

TRIALS AND SELECTION POLICY

Note – this policy informs trials from Sub Primary to Senior Grading

Athletes must nominate for Premier League Teams/ Squad through a separate selection process.

Oakdale Netball Club, here known as 'The Club', is a member of Netball SA and consistently has high representation in every grade in AMND Winter and City Night Summer competitions. Our teams are represented in the first division of every grade including AMND League, Inter 1, Junior 1, Sub Junior 1 and Primary 1.

The Club's development programs and pathway programs through to Premier League attract athletes to The Club with strong abilities and potential. High numbers of athletes trial across all grades and teams are created according to the availability of coaches.

An athlete's placement is affected by a number of factors including, but not restricted to:

- Their ability relative to other athletes competing for the same position. This is assessed by comparing their skill level, physical development, agility and maturity in decision making.
- Performance at trials.
- Performance in the previous season (if an existing player).
- Attendance at training in the previous season (if an existing player).
- Selection in a Summer competition team does not mean automatic selection in a team for Winter competition OR an equivalent grading expectation for any trials thereafter.
- Their status as a "Club Athlete" dictated by time spent at The Club.

REGISTRATION

Trial information and a link to register for an upcoming season are available on the Club's website. A trial fee is required to be paid when registering.

Athletes are expected to nominate for their eligible age group. Requests to trial in an above age group will be considered at the discretion of the relevant Club officials.

It is the athlete's responsibility to lodge correctly all details (email, address etc.), as no receipt will be issued by the Club and all monies owing will need to be promptly paid through Play HQ to secure a position in a team. All further communication and correspondence regarding trials is through the Club Registrar and will be done utilising the athlete's nominated email address. The Club will not accept responsibility for lack of notice due to the provision of incorrect contact details.

Late registrations by exception, may be placed on a "wait list".

Registered athletes must communicate in writing an inability to participate in trials in advance by contacting the Club Registrar.

A Senior Friendship team may nominate, by emailing the Registrar with their 10 players and coach prior to Senior trials. Senior Friendship teams can only nominate for Senior Division B3 or below. Payment of the team's season fees is required in full prior to Senior trials commencing.

For further information, please email the Club Registrar at registrar@oakdalenetballclub.com.au

Trials and Selection Procedures are supported by:

- ✓ A panel of selectors whose role is to recommend athlete selections into teams and or squads.
- ✓ A team of pencilers whose role is to provide games/teams to take to the court. Pencilers have no role in an athlete's team placement. Every effort is made for athletes to play in their preferred positions and have equal time on court, over the course of all trials.
- ✓ Club officials, all who have specific roles on the day.

ATHLETE SELECTION

- Trialing does not guarantee selection.
- Selections are based on an athlete's nominated preferred positions with consideration to knowledge, demonstrated skills, attitude and behaviours.
- A total of 9 athletes are to be selected for each team. It may be necessary to have 10 athletes in some teams in each division to give flexibility as required.
- The strongest athlete for each position is selected first and the remaining 2 or 3 places are based on utility (GS/GA GK/GD) or combinations (work well with the different athletes).
- Squads may be deemed appropriate for selections to be refined at a later nominated date.
- Occasionally a "Pathways Athlete" may be granted an exemption to the trials process at the Club's discretion. By way of example, this may include a junior athlete who has already been selected to be part of the Premier League extended squad.
- Should an athlete be unable to participate in trials due to injury, they will be required to produce a medical certificate. This athlete will be tentatively placed, and a review of their placement will occur once a medical clearance has been provided.
- When there are two players of equal ability being considered for the same position, and where one of those is a "Club Athlete", the Club Athlete will be given the placement. A Club Athlete is an athlete who has played three or more consecutive Winter seasons with The Club. Sub Primary seasons do not count towards this tally as Sub Primary is considered participation level only.

When the number of registered athletes exceeds the number of available placements:

- Club Athletes (see definition above) are not guaranteed selection if the number of athletes trialling who are of greater ability than The Club Athlete exceeds the number of available placements.
- Athletes who are new to The Club and are bottom of age group (born in the most recent year of eligibility), will be considered for placement in any division within their age group.
- Athletes who are new to the Club and are top of age group (born in the first year of eligibility), will only be considered for placement in divisions 1-3 of their age group. If the selectors consider them unsuitable for these divisions, they will not be placed but may be eligible to be wait-listed.

WAIT LISTED ATHLETES

Athletes who are not placed immediately will be 'wait-listed' and may be:

- Invited to a position in a team as/when one becomes available after all placement offers have been accepted or declined.
- Invited to training which may include pre-season.

NOTIFICATION OF TEAM PLACEMENTS

Athletes and/or parents are informed of placements via the email address provided prior to the season commencing. This notification will include their team placement, team members and coach details (when available).

All athletes must respond within the nominated timeframes and to accept or decline a team offer. The balance of fees must be paid through PlayHQ upon acceptance of the offer unless alternative arrangements have been made with the Club Treasurer.

A lack of response will be presumed as a declined offer.

ALTERATIONS TO TEAM OFFERS

In the event of declined offers or late withdrawals the Lead Selector/Selection Panel and relevant Club official/s will discuss the position to be filled and identify potential available athlete/s to be moved into the team.

Athlete movement after acceptances between teams is sometimes necessary and will be done so following Club policies. Any alterations to placement offers will be in writing.

CLARIFICATION

Parents/athletes seeking further clarification or information about selection procedures will be referred to the relevant policies that are available on the Club's website or here within this document.

There will be no selection feedback provided

This policy is reviewed and endorsed by the Committee of the Oakdale Netball Club

Last reviewed and updated by M Raw January 2026

Signed:

Bronwyn Thain

Oakdale Netball Club President