



Fawkner Netball Club

Team Allocation Policy

Fawkner Netball Club aims to create an environment that is free from discrimination and that is welcoming to all. This is essential in promoting positive social interaction and mental wellbeing. Fawkner Netball Club strives to ensure that all players, members and officials will be treated fairly and with respect

Purpose

The Team Allocation Policy ensures a fair, transparent, and inclusive process for assigning players to teams within Fawkner Netball Club. The policy aims to balance individual development, team dynamics, and competition levels, while maintaining the club's values of participation, inclusion, skill development, and enjoyment.

Scope

This policy applies to all players, coaches, and selectors involved in team allocation for all grades and divisions within the club.

Team Allocation

The Coaches, Coaching Director and President is responsible for overseeing the player allocation process, based on the below guiding principles and player assessments. Ensuring team allocations are balanced, evenly skilled promoting player development and team cohesion, and always aligning with club objectives.

Guiding Principles

- **Fairness & Equity:** All players will be considered based on their ability, commitment, and potential, regardless of age, background, or experience.
- **Development Focus:** The club encourages individual growth and team cohesion. Players will be allocated to teams that best support their development while contributing to the team's success.
- **Transparency:** The allocation process will be clear and consistent, with decisions communicated effectively to players and parents (where applicable).
- **Enjoyment:** Teams will be created to ensure players enjoy their experience, build confidence, and foster a love for netball.

2.1. Player Assessment

- **Player performance and commitment:** A player's performance, attendance, attitude, and commitment during training sessions and games will be considered in their allocation.
- **Player skills:** Coaching Director, and previous / current coaches will collaborate to provide feedback on players skills (as per Netball Australia's Skills Development Framework), fitness and teamwork.

- **Continuous Assessment:** Players may be assessed during training sessions and games throughout the season, ensuring ongoing player evaluation.

2.2. Team Structure

- Teams in U9-U11 are non-competitive and emphasis will be placed on developing skills, confidence and enjoyment of the game. Teams in these age groups may be guided by friendships with some consideration given to ability.
- Teams will be structured according to age groups, skill levels, and competition divisions to ensure each team competes at an appropriate level.
- In situations where players could fit into more than one team, their preferences (e.g., playing with certain teammates, availability for training or games) may be considered, but the final decision rests with FNC

2.3. Criteria for Team Placement

- **Skill Level:** Players will be placed in teams that reflect their current level of skill and potential for improvement.
- **Positional Needs:** The balance of positions within a team will be considered to ensure each team has players capable of playing in key areas (e.g., attack, defence, midcourt).
- **Commitment:** Players who demonstrate consistent attendance at training and a positive attitude toward improvement may be prioritized for competitive teams.
- **Age & Development:** Players will be placed into teams from top to bottom age. Younger players showing high levels of ability may be considered for teams in higher age divisions, while older players needing development may play in lower age groups.
- **Social vs. Competitive:** The club will take into account a player's preference for a more social experience or a highly competitive environment when allocating them to teams.

3. Special Considerations

- **Injuries:** Players returning from injury may be placed in teams where they can gradually regain fitness and confidence, regardless of prior team placement.
- **Player Requests:** The club will consider requests regarding team preferences (e.g., playing with friends), but these requests cannot always be guaranteed.
- **Late Registrations:** Players who register after the trial or allocation process may be placed in teams with available spots. These players will be considered based on their skill level and team balance.

4. Communication of Team Allocations

- Team allocations will be communicated in writing (via email or the club's communication platform). Players will be informed of their team, coach, and training schedule before the start of the season.
- The club will ensure communication is clear, respectful, and supportive, particularly if a player is disappointed with their placement.

5. Reallocation During the Season

- The club may review team placements mid-season due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g., player injury, change in performance, or team dynamics).
- Any reallocation will be discussed with the player, parents, coach, and team manager, and done in the best interest of the player's development and team success.

6. Responsibilities of Coaches

- Coaches will support the club's decisions and encourage players to focus on their personal development, regardless of team placement.
- Coaches will ensure all players receive appropriate playing time based on club policies and game rules, especially at the junior level.

7. Final Decision

The club's committee and coaching team will have the final say in team allocations. Every effort will be made to ensure decisions are fair, and in the best interest of both the individual and the club as a whole.

8. Grievances and Appeals

If a player or parent has concerns regarding team allocation, they may lodge an appeal in writing to the selection committee after the team announcements. The selection committee will review the grievance and respond within 4 weeks.

Policy Review Period

Fawkner Netball Club will review and update this policy annually.

Review History

<i>Document revision no.</i>	<i>Date of revision update</i>	<i>Comments / Information on what was updated between revisions</i>
1.00	14/09/2024	Original document