

# SMNC



## WDNA Competition - Team Selection Policy

*The St Michael's WDNA Team selection for age groups in 11/U, 13/U, 15/U, 17/U and Open years is based on a grading process. The aim of grading is to maximise participation by best accommodating the differences in individual development, within that age-group.*

*The objective of the team selection policy is to ensure the grading process is conducted fairly and effectively, and in the best interests of the Club and players. It provides a clear process for all players to be placed in a team that will: a) maximise their enjoyment of the game; b) best represent their level of skill and ability; and c) maximise opportunities to develop and improve their skills.*

1. *Grading is performed by persons independent of the age group being assessed. All members of the grading committee must have no familial relationships with the age group being graded. The Grading Committee will consist of a minimum of 3 members and will include, at a minimum, a committee member, a representative level coach and a third member, who may be an independent grader (who is not a member of SMNC).*
2. *The grading process may involve some or all of the following steps:*
  - a. *Coach's assessment: coaches from the previous season will assist with grading through completion of a grading matrix – this provides the grading committee with an evaluation of each player's skill level, fitness, commitment to and attendance at training and games, teamwork and attitude. This report is confidential and not available to players or parents.*
  - b. *Season assessments: During the season, committee appointed assessors may attend various games and report their observations of each player's skill level in a real game situation.*
  - c. *Paper grading: Prior to the grading trials the Grading committee coordinator (an SMNC committee member) provides the graders the paper grading outcomes based from coaches reports and season assessments. They place players into teams for grading trials to ensure an organised and well run session.*
  - d. *Grading trials: In forming teams, the Graders will take into consideration the coaches assessments, season assessments, paper grading and play observed at practical grading, while also prioritising that a netball team requires a balance of height, agility and ball skills, as well as defenders, centre court and shooters (noting points 5 and 6 below).*
  - e. *Grading outcome: The Grading Committee will finalise the teams after discussion as a group and make the final recommendations on team selections to the SMNC*

*Committee for approval. The positions played by team members, once teams have been organised, is always at the discretion of the coach.*

- 3. Players are expected to attend the grading trials however, we understand that in exceptional circumstances, this is not always possible. In these cases, players will be either asked to attend another age groups grading day/session or they will be paper graded into a team. If a player is unable to attend practical grading, the player's parent/guardian must notify the secretary in writing ([secretary@stmichaelsnc.com.au](mailto:secretary@stmichaelsnc.com.au)) prior to grading trials.*
- 4. In assessing the overall skills of a player within an age group, the Grading Committee may take into account footwork/movement skills, ball handling skills, speed and agility, attacking skills, defensive skills, sportsmanship and attitude.*
- 5. 13/U and above team composition is based on identifying players who have similar skill and ability and ensuring teams will have a suitable balance of position areas, that being (1) shooters, (2) mid court players and (3) defenders.*
- 6. 11/U teams will be graded based on skill base, not position areas, in recognition that at this level they are still developing all court skills. Players in the 11/U age group will be asked to nominate positions for the purpose of showcasing their skills at trials.*
- 7. A player may request to be graded in an older or younger age group in order to play with players in the same year level at school, where WDNA rules allow. Such a request is only to be denied if the Club has insufficient player registrations in that player's correct age group to form a full team without that player, or too many players in the older or younger age group.*
- 8. All players wishing to participate in the grading session must have registered to play and paid the club fees, and any Netball Victoria registration due, for the coming season via MyNetball (Link as provided by the Club).*
- 9. Teams will ideally consist of 8 to 9 players. Teams may have more players where player availability is an issue.*
- 10. When higher graded teams lose a player(s), they will contact the SMNC committee who will determine the best solution, in liaison with the Grading committee as required.*
- 11. Late registrations who have not attended the grading session will **not be guaranteed** a place in a team. Team placement after grading has completed will be at the discretion of the Junior Liaison based on team needs and best fit.*
- 12. The primary aim is to maximise participation and as such the club will take special considerations\* into account when finalizing team selections. Requests must be received in writing by the Secretary, [secretary@stmichaelsnc.com.au](mailto:secretary@stmichaelsnc.com.au), no less than 7 days before the scheduled grading session. Where such requests involve 2 or more players, requests must be received from parents/guardians of all children named in the request.*
- 13. Where special consideration is granted, the higher graded player of the two (or more) players involved will be dropped down to the playing grade of the lower graded players, so as not to disadvantage other players who would otherwise have played at a higher level had the special consideration not been in place.*
- 14. Older teams (15 – Open) which have player stability, and are essentially unchanged from one season to another, can request via the Junior Liaison, not to use the grading process. New players to this age group will be managed by the Junior Liaison.*
- 15. Team composition for Net Set Go 9/U teams will be by age order hierarchy as at this age / stage of development, the basic ball and court skills are just being introduced and the focus is*

*on participation. As these games are of a modified format with the intention of being a learning session, further delineation of players by skill is considered unnecessary.*

- 16. Confidentiality of grading information: SMNC will not release to any parent or player any information that may be considered sensitive contained in any documents/communication that an SMNC coach or grading committee member has generated, including but not limited to grading and coaching reports/comments. The information generated by coaches and graders needs to be an honest assessment of players and potentially making public this sensitive information would limit their comments and undermine the effectiveness of the grading process.*
- 17. Players and parents should be aware that teams may change from season to season. Due to the nature of change, new player registrations and differing development rates of all players from season to season, movement between teams will most likely always occur.*
- 18. It is hoped that players and parents appreciate the difficulty of grading and accept the decision of the grading committee. However, if any player or parent is not satisfied with the decision of the grading committee they may make a submission in writing (to [vicepresident@stmichaelsnc.com.au](mailto:vicepresident@stmichaelsnc.com.au)) requesting a review of the decision. All requests must be received within 5 days of team notification emails. Any concerns raised must be limited to concerns regarding children/ young person over whom you, the complainant, hold legal guardianship.*

*SMNC have implemented the following policies to complement the Junior Team Selection Policy and to ensure the safety of all of its members, particularly Children and Young Persons:*

- 1. Commitment Statement to Child Safety*
- 2. Child Safety in Netball Code of Conduct*
- 3. Child Safety in Netball Protocols*
- 4. SMNC Player Code of Conduct*
- 5. SMNC Parent / Spectator Code of Conduct*

*These policies are listed on the SMNC Website*

*\* Special considerations are granted for written requests on medical or logistical grounds, where not to do so would exclude the member from being able to participate altogether.*