

STNC POLICY

St Thomas Netball Club Team Selection and Grading policy



St Thomas Netball Club- Work Hard, Play Fair, Have Fun

Policy Title: Approval Date: St Thomas Netball Club	St Thomas Netball Club participation and court time policy STNC is a not for profit, member-based organisation. The committee is run by volunteers to ensure the ongoing support of the sport of netball in the Whitehorse community. Our Values are Inclusivity, Teamwork, Respect & Development.
Commitment	Netball's Victoria's Commitment Statement to Safeguarding Children and Young People and other important information can be found at https://vic.netball.com.au/child-safety-netball At STNC we embrace diversity in gender, age, ethnicity, disability, religion and sexual orientation. We are committed to providing a safe environment for children across netball. STNC Commitment to Safeguarding Children & Young People Every person in the netball community has a responsibility to understand their role in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people in our care. STNC is committed to promoting and protecting the rights of children and preventing abuse from occurring by fostering a culture where children feel safe and empowered. We also seek to ensure the cultural safety of First Nations children, children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and children with a disability.

Primary Purpose of Policy
• Transparent measures for team selection • Information for committee and club member regarding the WNA grading procedure • Ensure transparency regarding team selection based in a <u>skill based</u> competition • Ensures that all players understand the criteria and procedures used during team selection and grading.

Key Principles
<u>Whitehorse Netball Association- Skill Based Competition</u> STNC is part of the WNA Association which is a skill based, NOT an age based competition. • Instead of grouping <i>only</i> by age (for example “Under 12”, “Under 14”, etc.), teams/players are placed into teams and sections based on their skill level, experience, and age together. • This allows players of different ages but similar playing ability to compete together, increasing fairness and competitiveness.

- It also means teams within a section are more evenly matched, so seasons are neither dominated (by very strong teams) nor demoralising (for very weak teams).
- It supports development: players can play in a section that matches their current level and be challenged appropriately, rather than being held back by age-only placement.
- STNC Team Selection Committee follows a rigorous team selection process outlined within this policy.
- Grading (to determine allocation of teams into sections) is undertaken by the WNA Grading Committee.
- The Club is committed to providing all players with the opportunity to develop their skills and enjoy playing netball.

The process will be open, fair, and focused on the best interests of the individual player, the team and the club.

Selection Criteria:

When selecting teams, the following factors will be considered:

1. **Skill Level** – Players will be assessed on their technical ability, game sense, and overall performance.
2. **Age**- the age of the player will play a role in team selection. The Team Selection Committee will endeavour to ensure that players are placed with team mates of a similar age where possible.
3. **Experience**- Players' level of familiarity with the game of netball will be considered.
4. **Attitude and Commitment** – Players are expected to demonstrate a positive attitude, teamwork, commitment to training and games, and respect for coaches, teammates, officials, and opponents.
5. **Playing Positions** – Team balance will be considered to ensure all positions on court are covered. Players may not always be placed in their preferred position if team needs require otherwise.

Selection Process

1. Selections will be conducted by the appointed **Team Selection Committee**, in consultation with team coaches and independent assessor feedback.
2. Coaches will submit written player feedback to the Team Selection Committee prior to selection meeting. Assessment of players will not be solely game day assessment but will include feedback regarding training participation.
3. Independent player assessment will be conducted by an external provider prior to team selection meeting.
4. The Team Selection Committee will aim to create teams of eight or nine players. Teams will always commence the season with at least seven but no more than ten players. Older aged teams may have a higher number of players if agreed by coach, team manager and team selection committee.
5. The Team Selection Committee will consist of the following positions
 - Vice President and/or Registrations Coordinator
 - Coaches Coordinator
 - Rotating General Committee Member
 - Rotating General Committee Member

*Any concerns regarding Team Selection will be escalated to The President STNC for final decision.

Parents/players with specific requests that they would like considered prior to team selection may email rego@stthomasnetballclub.org.au. Email must be received prior to the closing of the registration period.

Players will be placed into teams that best reflect their age, experience, skill level and positional fit. Consideration of friendships will be part of the selection process but does not guarantee players will be placed in the same team.

Where a strong request is made for players to be placed in the same team as a friend, team placement will be determined according to the skill level of the weaker player.

In situations where there is disagreement or uncertainty regarding team allocation or a player's movement between teams, the Team Selection Committee reserves the right, at its discretion, to contact the player or the player's parent/guardian to discuss the decision.

Player Movement

- Published teams are final and changes will not be made due to parent requests unless there are extenuating circumstances. These will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- STNC reserves the right to adjust team placements throughout the season if required to ensure fairness, team balance, and competition suitability.
- Any changes will be made in consultation with the player, parents/guardians (where applicable), and the relevant coaches.
- Any new players who wish to join the club after the commencement of the season will be asked to attend a trial training session and play at least one trial match. The Team Selection Committee may then place the player in the most appropriate team based on age, skill level and previous experience. The club may not be able to accommodate all late requests.

Team Lists

- A copy of the individual team list will be provided to the Coach by the committee before the start of the season.
- Players will receive an email with the allocated teams and a link to the team WhatsApp prior to the commencement of the season.
- The Coach will be provided with parent contact details in order to set up training times and assist with team administration.

Whitehorse Netball Association Grading Procedure

- Clubs must supply information for grading:
 - A "Team Summary Sheet" ranking their teams.
 - Grading notes/comments including past experience of individual players and whole team recommendations.
 - Comments for team regrading by 5 pm on the Friday before Round 4 matches.

The Grading Process

1. **Nomination / Registration for New Season:** Teams register, giving details of players, past performance etc. Committee considers:
 - Previous season performance (win/loss ratio, goals for/against).
 - Eligibility of players for particular sections.

- Whether the team has retained its identity (i.e., at least 5 same players).
- Clubs' requests (via forms) for grading.

2. **Preliminary Allocation of Sections:** The Committee allocates existing teams to sections and assigns new teams based on "best fit".
3. **Final Allocation:** A final review based on team composition, skill level, age etc, then the structure is submitted to the Board for approval.
4. **Re-grading:** After Round 4 of the season, re-grading may occur. Fixture changes will be made in week after Round 4, updated before Round 5

The Club reserves the right to:

- Invite independent selectors to assist with selections.
- Not name a player in a team until full fees are paid or a payment arrangement has been agreed with the Treasurer.
- Amend, waive or vary the selection policy without notice.

Commitment

By registering with St Thomas Netball Club, all players and parents/guardians acknowledge and accept this policy, and agree to support the decisions made by the Team Selection Committee.