



## North Coast Raiders Hockey Club Raiders for Life

Wendling Road, North Beach  
P.O. BOX 14 NORTH BEACH 6020  
<http://www.northcoastraiders.com>

# Team Selection Guidelines and Information

## OBJECTIVES

North Coast Raider's intention with this policy is to:

1. Provide guidelines on the selection process for placing players into teams each year including:
  - a) criteria to be assessed;
  - b) process to be followed;
  - c) identification and appointment of selectors to assist with Coaches and team selection.
2. Provide guidelines on how NCR nominate teams, including the number of teams and grades we request from HockeyWA.

## INTRODUCTION

North Coast Raiders Hockey Club has developed the junior teams over the years and Hockey WA is endeavouring to grow the sport of hockey and attract new players. With this the nomination of Raiders junior teams with HockeyWA, and selection of players for those teams, has become a larger and more complicated exercise. This document is intended to provide general information for all parents and players outlining the process followed so there is a general understanding across the club.

Junior Hockey in WA operates within a series of grades and divisions in an effort to make games as competitive and even as possible. In doing this the objective is to bring enjoyment to all players, whilst allowing the more advanced players the opportunity to compete at a higher skill level. North Coast Raiders attracts many players with a variety of skill levels and we aim to nominate teams across different grades to meet their needs.

It is important to note that there is nothing new in this document, and it doesn't change the way selections are carried out. This approach has been followed for a number of years by the Junior Committee, and what the Club is aiming to achieve is to make the grading and team selection process more transparent to all junior families.

North Coast Raiders Hockey Club is committed to providing a friendly and safe environment for all young people playing hockey at the club. North Coast Raiders (NCR) aims to allow junior players to experience fun and enjoyment in the challenge of competition, maximising participation as well as encouraging friendships. The Club's ethos and emphasis is on developing skills and teamwork and creating an environment where players are able to reach their potential. NCR's aim is that by making, and keeping, junior players involvement in hockey enjoyable and fulfilling, our juniors will be more likely to continue a life-long participation with the club and in the sport of hockey.

Finally, these are guidelines only and will be followed wherever possible. The Junior Committee will always have final say on the selections taking into account all known facts including the number of registrations within age groups and overall.



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### SELECTION PROCESS

#### Criteria

1. A variety of factors will be taken into account in assessing the selection of a player for teams including:
  - a) Information on the player from previous years eg age groups, teams played in;
  - b) Discussions with previous coaches;
  - c) Monitoring of players at pre-season training and any other selection games or activities held.
2. Some of the factors in player selection include:
  - a) Individual skill levels (hitting, trapping, tackling, passing, leading);
  - b) Team skills (positional play, reading the game, interaction with teammates);
  - c) Attitude and maturity;
  - d) Commitment;
3. For the younger age groups, especially 5/6's, we will always give consideration to, and try and keep, friends together in teams. If friends are selected in different teams but want to remain together, then the player in the higher grade may choose to play in the lower grade.
4. The school year of the player is not one of the factors. If a younger player is assessed higher than an older player, then the younger player may be placed in a higher graded team.

#### Process

Pre-season training activities commence as soon as possible after registration, and taking into consideration juniors summer sport commitments. These initial training sessions will be conducted with the entire age group together.

During this time Club Selectors will attend training sessions wherever possible, and start assessing players. The number of training sessions and grading games may depend on the number of junior player registrations. These grading games will be attended by the Club Selectors and used as an additional assessment opportunity.

Selectors and Year Group Managers will meet and discuss player grading at least 2 weeks prior to the first game of the season and select 'draft' teams, with these draft teams submitted to the Junior Committee for approval. As a guide, NCR generally try to have 13-14 players per team.

Players will continue to closely be monitored over the first 3 to 4 weeks of the season by coaches, selectors and Junior Committee representatives. During this time re-grading of players may occur.

After that time, player movements will be limited to covering changes in player availability for whatever reason.

NCR have found that in Junior teams, especially the younger age groups, team logistics (fixtures, rosters, umpires, game payments etc) make it difficult for ongoing movement between teams during the year. Any permanent changes after week 4 of the season will need the approval of the Junior Committee.

If any player or parent has concerns over their selection, please contact the Junior Directors to discuss. **We request that you do not go directly to the coaches or selectors.** One of the main reasons for this is that our coaches and selectors are volunteers, and often younger members of our senior club. As such the NCR Board believe it is unfair to place undue pressure on the coaches and selectors. All coaches and selectors are instructed to refer selection questions to the Junior Directors.

#### Identification and appointment of selectors

The NCR board, including the Senior Men's and Women's Directors as well as the Junior Directors will identify Club Selectors to help with player grading. Where coaches are already identified, they will be included in the selection process. There should be at least 1 other experienced hockey player appointed as a Club Selector.

Ideally, NCR try to ensure that Selectors will not have children in the grades they are selecting, however, this is not always possible. Where there are any conflicts, the Selector will not have any input in relation to the grading of their child.



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### TEAM NOMINATIONS

North Coast Raiders, as a club, endeavours to nominate teams in a range of grades to suit players of different abilities.

#### 7/8's and Older

From the 7/8 age groups and older, HockeyWA uses a player 'Paper grading' process early during the pre-season to determine what competition each team plays in. This allocates a "points" amount for each player based on:

- a) the grade played in during the previous 2 years; and
- b) final ladder positions in those years.

From this point allocation, the points for each player and team are added and the higher ranked teams/clubs are placed in higher grades.

Player registration numbers determines the number of teams nominated and this changes from year to year, however the following general guidelines that will be used by the junior committee are:

- a) The number of teams to be nominated will be based on 13-14 players per team where possible;
- b) if there are three or more teams in an age group NCR will always nominate one team in the highest grade, and at least one in the middle grades ( A Reserve/A Promotion) and the regional grades;
- c) if there are only two teams for an age group the team selection will be to select one stronger team and one weaker team. Teams will be nominated in grades the committee feel are appropriate;
- d) If there is only one team the team will be nominated in a grade the Committee believe is appropriate.

Final grading of teams is determined by HockeyWA and so while NCR may nominate teams for a particular grade, there is never any guarantee that teams will end up there.

#### 5/6's

The initial selection within the club of the 5/6 teams will be made during the pre-season training sessions. Following this, for the 5/6 age groups, player history is limited and so final grading is determined by a Grading Carnival which is usually conducted one week before the formal start of the season fixtures.

Prior to the season formally starting, over one day, a number of short games will be played against other teams who have nominated to HockeyWA for the same or similar grades. The results of all these games will then be used by HockeyWA to place teams in final grades for the season.