

- **Grading**

Players in U08 are not formally graded. Children are encouraged to begin playing basketball with their friends. In U08, St Mary's Basketball Club will endeavour to place children in teams with their friends where possible, particularly in their first season.

## **U10 – U18**

- **Team Selection Criteria**

1. Coaches' Appraisals

- Coaches are asked to complete evaluation forms on each of the players in their team towards the end of each season. The evaluation forms include information about skill level, attitude and commitment.
- Age Group Coordinators consider coaches' feedback but it is Age Group Coordinators NOT Coaches who decide on Team Selection

2. Age Group Coordinators' viewing of matches, and discussions with coaches, throughout the season, where possible

3. Grading Day Session (Spring going into Autumn season)

- A Grading Day may be held towards the end of each year, if possible.

4. Age (bottom age or top age)

5. Availability of Coaches

6. Overall number of players registered in each age group

- Age Group Coordinators endeavour to keep numbers of players in each team to around seven or eight players, where possible. Depending on the number of players registered in each age group, this is not always possible.

7. Player commitment to training and the team

- It is essential that all players attend their weekly training sessions, run by our Volunteer Coaches, wherever possible. If parents/guardians believe that there will be circumstances that may prevent a player from attending training every week (prior to a specific training day/time being advised for the season), these must be discussed with the Age Group Coordinator at the time of registration.
- Once teams' training days/times have been confirmed, parents/guardians must advise immediately, in writing via email, if their child has a clash with another sport or activity. Age Group Coordinators will endeavour to assist families to make suitable arrangements in such circumstances.
- On any given week, if a player is unavailable to train or play a match (unwell, school camp etc), parents/guardians or players **MUST** advise the Coach that the player will be unavailable.
- The St Mary's Basketball Club Committee acknowledges that it is parents/guardians who get their children to training each week. Age Group Coordinators and coaches will endeavour to assist families who are having difficulty attending training sessions, where possible.
- **It is unacceptable for a child to register as a player with St Mary's Basketball Club and then choose not to attend training. Such a decision may impact on future team selection and a player's starting position and court time during matches.** Coaches will advise Age Group Coordinators of consistent non-attendance of players and will also record this information on their player evaluation forms. Our Volunteer Coaches give up their time each week to attend training and games and it is imperative that players and parents/guardians respect that commitment.

8. Consideration of restricted players (see *Attachment 1* for Information regarding restricted players)

9. Consideration of any parent/guardian or Coach requests that may impact on a player or players

- **Grading**

Players are graded in a number of ways.

- **Coaches' appraisals**

All coaches are asked to complete feedback forms, for each player, towards the end of the season. The appraisal covers specific skill areas as well as the player's commitment and team play.

- **Grading Day**

If viable to do so, a Grading Day will be held towards the end of each year.

- **Age Group Coordinators' viewing of matches, and discussions with coaches, throughout the season, where possible**

- **Requests**

Parents/guardians who wish to make requests of Age Group Coordinators, regarding their children, should do so in writing via email prior to registration. In the competitive U10 – U21 Age Groups, players will be placed into teams based on the first eight team selection criteria above. Our Age Group Coordinators will aim to accommodate parent/guardian requests, relating to team selection, if there are issues with certain children playing together, or similar circumstances. Friendship requests are very unlikely to be considered in the competitive age groups.

**Requests made verbally or AFTER team selection cannot be considered unless under extenuating circumstances.**

Coaches' requests relating to team selection must also be in writing via email to the Age Group Coordinators. These requests will be considered, however, the other team selection criteria, including coaches' appraisals of players, will be taken into account first.

- **Team Selection Disputes**

Our club acknowledges that despite the best efforts of our Age Group Coordinators, there will be members who will not be satisfied with team selection decisions made. If a parent/guardian believes that they have a legitimate team selection dispute, that has not been resolved after discussion with the Age Group Coordinator, they should submit their concern, in writing via email, to the St Mary's Basketball Club Committee – [president@stmaryssharks.org.au](mailto:president@stmaryssharks.org.au)

Please note that the committee fully supports the Age Group Coordinators in their very challenging roles. Team selection is ultimately at the discretion of the Age Group Coordinator who will take into account all team selection criteria. Parents/guardians should be mindful of not raising disputes in cases where they did not provide relevant information, on which they are basing the dispute, to their Age Group Coordinators ahead of team selection.

