



Version Number:	Version 1b
Document Name:	Team Selection Policy – Junior Grades
Effective Date:	1 <sup>st</sup> November, 2018
Document Status:	

## Our commitment

We believe that junior sport should be safe, enjoyable, inclusive and maximise individual participation. Our club acknowledges that positive experiences in junior competition will contribute to children developing a lifelong love of sport.

## What we will do

- Emphasise to coaches and parents that junior sport is about participation, not competition.
- Modify rules and equipment where possible to include children and young people of all abilities and encourage their participation (if our sport offers modifications).
- Try to match junior players with others of their own ability (e.g. if there are enough players, have two teams in an age division).
- Provide junior players with a broad range of experiences (e.g. participating in different positions).
- Provide equal playing time for all juniors, regardless of their ability.
- Consider boys and girls under 11 years of age playing on the same team, particularly if a team could not otherwise be fielded and rules have been modified.
- Ensure that all team members play in the finals.

## What we ask you to do

### Coaches

- Focus on promoting participation, not winning and losing.
- Ensure all team members have the chance to play, rotate through positions and receive equal playing time.

Please note that all Burnside Hockey Club (BHC) members are treated in a fair and equitable way, irrespective of their sex, race, marital status, origin, beliefs on matters such as religion and politics, disability, sexual preference, age or carer responsibilities.

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- If you coach your own children, treat them like all other team members (e.g. rotations, playing time or participation).

## Parents

- Help out the coach where possible at training and games.
- Focus on your child's effort and performance, not the score.
- Encourage your child and other team members.
- Respect the selection decisions of the coach.

## Our club guidelines

### *Under 9 mixed and under 11 mixed*

- U9 and U11 players will be allocated to teams based on team balance, age and friendship groups.
- Fundamental purpose of U9 will be for enjoyment and participation whilst safety must always prevail.
- Coaches will teach the proper playing techniques enabling the children to master skills of Hockey and to perform to the best of their ability, thereby guaranteeing a high level of enjoyment.
- As a coach the physical motor skills and mental characteristics of each player must be taken into account.
- The basic skills shall be taught in a fun, informal manner.
- Emphasise an appreciation for the need for teamwork (support and cooperation).
- Ensure ongoing fitness games to be incorporated into programme.
- Coaches shall instill in children a sense of accomplishment through the progressive acquisition of skill
- Good behavioural patterns and the acceptance of rules and regulations (Player Code of conduct) to be encouraged and adhered to.

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### *Under 13, U15 and under 18 girls and boys*

Coaches will select players/teams based on:

- Ability
- Attendance at training and commitment to training
- Previous form
- Trial matches performance & attendance
- Attitude and match performance

Coaches will also consider:

- Hockey skill level -- ability to control the ball, eliminate, tackle and distribute
- Physical attributes -- fitness, strength, agility, speed, flexibility
- Game awareness -- anticipation, vision
- Positional understanding

Team commitment e.g. fit into a team environment, positive approach to learning and the team, encouragement of team mates, respect for coach, manager and other players including the opposition.

## **Finals selection**

Players must qualify to play in competition finals by playing the required number of games as determined by Hockey SA. Junior selection is based on:

- Team registered members take priority over players from younger age groups playing up.
- Playing time is at the discretion of the coach, based on team balance, team structure and players ability but where possible all native age players should be given equal playing time
- Coaches' decision is final, but all decisions must reflect club policy

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## Playing up in a higher grade

Our aim is for players to play in their own age group but occasionally circumstances may make it more appropriate for a player to play above their age group. Junior players may be considered for other age groups or senior divisions in consultation with the team coach, the coaching committee and where appropriate in consultation with parents about their child/children.

The Club policy aims to

- Maximize the game time of all fee-paying players.
- Maximize the enjoyment of all fee-paying players.

Players become disappointed when they are substituted and replaced with a player who has already participated fully in another game in the same weekend. This can lead to players and parents becoming disgruntled within our club and possibly even leaving our club.

The guidelines are not meant to be an interference with the coach's decision for replacements due to player fatigue and injury etc. rather a guide for coaches to provide a quality experience for all players.

The decision as to which players are selected to "play up a grade" will be a joint decision made in consultation between the coaches of the two teams involved and taking into consideration the policies and principles detailed in this document.

Offers to play in a higher grade will always be made on rotation to all available players to ensure opportunities are shared equally. If necessary, a pick-up list of those keen to be considered will be held by the coach of the higher team.

### Each team will:

- Retain no more players from a lower division team than the number required to create fourteen (14) players for any one game.
- Ensure players that are age appropriate for that division (including those playing up with formally approved dispensation) will have game time priority over those from younger or lower divisions.
  - Eg if an 18B and a 15A player assist the 18A team, the 18B player will take priority over the 15A

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31<sup>st</sup> October, 2018  
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