

Spirit Magic Team Selection Policy

Club Philosophy

Spirit Magic Basketball Club was formed so that children can have an opportunity for play and recreation, which will be directed towards the development of their abilities and their community spirit and attitude towards others.

We're committed to provide an environment where all players can enjoy the game of basketball through their childhood years.

Purpose

This document is an outline of the club's approach to team selection for the information of our players and their families.

Our aim at Spirit Magic is to ensure players enjoy basketball and reach their full potential. We achieve this by selecting:

- Under 8 and 10 age groups with more of an emphasis on friendship groups.
- All other age groups (other than our 1 and 2 teams) would be selected taking into account both individual skill levels, special requests and friendship groups.
- Our strongest 1 and 2 teams from under 12's and up (top teams), will be selected on individual skill, team balance and feedback from previous coaches.

Process

1. Coaches input - coaches evaluation
2. Registration – will include special requests such as playing outside current age group
3. Team selection – team selections by age coordinators and selection committee
4. Criteria
5. Mates teams
6. Other information
7. Policy authorisation

1. Coaches Input

During each season, coaches may be requested to make an assessment of the ability, development and attitude of each player within their team. This information is passed to the Age Group Coordinators for reference for the next season's selections.

2. Registration

Prior to the commencement of each new season, the club will advertise for children to register to play.

Registration can be completed by lodging a registration form along with the registration fees as set out on the document. A "Registration Day" will usually be held in order to further assist the registration process. This day will be considered the deadline for registrations. Please note: electronic registration will be implemented in the coming season (date to be confirmed).

To be considered for the top teams this will need to be noted during the registration process. Friendship groups and other non-specified requests are not considered in the top teams. As these places are not guaranteed we ask that any other requests are still noted.

Friendship requests must be submitted to the club upon registration each season within the registration process.

Any other non-specified requests noted on the registration (eg to play with friends, specific coach, requesting to play up an age group) where possible the club will try its best to accommodate.

Verbal requests will not be considered. This includes any specified or non-specified requests including but not limited to friendship groups.

The following consideration may apply to friendship requests: Should the player(s) be of unequal ability, the stronger player(s) must be prepared to play in a lower ranked/graded team. The club needs to be satisfied that the presence of the stronger player(s) will not have a detrimental impact on the team or grading of the team.

Note: Requests are not guaranteed

Playing Outside Normal Age Group

Age group requests - In accordance with the GEBA Junior Domestic Rules; The criteria for eligibility within each age group are:

- Summer season - A player must be under the age stated in the relative age group by the 30th June.
- Winter season - A player must be under the age stated in the relative age group by the 31st of December.

In other words, a player's date of birth must be before the 30th of June or the 31st of December for the summer and winter seasons respectively.

Requests will only be granted if

- The Age Group Coordinator agrees the player is capable of playing at that level,
- The coach of the team in which they would be placed accepts the request, and
- Placement in that team does not create an imbalance in reaching the required number of players per team in both age groups

Following registration day, the registration secretary will enter all registered players into the club's database and produce a list of players, sorted by age, and provide to the Age Group Coordinators.

Registrations received after registration day shall be considered as late registrations. These registrations will only be accepted if a place is available.

3. Team Selection

The Age Group Coordinator for each age group in conjunction with the selection committee will review the registration lists and place players into teams. They may, at their discretion, ask other coaches for their input into the team selections.

In general, the aim is to select teams of either 7 or 8 players. This gives the accepted balance between having enough players to cover injuries/absences while not unduly compromising court time with too many players.

Teams of 9 or more players will be considered in age groups where there are 20 or less players registered or with the consent of the team's coach. Teams in older age groups will tend to have more players per team due to increasing "absenteeism" at this level.

Once teams are selected, the age group coordinator will appoint a coach to each team and inform the coach of the playing list. The coach may request changes to the team and the age group coordinator may make such changes at their discretion.

There is no "right of appeal" over team selections, but any concerns over selection outcomes should be raised by a player or their parent to the age level coordinator. All participants should be aware that there is extremely limited opportunity to change teams around once released and posted on the Spirit Magic website. Ultimately, the age level coordinators and selection committee are responsible for finalising team selections.

The club will use its best endeavors to place all players in an appropriate team. If this is not possible, the Registration Secretary will inform the prospective player and refund, in full, any fees paid in advance.

4. Criteria

The top teams will be selected and put forward as our best talented teams.

Teams are selected with a balance of the following criteria. The emphasis may change over age groups.

At under 8 and 10 level, more emphasis is placed on friendship groups in order to build a love of the game while basic skill development takes place. For this reason, attempts will be made to keep these teams together from season to season until players begin to make the transition to under 12. The under 10 age group may start to field teams based on skill level whilst trying to maintain friendship groups.

From under 12 and up our strongest 1 and 2 teams (depending on total registrations that season), will take into account the following:

Individual skill levels - offence, defense, ball handling and use.

Attitude - game, training, team orientation and effort.

Commitment - attendance at both games and training.

Player balance and overall team structure.

Friendship groups and other non-specified requests may not factor in at all with the top team selections. However, children playing at a higher level generally gravitate towards one

another and also can make new friends in this environment. These teams will represent in the higher grades.

Note: the club does not control the grading of the teams. The club proposes a grade for each team entered but the ultimate decision is made by the GEBC Grading Secretary.

5. Mates teams

Teams can be formed if there is a group of 7 or more, of similar age group, that wish to play together. This would need to be advised in writing to both the age coordinator as well as the Registration Secretary (listed in the 'Contact Us' section on the Spirit Magic website. These teams would preferably come with a coach as coaching placements would be prioritised to Spirit Magic selected teams prior to filling a 'Mates Team'. These teams may range in ability and as such could play in higher grades irrespective of the top teams.

6. Other information

Representative Teams

Participation in VJBL or other higher-level competitions is not in itself a criteria for team selection. However, these players will tend to play in higher grades based on improved skill level. Membership of other teams is also found to be a key driver in friendship groups.

Prior Seasons

Teams will be selected based on player registrations for the current upcoming season. Previous season selections are not connected. Players choosing not to play in subsequent seasons will not be disadvantaged for future seasons but are subject to the same selection criteria as stated above.

Queries

All questions related to team selection should be initially directed to the relevant Age Group Coordinator.

If the response from the Age Group Coordinator is unsatisfactory, the President will review the situation upon request.

7. Policy authorisation

This policy was officially approved by the Committee on 16th June 2019.