

Woodend Hawks Team Design & Selection Criteria

The design of teams is a complex task; our highest priority is to provide maximum development opportunity for all players. Team configuration involves several factors, particularly in the Summer season when top-age players from the Winter season must shift into an older age bracket.

Equally important is the need to secure volunteer coaches and team managers available for training and games at potentially different venues, and for tightly scheduled times on game day.

While we do our best to accommodate individual circumstances (e.g. sibling connections and player travel logistics) to help ensure players can make training and games, please understand that we are usually too constrained to satisfy further preferences. Our aim, above all else, is to help all players become better basketball players, to have an enjoyable season, and to gain valuable life skills.

Our Hawks team selection criteria guidelines are:

1. Where possible, teams will have a minimum of 7 and a maximum of 8 players per team. Teams will only be allocated more than 8 players in exceptional circumstances.
2. Players must be able to commit to not miss more than 3 games per season for planned leave (e.g. family holidays, other sporting commitments, *etc*) – this does not include unplanned events such as injury or illness; nor attendance at BVC Pathway Events (e.g. Skills Days, SDP, Jamboree, Gold Nugget, Country Championships, *etc*). If parents believe their child may need to miss more than 3 games, they are encouraged to raise this with the Hawks Coordinator prior to team selections.
3. Players who cannot commit to the minimum games will only be allocated to teams if there are still at least 6 fully committed players and only after those positions have been offered to existing players or waitlist players who can commit.
4. If players commit and then miss more than 3 games due to planned leave – and the team must forfeit games as a result – then the club reserves the right to pass on walkover fines to the responsible family (as stated in the [Sunbury Basketball Association by laws](#)).
5. Waitlist players will be offered available positions on teams in order of time spent on the waitlist. If two players have been waitlisted for the same time, then preference will also be given to waitlist players who have regularly attended training in the prior season.
6. If existing players miss a season, they will be given priority access to teams in the following season (above waitlist players). Once someone misses two consecutive seasons, they will be considered a new waitlist player, with a starting date of when they re-registered their interest.
7. If full teams with minimum 7 players cannot be created, then teams will be created from players based on length of Woodend Hawks membership. Newer members may unfortunately miss out.

8. Each season the Woodend Hawks Team Selection Committee and the Competition Coordinator make best efforts to create viable teams from available committed players. Where appropriate, players are graded based on input from previous season coaches, committee understanding of the players skills and capabilities and team cohesion. Where deemed necessary, a grading session may be used to assist in team allocation. If possible, the Committee will try and accommodate friends playing together and logistical issues such as family requirements and car-pooling needs.
9. There is no commitment to keep teams together each season. Team creation will be done each season based on who is available that season and will also consider the availability and needs of the coach.
10. It is a Sunbury Basketball Association requirement that players must play in their own age group. Players from younger age groups will be offered an opportunity to also play in an older age group if there is no available waitlist player. Younger players will be graded in each age group separately and based on the same criteria as other players.
11. The Woodend Hawks Committee and Coordinators will try and ensure each team is allocated a coach and that any new coach is offered the support of a coaching mentor. Teams will not be entered without a coach – so parents may need to volunteer where a suitable coach is unavailable. All teams must also have a parent nominate as Team Manager.
12. Players are required to register their commitment to play within 3 weeks of the end of the prior season to allow the club to meet Sunbury Basketball Association requirements for team registration. Players must be registered with fees paid prior to being able to play in that season, unless agreed with the Competition Coordinator and Club Treasurer.