



Junior Domestic Pooling Guidelines

Introduction

The aim of the Wodonga Basketball Association Pooling Program is to provide a competitive, enjoyable and fair competition for all players of all abilities in the junior competitions. We endeavour to field teams of even skill level to maximise player development and enjoyment and in order to create a competitive weekly competition. We also endeavour to appoint coaches to all junior teams and support their development.

A. Junior Pooling Coordinator

The Junior Pooling Coordinator is elected at the AGM and is responsible for the organisation of Age Group Coordinators and the formation of teams.

The Junior Pooling Coordinator will:

- Coordinate the annual advertising for and appointment of suitable Age Group Coordinators.
- Govern the Junior Boys' and Girls' competitions in consultation with the appointed Age Group Coordinators and the WBA Committee
- Ensure WBA By-Laws are adhered to in the processes of pooling
- Attend monthly WBA meetings
- Coordinate Pooling Committee meetings as necessary, and liaise regularly with Age Group Coordinators
- Encourage coaches to consider development through WBA and BVC training programs

B. Age Group Coordinators

The Age Group Coordinator is responsible for the pooling of players within the relevant age group. Age Group Coordinator positions are advertised by the Junior Pooling Coordinator / Administrator, and Age Group Coordinator positions are appointed by the Junior Pooling Coordinator.

The Age Group Coordinator will:

1. Consider the requirements of the bylaws when pooling players into teams
2. Liaise with all coaches, parents and players within the appointed age group in order to achieve team evenness and may move players to achieve this
3. Attend all relevant Age Group meetings
4. Attend all Pooling meetings
5. Allocate new players to teams as the need arises and, along with the Administrator, maintain waiting lists if required
6. Report any problems/concerns directly to the Junior Pooling Coordinator
7. Encourage coaches to abide by the current Codes of Behaviour

AGE GROUP COORDINATORS, TOGETHER WITH THE POOLING COORDINATOR, WILL FORM THE POOLING COMMITTEE

C. Team Formation/Coach Appointments

1. Any requests associated with children with special needs must be forwarded in writing to the Administrator at the time of registration, and prior to teams being pooled. These requests will be passed on to the appropriate Age Group Coordinator for consideration prior to teams being formed. The Age Group Coordinator should refer any questions or issues regarding the nature or validity of the request back through to the Junior Pooling Coordinator.

2. Requests to play with friends or a relative, or under the guidance of a particular coach are not regarded as 'special needs' and are not to be considered when forming teams, however the Age Group Coordinator may use discretion for a new player in a lower age group
3. Requests to NOT play with certain players, or under the direction of certain coaches, are not to be considered when forming teams.
4. Immediately after the conclusion of registration days, the Administrator will pass on player details to the Junior Pooling Coordinator, who will in turn pass player information and any special requests on to the relevant Age Group Coordinators.
5. Players choosing to play a second game in a higher age group will only be accepted after consultation with the Age Group Coordinator and if numbers permit.
6. In line with any bylaws which apply, representative teams may be permitted entry into a 'higher' age group competition for training purposes only. These training games will only be permitted in the latter season in the year. Teams are ineligible to participate in finals.
7. Teams will be pooled in accordance with the relevant bylaws and with consideration of the following:
 - No competition will have less than four (4) teams
 - At the commencement of each season, most teams should have no more than six (6) players (so as to allow for late registrations).
 - A team will generally consist of no more than seven (7) players. A team of eight (8) players may be formed in special circumstances (e.g. injured player) with the approval of the Junior Pooling Coordinator and / or Administrator.
 - It is preferable to have, where practicable, an even number of teams in each competition to eliminate 'Byes'
 - Skill level and height of players should be considered when forming teams so as to promote a balanced competition. Note that a 'balanced' competition is reflected in opportunities to access the ball for all teams, and does not exclusively consider game scores alone.
 - Wherever possible, players should be pooled with different team members each season so as to expose them to different playing styles and team dynamics, and allow for broader opportunities for skills development and social contact.
 - It is preferred that siblings do not play in the same team (so as to avoid leaving a team short when there are family commitments / holidays)
 - The decision to pool a player into division 1 is made by the Age Group Coordinator with consideration of player ability and:
 - these pooling guidelines,
 - coach feedback,
 - the number of places available in division 1, and
 - whether or not movement of players will adversely affect the division 2 competition
 - It is recommended that all junior representative players be placed in division 1. Preference for placement of other players in division 1 should be determined as follows:
 - Top age players; (if ability is an issue, consider putting them in division 1 for the second season to gain experience prior to moving into the next age group).
 - Bottom age players
 - Second game players; (players must play in their own age group first, and may opt for a second game in a higher age group providing places are

available. A player playing up an age group should not take the division 1 place of a top age player)

