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## Netball Selection Guidelines

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RELATED DOCUMENTS/SITES: [WDFNL Netball By laws](#)  
[Netball Australia-Junior Netball Policy](#)  
[Netball Victoria Pathway Program](#)

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These guidelines have been developed under the guidance of the OCFNC Committee to establish consistent and transparent guidelines for all players, parents and coaching staff. These guidelines were developed to ensure success and integrity within all netball grades at Old Collegians FNC.

## Juniors

The Junior Structure is made up of 3 age groups that aligns with the current Netball Victorian pathways.

- 13&U (3 years - top age, bottom age and bottom, bottom age)
- 15&U (2 years – top age and bottom age)
- 17&U (2 years – top age and bottom age)

The introduction of bottom, bottom age players for our 13 & U is to ensure that the club can draw on our development squad (currently known as 'Little Warriors') in times of injury, absences or low numbers at selections.

### Junior Selection Philosophy regarding Junior Development

The management of all junior players is conducted carefully and with consideration for:

- The importance of girls & boys playing with their peers.
- Being able to demonstrate playing in a safe, organised, respectful environment.
- Maintaining a sense of belonging and friendship.
- Feeling supported throughout the selection process.

The following observations will contribute to the final selection of players to specific teams. Please note these are placed in specific order of importance.

1. Participation in selection processes.
2. Skills level- Defence, Attack and Mid-court and team balance (positions and ages)
3. Player and family commitment towards club volunteering.
4. Attitude/behaviour of players and their families towards other players, coaches, parents and the selection process.

A player's age, within a specific age group, has minimal impact on the team selection process (unless it is a bottom, bottom age player) instead it is a combination of all the above observations and considerations. This is applicable for both top and bottom age players. eg. A player who is top age should not expect to be in a certain team solely due to falling into the eldest age group and the same applicable for bottom age players. No assumptions regarding the age of the player and which teams they are selected within should be made.

The selection panel will also consider the age balance of a team for the following year i.e. if U17 selects 6 bottom age players and u 15 selects 6 top age players there will be 12 players vying for the available positions in the u17 team the following year.

Coaches will also consider the following points in junior selections:

- i. When selecting teams, club players should be considered **if** the positions allow for it. Coaches should make every endeavour to find a spot for club players\* if skill levels are matching those of a non club player.  
  
E.g. Tryouts see 4 goalers' tryout. A club fringe player who is a GS and has never played another position may miss out to a non-club player who plays C-WD as that is that gap in the team
- ii. Where possible no top or bottom player should miss out on selection to a bottom, bottom aged player.  
  
E.g. an inexperienced player that is bottom, bottom age may not make a team if better skilled top and bottom age players are available for selection. This is to protect the player and allow an additional 12 months of development as well as being fair to the selected team to ensure that their skills are being developed.
- iii. Junior's players should not be picked outside their age group unless a shortage in the above age group and their age group would not be at a disadvantage without them. A player should always be encouraged to play their own age group first, even if this results in playing 2 games a week (another player should not miss out in the above age group in this case)  
  
E.g a top age 15&U plays the position that the 17&U is missing a discussion would be had with the player and parent about the opportunity to play 17&U. No 17&U player should miss out on selection in this case
- iv. No player should be picked if it were deemed to be to be a detrimental to the player typically for a bottom or bottom, bottom age player in U13s where Little Warriors is an option to develop and be better prepared to play the following year
- v. Teams should not be made up of any less than 8 and no more than 10. This is to ensure that all players have equitable opportunity to develop, learn and play. Training partner\*\* roles will be considered at the discretion of the Coach.

**\* Club Player**

Been at the club for 12 months ie previous season  
Sibling of a current footballer/netballer  
Family connection

**\*\*Training partners**

Players not successful in securing a position in a team may be offered the opportunity to participate in the program as training partners. They will train with the teams and participate in team activities alongside other players. If it becomes necessary to fill a position in one of the teams due to injury, illness or withdrawal they may be offered the opportunity for court time or take up a permanent position in the team.

A training partner will only be considered if it is an advantage to the team or the player ie the Coach and selection panel sees the potential in the training partner to move forward with the team and not pull the team back to the skill level of the training partner. Court time is at the discretion of the Coach and will only be considered when the training partner is ready to ensure it is not detrimental to the player or the team (please see point iv. above).

## Announcement of Selected Teams

The final teams will be announced by a team coach by appropriate means of communication. All players will be notified by a text message and/or phone call with unsuccessful players notified prior to the teams being externally announced. Feedback is always available from the selection panel and Coach. Some players may be given the opportunity to play for a higher grade/age group. In the event of excess player numbers, the club principles are to have junior players playing within our junior ranks.

However, at times this option may not be available and alternate options such as selection into a higher grade or being placed on an emergency player list or as a training partner will occur. In all cases, movement of these players will be at the discretion of the Coach, Netball Coordinator and Netball Sub-committee in consultation with and the agreement of the player/s and parents.

## Seniors

The WDFNL is made up of 3 senior Grades in a tiered structure. OCFNC commits to ensuring the A Grade is filled with the best players available for A Grade selection as per the WDFNL Netball By-law. These players can be selected from open tryouts or by active recruitment processes. The A grade coach should consider development within the club to ensure longevity to success.

Senior Grade Selections should take into consideration:

- Club Players (i.e. been at the club for over 12 months previously as a player or supporter (e.g. Partner of footballer - inc partners of new recruits)  
E.g a non-club fringe Ares/B player may miss out to a Club B Grade Player
- The ability to cover all positions in all grades is to be considered.  
E.g 4 goalers tryout and remain for selection in Ares/B. 3 should not be picked in Ares leaving B with only one goaler. Other opportunities to develop should be considered to cover a second goaler in B Grade
- Players should not be picked at the detriment to them or a team  
E.g an unskilled player may be offered a training partner position to allow them to further develop skill before being exposed to a game
- Juniors coming up (i.e. first year in seniors) should be treated as a previous senior player, ideally looking at the opportunity to further develop their skills and allowing confidence within the senior levels.  
E.g a first-year senior player should not feel intimidated to play any grade or assume that they will walk into a higher grade (maybe they filled in in the Ares 1 game as a top age 15&U but they are a better team fit to B Grade)
- Teams should consist of 8 or 9, typically no more than 10.  
E.g. a coach wanting to take 8 may need to take 9 or in some cases 10 to ensure that club persons have a spot in a team.
- In the case of not enough senior players or injuries requiring late inclusions or replacements players, it is at the discretion of the senior coaching panel and the netball coordinator for the final decision.

### **Opportunities for junior players to play out of their own age group.**

Our preference, as a Club, for those girls involved with Junior Development is the following:

- A junior player, selected in a junior side, may be eligible for experience playing in either A, A Res or B grade under the junior development process or as a previous junior development player.
- The amount/exposure +/- game time is at the discretion of the Senior Coach, parent and relevant junior coach.
- Juniors aiming for a permanent junior development player in our senior sides needs to attend the senior try outs. A junior from a different league are also welcome to attend senior try outs as a senior development player, however a senior player will not miss out on selection to a junior or senior development player.

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