

# 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 all age group 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:** between U08 and U21 for competitions will be specified by the Diamond Valley Basketball Association (DVBA) ahead of each season.

**St Mary's Basketball Club minimum age requirement:** to play in an Under 8 competition with St Mary's, children must be attending school when the season commences. Children who will be pre-school aged when a season commences will not be permitted to register.

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: Association and Game Day:** 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 junior domestic basketball clubs that make up the DVBA are governed.

**Player Eligibility:** See Section 1.7 of the DVBA By-Laws: *Game Day*

**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:** See the DVBA Junior Domestic By-laws: *Association*, Section 1.4 *Player Classification*

**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 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 just when they have started school. 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 – U21**

• **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, wherever 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 DVBA Junior Domestic By-Laws: Association Section 1.4)
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 may 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 Announcements**

Age Group Coordinators will announce team lists, via email to the families of their players, ahead of the new season. 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 advised, as per the DVBA Junior Domestic By-laws, 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 the Grading Period, 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.

## **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. REVIEW DATE AUGUST 2021**