



Wanneroo Basketball Association Inc.

ABN 86 371 367 364

AIN A08200142

WABL Player Selection Policy

Updated: September 2023

WABL Player Selection Policy

OVERVIEW

The player selection policy is provided as the guiding document for the process of player selection for WBA representative teams. The WBA will strictly adhere to this policy to select all WABL and State Championship players.

1. Players:

- 1.1. Championship teams will be selected regardless of age.
- 1.2. Team 2 will be selected regardless of age.
- 1.3. Teams 1-4 in State Champs selections will abide by the “Rule of 15.” This means that the total number of bottom-agers in teams 1-4 must add up to at least 15 for State Champs.
- 1.4. In addition to the Rule of 15, Teams 1-5 (the age group as a whole) will follow The Rule of 21, meaning that the total number of bottom-agers in Teams 1-5 must add up to at least 21 for State Champs.
 - 1.4.1. There are no mandates stating that any specific team must have all bottom age players, just that the age group must have at least 21.

Note:

- Coaches will rank every player into tiers and then vote on placement.
- Coaches may group players into smaller groups during tryouts for assessment.
- If there are two players who cannot be split on ability, then priority goes to the bottom age player if applicable.
- Coaches’ children will be allocated to a team based on ability then the coach is assigned to that team, not the other way around.
- In extreme, exceptional circumstances a gifted and talented player may be given an exemption to play up an age group. This is only at the discretion of the selection panel and cannot be requested by players, parents, or others.

2. Exemptions & Policies:

- 2.1. Age group exemptions (playing down, playing up, ect)
 - 2.1.1. “Playing Down” is a term to describe a player that fits into an age group by birth year and requests to play down in an age group that they are not eligible for. This would be a player that is by age year in the Under 14s group but would like to play Under 12s. Competition rules do not allow for players to “Play Down.” **WABL rules do not allow a player to play down for any reason.**

- 2.1.2. “Playing Up” is a term to describe a player that fits into any age group by birth year and requests to play up in an age group that is older. When double bottom agers request to play Under 12s, the Player & Coach Development Manager (PCDM) will consider such requests on a case-by-case basis to help fill in team numbers, or in special circumstances related to player ability level.
- 2.1.3. Once players are of age to play as a normal aged Under 12, or higher, the PCDM will still consider such placements, but requirements demonstrated must be extraordinary and demonstrate an unnatural fit in their base age group, including but not limited to, appointment into a National Team, selection for an NBL1 Men’s or Women’s team, and demonstration of skill that is well beyond the age group that the child is eligible for.
- 2.1.4. Ultimately, this is an avenue that the WBA does not endorse and is only reserved for a player that is deemed exceptional. The permittance of one player in the WBA to play up does not constitute grounds for several players to seek “playing up” status.
- 2.1.5. It is strictly based on the above criteria and considered on a case-by-case basis. This is not something that is done on request from parents or players. Only the PCDM can adjudge worthy situations and will come to the parents and players with the option.

2.2. This Policy extends from Trials to State Championship Selections to WABL Team Selections.

3. Absences at Trials:

- 3.1. Absences at trails will potentially impact team placement.
- 3.2. Players that are absent for Day 1 **AND** Day 2 of trials with no exemption, will not be included on the invitation list for days 3 and 4 of trials after mid-trials cuts.
- 3.3. A player that is absent for one or more days across the entire trials period without an exemption is not automatically eliminated, but it may hurt that player’s chances of placement. The selection panel will make decisions based on the information they have, but in the lack of sufficient information, the player’s chances will be lower to make a team.
- 3.4. All other absences will be considered through the lens of the exemptions below, listed in section 4. Exempted absences are considered differently than non-exempt absences.

4. Exemptions:

- 4.1. Other Sporting Events:
 - 4.1.1. Players that would like to seek an exemption so that they can trial at multiple basketball clubs will not be successful. **This would be a non-exempt absence.**

4.2. Scheduling Conflict:

- 4.2.1. Exemptions are allowed for things such as: overseas or interstate family travel, concurrence with State Basketball Trials and Trainings.
- 4.2.2. Exemptions **will not be granted** for things such as conflict for a family birthday, friend's birthday, etc.

