



## **JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAM – PLAYER SELECTION & ELIGIBILITY POLICY** *(Updated October 2023)*

### **1. BACKGROUND:**

**1.1** The Mackay Basketball (MBI) Junior Representative Program is an MBI performance program under the auspices of Basketball Queensland (BQ). The primary purpose of the program is related to athlete & coach development and the preparation of players & coaches (U12 – U18) for competition in the NQJBC and BQ State Championships.

MBI Junior Representative Teams form an important part of the MBI development pathway and are essential for players & coaches to progress onto State & National Performance Programs. The MBI representative program will introduce developing coaches & athletes to the BQ state philosophy, style of play, which will enhance their personal development.

MBI aims to deliver a Junior Representative Program that is both enjoyable and rewarding for players, coaches, team managers and families. At the representative basketball level, our teams play to win, but understand that there are different ways that success can be measured.

**1.2** MBI has adopted the following BQ junior, elite level, high-performance philosophy:

1. *Athlete Centred*
2. *Coach Facilitated*
3. *Administratively Supported*
4. *Performance Based*

### **2. PURPOSE:**

**2.1** The aim of this player selection policy is to define the process by which MBI will identify players to be selected to Junior Representative Teams that will represent MBI at BQ NQJBC's and State Championships for each age group and gender.

### **3. CORE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF REPRESENTING MBI:**

**3.1** MBI Junior Representative Players should display the following characteristics:

- *Are committed to being in their best mental and physical shape as possible.*
- *Train and compete at their absolute best effort knowing they are representing MBI.*
- *Train and compete with the highest level of disciplined sportsmanship and be a good citizen.*
- *Accept the responsibility of being a positive role model for MBI.*

#### **4. ESSENTIAL SELECTION CRITERIA:**

**4.1** Players seeking selection to a MBI Junior Representative Team must comply with all of the following to be eligible and remain eligible:

- *Must be registered members of MBI.*
- *Must be actively playing in an MBI junior domestic competition of their natural age group. For example, for a player to be selected and maintain eligibility in an U14 Rep team, said player must be registered and actively participating in MBI's U14 Junior Domestic Competition. In the event that a club does not have sufficient numbers to field a team in a specific age group, the affected player/s will need to temporarily play for another club team in the appropriate age group.*
- *Must not have any outstanding and overdue payments to MBI or BQ.*
- *Must demonstrate behaviour that reflects the core values of representing MBI as set out in clause 3.*
- *Must attend selection trials as determined by MBI. Exemptions from attending trials may be granted at MBI's discretion after receiving an exemption request in writing from the relevant athlete. The athlete will still need to comply with all other selection criteria.*
- *In accordance with the MBI Competition By-Laws, if a player is selected in a Meteors, Meteorettes, Comets, or Comettes Junior Representative team, said player must play in Division 1 of the MBI Junior Domestic Competition of their natural age group.*

#### **5. ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA:**

**5.1** Subjectivity is an unavoidable element of selection. Nevertheless, all efforts will be made to minimise potential biases by selectors and ensure an even-handed approach to every athlete.

**5.2** The following is a set of selection criteria for how MBI will select athletes into various teams:

- 1) *Meeting the Essential Selection Criteria set out in clause 4.*
- 2) *Demonstrated skill level and game-sense competency under competitive play.*
- 3) *Demonstrated mental ability – mental toughness, growth mindset, able to be resilient, etc.*
- 4) *Demonstrated physical/athletic ability – speed, strength, endurance, lateral quickness, etc.*
- 5) *Demonstrated ability to be coachable and be a team player, which includes the following attributes:*
  - *Comprehension of auditory, visual and kinaesthetic instruction.*
  - *Ability to execute skills and strategies following instruction.*
  - *Desire to learn, develop, have a strong work ethic, & be self-motivated.*
  - *Willing to put the interests of the team first and buy into their role within the team.*

## **6. SELECTION PROCESS:**

**6.1** The selection process will include assessment against the ***Essential Selection Criteria & Athlete Selection Criteria***.

**6.2** All selections will be made via the following process:

- 1) *Selection trials will be advertised via the MBI website & other relevant platforms.*
- 2) *Athletes must register for trials in the manner prescribed by MBI.*
- 3) *A list of athletes will be provided to the MBI Junior Representative Team Selection Panel (SP).*
- 4) *The SP and SP Lead will be confirmed in accordance with Section 7 of this policy subject to any conflicts of interest and agreed to by the MBI Executive Committee in consultation with the MBI GM.*
- 5) *Selection trials will take place and the SP will assess the ability of the athletes against the aforementioned criteria.*
- 6) *The SP will deliberate at the conclusion of the trials and make recommendations to the Head Coaches of each MBI Junior Representative Team. Each MBI Junior Representative Team will consist of a minimum of nine (9) players and a maximum of ten (10) players.*
- 7) *Applications for consideration for team sizes of eleven (11) can be made to the MBI Player & Coach Development Manager. The decision to approve an eleven (11) player team will be assessed initially by the MBI Player & Coach Development Manager and MBI Competitions & Representative Program Manager and then must be ratified by the MBI Junior Representative Committee.*
- 8) *Teams will be announced on relevant platforms.*

## **7. SELECTION PANEL:**

**7.1** The MBI Junior Representative Team Selection Panel (SP) will consist of a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) members.

