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# WABL

## PLAYER SELECTION POLICY





Managed by: Cockburn Basketball Association

Responsible Person: Lachlan Wilkins

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**Approval Of Policy/Rules Documents**

Amended by **Lachlan Wilkins**, Cockburn Basketball Association **Basketball Operations Manager** on **28/01/2025**

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Version	Date Approved	Next Review	Amendments
V01	03/09/2021	June 2023	
V2.0		June 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Amendment of purpose (2.0)</li> <li>- Minor amendments (and deletions) to 4.0 Player Eligibility</li> <li>- Minor immaterial amendments to 5.0 Selection Criteria.</li> <li>- Minor immaterial amendments to 6.0 Absences.</li> <li>- Significant material changes to 7.0 Team Selection Process. Major change, WABL teams are picked immediately following State Titles weekend, there is no re-trial in January.</li> <li>- Reclarification of higher-level commitments 8.0</li> </ul>
V3.0			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Amendment to values (3.0)</li> <li>- Significant process change requiring athletes to be registered and playing in winter domestic prior to State Champ trials (4.2)</li> <li>- Inclusion of retrial post State Champs (7.2)</li> </ul>



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## **WABL Player Selection Policy**

### **1. Purpose of Policy**

The aim of the selection criteria is to define the processes and guidelines used when athletes are selected to play for the Cockburn Cougars in the WA Basketball League (WABL) and State Championships each year.

### **2. CBA's Purpose**

To be the third place in the lives of our community.

### **3. CBA Values and Responsibilities**

Cockburn Basketball Association's values are to:

**Care. Connect. Commit.**

What does the Cougar Family's values look like in action? We:

- a. Are authentic.
- b. Listen proactively.
- c. Have a sense of humour.
- d. Ensure safety.
- e. Work as a team
- f. Act respectfully
- g. Are inclusive.
- h. Strive for excellence.
- i. Are accountable.

With these values, comes a level of responsibility for coaches, parents, and players.

Coaches need to be conscious a trial process can be an incredibly bright or deflating experience for the athletes. As such, while an emphasis is placed on creating the most competitive environment possible, coaches will work to ensure respectful communication to all athletes is conveyed at the right time, in the right place, with the right message.



Players need to ensure they remain open minded. All non-selection decisions need to be seen as opportunities for growth and learning, while selections are not a right, but a privilege. Parents need to support their children in developing a growth mindset over the course of the selection process. Whilst not everyone will always agree, parents need to educate each athlete on how to handle success as well as difficulties or hurdles they may encounter.

Making non-selection decisions is an incredibly stressful process a coach needs to go through, so it is important parents recognise this. The club has a separate 'Player and Parent Expectation Guidelines' for any further feedback that may be required.

#### **4. Player Eligibility**

Players that wish to represent the Cockburn Cougars at WA Basketball League Level (including State Championships), must comply with the following to be eligible for selection:

##### **4.1 Existing Cockburn Basketball Association athletes must:**

- a. Be registered playing members of Cockburn Basketball Association's domestic competition (summer **AND** winter season. They must be registered members by the next available season (the summer season).
- b. Have registered for selection trials in September/October (State Championships) with appropriate fees paid on completion of the online form. Note: Exemptions from trialling, or an alternate date of trial, may be granted at the discretion of the CBA.
- c. Be up to date with all financial obligations with the Cockburn Basketball Association. This includes (but is not limited to) camps, development programs, merchandise, WABL and domestic fees. Athletes that already have a financial arrangement with the association and are meeting their obligations, will be eligible for selection.

##### **4.2 Prospective junior STATE CHAMPIONSHIP players must (non-CBA athletes):**

- a. Be registered and playing inside CBA's winter domestic competition, PRIOR to State Champ trials in September/October. They must also be registered members by the next available season (the summer season). The CBA CEO/Basketball Operations Manager retains the right to grant domestic exemptions at its sole discretion as recommended by Talent Development Coordinators, noting parents will not be provided explanations on the status of athletes that are not their children. If there is no spot available on a domestic team, the CBA is unlikely to grant permission into the State Championships process (however, CBA reserves the right to make exceptions).



- b. Have registered for selection trials in September/October (State Championships), with appropriate fees paid on completion of the online form (this is a separate form to athletes already playing in the CBA domestic competition). Note: Exemptions from trialling, or an alternate date of trial, may be granted at the discretion of the CBA.
- c. Submit a clearance with the club they are leaving within two weeks of being announced in a CBA squad or team. The CBA Basketball Operations Manager must be cc'd on the email when submitting a clearance to the former club.
- d. Be registered & playing inside CBA's summer domestic competition. If they are notified by each club this is not possible, they must join the waitlist by contacting [competitions@cougarfamily.com](mailto:competitions@cougarfamily.com). The CBA retains the right to grant domestic exemptions at its sole discretion, noting parents will not be provided explanations on the status of athletes that are not their children. If there is no spot available on a domestic team, the CBA is unlikely to grant permission into the State Championships process (however, CBA reserves the right to make exceptions).
- e. Athletes who fail to comply with the conditions listed above, in a reasonable timeframe, may not be eligible to trial for the State Championships program in the corresponding year.
- f. Any athlete found to be trialling at multiple clubs at the same time will be asked by CBA to make an immediate decision regarding which club they will play at, with non-commitment to either club possibly resulting in non-selection by the CBA.

