

Selection Policy for Players & Parents		04
Lead Program Area	Director of Coaching	
Key Interfaces	Coaching Panel	
Policy Application	Team Selection Panels	

Purpose:

This policy & process applies to the selection of the following Melbourne University Lightning Netball Club Teams:

- a) Championship
 - b) Division 1
 - c) 19 & Under
 - d) Development Squad: Parkville Lightning Bolts
1. A team of up to 12 players will be selected for each of the VNL teams & for the Development Squad. A Senior Coach & Assistant Coach/es will be appointed to each team.
 - a) The Senior Coach shall oversee the training program for the team & will be supported at training sessions & matches by the Assistant Coach/es
 - b) Opportunities may arise for players to move between teams throughout the course of the VNL season.
 2. It is expected that Development Squad players will receive regular opportunities throughout the season to develop & improve their skills during competition. Each player should be given a minimum of half a game (20's) throughout the preliminary rounds of the season. Where there are more than nine players in the team the players will be rotated off week by week in order to allow more court time & consistency during a game. A player who misses a match due to illness or injury or has a family or School commitment deemed appropriate by the Coach will have this match counted as a rotation off. Coaches will have the option of selecting the strongest combination of players, should the team progress to the finals in any given season.
 3. It is expected that the strongest combination of players will be fielded in the Championship, & Division 1 teams at all stages of the VNL season. Players should not expect to receive equal court time. However, as the 19/u program is regarded as a development program, the priority is to ensure that all players receive court time consistently. It is expected that those players not taking the court on a regular basis with the 19/u team will be given the opportunity to play with the Parkville Lightning Bolts. Coaches are expected to comply with this requirement & work cooperatively to ensure that fringe 19/u players are given ongoing match play development opportunities.
 4. Priority will not be given to any player, new or existing, however Club loyalty / years of service / playing history may be taken into consideration.
 5. The decision of each Melbourne University Lightning selection panel is final, however;
 - a) A player, who is not selected pursuant to the criteria set out in this document, may appeal against non-selection as set out in Appendix A. The grounds for such an appeal are that the selection panel, in making their final decision, failed to comply with the selection guidelines.
 - b) Any selection queries must be submitted in writing to the Club Administrator.
 - c) Players may request written feedback on their non-selection. This request must be made in writing to the Club Administrator within seven days of non-selection notification. The response will be a written summary of information available & will be compiled by the relevant selection panel.
 6. Players must be a fully paid financial member of the Club i.e., have paid their Club fees in full prior to the commencement of round 1 of the VNL season. Non-financial members will not be permitted to take the court. Coaches are required to support this policy.

7. The selection policy & process will be reviewed annually by the Melbourne University Lightning Committee of Management.

A. Selectors

1. A panel of at least three selectors will be appointed to select each team.
 - a) One selector must be the coach of the team being selected.
 - b) Selectors will be sought from within & outside the Melbourne University Lightning Netball Club & independent selectors may be approached to assist with selections.
 - c) In the event that a coach has not been appointed to a team at the time of selections, the Committee of Management will appoint one member of the selection panel to act as coach of that team for the purposes of selections.
 - d) Decisions on player selection will be based on majority agreement of the selection panel.
2. If required, selectors may be involved in more than one selection panel at the same time, i.e. the same selectors may form one selection panel to select all Melbourne University Lightning Teams.
3. Parents or relatives of a player will not be permitted to select as an independent selector for any Team in which they have a child/relative trialling. If the parent or relative is the Coach &/or Assistant Coach the selection panel will be extended to include the Director of Coaching.
4. The Club recognises that at times a parent, as Coach, may have a child/relative selected to play in the same team. Discussions regarding the continuation of the Coach in the role of Head Coach or Assistant Coach will be made on a per case basis & involve the Director of Coaching & Committee of Management.

