

Eastern Suburbs Hockey Club - Team Selection Policy

Aim

The aim of our selection policy is to ensure an open and fair process to form teams, where players will be given the opportunity to develop their hockey skills, and derive maximal enjoyment when training and playing.

Players and parents are urged to be objective and reasonable in their expectations, and to encourage their children to be happy in their chosen sport, irrespective of the team for which they are playing in and enjoy the social and fitness aspects of the sport in addition to the competitive nature of it.

Allocating selectors

An expression of interest for selectors will be called for late in the previous season, so that the Club Committee can allocate selectors to different divisions before the following pre-season. A Chairperson will be nominated for each selection panel.

Js and 13T Girls/ Js Boys

There will be 3 selectors who are not the coaches of the teams being selected.

Girls/Boys

All other teams will be selected by team coaches with the assistance of the Division Coordinator.

Women's

The Division 1 Coach will select the Division 1 team. A selection panel will select the remaining divisions.

Men's

The nominated coaches will select their teams in order from Division 1 down. Consideration of player availability due to work commitments must be considered to ensure enough players being available on a weekly basis.

Allocating Coaches

An expression of interest for coaches will be called for late in the previous season, so that the Club Committee can allocate coaches to teams before the following pre-season. Coaches will be asked to nominate for a specific grade/division, or can nominate to coach "the team that their child is selected in".

Selection Timelines

The BHA and BWAH nominate different selection timelines at the start of each season. This can create some confusion amongst players and parents, and also create pressure on selectors.

Girls/Boys

Selections will be finalised three weeks prior to the final selection deadline required by BWhA and BHA respectively. With respect to grass girls, selections will be made three weeks prior to the first game with grass teams selections approximately three weeks after turf selections due to the later fixture dates. This will allow time for training as a squad up to these selections, and then three weeks training as a team prior to the start of the season.

Women's

Teams will be selected three weeks prior to the selection deadline imposed by the BWhA. This will allow players to train with their respective teams.

Men's

Selections will be finalised prior to the deadline imposed by the BHA. This will allow players competing for positions, every opportunity to press their claims. Historically, there are usually many late inclusions in the Men's division, and selecting teams earlier will only create more issues if a change in selection is required.

Selection Process

The selection process will include preseason training, trial games, and consideration of previous performance, and the application of the following overarching criteria:

- Skills (stick skills, fitness)
- Values (sportsmanship, attitude)
- Behaviour (coachability, team skills)

Js and 13T Girls/Boys

Coaches and selectors from the previous season, will be asked for input from the previous season with a template form to be completed by each coach and selector. This will allow coaches to nominate players most deserving of promotion, and any other factors they believe should be considered in the selection process.

Players unable to attend selection trials should notify the selectors by email prior to the selection trial. Failing to attend trials without notice will jeopardise a player's selection prospects.

Players and parents should also be aware that success for a team in one year does not always ensure they will remain together the following year. Due to the nature of change, new registrations and differing development rates of all players from season to season, player movement in and out of such teams may still occur.

Players playing out of age group

Players will be selected in their own age group as their primary team. Some players will be asked to fill in for higher grades at times, but players will be selected in their own age group as a standard practice. Exceptions will occur when the club requires some players to play up an age division in order to make a full team in the higher grade. This should only occur when required, and not occur because younger players would prefer to play in the higher age

group. Division Coordinators will manage these selections, as they will have oversight of the team registrations with the BHA or BWA across all grades.

It may be necessary on occasions to place teams in a higher or lower grade to make the team competitive

U18s players in Boys Js

Under 18 boys should not be playing in Js competition if they are registered to play high level senior hockey (eg Division 1 or 2). The BHA have increased the age bracket to include Under 18 players to maximise participation. Highly skilled and experienced Under 18 players should be playing senior hockey only.

New players to the club

Easts Hockey welcomes new players to our club, and as such, all players will be treated equally in the selection process, regardless of the number of years playing at the club.

Transition from U13 to Js

First year Js players should expect selection in J2 or J3 teams, taking into account their physical attributes, skill level, hockey experience, and social aspect of the game.

Transition from Js to Senior hockey

Senior coaches will consult Js coaches when grading players as they transition to senior hockey. This is an important time in the development of all players. It is imperative that junior players transitioning are supported to maximise their enjoyment of the game. Players and parents should be educated in the merits of starting in lower grade hockey, building confidence as players improve their skills and knowledge of the game.

Junior players transitioning into senior hockey should not have an expectation that they will naturally progress through the grades every year. Each season, new players come to the club which will have an impact on selections.

Number of players in a team

Girls/Boys

The ideal number for junior teams is 14. This allows the right balance between high levels of participation, and allows for injury and illness throughout the season. Reaching the ideal number is not always possible, and on occasions, 15 players will be selected in some teams to cater for the circumstances at the time.

On occasions, lower numbers may also be selected due age groupings, and 16 may be selected, but avoided if at all possible. The focus needs to be on maximising participation and lower numbers may be selected to enable another team to be entered into a competition.

Weekly selections

Women's/Men's

Players will be asked to play two games throughout the season as a result of player unavailability. On some occasions, this will mean that a player is unavailable for their regular team, and will be required to play the higher division. It is expected that players and coaches will prioritise the higher division team, allowing the higher division team the chance to select the team they choose before the lower division team.

Friendship requests

Girls/Boys

East's Hockey Club is aware that player enjoyment is of paramount importance. The selectors will attempt to cater for friendship requests wherever possible. This will not take priority over the selection criteria used in the selecting of Js teams and Under 13T girls teams.

The club encourages players to join the club as individuals so players and parents meet new friends.

Women's/Men's

Player preferences will be considered in the selection of teams in the lower grades of senior hockey. This will be for only limited consideration, and players need to be prepared to play at a lower division at times to allow this to occur. Large groups of players will not be considered in this process, as it can often have repercussions for other teams in the division.

Procedures for disputes

Any player or parent wishing to question their selection should email the division coordinator.