- If unsure of player ability, the Age Group Coordinator should speak with the Junior Pooling Coordinator or a previous season domestic coach who will assist in deciding where best to place players.
- 8. Coaches will be sought and appointed by the Age Group Coordinators, in consultation with the Junior Pooling Coordinator, upon completion of player allocation to teams.
- 9. Age Group Coordinators may consult with coaches during the pooling period, however any final pooling decisions rest with the Age Group Coordinator.
- 10. If a parent has concerns that their child is playing in the incorrect division, they may request that the Junior Representative Coordinator assess their child's skill level.
- 11. The Age Group Coordinator should ensure that only age appropriate players are pooled. Questions regarding a player's age should be directed to the Administrator.
- 12. The Age Group Coordinator may name the teams created, or leave for the Administrator
- 13. Once round one (1) has started, it is preferred that Age Group Coordinators do not make changes to teams, but instead use the first three (3) weeks of competition to grade players. If teams are presenting unevenly over the first 3 weeks of play, changes may then be made by the Age Group Coordinator.
- 14. Late registrations received during the first 3 rounds of play should be pooled into a team by the Age Group Coordinator so that the player can be graded. If the pooling of late registrations results in all team positions being filled, then the formation of a new team should occur at the start of round 4. This may mean that some late registrations may not play their first game until round 4.
- 15. Teams must be finalised prior to the start of round 4. It is envisaged these teams will remain the same for the rest of the season.
- 16. Following any team changes, the Age Group Coordinator should notify the Junior Pooling Coordinator and Administrator, to ensure team lists are kept up to date.
- 17. Parents and players should be notified directly of any team change prior to the next night of competition.
- 18. Where a parent / guardian / player is not satisfied with their team allocation, they should first discuss their concerns with the Administrator, who will in turn refer the matter to the Age Group and / or Junior Pooling Coordinator if appropriate. If after all team changes have been completed and advised (i.e. before the start of round 4) a parent/guardian is still not satisfied with their child's placement, a full refund (less an administration fee) will be offered. NOTE: The refund offer is only valid prior to the start of round 4.
- 19. Adhere to the set timeline. If problems exist, speak to the Junior Pooling Coordinator as soon as possible for resolution.
- 20. Late registrations (i.e. registrations received after round 4) will be allotted a team by the Administrator to a maximum of seven (7) players. Once all team positions have been filled, prospective players will be placed on a waiting list.

D. WBA Commitment:

- 1. WBA will provide all junior players with playing singlets
- 2. WBA will provide a fixture of scheduled games on the WBA website or on the WBA notice board.
- 3. The WBA Administrator is not authorized to release private contact details or information about players or coaches, but will communicate messages through to relevant parties if requested e.g. player advising Coach / Manager that they are unavailable for a game.

E. Team Coach:

4. Required to adhere to the Domestic Coaching Guidelines, including the provision of even court time to all players in order to develop individual and team skills
5. Required to help develop all players in the team to the best of their ability through fair and positive instruction
6. Encouraged to attend any WBA coordinated training sessions
7. Shall encourage all team members to participate in any WBA coordinated training sessions. Any extra training sessions are at the discretion of the coach and players
8. Encouraged to develop their coaching skills via BVC training programs
9. May attempt to appoint a Team Manager to assist with team organisation
10. Required to attend Age Group meetings as necessary

F. Team Manager:

1. Provide support to the Team Coach as appropriate
2. Oversee scoring duties by creating a scoring roster for all parents
3. Organise collection of playing tickets each night
4. May attend Age Group meetings
5. Seek player fill-ins (in line with the bylaws) if the team is short of players due to school camp, illness, etc. Seek assistance from the Age Group Coordinator or Administrator if required.

G. Pooling Time line

Date	Description	Who
September	Junior Pooling Coordinator elected at the WBA AGM	WBA Members
October	Advertise on Facebook and Website for age group coordinators for the following year.	Junior Pooling Coordinator together with Administrator
Early November	Appoint Age Group Coordinators and have them endorsed through the committee.	Junior Pooling Coordinator
Mid November	Player evaluation form given to Junior coaches.	Age Group Coordinator
Approx. 2 Weeks Prior to season commencing	Once Registrations close email each Age Group coordinator a list of registered players in their age group.	Junior Pooling Coordinator along with Administrator
1 Week Prior to season commencing	Exactly one week prior to Game night (or alternatively by the date advised by the Administrator), Age Group Coordinator must send in their Team lists. This is edited onto the Team lists Template.	Age Group Coordinator & Junior Pooling Coordinator
4-5 days Prior to season commencing	Team Lists and fixtures are posted onto Website.	Administrator
First 3 weeks of competition	During the Pooling period, Age Group Pooling Coordinator should monitor games for evenness and consider appropriate team moves for players.	Age Group Coordinator
	Where teams do not have a Coach, approach parents / older players or other suitable persons to volunteer.	Age Group Coordinator & Junior Pooling Coordinator
3 weeks after season has commenced	All changes to teams must be finalised prior to the fourth game. Any changes that are made, parents must be contacted. Remember that changes made also effect the Singlet coordinators	Age Group Coordinator & Junior Pooling Coordinator