



Wantirna Jetbacks Basketball Club - Team Selection Policy

(Updated February 2026)

The premise of team selection is to place players of similar skills and ability in a team together which allows them to compete in a suitable grade where the team is competitive and players are engaged. Conducting team selections is an arduous task taken on by volunteers who have given up time throughout the season to monitor and review the development of a large number of children. The information contained below is put forward by Wantirna Jetbacks Basketball (WJB) with a view to making the team selection process as transparent as possible. It is appreciated that the assessment of a team's needs or a player's skills and abilities are subjective in nature and can often be disagreed upon.

Registrations / Late Registrations

To provide sufficient time for the arrangement of teams, registrations for players (regardless of returning or new) are to be completed by the nominated date set communicated by the WJB committee. Late registrations may impact:

- The ability for players to be placed in appropriate grades
- The fulfilling of team and / or special requests
- In unfortunate circumstances, the ability to be placed in a team

WJB welcomes as many player registrations as possible and does not envisage any need to place a pre-registration cap on numbers. However, as outlined above, constraints may apply to late registrations.

Team Selection

The compilation of teams will be the responsibility of the relevant Age Group Coordinator.

Age Group Coordinators should attend games throughout the season to gain first-hand knowledge of players. Coaches are requested to supply internal assessment sheets to assist with team selections.

For non-competitive teams (Under 8), significant consideration will be given to players being placed in teams with friends from school and/or social circles. Where the relevant Age Group Coordinator believes the skill gap between 2 players who are friends is too significant, placing players in skill appropriate teams should occur. While playing with friends at a young age is encouraged, it is to be understood that placing a child in a grade that is too hard / easy for them may be detrimental to their basketball development and potentially their desire to continue in the sport; as it would be to others in those teams.



Within 'competitive' age groups, WJB will promote players of similar skills being placed together in a team. The desired outcome is to drive the individual's performance and allow the team's development to be commensurate with one another. Players will be selected and placed into teams initially upon:

- Ability
- Individual attributes
- Work ethic
- Coachability
- Team / coach requirements

Team Numbers

The number of players in a team needs to be balanced between being small enough to provide adequate court time yet sufficient to minimize the risk of emergency team remodeling or forfeiting games through unforeseen illness, injuries, family holidays or other commitments. Forfeiting of games / withdrawal of teams places a financial impost upon the club. 7 players per team is widely accepted as the most workable number to provide the balance sought however the total number of registrations per age group will determine whether this number is increased or decreased.

Requests

Parents will have the ability to make a request regarding friends or family they would like their child to play with in the same age group. It is to be noted that this is a request, not an obligation for relevant Age Group Coordinators to adhere to. Where one parent makes a request, which is not replicated by the other parent, less weight will be afforded to that request. It will be the Age Group Coordinator's discretion as to what degree one player can move up or down grades for a request to occur. While a request will generally seek a certain outcome for 2 players, Age Group Coordinators will need to consider the related potential impacts upon all teams which may occur as a result. It is to be accepted that where a request is fulfilled, where one player is at a higher standard than the other, this will generally see the higher-grade player selected in the lower grade.

Playing / personality conflicts between players, parents or coaches (or a combination of these) will not necessarily be a driving factor in shaping team selections. There is a finite number of teams and coaches, entertaining all player / parent / coach conflicts may not be possible in keeping with the key ideals of team selection. Players, parents, and coaches would be urged to show (or build) resilience in this instance.

Where current or previous family violence, physical violence, etc. is a factor behind a request for children (or the parents of children) not to be in the same team as another individual, please communicate this privately to the WJB Secretary who will in-turn forward the request to the relevant Age Group Coordinator. Any requests along this nature are to be handled with the upmost privacy and integrity by any WJB official who is advised.



Requests such as having a certain coach, or training on a certain day, can rarely be accommodated. Like the majority of parents, coaches only have certain availabilities each week where they can fit training in around their personal / work commitments. Coaches finding an allocated WJB training time that suits them is a challenge in itself. Finding an available timeslot that suits a whole team is difficult. Ultimately, the coaches' training requirements will be taken as the primary concern. Players / parents are urged to accommodate the nominated training timeslot as best they can.

Team Selection Training Sessions

As nominated earlier, WJB team selection is currently based on a mixture of Age Coordinator observations and player evaluations compiled by the coach. Age group skill assessments can be held on the discretion of the relevant Girls / Boys Coordinator to assist with the team selection process (WJB Committee endorsement required).

Moving Up Age Groups Early

Players will naturally be aligned to an age group by virtue of their date of birth and in accordance with Knox Basketball Incorporated's (KBI's) policy. For various reasons a parent may wish for their child to move up an age group one season early. In this instance, and prior to the closure of registrations, this request is to be forwarded to the WJB Secretary for onforwarding to the relevant Age Group Coordinators to whom these requests impact. In considering the request for a player to play 'up' an age group, the applicable Age Group Coordinator will consider the skill level and physical maturity of the child along with any detrimental impacts placed upon to the applicable age groups as a result. The applicable Age Group Coordinator has the ability to deny such a request. If this decision is challenged, the Lead Coordinator will be charged with responsibility for reviewing the matter, formalising a result, and notifying all parties.

Where a request is submitted for a child to move up age groups 2 seasons early, the request must be submitted to, assessed and endorsed by Lead Coordinator.

Team Selection Grievance

As acknowledged in the introduction, team selections (and the make-up thereof) are subjective, and from time to time a parent / guardian may feel aggrieved and seek a review.

Any grievance regarding team selection should be submitted via email to the WJB Secretary and outline the provisions on which the review is sought. The relevant Age Group Coordinator will conduct a review of the team selection considering the grievance put forward, the selection criteria and utilizing held assessment information.

If the matter is not resolved in the first instance, the Lead Coordinator is to be notified and will review the situation and will formulate a reply (including recommended outcome). No additional correspondence will be entered beyond this point.



Clearance of Restricted Players to WJB

The WJB Registrations Officer will be notified throughout the season of all KBI players who request to 'clear' from another KBI club to WJB. In the event there is more than one restricted player (as defined by KBI) who submits a clearance request to join WJB, the applicable Age Group Coordinator is responsible for selecting the clearance player that best suits club / age group / team needs.

In the best interests of all players on the clearance list, this decision should be made and communicated to the WJB Registrations Officer at the earliest opportunity with sufficient time for any 'restricted' player to re-register with their current club or 'clear' to another club.