4.3. Injury, Illness, Exemption.

4.3.1. Granted for 1 day of trials.

- 4.3.1.1. The Selection Panel will do their best to appropriately place the player based on performance on days attended. For an injury exemption to be granted, the WBA needs to see a medical certificate.

4.3.2. Granted for 1-3 days of trials.

- 4.3.2.1. The Selection Panel will do their best to appropriately place the player based on performance on days attended. In many cases a player that is injured, ill, or exempt for more than 1 day of trial and is selected for State Champs may be placed in a lower team than past years and will be required to work their way up throughout the State Champs trainings and games. State Champs is part of the trials process, so it can be used to assess players that were exempt for the trials process.

4.3.3. Injury/illness for the entirety of trials.

- 4.3.3.1. The Selection Panel will do their best to appropriately place the player based on the information available. In many cases a player that is injured, ill, or exempt for the entirety of trials and is selected for State Champs may be placed in a lower team than past years and will be required to work their way up throughout the State Champs trainings and games. State Champs is part of the trials process, so it can be used to assess players that were exempt for the trials process.

4.3.4. Injury/illness that extends through State Championships.

- 4.3.4.1. The Selection Panel will do their best to appropriately place the player based on the information available. In many cases a player that is injured, ill, or exempt for the entirety of trials and the entirety of State Champs and is selected into a WABL team may be placed into a lower team then desired with the ability to move teams based on performance at trainings and games.

4.3.5. Injury/illness that extends partially into the WABL Season.

4.3.5.1. The Selection Panel will do their best to appropriately place the player based on the information available. In many cases a player that is injured, ill, or exempt for the entirety of trials and the entirety of State Champs, and some of the WABL season and is selected into a WABL team may be placed into a lower team than desired with the ability to move teams based on performance at trainings and games.

4.3.6. To apply for a player absence exemption, players/parents must fill out the exemption form available on the WBA website, under the WABL tab.

4.3.6.1. The WBA will approve or deny all exemptions shortly after receipt of application.

4.3.6.2. The WBA at its discretion, may request supporting evidence for the exemption, such as medical certificates or proof of travel.

5. Uniforms:

5.1. Players are NOT permitted to wear representative attire of ANY association, or state attire, to tryouts. This is to ensure a fair and open tryout process, with all athletes (representative or domestic) given the same opportunity without there being any perceived bias towards existing WABL players. It also helps new players to WABL feel welcomed and fairly treated.

5.1.1. Players who wear representative or state attire to a tryout session will be given a verbal reminder and a written note to take home by WBA staff in the first instance and have their name recorded. In the second instance, athletes will not be allowed to train.

NOTE: If players don't have a non-representative reversible, they will be required to bring a dark and light shirt to train in.

5.2. Players that do not adhere to this policy for a first offense will be given a verbal warning and documented by The Selection Panel. This player will be allowed to continue trialling on the day.

5.3. Players that do not adhere to this policy for a second offense, will not be allowed to trial on the day. This will potentially impact team selections for State Championships and WABL as well.

6. Mid-Trials Cuts:

6.1. Players that are invited back to days 3 and 4 of trials will be announced by close of business Friday following session 2 of trials. This will get posted on the WBA website.

7. Finalising Team Selections:

- 7.1. Following day four (4) of trials, the selection panel will deliberate and determine the list of players that will make up the full age group squad for State Champs.
- 7.2. Each of the Head Coaches in the Selection Panel will then be asked to individually cast their votes for teams, anonymous to other coaches in the age group.
 - 7.2.1. Selector coaches will send an email with proposed team lists to the PCDM at wabl@wolves.asn.au within forty-eight (48) hours of the end of trials.
 - 7.2.1.1. The WBA Selection Panel (PCDM, Coaching Coordinator, and WBA management) will cast their votes internally.
- 7.3. The WBA Selection Staff will collate all votes and determine the teams that best represent all selectors' opinions.
 - 7.3.1. WBA policy is to enforce this anonymity so that selectors are willing to have their own individual opinions about all players.
 - 7.3.2. The WBA Selection Panel will take into account all selectors' votes and do everything possible to form teams that are most representative of the whole group's input, however, the WBA Selection Panel does reserve the right to overrule any decision deemed to not be in the best interest of the WABL program.

