



Heathmont United Netball Club Team Selection Policy

Purpose: Heathmont United Netball Club (HUNC) is committed to a team selection process that seeks to deliver fairness and opportunity to all players. HUNC is committed to fielding teams that are balanced and competitive, with players of similar ability that will allow each player to feel valued and be a respected contributor to the team's success. HUNC aims to create balanced and competitive teams while supporting player skill development, wellbeing and providing an inclusive and enjoyable netball experience for all players.

Guidelines: The team selection process is undertaken by the HUNC Team Selection sub-Committee (TSC) in conjunction with experienced independent selectors to ensure a fair and independent team selection process is followed.

The HUNC Executive Committee will appoint/agree to the members of the Team Selection sub-Committee. Ideally 4 members sit on the TSC, but an odd-numbered panel can be used when necessary.

The TSC in conjunction with the experienced independent selectors will draw on four forms of data to create teams:

1. Coaches Feedback
2. Independent Game Day Observations & Assessments
3. Team Selection Day
4. Player nomination for skill or friends

Teams will be formed by the Team Selection sub-Committee (TSC).

Whenever a decision on a player or team cannot be reached, the matter will be referred to the HUNC Executive committee to cast the deciding vote or make the final decision.

The HUNC Executive committee empowers the TSC to make selection decisions, with the intention of adopting the teams that are formed.

Ultimately the final approval and responsibility for teams rests with the HUNC Executive committee.

Team selection is undertaken to form teams in the 11U, 13U, 15U and 17U age groups. (TSC will also make teams for 9U, using Coaches feedback and player nomination for skill or friends).

Coaches Feedback: At the conclusion of each season HUNC coaches will provide comprehensive feedback for all players which includes assessment and written comments on all skill areas. This feedback is a vital tool used by the team selection sub-committee to help form teams.

Independent Game Day Observations and Assessments: The TSC will watch and assess games from time to time, to assist with building their knowledge of players and skill levels. At times the TSC may also attend training sessions. The TSC may also engage the services of experienced independent selectors to conduct observations and assessments on game day to assist with the team selection process.

Team Selection Day: A team selection day will be held annually between October and December. Players will be assessed on the day in their age groups through a series of short games. Assessment will be conducted by experienced independent selectors and/or by members of the TSC. The team selection day forms a key aspect of the overall team selection process and as such, the club's expectation is that all players attend. In the event a player cannot attend the team selection day, coaches feedback and independent game day observations and assessments will be used. New players who miss Team Selection Day may be required to complete an alternative assessment process.

Age Groups: Teams will be formed within age groups as determined by the playing association, Melbourne East Netball Association (MENA). MENA bylaw 5.1.3 states that age shall be determined as at the 31st December of the playing year. i.e. players turning 11 during the playing year will play in 11U. Players who turn 8 during the playing year, may play in 11U early for that year if they meet the requirements set out in the "NetSetGo Policy". This is consistent with MENA bylaw 5.1.5 which states that to be eligible to play for the 11 and under section, players must be 8 years of age before 31st December of the year they are playing.

Friendship or Skill Preference: Players will be given the option to choose whether they would prefer to play with their friends (and list up to 3 friends) or if they would prefer to play at their assessed skill level. Please note that any friendship requests must be reciprocal, and players might only be placed with 1 of their listed friends). As a club we understand that we have lots of different players who all play for different reasons, with some people playing purely for social reasons and to play with their friends while others want to play more competitively and challenge themselves to play in the higher teams and sections. We hope this helps us to better understand our players and why they play, to try and keep as many people as possible playing netball.

Other Guidelines:

Ideally each team will consist of between 8-9 players, except for exceptional circumstances.

The TSC may continue to review teams throughout the year, and this may result in team changes between seasons. Some team changes may occur based on coaches' feedback, team dynamics, positional needs of teams and independent game day observations throughout the season by the TSC. Player registrations may also dictate mid-year changes. The TSC will make a decision on any required changes for approval by the HUNC Executive committee.

In circumstances during the Autumn season where the coach forms the view that a player may benefit from moving to a lower team for the following (Spring) season, it is recommended that the coach communicate this to the parents of the player at/after the mid-season break.

Players can seek approval from the HUNC Executive committee to "play up" an age group, and once approval has been granted can continue playing in that higher age group going forward.

As a guiding principle for team selections, there may be an emphasis on minimising changes to existing teams, especially where teams want this and where Coaches feedback indicates this would be beneficial for both the players and the club.

In circumstances where a decision is required outside of this policy a majority vote of the HUNC committee will carry the decision.

The Team Selection Policy will be regularly reviewed to ensure it meets the needs of the players, teams and club as a whole.

Any queries or correspondence regarding Team Selection should be addressed in writing to the HUNC Executive committee at heathmontnetball@gmail.com within 7 days of team selections being released. Please note that refunds will not be issued for change of mind, dislike of team selection, dislike of the coach or training/game times.