- **Team Selection Process Timeline**

<b>Early to Mid June</b> (date will be specified)	<b>Early to Mid November</b> (date will be specified)	<b>REGISTRATION CLOSE – Four weeks from Registration Opening</b>
<b>Mid June</b>	<b>Mid November</b>	<b>Secretary</b> will submit number of teams for the upcoming season to DVBA by their specified deadline

<b>Early July</b>	<b>Mid December</b>	<p><b>Age Group Coordinators</b> will contact each of their teams with details of the coach (if known), training times (if known) and team list for the upcoming season.</p> <p><b>Coaches</b> will make contact with their teams to advise of other pertinent details ahead of the new season.</p>
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- **Team Announcements**

Age Group Coordinators will announce team lists, via email to the families of their players, ahead of the new season (see timeline above). They will also advise of any details that are confirmed, including the name of the Coach and training time/venue. Confirmed Coaches will then make contact with the families to introduce themselves.

## 8. TEAM GRADES IN THE DVBA

Ahead of each new season, Age Group Coordinators nominate, to DVBA, a grade for each of their teams. The aim is always for teams to commence each season in the most appropriate grade. If the Age Group Coordinators are uncertain of a team's ability, due to a new composition of players etc, they are encouraged to place the team in the higher initial grade. The main criteria to be considered in assigning an initial grade are:

- Teams' performances during the previous season
- Composition of teams – change-over of players

The DVBA decides a team's grade, for the season proper which commences after grading, based on its performance in the grading games (usually five) at the beginning of the season. Non-competitive age groups (U08s, as they do not play finals) are generally graded after every five games played.

From the DVBA Junior Domestic By-Laws:

2.2.1 Within each age group, the competition will be divided into grades depending on the number of teams entered into a specific competition. Teams will be nominated to specific grades by their clubs at the time of team entry. Teams are graded based on their ability to play at a specified level within their specific age group. It is the DVBA's expectation that clubs will enter their teams in the higher, rather than the lower grade. If it is viewed that a team has underperformed during grading, re-grading will be considered.

2.2.2 Grades will be determined by alphanumeric prefixes e.g. A, A Reserve, B1, B2, C1 etc. with the most skilled teams placed in A grade and the least skilled at the lower end of the range of grades for that season.

2.3.6 The Competition Manager reserves the right to regrade a team at any time in consultation with the appropriate club which may include moving a team into a higher age group.

## 9. EVALUATION

In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, the Committee of St Mary's Basketball Club will:

- regularly seek feedback from everyone affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness
- monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy
- revise the policy and procedures as part of the club's policy review cycle, or as required
- notify parents/guardians at least 14 days before making any changes to this policy or its procedures.

## 10. AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by the Committee of St Mary's Basketball Club on 16 August 2018.

## 11. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Excerpt from the DVBA Junior Domestic By-Laws relating to clearances/transfers of restricted players

**12. REVIEW DATE** AUGUST 2020

## **Attachment 1**

### **From the DVBA Junior Domestic By-Laws**

#### **1.4.3 RESTRICTED PLAYERS**

The intent of this ruling is to ensure an even but strong competition, in particular it looks to prevent clubs recruiting representative players to a single team within their club, resulting in a lop-sided competition.

1.4.3.1 A Restricted Player is one who has competed in specific divisions of the VJBL within the previous 12 months. For Girls a Restricted Player is one who has played at the level of VC or VJL1. For Boys a Restricted Player is one who has played at the level of VC, VJL1 or VJL2.

1.4.3.2 A player who has played for 12 months continuously with the same club will be deemed to be a home-grown player. There is no limit to the amount of home-grown restricted players that can play for a team unless there are non home grown restricted players in that team – refer to 1.4.3.3. If a home-grown restricted player stops playing at the DVBA for a season; should that player return to play for their club as a home-grown restricted player, any restricted player that has transferred to this club within this duration cannot be selected onto the same team, if this team has the maximum amount of restricted players.