8. Final Say in Split Decisions:

- 8.1. In the event the Selection Panel is in disagreement over a player, WBA Selection Staff (the PCDM, Coaching Coordinator and WBA management) vote in accordance with what is in the best interest of the WABL program.
- 8.2. If the WBA Selection Staff do not have a unanimous decision, the PCDM is the deciding vote.
- 8.3. In all instances, the CEO reserves the right to overrule any decision deemed to not be in the best interest of the association.
- 8.4. The CEO has discretion to overrule the PCDM or the full Selection Panel.

9. Considerations in Team Selection:

- 9.1. The Selection Panel is committed to selecting the forty-six (46) best players from each age group to the State Champs squads in the following manner;
 - 9.1.1. The top ten (10) players are selected to the Champs team;
 - 9.1.2. Nine (9) players are selected for all additional State Champ teams.

- 9.2. Teams 1-4 will follow the Rule of 15, and will consist of at least 15 bottom age players overall.
- 9.3. Teams 1-5 (the age group as a whole) will follow the Rule of 21, and will consist of at least 21 bottom age players overall.
- 9.4. When selecting teams, player position and size will be considered. WBA Selectors will guide the Selection Panel to balance out their team list “votes” based on different skill sets, positions, and sizes.
- 9.5. When collating these team votes, the WBA Selection Staff will have the final decision for any player movement based on the need to balance teams in order to maximize the program’s success.

10. State Champs Team Announcements:

- 10.1. The WBA will post team lists by close of business the Friday following day 4 of trials. Players/parents have one week to pay state champs registration fee to confirm a position on the team.

11. Player Movement:

- 11.1. There will be no player movement within the duration of State Champs.
 - 11.1.1. Teams set by the selection panel following trials will remain set throughout State Champs.
 - 11.1.2. Exceptions would be considered if illness, injury, or other unavailability requires the movement of players into a different team.
- 11.2. Following State Champs will be a window of player movement to finalise WABL selections.
- 11.3. The WBA Selection Panel will propose the team lists for the four WABL teams.
- 11.4. The final team selections for the 4 WABL teams in each age group will follow the Rule of 16, and will consist of at least 16 bottom-age players overall.
- 11.5. Prior to finalizing teams, the WBA Selection Panel will discuss potential changes with coaches.
 - 11.5.1. Discussions will start with the Champs coach, moves involving the Champs team will be finalised first.
 - 11.5.2. Then discussions will begin with the coach of team 2, and subsequently each team after that.
 - 11.5.3. The WBA Selection Panel will consider coach input to team rearrangements. However, any player movement will be at the discretion of the WBA.

12. Final State Champs Team Selection

- 12.1. Following the completion of State Champs and any above player movement final team selections will be made for WABL.
- 12.2. Teams will be made up of forty (40) players in total
 - 12.2.1. Down from forty-six (46) from State Champs
 - 12.2.2. 10 players per team
 - 12.2.2.1. Champs
 - 12.2.2.2. Second Team
 - 12.2.2.3. Third Team
 - 12.2.2.4. Fourth Team
- 12.3. Final teams for WABL will be announced on the WBA website.

13. Feedback:

- 13.1. If requested, the Selection Panel can provide feedback on players who made it through mid-trials cuts, but then did not make a state champs team.
 - 13.1.1. The Selection Panel does not provide feedback on players that get cut during mid-trial selections.
 - 13.1.2. Feedback will NOT be a discussion back and forth. The player/parent will receive one email of feedback notes.
 - 13.1.2.1. Although there maybe disagreement with the feedback, the Selection Panel provides information about what the player can work on, based on what was observed during the trials.
 - 13.1.3. The player/parent will have two weeks following state champs team announcements to request feedback.
 - 13.1.3.1. The Selection Panel will endeavour to provide feedback within two weeks of the request, but due to the volume of enquiries, may not be able to meet the exact timeline for every player.