



# WARRANDYTE NETBALL CLUB

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SELECTION  
POLICY



## Warrandyte Netball Club Selection Policy

Warrandyte Netball Club (WNC) has a Selection Policy to ensure that player selections are fair, consistent, and transparent. Selection is the process of choosing players for teams to compete in the Manningham Netball Saturday competition.

### **Aims and objectives**

The main objectives of WNC are to develop the skills of our players and provide a clear pathway for player development. We aim to promote netball in Warrandyte and surrounds and provide an inclusive, fun, and social club to keep our players engaged and playing netball while also offering a competitive environment for players seeking to challenge themselves.

This policy gives guidelines for the selection of netball teams which provide:

- A similar matching of skill, ability, and ambition within a team.
- Teams that are reasonably competitive in their section.
- An environment for players and teams to develop and improve.
- An opportunity for players to train and play with their friends.

The weighting and emphasis of these will change with different age groups and even potentially within different teams in the same age group (e.g. one team may be made up of players who are focused on playing high-level netball and another made up of players whose main goal is to have fun with their friends).

The policy ensures that for selection purposes every player:

- Is treated fairly and equally, regardless of their previous team or grade.
- Has an opportunity to demonstrate their skill and ability to external assessors.
- Can provide selectors with information about their position preferences, playing ambitions and friendship groups.

### **Selection process**

Team selections are made by a team selection panel including the President, Coaches Manager, and at least one other club member. Selectors will have completed the Netball Victoria “Select for netball success” course. The team selection panel will be announced prior to the selection trial day.

Players are selected based on positions played – generally not for specific positions, but rather offence, defence, or mid-court. This means that sometimes a lower-ranked player may be chosen over a higher-ranked one if they play a different role on court.

There are multiple criteria on which players are selected into teams and these vary with the age group of the player.

### **9 and under (9U)**

9U teams play by competition rules and accrue competition points but do not play a finals series. WNC tries to balance 9U teams, so they are roughly equivalent in experience and skills.

In this age group, players will be given the opportunity to try different positions on the court while learning the basics of netball.

9U players do not need to attend the trials day. Players will be placed in teams based on:

- Selection committee recommendations
- Previous coaches' feedback
- Attendance at training sessions and games
- Friendship and school groups
- Age

### **11 and under (11U)**

11U teams play by competition rules and accrue competition points but do not play a finals series. The Saturday competition has multiple sections and teams are partially based on skills and experience while still considering friendship and school groups.

In this age group, players are encouraged to try different positions by their coaches and will be rotated around the court during games. The emphasis at this age is to develop player skills rather than winning games at all costs.

11U players are invited to the trials day so they can gain experience while knowing that their selection does not rely on their performance on the day. Selectors may take notes on players, but these will be used to target development goals for the players and will not be taken into account for team selections.

11U players will be placed in teams based on (in no particular order):

- Previous coaches' feedback
- Attendance at training sessions and games
- Information from the player survey including goals, netball priorities and ambitions
- Friendships and school groups
- Age

### **13 and under (13U)**

13U teams play by competition rules, accrue competition points, and play finals series. The Saturday competition has multiple sections, and the highest section is quite competitive.

By this age, players will be starting to specialise in positions, or at least areas of the court, though some players may play in different areas of the court (e.g. GK and GS). Players will normally play in

their preferred positions but may be rotated if their coach thinks this is needed for team balance or believes that a player may thrive in a different position.

13U players are expected to attend the trials day so their skills can be assessed by external observers.

13U players will be placed in teams based on (in no particular order):

- Evaluation by external observers on trials day
- Previous coaches' feedback
- Information from the player survey including goals, netball priorities and ambitions
- Attendance at training sessions and games
- Friendships and school groups
- Age

### **15 and under (15U)**

15U teams play by competition rules, accrue competition points, and play finals series. The Saturday competition has multiple sections, and the highest section is very competitive with most teams fielding multiple representative players.

By this age, most players will have preferred positions and will play in these most of the time.

15U players are expected to attend the trials day so their skills can be assessed by external observers.

15U players will be placed in teams based on (in no particular order):

- Evaluation by external observers on trials day
- Previous coaches' feedback
- Information from the player survey including goals, netball priorities and ambitions
- Attendance at training sessions and games
- Friendship groups

### **17 and under (17U)**

17U teams play by competition rules, accrue competition points, and play finals series. The Saturday competition has multiple sections, and the highest section is very competitive with some clubs fielding teams largely or entirely made up of representative players.

17U players are expected to attend the trials day so their skills can be assessed by external observers.

17U players will be placed in teams based on (in no particular order):

- Evaluation by external observers on trials day

- Previous coaches' feedback
- Information from the player survey including goals, netball priorities and ambitions
- Attendance at training sessions and games
- Friendship groups

### **Players playing out of their age group**

WNC policy is that generally all players play within teams of their own age group (9U, 11U, 15U, 17U or open). Age is calculated as of 31st December of the playing season. On rare occasions, there may be exceptions to this rule.