1.4.3.3 A player classified as restricted cannot transfer/clear to a team that already has four (4) restricted players

1.4.3.4 One player classified as restricted entering the NJBL for their first season, may join a team if that team has no more than four (4) restricted players.

1.4.3.5 A transferred restricted player in their second consecutive season is NOT considered 'home grown' and is still considered a transferred restricted player.

1.4.3.6 Any team possessing four (4) or more Restricted Players will only be allowed to play in A Grade.

1.4.3.7 A Restricted Player may fill-in for a maximum of five (5) games for the one team in a season if that team already possesses the maximum number of restricted players. If the team possesses less than the maximum number of restricted players, there will be no limit of games for the fill in player. (Confirmation will be required from the DVBA's Competitions Manager)

#### **1.4.4 CLEARANCES / TRANSFERS**

1.4.4.1 The transfer or addition of only two (2) Players will be allowed per team per season. If these players are classified as restricted, there can only be five (5) restricted players allowed on the given team. It will be the Competitions Manager discretion as to whether any more than two (2) players are added to a given team for the improvement of the competitions.

1.4.4.2 Any player wishing to transfer clubs within DVBA Junior Domestic Competition must apply for a transfer.

1.4.4.3 Any transfer for a player where their previous club no longer exists within the DVBA or where the player has not played with their registered club within the DVBA for 12 Months will be automatically approved by DVBA Competition Manager so long as the transfer does not contradict any other by-law.

1.4.4.4 No transfer is to be submitted after Round five (5) unless approved by the Competitions Manager. This does not include grading rounds.

1.4.4.5 No transfer, clearance or registration will be accepted where it would breach the Restricted Player rule in section 1.4.3.

1.4.4.6 No club is permitted to accept the transfer of more than two (2) players into the same team from the same club unless both clubs mutually and amicably agree in writing to the DVBA Competitions Manager.

1.4.4.7 No official of DVBA may approach, coerce, or attempt to persuade a player or their parents to transfer to another club (otherwise known as poaching)

1.4.4.8 Any movement of players once grading has commenced will require confirmation from the DVBA Competition Manager before any change is made.

1.4.4.9 Finals eligibility will apply from the time any transfer has been approved and will not include games played prior to the transfer.



1.4.4.10 New players must not to be added to a team after the conclusion of grading unless approved by the DVBA Competitions Manager.

1.4.4.11 Should the DVBA have any doubts as to the details supplied on a registration, clearance or transfer, they can request additional proof they believe is warranted to satisfy their enquiries.

1.4.4.12 The DVBA Competitions Manager may override any existing rule and approve a clearance where it feels exceptional circumstances apply.

#### **1.4.5 PENALTIES RELATING TO REGISTRATIONS, CLEARANCES AND TRANSFERS**

1.4.5.1 Any registration, clearance or transfer that is approved but are subsequently found to be false or misleading, will result in the player being classed as ineligible and will result in the forfeit of all games the player participated in. Clubs found in breach of this bylaw may be subject to disciplinary action and referred to the Tribunal.

1.4.5.2 A club cannot play a player who is the subject of a clearance or transfer request, until the request is approved. Any club that intentionally ignores this rule, after being formally advised of the player's ineligibility, will forfeit all premiership points for the game the individual has played in.

1.4.5.3 If a team plays an ineligible or illegal player, the team will forfeit all premiership points for the games the individual has been active.

1.4.5.4 If a clearance involving a Restricted player is approved, and it is then found that at the time of the clearance the receiving club had the maximum Restricted Players in the team the individual is to play on, the clearance will be revoked and all games that the cleared player played in for his/her new club will be forfeited.

1.4.5.5 Where an official of a club is proven to be guilty of poaching as defined in section 1.4.4.7, the offending club will not be allowed any Restricted player clearances for two full seasons and the offending official/s or representative/s will not be allowed to hold any official position for the same period.