

# **Mt Martha Netball Club**

## **Team Selection Policy**

### **1. About:**

The Mount Martha Netball Club (MMNC) is a community based club run by volunteers. It was founded in 1984 and is affiliated with the Mornington Peninsula Netball Association (MPNA). We provide a safe, supportive and fun environment for players of all abilities.

The mission of Mount Martha Netball Club is to develop, deliver and promote inclusive, accessible and diverse opportunities for local netballers. We aim to foster enjoyment and skill development through commitment, dedication and sound management practices.

### **2. Purpose & Objectives:**

The purpose of the team selection process is to ensure that team selection for all ages is conducted fairly, transparently and is in the best interest of the players and club.

The objective of the team selection policy is to:

- Create teams of similar skill and ability
- Ensure teams play in a suitable competitive environment.
- Acknowledge the social aspect of community sport by considering friendships in the team selection process (where possible).
- Enable the netball club to be represented across different sections of the MPNA competition.
- Broaden opportunities for players to be eligible to play in a Representative competition.
- Ensure every child is treated as an individual member irrespective of previous team, grade or club
- Ensure every child has an equal opportunity

### **3. Friendships:**

Mt Martha Netball Club acknowledges that players enjoy playing with friends. Additionally, the Mt Martha Netball Club encourages players that end up playing outside of their friendship groups to embrace the opportunity to meet new friends.

For Under 9 to Under 11, friendships are prioritised (together with team balance) when forming teams.

Under 13 and Under 15 teams are graded, however those players who wish to continue playing with friends are encouraged to make at least two friendship requests. If there is a skill difference between players, then they may be ranked in a team suited to the less skilled player. Requests must be submitted at the time of registration in Netball Connect. It is advised that those players who wish to be placed in the highest possible graded team, irrespective of friendships, should not make friendship requests through Netball Connect.

## **Existing & New Players**

In order to manage team numbers effectively, Mt Martha Netball Club firstly welcomes registrations via Netball Connect from existing members within the registration period.

New players wishing to join the club are required to submit a request via our Expression of Interest page on our website <https://www.mtmarthanetball.com/registration> If there are places available at the time of registration, the Club will respond to this enquiry advising that the player may register themselves via Netball Connect. If a place is not available, the player will be placed on a waitlist until a place becomes available.

New members must not register via Netball Connect without having confirmed that there is a place available. Should a new member register without confirmation from the Club and there is not a place available, the Club will cancel the membership and refund the Club fees. Mt Martha Netball Club cannot refund Netball Victoria (VNA) fees.

### **4. Team Selection Process by Age Group:**

#### **Under 9s and Under 10s**

Team selection in the U9 Beginner, Under 9 and Under 10 age groups will not be skill based.

For age groups with more than one team, it is the policy of the Mt Martha Netball Club to mix players up by forming new teams at the start of each winter season. Mt Martha Netball Club considers changing teams each year benefits the players by exposing them to different playing styles, coaching techniques and ensures team dynamics don't become stale. Friendships will be a high priority in forming teams for these age groups.

Team selection criteria for Under 9's and Under 10's:

- Create evenly balanced teams where possible.
- Prioritise friendship requests where possible.

In order for friendship requests to be considered, friendships requests must be made at the time of registration through Netball Connect and should include at least two friends.

Teams will not be mixed for the Spring season unless there are extenuating circumstances.

#### **Under 11's**

Mt Martha Netball Club acknowledges that Under 11 players have developed their netball skills to a point where player grading may be considered in team formation.

As MPNA historically do not advise whether there will be one ungraded section, or two graded sections until a few days prior to the season commencing, coaches and committee must prepare for two scenarios for the Under 11 age group.

### **Scenario 1 – Graded Sections**

Should the Association create graded sections for the Under 11 age groups, Mt Martha Netball Club will form graded teams in this age group (whilst still prioritising friendships), having regard to the following criteria.

- Netball skills and ability
  - Footwork
  - Speed and agility
  - Ball handling skills
  - Attacking and defending skills
- Fitness
- Perception and cognition skills
- Versatility
- Club Spirit (sportsmanship, attitude and club values)
- Friendship requests

This process will be undertaken having regard to coaches reports and feedback (paper grading). Under 11's will not be required to participate in an official Grading Day.

### **Scenario 2 – One Ungraded Section**

Team selection for Under 11's will not be skill based if MPNA designates one ungraded Under 11 section.

Should this situation occur, team selection will be undertaken in accordance with the criteria outlined above for the Under 9 and Under 10 age groups.

### **General**

Friendships requests and preferred playing positions must be made at the time of registration through Netball Connect and should include at least two friends.

Teams will not be mixed for the Spring season unless there are extenuating circumstances.

### **Under 13 and Under 15**

Mt Martha Netball Club will form graded teams in this age group having regard to the following criteria.

- Netball skills and ability
  - Footwork
  - Speed and agility
  - Ball handling skills
  - Attacking and defending skills
- Fitness
- Perception and cognition skills
- Versatility
- Club Spirit (sportsmanship, attitude and club values)
- Friendship requests

- Age
- Team balance (team positions)
- Year level

Coaches from the previous season will provide a Coaches Report for each player and these will also be considered during the team selection process.

