



Waverley Wildcats Basketball Club Guidelines for team selection

This document outlines the principles that the club follows when determining team selection. Team selection at Wildcats is not black and white. It is a complex activity that needs to balance elements such as:

- the requests of parents
- the recommendations and requirements of coaches (e.g. training times)
- the skill levels of individual players and the skill balance across the team
- player friendship groups.

Given this complexity, the purpose of this document is to communicate to parents, coaches, team managers and players what guides the decisions of the committee.

Process

The Waverley Wildcats committee are solely responsible for team selection.

The inputs into the selection process are:

- **Feedback from coaches**
Towards the end of each season the team selection committee will seek feedback from coaches.
- **Requests from parents**
Parents should email the club president, [Melissa Eilers](#), with player requests before registration closes.
 - melissajeilers@gmail.com

The committee will attempt to meet such requests wherever reasonably possible within the spirit of the guidelines outlined below.

- **Performance statistics**

The selection committee will consider online player and team performance statistics.

Whilst feedback from coaches and parents forms an integral part of team selection, it is not the job of the coach or the parents to select the team (please see mid-week competition section later in document for an exception to this principle).

Team selection guidelines

Below are the guidelines the team selection committee will follow in determining team selection:

- **Number of players in a team**

The optimal number of players in a team is 7 and the next best is 8. However, to enable recruitment of new players and to manage player movement through the age groups, flexibility is needed.

Team numbers should not exceed 8, and if this occurs or is a possibility, the coach will be consulted.

- **MEBA player age rules**

The competition organisers, MEBA, specify the age group a player plays in based on their birthdate.

- On occasion players of high ability that are top age in their current age group can play above their MEBA age group.
- On occasion players can play below their MEBA age group but this is very rare and requires MEBA consent.
- The age cut off for the Winter season is 31 December.
- The age cut off for the Summer season is 30 June.

- **Skill level**

Many other clubs in the MEBA competition select their teams primarily on the basis of skill level. The players are graded, and the best 7-8 players are selected for the top team and so on. This is not an approach that Wildcats take.

It is recognised that a large imbalance in the skill level across the team can make it difficult for the coaches to manage and can be dispiriting

for the players involved, particularly in the younger age groups. To this end the committee will attempt to have a balance in the teams.

- **Friendship groups**

It is clear that players enjoy playing with their friends and similarly parents who are friends like to see their children playing together. It is an important part of why children and families participate in team sports.

- **Training times**

Coaches are volunteers and are vital for the successful running of the club. Coaches often have limited choices on when they can train and meet their work and family commitments. There will be occasions where the times that suit the coach do not suit the players selected in the team and changes need to be made to the team composition.

Conclusion

Balancing the guidelines is no easy task for the committee. It is never possible to meet all the requirements but the overriding principle is to make decisions that the committee believe are the best for the players and their enjoyment of basketball and for the club as a whole.

Mid-week competition

The sole focus of the committee is to manage the process for the Saturday competition which has junior grades from U8 up to U18. MEBA also run mid-week competitions with the most popular being Friday night. These competitions have limited grades compared to Saturday.

Wildcats does enter mid-week teams without following the guidelines outlined above, thus allowing teams to be put together solely based on friendship groups.

Organising these teams needs to be done by the parents and players in the teams themselves with the committee orchestrating the MEBA registration processes. Coaches and team managers for mid-week teams must be organised by the parents and players.