During the selection process, if the selection panel identifies a player of exceptional talent for whom a team of similar ability does not exist within their own age group, then that player may be offered the opportunity to play in a higher age group.

In addition, should the WNC have insufficient player registrations in adjacent age groups to form full teams, players may be asked to play up an age group to form a team of composite age. In such instances, the players asked to play up an age group will be selected on the basis of them being of similar ability to the other players in the team in which they will be placed.

A player may request to be graded in an older age group to play with players in the same year level at school. Such a request may be denied if the selectors and/or WNC believe the player may be at risk of being injured by larger players, the WNC has insufficient player registrations in that player's correct age group to form a full team without that player, or there are too many players in the older age group.

### **Players joining during a season**

When players join during a season, they may be new to the club or may already be familiar having played with a different club in the same association or on a representative club with WNC players.

Selectors will use their best judgement to find an appropriate team based on the player's skill level and experience as well as the team's current size and balance of players' positions. This may involve moving an existing player up (with their agreement) to make room for the new player or placing the player directly into a team. They will also try to take in to account friendship requests, but these will be more difficult to satisfy when adding a player mid-season than they are when first selecting teams.

New players will be given a chance to join a team and play the remaining games of the season (including finals if they qualify) wherever possible, but if teams are already full then this may not be possible. In this case they will be offered the opportunity (and encouraged) to train with the club for the rest of the season in anticipation of being placed in a team for the next season.



## **Selection trial day**

WNC runs a selection trial day after the spring season has finished. Information about the trial day, including how to register, is sent out to existing members via email and TeamApp. For new members, registration information is made available via social media and on the club's website.

Players register to try out for 2 preferred positions and can nominate friendship preferences and playing ambitions at the same time. Any further requests can be sent to [registrar@warrandytenetball.org](mailto:registrar@warrandytenetball.org) with the subject title 'Team selections'. These will be considered by the selection committee at the time of selecting teams.

It is imperative that all players from 13U through to 17U do their utmost to attend the trial day as this is an essential part of the selection process. We encourage 11U players to attend for experience as well. If a player is going to be absent but wishes to play in the following season, they are asked to notify WNC by email to [registrar@warrandytenetball.org](mailto:registrar@warrandytenetball.org) prior to trial day.

External assessors will be appointed to grade players at the selection trials.

Selections may include several activities including a warm-up, various netball training drills and will always include a session of actual on-court play.

Players presenting for selection will be formed into teams for the purposes of the on-court game. Each grading team will be watched by at least two selectors.

Players trial in two positions that they have nominated, however this does not mean that they will necessarily play in these positions when selected in a team.

Players may also be asked to trial in other positions, either to make up a team, or because the selectors would like to see how they perform in those positions. Where players are asked to fill other positions during grading, they will still have an opportunity to play in each of their nominated positions during the selection process. It may not be necessary for all players to play an identical number of quarters during the game session.

The outcome of the selection day is that each player will be graded as being of either 1, 2, or 3 standard. Players will also be identified as capable of playing in defence, offence, or mid-court.

## **Selection Criteria**

In assessing the overall ranking of a player within an age group, the selectors and assessors will consider:

- Movement
- Speed and agility
- Fitness
- Ball handling skills
- Offense
- Defence

- Shooting (if applicable)
- Decision making
- Sportsmanship and attitude
- Coachability
- Training attendance

## **Coaches feedback**

Coaches provide feedback on players to help the selectors in their team selection. This feedback includes the coach's assessment of a player's skill, attitude, training attendance, and whether they should play at the same, lower, or higher level next season.

## **Player survey**

In conjunction with information about selection trials, WNC will send a survey to players asking for about friendship and development requests, team selection priorities, and any other netball activities that a player is taking part in.

This information will help inform the selectors when choosing teams.

## **Team announcements**

Once the selection process has concluded the teams will be announced via email prior to the start of the season.

We understand that the selection process may be challenging for some players, particularly if they are disappointed with their team selection, and we encourage them to reach out to our Child Safety Officer for support if needed. They can be contacted at [childsafety@warrandytenetball.org](mailto:childsafety@warrandytenetball.org).

While we are unable to give specific feedback on why players were chosen or not chosen for a team, players are encouraged to discuss their goals and ambitions with their coach who will work with them to develop a plan to support those goals.

Any concerns about team selection should first be discussed with the team selection panel which can be emailed at [selections@warrandytenetball.org](mailto:selections@warrandytenetball.org).

If the concern is unable to be resolved, then a formal written complaint may be made to the committee via the club Secretary at [secretary@warrandytenetball.org](mailto:secretary@warrandytenetball.org).