



North Coast Raiders Hockey Club Raiders for Life

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Junior Team Selection Policy

North Coast Raiders Hockey Club aim is for all junior players to enjoy playing their hockey. Our emphasis is on developing juniors' skills and teamwork, and creating an environment where players are able to reach their potential. By ensuring junior players involvement in hockey is enjoyable and fulfilling, our juniors will be more likely to continue a life-long participation with the club and in the sport of hockey. Further detail is available within the club's Registration Policy.

TEAM SELECTIONS

A Sub-Committee will be formed consisting of President, Junior Director, Registrar and one other Committee Member who will decide on Team Allocations. The main criteria will be based on the below in order of priority:

Club – What is in the best interests for the Club;

Team – What is best for the Team;

Player – Any player requests;

Preference will be given to returning Players. Registrations received post Registration Day will not be guaranteed a position and returning Players won't be given preference if they register after Registration closes. The decision to accept a late nomination will be based on team availability and positions according to registrations already received.

5/6 through to 11/12's

1. Selection of teams will primarily be determined on enrolment numbers, both within and across grades, which will determine how many teams will be nominated in each age group.
2. The number of teams, and players in a team, are assessed based on registrations. The minimum number of players required in any age group to register a team with HockeyWA is 12. The maximum number of players in a team is 16. The number of players in a team is generally 13 or 14.
3. NCR's intention is generally for all players to play in their correct age group.
4. Where possible, teams in the same age group will have equal numbers across each team.
5. Preference will be given to existing registered (and paid) players over late registered existing players or new players. If there are too many players for an age group, preference will be given to existing players over new players.

To minimise the impact of this policy, NCR will ensure a process whereby existing players may register to play prior to the advertised club registration day. This will allow the Junior Committee to review numbers and identify potential problems with player numbers prior to club registration day. Existing players who do not register prior to club registration day will be treated in the same way as new players.

Grading and Trainings

6. All year groups will initially train as a squad under the year group coaches. The year group coaches and club appointed selectors will undertake grading of squads into teams during the pre season period.
7. The initial grading, followed by team selection, for all 7/8's, 9/10's and 11/12's will be based on performance, skills, attendance and attitude at pre-season training and during the selection sessions.
8. Team selections will not be distributed prior to Club Day.
9. Any requests post Club Day will be directed to the Junior Director and Registrar, and any changes will need to be agreed and approved by the Sub Committee.

Team Composition

10. The split age intake for teams does mean that the team make up changes each season. The Club will attempt to keep a core group together where teams are to be split.
11. Due to the number of players in a team from Nines transitioning in to 5/6's it would be reasonably expected that teams will change in this age group. When teams are required to be split it is preferential that the team is split so that a group moves rather than one or two players.
12. Should it be necessary to register a composite team (younger age group playing with an older age group) NCR may allow a player to play above his/her age group. The decision about which children will be elevated to the older age group will be based on skill level. The Junior Committee, following advice from the prior year's coach, will make this decision. The registration of a composite team will be considered as a last resort and is not a preferred option.

Gradings and number of Teams

13. Where there is more than one team in an age group, the players shall be divided according to skill level with the most skilled players graded in the higher division for 7/8, 9/10 and 11/12. For grade 5/6 (if more than two teams) the players shall be divided as above for the highest division, while the remaining players for the teams shall be of even ability. The process for dividing the players will be the responsibility of the Coaches and Junior Committee through an agreed selection process.
14. It is not ideal to have two teams playing in the same grade and every effort will be made to avoid this. Should there be two teams playing in the same grade players will be divided equally between the teams in terms of numbers and skill level.

Requests

15. Considerations will be made with requests to play with another child, eg. siblings or friends playing in the same age group, particularly in the younger age grades. Please include this request in writing with the registration and advise the coaching staff of any requests. The Club will endeavour to accommodate any player requests but cannot guarantee this. Please note that players may be graded and placed according to the lower graded player.
16. If a junior player would like to play in a higher year group, a request will need to be made in writing to the Junior Committee each year, before the season starts. The Junior Committee will assess each request individually, taking into consideration the ability of the junior to play up, as well as implications for the affected year groups and teams. Those players wishing to play up will need to attend the higher year groups grading sessions and be evaluated with that playing cohort.
17. Once team selections have been made, requests for players to transfer between teams, either on a temporary or permanent basis must be by joint agreement of the coaches and managers of the teams concerned and endorsed by the Junior Committee.

Further information is available within the Age Group Guidelines for Juniors.