

SDBA Representative Player Selection Policy 2027

1. Purpose

This policy provides a transparent, fair and consistent framework for the selection of Sutherland Basketball representative teams.

2. Guiding Principles

Selections will be merit-based, objective where possible, transparent, free from conflicts of interest and conducted in the best interests of athletes and SDBA.

3. Eligibility Criteria

To be considered for selection in Sutherland Basketball's representative teams, players must meet the following requirements:

- Be registered with Basketball NSW;
- Complete trial registration;
- Attend trials unless granted an exemption;
- Pay trial fees; and
- Acknowledge during registration that, if selected, they will participate in the Sutherland local competition unless otherwise approved.

Players, and their parents or legal guardians (if minors), must acknowledge their willingness to abide by all Sutherland Basketball and BNSW policies and guidelines.

- Be registered or affiliated with the Sutherland Basketball Association.
- Attend the entire trial process as determined by Sutherland Basketball or be granted a written exemption.
- Pay the appropriate trial fees as determined by the Sutherland Basketball Association.
- Players must currently participate in the local competition organised by the Sutherland Basketball Association or provide written acknowledgment of the requirement to do so.
- If a player has previously played representative basketball for another association, they must complete a Basketball NSW Permission to Trial form.

4. Selection Criteria

Selection will consider:

- Basketball skills;
- Game understanding;
- Trial performance;
- Athletic capability;
- Coachability & behavior;
- Teamwork and communication;
- Team balance including positional needs.
- Participation and performance in the Sutherland local competition;

The selection committee will assess the players:

- Skill level and ability to compete at representative level.
- Performance during the selection trials.
- Athletic ability.
- Competitive drive.
- Ability to work well with coaches and teammates.
- Attitude, discipline.
- Desire to improve.

Additional Considerations

In addition to the above selection criteria, the selection committee will consider:

- The overall needs and balance of the team across all positions and roles.
- SDBA & NSW Zero Tolerance policy and Codes of Conduct of both the player and their parents/guardians.
- Junior age group guidelines regarding top and bottom age players as listed in this policy.
- BNSW Junior Age Group Transfer Rule Policy.
- In circumstances whereby players competing for the same position within the team cannot be separated by the above selection criteria, preference will be given to players with a history of representing Sutherland over players transferring to the club.
- SDBA reserves the right to apply additional criteria deemed necessary to assist with the selection of teams.

5. Selection Committee

Each committee will be appointed by Sutherland District Basketball Association or approved Association representatives and comprise:

- Head Selector. (Independent – non-conflicted)
- Head Coaches.
- Other approved selectors.

All conflicts of interest must be declared. Members with a conflict may provide information if requested but must not participate in discussion or voting relating to that player selection.

The intent is for all Head Coaches to have final input into the selection of their teams in conjunction with the Selection Committee. In cases where a Head Coach has a conflict of interest, Clause 6 of this document will apply.

6. Conflict of Interest

Either actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest within the selection committee will be managed in the following manner:

- All coaches forming part of a selection committee must declare all personal relationships, either of a family/friend nature or private coaching, paid or unpaid, with players registered to trial in that age group prior to the first trial.
- A register of conflicts will be maintained by SDBA.
- The selector must abstain from any selection decisions involving their conflict of interest. They may participate in discussions involving the conflicted player, but final selection will rest with the other committee members.
- To be considered as an Independent Selector, the person must have no conflicts of interest with any player registered to trial in that age group and gender.

7. Trial Process

Eligible players will have the opportunity to participate in open selection trials. Trial dates, venue, and details of the trials will be determined and published by the Sutherland District Basketball Association each year. Squad reductions and final teams will be published via official SDBA communication channels.

- Each junior team consists of 10 players.
- Announcement of Successful Squad Members: No announcements will be made on the day of trials. A list of successful squad members will be forwarded to the Marketing Coordinator, who will publish the list on the SDBA website
- After each trial week, reduced squads are announced via the Sharks website. The successfully selected squad athletes are then requested to attend the next round of invited trials.
- Final Team Selection: The final teams will be selected at the conclusion of the final trial.

In exceptional circumstances where SDBA deems it beneficial for the program and the team, additional players may be added to the roster after team selection, including development players. SDBA reserves the right to override any rules, regulations, policies, and procedures if deemed to be in the best interest of the program.

8. Trial Exemptions

Written exemption requests must be supported by evidence. Each case will be reviewed on its merits, and the decision of SDBA will be final.

Legitimate reasons for exemption may include:

- Injury or illness prevents a player from trialing. (Required to attend trials)
- Elite sports programs or school events prevent a player from trialing.
- Prior family commitments, such as weddings or family holidays preventing a player from trialing.

In the event of players receiving exemptions to trial, SDBA will provide the selection committee with a list of approved players who will remain under consideration. The selection committee will determine how to assess the exempt players' suitability for selection on a case-by-case basis.

9. **Development & Train-on Athletes**

Were approved by SDBA, coaches may invite additional athletes to train to support development and maintain quality training numbers. This does not guarantee team selection.

10. **Top/Bottom Age Rule**

- Junior age groups with two (2) teams must have a minimum of eight (8) bottom-age players, where available.
- Junior age groups with three (3) teams must have a minimum of 12 bottom age players, where possible.

The selection committee will assess any exceptions to these rules on a case-by-case basis.

11. **Ethical Recruitment**

SDBA coaches, officials and representatives must comply with SDBA and Basketball NSW ethical recruitment principles and must not actively recruit athletes from other associations.

12. **Communication & Feedback**

Selection announcements will be published by SDBA. Individual feedback will not routinely be provided. Where feedback is offered, it will be coordinated by the Representative Manager or other SDBA Representative, not individual selectors.

13. **Decisions**

Once teams are named, the selection decisions are final.

14. **Policy Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Junior Development & High-Performance Committee and approved by the SDBA Board.