

Objectives of the Policy

The aim of the policy is to provide a clear framework for team selection to all members of the club. This will enable each player to play to their full potential in a team suitable to their ability and provide a structure to the process which is transparent and fair.

Selection Process

Selection is undertaken by the coach of that team, along with the captain of that team. If required other coaches may be consulted.

Availability

It should be recognised that Availability and Selection are not the same thing. Selection procedures can only begin once accurate information regarding player availability is gathered. All fixtures are freely available and distributed in advance.

Players will be required as a minimum to:

- Inform their captain after the week's game as to their availability for the subsequent weekend match.
- Respond promptly to any availability contact made by the captain (telephone call, email, text or apps used by the club) ahead of the following weekend match. The response needs to be applicable to the means that it was originally sent through. Players and parents are advised that failure to confirm availability through any of these methods, and in a timely manner, may mean that an individual player risks missing out on selection.

Selection Principles

- Selection will be within the rules of local and national governing bodies. As an example, junior players cannot take part in senior competitions until they are 13.
- The interest of the club and individuals are to be considered, however the club will come first, whether this is to ensure harmony or to support a team's objectives.
- Personal relationships will be put aside by captains/coaches/ managers when selecting teams.
- Young players will not be called upon to play in adult only competition until it is in the best interest of the young player.
- The 1st XI must take priority, and then each subsequent team under it. The club is judged on the performance of the 1st X1. The first team results and morale set the standard for the whole club.

- Players who can train but are unable to play regularly shall train with the squad most appropriate to their standard.
- Players are expected to accept the decision of the committee with the understanding you play for the club not a team. Full commitment is expected regardless of the team you play for.
- It is important for the Club to promote the development of committed young players and to see their inclusion (where possible) into appropriate teams.
- Movement within the teams should become an accepted part of selection and players should not expect to be guaranteed a place in a particular team. This should be borne in mind when players return from injury or other lengthy absences.
- If players are to be promoted from a team, the higher team captain will inform them of that decision.
- If players are selected for a lower team than normal they should be selected for the next senior team. It is up to the captain who de-selected the player to inform him/her of the decision and the reasons why it was taken. This should happen before the team sheet is published to avoid unnecessary disappointment and confusion. Captains should be positive and emphasise the strengths that the player can bring to their new team and areas where there is room for improvement.
- It is recognised that occasionally changes within teams may be required at short notice due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g. illness / injury). These changes will be handled by the relevant team captains and will be communicated with the individuals involved directly.
- Team captains are to ensure, if at all possible, that a players pitch time is proportional to the distance travelled to a game. This means that players should not be expected to travel long distances for limited pitch time, unless it is felt that this is in the best interests of that players development.

Selection Criteria

Selection will be based on the following criteria:

1. Club Requirements indicated must be satisfied.
2. The Player Attributes highlighted in bold are of particular importance to selection.
3. The remaining Player Attributes are listed in no particular order, but are considered as a blend in the best interest of the Club and the Teams.

Club Requirements

- Paid up Membership.
- Registered with the relevant association i.e. MRHA

- Up to date match fees.
- An eligible age.
- The aims of the Club.
- Absence of any other league rules excluding selection, for example relating to red/ yellow cards.

Player Attributes

- **Commitment to training and games.**
- **Prompt / pro-active / reliable communication as requested by Club or Captains.**
- Skills and ability.
- Fitness.
- Enthusiasm and positive attitude.
- Willingness to learn, develop, improve, be flexible, and adaptable to team requirements.
- Discipline and respect to players and officials.

Appeal

If players wish to appeal the selection process the first point of contact should be the relevant Club Captain. If they do not feel that the response is adequate, or in cases where there is a potential conflict of interest, such as a Club Captain also being a team captain, then the Club President or Club Secretary can be contacted.

In the spirit of transparency all members are welcome to recommend changes to the policy. Any such recommendations must be addressed to the club committee via one of its officers. Any change must be agreed by the club committee.