B. Selection Criteria

1. Selectors shall consider:
 - a) Individual attributes, such as:
 - i. Basic skills – ball handling, footwork, specialist skills
 - ii. Physical skills – speed, change of direction, elevation, intensity
 - iii. Mental skills – recovery from mistakes, accountable, leadership, works for the team
 - iv. Decision making skills – reads entire situation, chooses correct option
 - v. Current level of ability
 - vi. Level of fitness
 - vii. Potential – innate qualities or attributes which may be developed over a long period
 - viii. Capacity to take & act upon direction given by Coaches
 - b) Team requirements, such as:
 - i. Team balance is required for each team. In general, each team will be made up of three shooters, three defenders & four centre court players. The additional two positions will be at the discretion of the selection panel.
 - ii. The twelve best individual players may not provide the most viable combination for the team.
 - iii. Each team needs a variety of players, so there is always the option to change the style of play in a match. Examples of this include a short/tall goaling or defending option, a defensive or attacking centre court focus, quick & speedy player or a slower more creative playmaker.
 - iv. It is the selection panels' prerogative to determine that a player may be better suited to a position other than the position/s they have nominated for. In this instance the selection panel must consult with the player to discuss being considered in an alternative position. The discussion should be open & direct so that the player is fully aware of the circumstances under which they are being considered for selection.
 - c) Minimum age criteria:

Players will be considered for selection based on their ability; however, the VNL competition rules must be adhered to in terms of minimum age requirements.

C. Selection Details

1. Selection is open to any player that is registered with Netball Victoria or an interstate Member Organisation.
2. Players shall present for selection in neutral training clothes which shall be either a white T-shirt or singlet & navy or black shorts. Clothing must not contain any insignia or material which associates the player with a club or association.
3. All players attending selection trials must be appropriately warmed up in readiness to start at the scheduled start time. The official warm up will be conducted by the S&C coach (if available), with assistance from MUL Coaches as required.
4. Each selection trial will run for a minimum of two hours & will consist of multiple 10-12 minute games. Players are responsible for maintaining their readiness to participate through warm up activities & space will be provided to ensure this is possible. There will be a short break between games to notify players of playing positions for the next game & to allow for this changeover.
5. All players who wish to be considered for selection must complete the online registration player application form by the specified due date.
 - a) Late applications may be accepted at the discretion of the Committee of Management.
 - b) Players must complete all details & indicate at least two preferred playing positions.
6. Appropriately qualified umpires will officiate at all Melbourne University Lightning selections.
7. All players, including current players, who wish to be considered for selection, must attend a minimum of one selection day. Players who are unable to attend or participate in selections due to extenuating circumstance, illness or injury, must:
 - a) Submit their inability to attend in writing with their application form, & contact the Club Administrator in person, as soon as possible to discuss.
 - b) The Committee of Management will determine whether players who are not able to attend selections are eligible for selection & will advise the player & the appropriate selection panel.
 - c) Injured players wishing to be considered for selection must attend at least one selection day. They also must provide written medical evidence outlining injury details & expected recovery time.
8. Any player unavailable to participate in selections who is eligible for selection will be considered based on current or previous year performance, if available. The selection panel will have the discretion of adding such players to the initial squads if it is deemed appropriate.
9. Players who attend selections will be judged on their selection performance, in addition to any previous performance notes, if available.
 - a) All players will be viewed at least once in two of their preferred positions
 - b) It is anticipated that attending players will be viewed at least two times at each selection date, however this may vary as this is dependent on the number of players attending each selection trial.
 - c) It is anticipated that each viewing of players will be at least 10 minutes in duration. This may vary & is dependent on the number of players attending selections. Session lengths may also be decreased due to extreme weather conditions, or lack of numbers.
10. All players will be notified via email of their selection to advance to the next round of the selection process & of their selection or non-selection into a Melbourne University Lightning Team.
11. Coaches & selectors may choose to observe players in club team match play conditions prior to the final selection day if deemed necessary.

D. Player Expulsion

1. The Committee of Management & Team Senior Coach have the power to
 - a) Exclude a Player from competition.
 - b) Terminate a Player's membership of the Club.
 - c) Require a Player to leave an event or venue & return home.
2. A Player may be expelled from the Club if they are unable to fulfil the obligations outlined in the Club Player Agreement. The decision to expel any player will be ratified by the Committee of Management.