



CASEY DRAGONS

CASEY DRAGONS BASKETBALL CLUB

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Team Selection Policy & Process

VERSION: 2022.1
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Version History

Version	Date	Released By	Changes
2022.1	20/09/2022	Vice President	Establish policy and process

Objective

The Casey Dragons Basketball Club ('the Club') organises teams to play in competitive basketball games against other clubs, with the Casey Basketball Association ('CBA'). The CBA competition is arranged around age groups (Under 8, Under 10, Under 12, etc.). Each age group can have a number of grades (A, B, C, etc.), with A being the highest standard. This is done so that teams play against other teams of a similar standard, and players are developed to the maximum of their ability.

The Club aims to offer basketball in a fun and safe family environment, fostering an enjoyment and knowledge of the game while developing a sense of team spirit, positive self-esteem and good sportsmanship, through equal participation.

Age Groups

Casey Dragons junior teams are grouped as follows:

- Mixed (Boys / Girls) Thursday After School Under 8
- Boys Saturday Under 10, 12, 14, 16
- Girls Saturday Under 10, 12, 14

Player Commitment

Once a player registers for a season, he/she makes a commitment to be reliable and attend all training sessions and games for their team, unless for some unforeseen circumstance, such as sickness, injury or special family function. Choosing to play another sport where it is known that training or game times conflict with basketball commitments is not an acceptable reason for absence.

Please ensure when submitting your child's registration form you make clear any days and times your child would be unable to train, and we will consider this, however please understand scheduling training is a difficult and complex process and we have to ensure training times align to our volunteer coaches availability to train the team.

Players that miss training may receive less court time than players that make training (at coach's discretion). Coaches plan their training sessions to best suit their team and work on specific skills and set plays. If a child is not at training and therefore does not know or understand the set offensive and/or defensive sets that the coach showed the team at training, then that player can only expect to be on the court when not running these as this can be detrimental to the team's development in the long run.

A player should notify their Team Manager as soon as they become aware that they will be unavailable for a particular training session or a game.

Policy

As children progress through each age group, coaches assess them to ensure they compete in a team that will best help their basketball development and enjoyment. Teams are selected by balancing the following criteria:

- Player ability – general skill level, attitude and motivation;
- Team balance – having a good mix of tall players, skillful ball handlers, goal shooters and defensively skilled players; and
- Friendship – requests can be made on the registration form, but these must be reciprocal.

Further to the above, the following principles are used in selecting teams:

- Existing teams that want to stay together do, on the basis the whole team wish to stay together.
- We aim to have top age and bottom age teams, this means where possible teams will be selected with children born in the same year, which provides continuity for children to develop as a group. This won't always be possible and where friends born in different years but are eligible for the same age group, or where team numbers don't allow for only top age or bottom age children teams will be formed with a combination of top and bottom age.
- Children wishing to change teams may be invited to attend a grading session with another team if vacancies exist for them to move teams. Following an assessment session with the team the decision will be made between the coach and registrars as to the child's fit for their team.
- New players will attend a grading / assessment session to help determine the most appropriate team for them.

The optimal number of players per team is eight in most circumstances. All efforts will be made to aim for eight players per team, however in some cases teams may have more or less players.

Situations that would result in a departure from the policy, such as requests for a group of players from the same school to be selected as a team, and other special requests not covered by the policy, must be approved by the President.

Process

The process of selecting teams is a difficult exercise requiring balancing the often competing criteria of existing teams, player ability, team balance and friendships.

At a high level the process involves:

1. Registrations open
2. Registrations including any special requests are made on the registration form and deposit paid by the due date
3. Player assessments for those requesting to change teams and new players are held
4. Registrars form teams

1. Registrations open for an upcoming season.

Registration forms and deposits must be paid by the due date to secure a place for the next season. For existing players late registrations may result in a player losing their place in a current team or result in the Club not being able to offer a place at all. Special requests will not be considered for late registrations.

2. Special requests

Special requests may include requests such as play with a friend, play in higher age group or higher grade, team stay together, training times, etc.

- For special requests to be considered they need to be submitted with a registration by a nominated due date, late special requests will not be considered.
- Special requests are not guaranteed but will be considered and will range from wanting to play with a particular friend (must be reciprocal), training nights, to change teams to a higher or lower graded team.
- Special requests for children to play out of their eligible age group (for example a child that is 8 years old and eligible for under 10's wanting to play in under 12's instead) will be only considered once all eligible children for the desired age group have been placed in a team.

3. Player assessments

Before the end of the season, all coaches are expected to provide assessments of existing players to the club registrars to assist the team selection process. The evaluation will rate the player on specific technical basketball skills as defined by the Coaching Coordinator, as well as commitment to team training and games, and attitudes and behaviours. The Club may also obtain player statistics from the current season, sourced from CBA.

Where it is felt a child would benefit from playing in a lower ranked team the coach or a committee member will discuss this with parents before season's end.

Assessment sessions will be held for new players and those wishing to change teams or be considered for a higher graded team (if vacancies exist). This may be via an invitation to attend training of an existing team or via a more general assessment session.

Children wishing to be considered for a team in a higher grade will be assessed by the team coach with a vacancy who will determine if the child would be a fit for their team.

Typically this will take place in February and August each year.

4. Registrars form teams

Registrars use feedback from coaches of current players, any feedback from assessment sessions and registration forms (including considering special requests) to form teams.

Teams will be assigned to training times and confirm that all teams have a coach (Team's MUST have a coach). Team Managers can be determined at a later date if necessary.

5. Release of teams

Once teams are finalised, the Team Manager coordinator will communicate to players the team they have been selected in and their coach and training time.

Coaches and Team Managers will receive a team list providing all the contact details and players in the team, singlet numbers etc.

6. Feedback

Any queries or concerns relating to a team selection matter should be directed in a respectful manner to the Team Manager Co-ordinator, who will then liaise with the relevant Registrars to respond to the query.

CBA Grading Games

At the beginning of each season, teams play a number of grading games (usually six). The results from grading games are used by CBA and the CBA grading committee to ensure teams are in the most appropriate grade for their skill level.

It needs to be noted once teams are formed the Club will nominate a grade thought to be appropriate for the team for the beginning of grading games. However, beyond this point there are a number of factors that will decide the grade a team plays in for the season at the conclusion of grading, such as team performance in grading, who they have played, how other teams have performed within the current grade and also in the grades above and below.

Initial grading is for the first 3 matches, results and grades are then reviewed ahead of rounds 4 to 6 and then a final grading meeting is held at the conclusion of round 6 and before round 7. At the completion of this process teams can no longer move grades for the remainder of the season. Any teams with feedback on team performance during grading games should be directed to the President, by either the Team Manager or Coach.