



BLYTH SNOWTOWN NETBALL CLUB

2024 JUNIOR GRADING & SELECTION POLICY

The Junior Selection Committee shall comprise of the Junior Coordinator and coaches from each of the junior grades, being Inter 1, Inter 2, Junior 1, Junior 2, Sub Junior 1, Sub Junior 2 & Net Set Go. The President, Secretary, and Junior Coordinator shall be ex-officio members of this committee.

Play by the Rules Guidelines – Age Restrictions in Sport

Young people develop at very different rates physically, psychologically, emotionally, and socially. The uneven spread in growth and maturation makes chronological age of limited value in determining a young person's developmental stage.

Organising children on the basis of chronological age can increase the risk of injury and psychological distress if young people are unevenly matched, particularly in collision sports.

Those who don't mature as quickly as their peers or who are small for their age; may become discouraged and not get the chance to develop their talent. Talented athletes should be provided with the opportunity to develop their skills by playing in the age group that best aligns to their ability and developmental stage.

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:

1. Emphasise to coaches and parents that junior sport is about participation, not competition.
2. Modify rules and equipment as per Netball SA 10U rules to include children and young people of all abilities and encourage their participation.
3. Try to match junior players with others of their own ability.
4. Provide junior players with a broad range of experiences (e.g. participating in different positions).
5. Provide equal playing time for all juniors, regardless of their ability.
6. Consider boys and girls under 12 years of age playing on the same team, particularly if a team could not otherwise be fielded and rules have been modified.

What we ask you to do:

Coaches

- a. Focus on promoting participation, not winning and losing.
- b. Ensure all team members have the chance to play, rotate through positions and receive equal playing time.
- c. If you coach your own children, treat them like all other team members (e.g. rotations, playing time or participation).

Parents

1. Help out the coach where possible at training and games.
2. Focus on your child's effort and performance, not the score.
3. Encourage your child and other team members.
4. Respect the selection decisions of the coach.
5. Ensure your child arrives in a timely manner for training and games and is collected promptly at the conclusion of such trainings and games.
6. Inform your child's coach if your child is unable to attend trainings or is unavailable for games.
7. If you have a question or complaint, please speak with your coach or Junior Coordinator.

Requirements:

1. Player Registration **must** be completed before a player being eligible for selection.
2. To play in Junior grades, the North Eastern Netball Association (NENA) bylaws state that:
 - 2.7.1 J1, J2 & J3 – a player must be 13U (not turning 14) in the year of competition;
 - 2.7.3 J4 & J5 – a player must be 10U (not turning 11) in the year of competition (modified rules);
 - 2.7.5 All juniors (J1-J5) must be turning at least 7 in the year of competition; and
 - 2.7.6 Juniors turning 5-7 in the year of competition are eligible for NetSetGo.
 - 2.7.7 For 2024 (as a NENA approved trial) Juniors will be:
 - To play in Inter 1 and Inter 2, players will be aged 17 years and under and not turning 18 during the year of competition.
 - To play in Junior 1 and Junior 2, players will be aged 13 years and under and not turning 14 during the year of competition.
 - To play in Sub Junior 1 and Sub Junior 2, players will be aged 10 years and under and will not be turning 11 during the year of competition.
 - To participate in NetSetGo, players will be turning 5-7 in the year of competition.
 - The NENA Working Grades Committee will review this trial at the completion of the 2024 season.
3. Players must be registered by the Thursday training before the 1st game of the playing season. If a player is not registered before the 1st game, a player cannot be selected until registration is complete.

Junior Grading & Games

- d. Players in Inter 1, inter 2, Junior 1, and Junior 2 will be graded based on their playing ability by the Junior Selection Committee. In the event that numbers are required to be balanced across multiple age groups (e.g. 10&U and 13&U) players will be graded (with parent consent) based on their date of birth. Player/s to move up into the next age grade, in order of their birth date (e.g. oldest player/s to move up first).
- e. Players in Sub Junior 1 and Sub Junior 2 (non-competitive grades) will be selected based on:
 - Age (in order of their birthdate)
 - Experience in playing Netball (1st year players can be placed in a lower grade to develop confidence and skills)
- f. Girls who are turning 7 in the year of competition are eligible for Saturday's junior grades; however, due to player numbers, it may not always be possible. This will be up to the discretion of the Junior Selection Committee.
- g. Only players turning 5-7 in the current year of competition are eligible to attend Net Set Go and are required to pay the nominated fee set by Netball SA, a BSNC social membership or sign an insurance waiver form.



- h. BSNC will adopt Netball Australia Net Set Go program except in cases when there is a team with in equal numbers that groups are balanced based on development and to ensure maximum court time for all players.
- i. Player numbers across all junior netball grades will be as even as possibly achievable.
- j. When more than seven players are selected in a team, court time will be shared as equally as possibly achievable and coaches will keep a record of the amount of court time players receive.
- k. Players must attend trainings to be eligible for selection; unless the player or parent/guardian has spoken to their own coach directly with a legitimate reason then the player will be selected on equal grounds.
- l. When unable to train on a regular basis the General Committee can grant exemptions from training for legitimate reasons; upon receipt of a written application. Approved players will be selected on equal grounds.
- m. Decisions outside this policy will be made at the BSNC Committees discretion.

Amended 11/4/2024