**Ashwood Wolves Basketball Club Team Selection Guidelines**

Team selection is a complex activity that tries to balance team numbers across the age group, whilst trying to support players in skill development and facilitate a cohesive team and most importantly, ensure they have fun.

There are many factors taken into consideration when putting teams together, below are some guidelines to help parents and players better understand the process.

**Process**

The age coordinators & club committee are soley responsible for team selection. This selection is done with the help of constructive feedback from all coaches, as well as looking at online player statistics where necessary. Whilst this feedback forms an integral part of team selection, it is not the job of the coach to select the team. Any questions or feedback parents may have with team selection needs to be addressed only to the age coordinators. This ensures the correct information is being communicated.

The optimal number of players in a team is 7-8. However, to enable recruitment of new players and to manage player movement through the age groups, flexibility is needed. This allows for a build-up in one season with the possible expansion to have a new team in the next season. Team numbers should not exceed 9, and if this occurs or is a possibility, the coach will be consulted.

Players may make special requests regarding team selection by emailing the age-group co-ordinators (all email addresses on website) by close of registration. The age-group coordinator will attempt to meet such requests wherever reasonably possible within the spirit of the guidelines outlined below.

**Principles guiding allocation of players to a team for Saturday MEBA competition**

There are many considerations when allocating players to a team that includes, but is not limited to:

 Player age -aligning players by age enables us to try to keep groups of players together as they move through the age ranges. In some instances, players may move up to the higher age group early, this will only occur is one or more of the following is in place:

 The player currently plays representative basketball

 The player is at top age for their current group

 The players skills are more advanced than that of the current teams in the age group

 Numbers are low in the higher age group, making team selection difficult

Skill Level - many players enjoy being able to play sport at a level where they feel they can be the best that they can be. Placing players in a team of similar ability provides them with the opportunity to play as an integral part of a well balanced team. Team selection from Under 10's-under 18's is done so based primarily, but not solely, on skill level.

Friendship Group - It is clear that players enjoy playing with their friends and is an important part of why kids play sport. Team selection for under 8's is based primarily on friendship groups. With under 10 teams friendship groups are taken into consideration, and the club will endeavour to put players with at least one of their friends.

Team composition - as with any team sport, there is a need for a diversity of roles from fast moving smaller point guards to the tall centre. In the higher age groups, height and strength are taken into consideration with team selection.

**Friday Night competition.**

There are limited grades on Friday night, thus allowing teams to be put together based on friendship groups. Ideally this should be done by the teams themselves with the coordinator having a register of available players for teams who need more numbers.