



# SANDY SAINTS BASKETBALL CLUB TEAM REGISTRATION POLICY



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# Philosophy

The Club's philosophy is to encourage participation in basketball and provide an **inclusive, fun** and **positive** experience to allow children to **thrive** and develop a **lifelong love of basketball**.

The team registration process is conducted in accordance with the following principles:

- to place players in a team appropriate to their age group;
- to foster the enjoyment of the game through equal participation;
- to field competitive teams for all age groups;
- to support the development of players wishing to develop their skills and/or participate in the Sabres representative program.

## Codes of Conduct

As a member of the Southern Basketball Association, the Club is bound by Basketball Victoria's Codes of Conduct for administrators, parents, players and spectators.

The Club expects that all members will be familiar with the Code and abide by it at all times.

The Code of Conduct can be found at:

<http://sabres.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/BV-Codes-of-Conduct.pdf>

## Purpose of this policy

This policy explains the Club's process for the registration of domestic teams for all age groups and to provide information to parents, coaches, team managers and players.

## How is a team created?

The Club creates a team in a number of different ways. These include:

- creation of a team by a collective group of parents with a volunteer parent as the coach;
- requests from an existing team to re-register the team with the same players;
- requests from an existing team for new players (i.e. because of players leaving or age group movement);
- individual requests from a parent to register a child;
- group requests to register a friendship group to a new team;

- group requests to register a friendship group to an existing team;
- transfers from other domestic club for a player with specific requests (i.e grade/age group).
- requests from representative players needing an A or B grade team in accordance with the SBA By-Laws.

Because of the different requests the Club receives for the registration of teams, the Junior (U8-12) and the Youth (U14-23) Club Registrars take a number of different factors into account during each and every registration period. Where possible requests will be accommodated, but cannot be guaranteed. Please see below the factors that will be taken into account.

The Club will accept any player wanting to play basketball and this may mean that changes to existing teams do occur from season to season and teams will change due to new entrants, players leaving or players moving up an age group.

## Factors taken into account

There are many factors that come into play when registering a team such as year of birth, friendships, skill level, availability of coaches, training times and venues.

The Club makes every effort to balance these factors and decisions are ultimately made in the best interests of the players. The main principles that are applied when allocating a player to a team are set out below:

- **Age:** The SBA by-laws prescribe age group restrictions. Players must play in their own age group, which is determined by their year of birth. We understand that because of this by-law children may not be able to play with their friends in the same school grade, however in the Club's experience children adapt to this and settle into their allocated team.

The SBA By-Laws prescribe that players wanting to 'play-up' must also play in their own age group. Priority will be given to players needing a team in their own age group before younger players are allocated to an older age group team.

- **Friendships:** The Club recognises that playing with friends is an important part of kids playing sport. For teams up to U12 the Club places a greater emphasis on playing with friends as at these levels as it is more about fun, learning new skills and developing a positive attitude towards involvement in team sports. At the time of registration parents can request their child plays with a friendship group by naming some players or sending an email to the Club Registrar.

- **Similar skills:** Players tend to have a better experience and more fun when they play with others who have similar skills. This will ensure that they will be competitive against other teams in the same grade.
- **Number of players:** The Club's policy is that teams should have 7 or 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 in order to place all players or cover absences for the season, however this must first be approved by the Committee.

During the registration period, if a team has 7 or less players the Club may place a new player needing a team. The Club Registrars will identify the most suitable team as having a position available and then consult with the Team Manager. The Club will not allocate a new player if the team already has 8 players except in exceptional circumstances and approved by the Committee.

# The role of coaches, team managers and parents during team registrations and the season

Coaches, team managers and parents are very influential in ensuring that children have a positive attitude towards playing basketball and being prepared for possible changes to teams from season to season. The Club asks for the coaches, team managers and parents to support the objectives of the Club's policy regarding registration and the season.

## Coaches

- Focus on participation, not winning and losing.
- Ensure all team members have a chance to play, rotate through positions and give fair playing time.
- If you coach your own children, treat them like all the other team members.
- Participate and respect the Club's decisions in relation to team selection and support the final outcome.

