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Guidelines for Selection of Domestic Teams

Purpose

At the Collingwood Basketball Association (the Club), we recognise that children join a basketball club for a range of reasons. These can typically be expected to include the development of basketball skills as well as providing an avenue for social development in an environment that also promotes health and fitness.

The full range of aspirations of players and parents is most keenly felt in the junior domestic basketball program. The Club aims to provide a domestic program that recognises this range of aspirations and provides an environment where players are provided with an opportunity to develop their skills and enjoy the social aspects of team and club sport.

The aim of these guidelines is to set out the principles and practice of determining domestic team composition which will best meet the needs of our junior players and their parents/carers.

Background and Principles

These guidelines aim to provide a basis within which the wide range of aspirations of players and parents at the Club can best be accommodated.

These aspirations can be expected to include:

- Player development
 - Playing in teams that compete at the highest standard in the EDJBA
 - Supporting the Representative program through
 - Providing development opportunities that may not be available within the Representative structure
 - Developing players towards future Representative selection
 - Improving skills to enable progression to higher grades within the EDJBA
- Socialising within a supportive sporting environment
 - Playing in teams with an existing group of friends
 - Making new friends

Whilst the two overall goals of player development and providing social opportunities are not mutually exclusive, they may lead to differing emphases on how teams will be selected.

When determining domestic team composition, the Club will be guided by:

- the preferences of players and parents/carers which will be communicated to the Club through the completion of the registration form as part of the registration process and
- the guidelines for team selection as outlined below.

Whilst the Club will use individual preferences to inform team composition there may be occasions where this is not always achievable e.g. when the players from a similar social group indicate different preferences; satisfying all preferences may not be possible.

It is recognised that as players understanding and interest in the sport increases it is expected that some players will have increased emphasis on their development as basketball players. It is also understood and accepted by the Club that as some players proceed into older domestic age groups, team compositions are often driven primarily by the social choices.

Where the desired priority is for player development, while attempts will be made to maintain some level of existing friendship support, other factors will be given increasing weight. Such other factors will include:

- Playing ability
- Team balance
- Development for future seasons (Domestic & Representative)
- Ability to attend Domestic training

Whilst not maintaining existing friendship groups within a team can initially be difficult, the opportunity for making new friends and the improvement in the club's basketball program will be of great benefit for the players and the families as well as helping to create a cohesive basketball club.

Each season the Team Composition Sub-Committees' decisions are also impacted by practical issues such as the total number of players available and the spread of skills covered in each age group.

It is the Club's aim to accommodate the varying needs of all our members as best we can within the limitations we are faced with.

Guidelines for Domestic Team Selection

There are many variables that are considered when determining domestic team composition including:

- The Club's desire to accommodate the varied preferences of our players and their parents/carers. Where possible team composition will reflect the preference of the player identified on the registration form.
- The desire by the Club to build stronger links between the Representative and Domestic junior basketball programs. When selecting the higher level Domestic teams, the

composition will balance the preferences of players with the opportunity to provide improved developmental opportunities. This does not mean that these teams will be made up of only Representative squad players. It is most likely that these teams will be made of a mix of players best structured to be able to play in the higher Domestic grades.

- The availability and desire of players to train and the importance the Club places on encouraging teams to train together. The Club very strongly encourages players to attend training sessions and will provide a variety of ways a player and their team may train including domestic squad training or potentially a team training session. It is recognised that some players may not be able to train at all and this will be considered when determining teams.

Size of Team

Subject to the limitations of registered players in each age group, the Team Composition Sub-Committee will aim to build teams with 8-9 players.

Club experience shows that older teams often require 9 players to field a full team each week due to conflicting commitments of the players whilst younger teams have a preference for a maximum of 8 players.

Playing Time

An overriding principle of the Club Domestic basketball program is that, except for extenuating circumstances, all players will have approximately equal court time. Extenuating circumstances may include as a consequence for unsportsmanlike behaviour or other disciplinary reasons, or a continual lack of attendance at training without explanation.

Whilst recognising the preferences of players, the team composition process also needs to consider the need to create teams where playing equal time for all players will not disadvantage the performance of the team.

Playing Out of Age Group

Occasionally, players or their parents/carers may request that players are included in a team out of their age group.

- The preferred position of the Club is that players are expected to play in their age group
- Players should only be able to play out of age if this makes the teams at both age groups more viable
- A parent must make a written request to the Chair of the relevant Team Composition sub-committee, giving reasons, if they want their child to play in a higher age group. This should occur before the composition meetings take place.
- It will not be the responsibility of the player's former team manager to communicate the player and parent's wish to play up i.e. it is between the parent and the Club
- A player will be allowed to play up if the team composition sub-committee believes they have the ability and maturity to fit in to the higher aged team and after considering the impact of this decision on the viability of other teams

Occasionally, there may be times when the Club believes it is the right option for the player and the team for a player to play out of their age group. Parent/Carer approval would be sought in these situations.

Implementation

Before the commencement of each season, two Team Composition Sub-Committees will be formed, one for boys and one for girls.

Each subcommittee will be made up of the chair of the Team Administration Sub-Committee (TASC), the Registrar, the Head of Coaching and two or three other people who between them are familiar with a broad range of age groups, have a good knowledge of players and can be objective. A team composition sub-committee member is not required to be a committee member or a member of TASC.

Team composition meetings will be held approximately 2-3 weeks before the full team lists need to be submitted to the EDJBA. Domestic coaches and team managers or their delegate will be invited to attend as representatives of the financial members of their team (not only their own child).

Only financial players, or those players who have made alternative arrangements with The Club, will be considered through this process (see Pay and Play Policy).

Players who register after the first meeting will be considered in the context of existing teams and the team composition selection principles. (See Pay and Play policy)

The final team composition is to be determined by the Team Composition sub-committee.