## **5. Player Selection Criteria**

The Cockburn Cougars WA Basketball League squads are chosen by the CBA talent development co-ordinators, and the appointed lead coach of the age group, in conjunction with the corresponding age group head coaches. All selections are verified by the CBA CEO (or any personnel co-opted for the specific task of selection) prior to public release.

To be considered for selection, athletes must:

- a. Meet the stated eligibility criteria.
- b. Demonstrate adherence to CBA's Player Code of Conduct (outlined in the Player and Parent expectation Guidelines).



The following will also be considered (noting, this is not the only criteria, and athletes must not necessarily fulfill every point below to be selected):

- a. A demonstrated ability (technical, mental, and athletic) to be competitive at WA Basketball League (WABL) level.
- b. Attendance at all games and practices, as reasonably possible, as outlined by the schedule provided by coaches.
- c. Current and potential physical (height, length, body composition etc) and physiological (speed, strength, power, endurance etc) characteristics.
- d. A history of past performances with the Cockburn Cougars, or other equivalent teams.
- e. Desire and commitment to working hard at improving technical, mental and athletic ability.
- f. Be socially compatible and display an ability to work with other members of the team towards a common goal.
- g. Be highly receptive to coaching and highly co-operative within the team environment.
- h. Ability to comprehend verbal and visual instruction, and the ability to execute skills and competitive play following instruction.

PLEASE NOTE: Subjectivity is an unavoidable element of selection to a Cockburn Cougars WABL team. Whilst this document attempts to outline how the selection process works, there is no doubt there will be differences of perspective on those selections.

## **6. Absences**

- a. Absences from training must be approved by the head coach of the team (please also see section 8 regarding what activities are acceptable to miss the process for). Absences from the trial date must be approved by the CBA Basketball Operations Manager via the form provided prior to selection.
- b. Players may be permitted an alternate trial date if approved by the CBA Basketball Operations Manager. A decision will then be made on that athlete at the next available opportunity.
- c. All other information regarding player absences once selection has been made can be found in the appropriate information guide provided prior to trials.





## **7. Team Selection Process**

### **7.1 State Championships Team Selection**

- a. Cockburn Basketball Association will appoint Lead Coaches of each age group and Head Coaches to each Cockburn Cougars team;
- b. Basketball Operations Manager will advise non-cougar registrants whether or not they are eligible to trial.
- c. At least two trials will be conducted per age group, with coaches reserving the right to notify athletes they are unsuccessful prior to the second trial.
- d. Coaches will meet, and in consultation with other club coaches, talent development co-ordinators and the CEO, teams for each age group are announced, with the squad of athletes guaranteed either a spot in a CBA WABL team as a full-time OR train-on position
- e. Unsuccessful athletes in the U11 & U13 age group will be directed to the Cougar Domestic Development (Wednesday afternoons /Saturday mornings) for further development. Select athletes (normally #46-50) may be invited to continue to train with Cougar teams but are not guaranteed a WABL full-time or train-on position for the following year.
- f. Selected teams may be comprised of enough athletes up to the maximum allowed by Basketball WA. However, the CBA may use its own discretion to enter less teams than the maximum if it believes this is in the best interests of the Association's strategy.
- g. If the CBA selects less athletes than the amount required for the maximum allowed at WABL level for four full WABL teams and train-ons, it reserves the right to add athletes later in the process or closer to the WABL season to reach this maximum number. This may result in teams being modified from original selection, however, no athletes originally selected would be not-selected from WABL once picked in a team.

### **7.2 WABL Squad Selection**

- a. Following the final weekend of State Championships (weekend #5 – State Titles), the CBA will announce its final WABL teams for the following calendar year. This will also include a list of train-on athletes. These athletes will be made up of those selected to play in the State Championship weekends.
- b. If athletes do not accept a spot in a WABL team for the following calendar year, the CBA may invite a train-on athlete to fill the full-time role, and non-selected athletes (46-50) into a train-on position. CBA reserves the right to have flexibility with this process.



- c. If regular CBA WABL athletes are unavailable for the State Championships process, the CBA reserves the right to still consider them for a WABL team.
- d. Athletes who wish to join a CBA WABL team later than the advertised trial date (without reason) may be considered as a train-on athlete and may only be considered as a full-time playing member if their addition facilitates the creation of a new team.
- e. CBA holds the rights to run a re-trial post State Titles weekend should the age group require additional athletes. All athletes selected in State Championships are still guaranteed a position in WABL – full-time or train-on.

### **7.3 Grading Teams Selection**

- a. These teams will be based on the WABL teams announced at the conclusion of State Titles. No further movement will be made on these teams unless players pull-out of the process, or similar circumstances arise (IE long-term injury).

## **8. Higher Level Commitments**

- a. Players who are participating in a higher-level commitment, such as (but not limited to) State Teams, WAIS, Basketball Australia Programs, may be granted exemptions from parts of the selection process.
- b. Players participating in external commercial or non-CBA sanctioned basketball activities will not constitute a valid reason for not engaging fully in the CBA selection process, and exemptions are unlikely to be granted. Families/athletes are required (and encouraged) to seek approval from CBA before registering to external commitments that clash with the selection process or on-going commitments of the WABL program.

## **9. Exceptional Circumstances and Other Commitments**

- a. Under exceptional circumstances or circumstances not covered by these policies and procedures, the CEO may approve selection decisions that are deemed to be in the best interests of the club, squad, individual team, or an individual player.
- b. As well as this document, all athletes are also bound by the relevant code of conduct found on the CBA website.

This policy applies to all Cockburn Cougars basketball team selection for both State Championships and the WABL competition.