## Parents

- Focus on your child's effort and performance, not the score.
- Encourage your child and other team members.
- Respect the registration decisions of the Club.

# Grading

The Club provides an option for players based on skill and ability, to join a designated team that has been established to play in each A Grade Domestic competition. The purpose of this option is to enable those players who wish to play at the highest level available in the domestic competition to further enhance their skills and development. This also enhances the standard of SBA A Grade Domestic basketball by suitably placing players with similar ability and skill levels.

Please note that this is an option only for players to consider. The Club does not impose mandatory grading.

These teams are generally not 'friendship based teams', but can be if the skill and ability of all players is at A grade standard.

The Sandy Saints Director of Coaching will assist in the selection and approve the structure of each A grade team that is graded each season.

## Key attributes:

- **Age level** - U14 and above (Boys and Girls). Note: As an initial trial only, U12 players (in their final season only) can submit a request to establish an U12 A grade team that is subject to the Club's grading policy, but must be assessed and approved by the Director of Coaching.
- **Teams** - Each season, the Club will create placeholder teams (new teams) in each A grade Boys and Girls domestic competition (U14 and above), if an A grade team does not already exist or there is a need to field more than one A grade team in a particular age level.
- **Ability** - Players can be representative players or non-representative players. Each player must have the ability to play at the A Grade standard or is in the process of developing their ability to play at the A Grade standard. Please note that as per SBA's policy the Club is restricted to how many representative players can be allocated to one team.
- **Expression of Interest** - Players are required to submit their expression of interest to play in A grade to the Youth Team Registrar ([youth@sandysaints.com.au](mailto:youth@sandysaints.com.au)) during the registration period for an upcoming season via email stating their full name, age, height, preferred playing position, current Team name and grade.
- **Team Structure** - The Youth Team Registrar will co-ordinate Team structures based on the advice of the Director of Coaching and the Team Coach.
- **No. of Players per Team** - Teams will have 7-8 players as per Club's Team Registration policy.

- **Coaches** - Director of Coaching will assist in selecting each Team Coach or approve the suggested Team Coach.
- **Try outs** - Team try outs may be held if player demand exceeds the number of team spots available. All efforts will be made to place suitably skilled players into a Team.
- **Players joining from outside the Club or the Association** – Players from outside the Club or the Association may submit an expression of Interest to join an A Grade Team. However, players are not permitted to be ‘poached’ from other Clubs. They must apply of their own free will.
- **Preferences** - Any current Sandy Saints player whose skills and development prospects have been assessed to be at A Grade standard will receive preference over a player coming in from an outside the Club or Association.

## Registration process and registration fees

The SBA sets the registration period and cut-off date for players to be registered for the Summer and Winter Seasons. The Club will advise members when the registration period is open.

Players are registered using the SBA administered SportsTG system that is available through the SBA website. Singlets can be purchased through the Sports TG system also.

The Club has an Early Bird discount for players registered within the first week of the registration period. The discount and registration fees will be advertised at the commencement of each season.

The Club provides a subsidy for families with a Health Care Card. Please send a copy of the card to the relevant Club Registrar and a separate registration link will be emailed to the parent.

Once the registration period has closed, the Club’s Junior and Youth Registrars will allocate players to a team, register the team and advise all current and existing players of their allocated team. If players are not registered by the cut-off date, they run the risk of not being allocated to their preferred team.

Existing teams will be notified of the player placement via the Team Manager. New players to the Club will be notified directly and connected to the Team Manager for their child’s new team.

In the event that a Club cannot place a new player in team, the registration fee will be refunded in full.



## Questions/Concerns

Any parent is encouraged to raise any questions or concerns with the Junior or Senior Registrar in the first instance (contact details below). If this does not resolve the issue the parent will be put into contact with the Club's President to discuss the issue further.

## Contacts

For any questions or concerns about the registration process please contact the Club as follows:

Junior Club Registrar:	<a href="mailto:junior@sandysaints.com.au">junior@sandysaints.com.au</a>
Senior Club Registrar:	<a href="mailto:senior@sandysaints.com.au">senior@sandysaints.com.au</a>
Club President:	<a href="mailto:president@sandysaints.com.au">president@sandysaints.com.au</a>