**7.2** It is a mandatory requirement that the MBI Junior Representative Committee Chairperson or in their absence, a member of the Junior Representative Committee be a member of the SP.

**7.3** The remaining SP members can consist of any of the following:

- 1) *MBI Player & Coach Development Manager*
- 2) *MBI Competitions and Representative Program Manager*
- 3) *MBI NBL1 Head Coach (either the Meteors Coach or Meteorettes Coach)*
- 4) *The appointed Head Coach for that Junior Representative Team*

**7.4** The MBI Player & Coach Development Manager will be appointed to lead the SP and selection process, ensuring the selection policy is followed transparently and promptly and will report to the MBI Executive Committee.

If this person has a conflict of interest, then the MBI Competitions and Representative Program Manager will be appointed to lead the SP and selection process and will report to the MBI Executive Committee.

If this person has a conflict of interest, then the Junior Representative Committee Chairperson will be appointed to lead the SP and selection process and will report to the MBI Executive Committee.

If this person has a conflict of interest, then a Junior Representative Committee member will be appointed by the MBI General Manager to lead the SP and selection process and will report to the MBI Executive Committee.

If this person has a conflict of interest, then the MBI Executive in consultation with the MBI General Manager will appoint the person to lead the SP and selection process.

**7.5** SP members will attend trials until the final team selection is made. Each member is entitled to one vote where applicable. In the event of a tied vote, the SP Lead shall have the casting vote.

## **8. SELECTION CONDITIONS:**

### **8.1 Conditions that Athletes Must Comply With if They Wish to be Selected and Stay Eligible:**

- *Adhere to all Codes of Behaviour and program guidelines as outlined.*
- *Athletes should make themselves available for all training sessions. Athletes in exceptional circumstances who are not available to train or play scheduled selection events must contact their Team Staff as soon as practical to discuss the issue. A medical certificate from a doctor or physiotherapist must be supplied (upon request) if athletes are unable to attend a session for medical reasons. Situations of other sport commitments will not be considered as exceptional.*
- *If a player is unable to participate in an NQJBC Carnival or State Championships, then they need to notify MBI prior to trials, or as soon as practicable.*

### **8.2 Special Circumstance Regarding Eligibility for Selection:**

- *If a player is unable to attend or unable to participate either or both Rep Trials, the relevant athlete must notify MBI in writing that they are unable to attend. MBI has discretion to grant or deny an exemption request.*
- *Acceptable reasons for non-attendance at the Rep Trials include but are not limited to being out of town (e.g.- family holiday) or school commitment.*
- *Acceptable reasons for non-participation include but are not limited to injury or illness. In the event of an injury, a medical certificate must be provided about the extent of the injury & the prognosis so that it can be determined if the athlete will be available for the Junior Representative Team if selected.*
- *If a player has been granted an exemption from trialling, they still may be considered for selection. The SP and relevant Head Coaches will take into account previous performance in the MBI Junior Rep program, recent performance in MBI Club Competition, previous involvement in BQ High Performance Pathways, and prior involvement in other MBI Development Programs.*

- *MBI reserves the right to extend the duration of the Rep Trial process to ensure athletes are properly evaluated, and final team selections will promote best outcomes.*
- *An athlete who transfers from another Association and registers as a player with MBI who misses the trial(s) date but has been selected in an equivalent junior representative program, may be considered for selection after the trial date(s) with the approval of the MBI Executive. Any transfers are subject to the updated BQ Transfer Policy.*

## **9. PLAYER SANCTIONING, WITHDRAWAL OR REMOVAL:**

**9.1** All MBI Junior Representative Players are bound by MBI, BQ and BA Policies, Codes of Behaviour and By-Laws and must demonstrate appropriate behaviour both on and off the court.

**9.2** A player who has been selected to a MBI Junior Representative Team may be withdrawn from the program if MBI deems that the involvement of that player is not in the best interests of the player, the team, or MBI. The removal of a player from the MBI Junior Rep program can be executed via an unanimous voting consensus of a minimum of five (5) of the following persons:

- 1) *MBI Executive Committee Member(s)*
- 2) *MBI General Manager*
- 3) *MBI Player & Coach Development Manager*
- 4) *MBI Competitions and Representative Program Manager*
- 5) *Junior Representative Committee Chairperson or Junior Representative Committee Member in their absence*

### **9.3 Player Entourage**

- 1) *A player is deemed to be responsible for the behaviour and conduct of their entourage who attend events in which the athlete participates. The expression "entourage" includes parents, family members, coaches, trainers, friends and any other person associated with the player.*
- 2) *If it is determined that a Code of Behaviour breach has occurred by a member of the entourage, then it is open to MBI to impose a penalty on the athlete as follows:*
  - *A determination that MBI will not accept nominations from that player for a specified period of time for future teams and may suspend the player from participating in MBI activities for a specified period.*
  - *It is to be noted that imposing a penalty on an athlete for the behaviour of their entourage is to be seen as a last resort and disciplinary action, except in extreme cases, such action would not be taken without first having sought to engage with and educate the offending person and the athlete in relation to the unacceptable conduct. In extreme cases, MBI reserves the right to impose this penalty without needing to engage with or educate the offending person prior to enacting such a penalty.*