Grading sessions will primarily consist of on court game play, and possibly a number of netball drills. For various reasons, players may not necessarily play an equal amount of game time during these sessions.

Players will have the opportunity to trial in both of their preferred positions (where possible) during the grading process. However, players may also be asked to trial in a position that is not listed as one of their preferred positions to fill all positions on the court. When this is the case, selectors will be advised when a player is playing out of position.

Parents, players and non-coaches are asked not to watch during the Grading sessions or approach assessors at any time during the assessment process in an attempt to influence grading and/or team formation.

MMNC will submit teams to MPNA into Graded sections (A/B/C/D etc). MPNA generally holds a number of grading matches at the start of the winter season after which MPNA will allocate teams into sections at their discretion. **Please note, there is no guarantee that MPNA will accept our team grading and teams may be submitted into a different section than what MMNC proposes.**

Friendship requests and preferred playing positions must be made at the time of registration through Netball Connect and should include at least two friends.

While MMNC will endeavour to include friendships and year levels as team selection criteria for the Under 13 and Under 15 age groups, due to the many variables that need to be considered when forming teams, there may be instances where friendship requests and single year level teams cannot be accommodated.

Teams will not be mixed for the Spring season unless there are extenuating circumstances.

## U18

MPNA has an Under 18's competition that many of our players continue to play in. This age group generally has only one section (rather than graded sections) and consists of teams with a wider range of skill levels.

Due to the various other netball opportunities together with the schooling commitments for this age group, the number of players available to play in the Under 18's division in the MPNA Saturday competition drops significantly.

For U18's, MMNC encourage players to form their own teams (of at least 9 players) and provide their own coach. We then ask you to contact MMNC with your team details, to enable you to register into the Saturday competition through our club via Netball Connect.

## **5. When will grading take place:**

For Under 13 and Under 15, a Grading Day will occur prior to the start of the winter season (generally at the start of February). A second Grading Day may occur if further assessment of players is required.

## **6. Independent Assessors & Grading Committee**

For Under 13 to Under 15, players will be assessed at Grading Day by independent grader/s who are unaffiliated with Mt Martha Netball Club. These grading results will be provided to the Grading Committee.

A Grading Committee will be formed for each age group by the MMNC Executive Committee.

The Grading Committee for each age group will include at least 1 committee member and 1 Executive Committee Member.

In order to ensure complete independence, the Grading Committee for an age group must not include the parent of a child in that age group. (E.g. An Under 13 parent cannot be a part of the Grading Committee for the Under 13 age group).

6.1 Players playing out of age groups: It is a general policy of the Club that all players play within their age group. There are some instances when a player may be selected for a higher age group. These include:

- Extra players are required in a higher age group to meet minimum team numbers
- A player's DOB is close to qualifying for the higher age group, they possess the necessary skills and experience to play in the higher age group, and there are other supporting reasons (e.g. the player has a history of playing with peers who will be moving to the higher age group).
- A player is performing at the same skill level as an older age bracket team and is the right fit for the older age bracket team. This decision is at the discretion of the Senior Coaching Coordinator and must be supported by the parent/guardian. The player and parent/guardian have the right to refuse, in which case they will remain in their natural age group.
- In some circumstances the Club may choose not to fill teams by moving players up. For example, if there are no suitable players to move up or it will not be beneficial for players and teams to do so, the Club will try to source players externally.

## **7. Team Formation:**

When forming teams, the aim is to achieve strength and balance within that team.

Teams will ideally consist of nine (9) players, a coach and team manager. Registration numbers often mean that teams of nine (9) can't be accommodated. When this occurs, the Club will aim for a minimum team of eight (8) players or a maximum of ten (10) players.

Parental support and communication with coaches is required to ensure a smooth transition of players into new teams, by encouraging children to make new friends. Team selectors have to find balance in a team and one change can affect multiple teams.

### **7.1 Announcement of Teams:**

Players will be informed of their team via email prior to the commencement of the winter season. Mt Martha Netball Club aims to do this as soon as practicable, however sometimes this may not happen until the week the season starts.

Players who do not register within the advertised period of time will only be granted a position in a team if there are vacancies in the applicable age group and skill level.

Once teams have been submitted to the MPNA Competition, any late registrations cannot always be accommodated. In this instance players may be placed on a wait-list.

All information pertaining to team formation and grading assessment is confidential and will not be discussed outside of the Committee.

Once teams are selected, they cannot be altered without good reason, except for the following circumstances:

- player leaving the club
- player unable to play due to injury
- special considerations agreed upon by the Coaching Coordinator and Netball Club President

## **8. Concerns:**

Whilst it is hoped that players and parents appreciate the difficulty of the team selection process, and accept the final decision made by the Committee, an appeal may be made. If a family considers that their child has been treated unfairly during the grading process and subsequent team allocation, they must submit their concerns in writing via email to the Executive Committee (info@mtmarthatnetball.com) within 3 days of team announcements. Members of the Executive Committee will convene to consider any concerns and will advise the family of their response. The response from the Committee will be the final decision.