



Maroochydore Eagles Basketball Association Inc.
Trading as Suncoast Clipper Basketball Club

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TEAM SELECTION POLICY

OUR MISSION

To promote and develop the sport of basketball on the Sunshine Coast, creating pathways for growth and success. As a grassroots club we strive to foster a diverse and inclusive basketball ecosystem, empowering athletes, coaches and referees to reach their fullest potential.

PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY

This Policy explains the Club's process for the formation of teams for the information of our players and their families. Consistent with our mission, the selection of players for teams takes into account a number of 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

There are many factors that 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 and availability of coaches. 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 that we apply in allocating players to teams are set out below.

1. Age

Aligning players by age enables us to try to keep groups of players together as they move through the age ranges. Cut off dates for age groups are 31 December for both seasons as per the Basketball Queensland guidelines. This ensures players are in the correct age groups for representative basketball if they choose to trial for Sunshine Coast Phoenix Basketball Association.

2. Friendships

Playing with friends is an important part of why kids play sport. For teams up to Under 12 and in lower divisions, 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.

3. Similar skills

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

4. 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 round competitiveness.

5. 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 sometimes necessary to place all players or cover known absences for the season.

Clippers Basketball will accept children who want to play basketball at any time during the year. This means that changes to teams do occur during the season and teams will change from season to season due to new entrants, players leaving or moving up an age group.

PROCESS

Before each season, the Junior Committee along with selected coaches in particular age groups to determine the composition of teams. Generally, we assume that players already in teams will wish to continue playing unless otherwise advised. The Competitions Coordinator will assist with this process by attempting to speak to all players before the end of the season to confirm if players are returning or not for the following season.

In February/March (for the Winter Season) and July/August (for the Summer Season), the Club advertises for children to register to play. Registration is done on-line via your Basketball Connect profile. The Club will use its best endeavours to place all players who have registered by the due date into appropriate teams. Players who do not register by the due date run the risk of not being able to be placed in the most appropriate team.

Once we have all registrations, the team selection Committee will allocate players to teams. We do not generally hold try outs although the first two games are grading games and during this period changes may also be made to teams to ensure that we have the most appropriate outcome for individual players and across teams. Once teams are selected, the Club will appoint a coach, and each team will need to nominate a team manager. Players are notified of their teams via email prior to the first game of the season.

Players must be financial members of the Club, Basketball Queensland and Basketball Australia to be eligible to play. Players that play both Summer and Winter seasons may be given preference in team allocations.

REQUESTS TO PLAY UP

Players may make special requests to play in a higher age group as per our "Playing Up Policy." Only requests submitted via the Jot Form available on the Clippers Basketball website will be considered. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that player development, safety, and fairness are maintained while offering players opportunities to challenge themselves. Playing up an age group will also be subject to availability in the older age group.

Whilst all requests are considered, not all requests can be met and are at the discretion of the team selection committee. 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 team and form new friends

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 own children, treat them like all the other team members.
- Participate in the Club's decisions in relation to team selection and support the final outcome.

Parents:

- Take turns for score bench.
- Focus on your child's effort and performance, not the score.
- Encourage your child and other team members.
- Respect the selection decisions of the Club and the coach.