



FOOTSCRAY HAWKS BASKETBALL CLUB

# TEAM SELECTION POLICY

Version 1, August 2023

## **POLICY OVERVIEW**

The Footscray Hawks Basketball Club will provide a safe and inclusive environment to teach junior participants the fundamentals of Basketball while encouraging effort, teamwork, and sportsmanship. The committee and club members will continuously operate and participate with integrity, care, and professionalism. Encourage, develop, nurture, and play.

## **PURPOSE**

Consistent with our philosophy, the selection of players for teams takes into account several factors as set out below. However, our ultimate goal is to place children in teams that will make for an enjoyable experience by balancing friendship groups with individual skill levels. Furthermore, the Club seeks to form teams that will be competitive in the respective grade levels.

## **FACTORS WE TAKE INTO ACCOUNT**

Many factors come into play in determining teams such as age, friends wanting to play together, skill level, team balance and chemistry, history of past team experiences, availability of coaches, training time and venue. The Club makes every effort to balance these factors, and decisions are ultimately made that are in the best interests of the players and the Club as a whole. The main principles we apply in allocating players to teams are below.

**Age** – Aligning players by age enables us to try to keep groups of players together as they move through the age ranges. The age groups will align with the VJBL (Victorian Junior Basketball League). Age groups are defined by the age of a player on the 31st of December of the year the season ends (i.e. end of 2023)

**Friendships** – Playing with friends is an important part of why kids play sport. For teams Under 8, 10 & 12, we place a greater emphasis on playing with friends as at these levels it is more about fun, learning new skills and developing a positive attitude towards involvement in team sports. It is important to note that the committee will endeavour to align kids in their age group before they move above U12's.

**Similar skills** – Players tend to have a better experience and more fun when they play with others with similar skills and aspirations in a grade where they will compete with other teams. This becomes even more important as players move into the higher age groups.

**Team balance** – Where possible, we aim to have an appropriate balance of roles from the point guard to the centre to ensure teams have all-around competitiveness.

**Number of players** – Our starting point is to have teams of 8 players. This provides the balance between having enough players to cover absences while not compromising court time by having too many players. Teams of 9 or more players are not recommended; if anyone wishes to have nine or more players in a team, they must seek permission from the committee.

**Our Club will accept children who want to play basketball at any time during the year unless our registrar has closed applications due to other circumstances. This means that changes to teams may occur during the season, and teams will change from season to season due to new entrants, players leaving or moving up an age group.**

## **WHAT WE EXPECT OF COACHES AND PARENTS REGARDING TEAMS**

### **Coaches**

- Focus on participation, not winning and losing.
- Ensure all team members have the chance to play, rotate through positions and are given fair playing time.
- If you coach your children, treat them like all the other team members.
- Participate in the Club's decisions if required about team selection, prioritise decisions that are best for the team and support the outcome of the committee.

### **Parents/Carers**

- Ensure your child attends as many trainings as possible.
- Help the coach where possible at training and games, if required.
- Help the team and the team manager by volunteering to score at games.
- Focus on your child's effort and performance, not the score.
- Positively and constructively encourage your child and other team members.
- Respect the selection decisions of the club/committee and the coach.

## **PROCESS**

Before each season, the club match committee comprising of the club President, Registrar, Assistant Registrar, Director of Coaching and any other member of the committee appointed for the task by the President will determine the composition of teams. The existing team structure will be assessed according to the above principles and any age group changes. (The age group change occurs for each summer season). The club will open registrations for an upcoming season well in advance of that season. The secretary will notify all members of the registration timeframe via the club team app, Facebook, and website. Players who registered for the previous season and then re-register for the new season will have priority over waitlisted players regarding team placement. The Club will use its best efforts to place all players who have registered by the due date into appropriate teams. Players who fail to register by the due date risk not playing in the most suitable team.

Registration details must not be passed to new or waitlisted players. Instead, new registration requests should be directed to our webpage:

<https://www.footscrayhawks.com.au/join-the-hawks>

We do not generally hold tryouts, although we may hold several practice sessions to assist with the team selection process. The first three games are grading games, and during this period, changes may also be made to teams to ensure optimal individual and team outcomes. We make this clear to all players when we publish the teams.

The club believes players should compete in their correct age group. Those identified playing above will be moved. This ensures that as players reach older age groups they are not in teams with significant height and skill differences.

#### **WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE SPECIAL REQUESTS OR CONCERNS**

Whilst all requests are considered, not all requests can be met. If you have any questions regarding the team selection, please direct them in writing to the registrar via email at [registrar@footscrayhawks.com.au](mailto:registrar@footscrayhawks.com.au). If a parent wants further explanation, the matter will be referred to the President upon request. Team selection is a complex process and parent support is critical to its success. Over the years, we have found that children are just happy to be playing basketball, settle very quickly into their new teams and form new friends.

#### **ADDITIONAL NOTES**

Players must be financial members of the Club unless the Club has waived the fee or provided an exemption.

Players may be precluded from selection if there is a concern about their ability to compete safely or if their participation poses a risk to others.

Players can play in a higher age group at the discretion of the Club. Factors the Club will consider in exercising its discretion include the capability of the player to play in a higher age group, team numbers in both age groups and ensuring appropriately aged players are not deprived of a position in their age group.