



Concord Baseball Club

Club of the Year 2016 - 2017

DIVISION ONE GRADING AND SELECTION POLICY

CONTEXT

- 1.1 Individual grading of players may be held where there are a number of players seeking selection in a Division 1 team. Grading will be carried out by a selection panel determined by the Concord Coaching Director. Where possible, members of selection panels will be independent of the team and coaching staff. Selectors may seek input on selection decisions from the team's coaching staff however the final selection decision rests with the Concord Coaching Director.
- 1.2 All players seeking selection should make themselves available for all grading sessions however if a player is unavailable for one or more grading sessions, they should advise the Coaching Director in advance.
- 1.3 Player selection is not solely based on the grading sessions and may also take into account player history (if known), attitude, the overall team makeup to ensure appropriate positional coverage and team balance. If a player is selected as a representative player in the upcoming season, and if they are *required* to play in Division 1 under the RHBL competition rules, that player will be granted automatic selection but is, however, still expected to participate in the grading process.
- 1.4 Players in Division 1 are expected to trial and play in their correct age group. Any requests to trial and play in an older age group may be considered under extenuating circumstances and will be subject to approval by the Concord Coaching Director. Any requests to play in a lower age group is subject to dispensation and must be agreed by the Concord Coaching Director in the first instance and referred to RHBL for approval.
- 1.5 Players not selected for Division 1 may receive feedback from the selection panel on why they were not selected. Players should note, however, that the purpose of the feedback session is not an avenue to challenge the selection decision but rather to provide constructive advice on areas for improvement and future development. If a player feels that he or she has been unfairly treated in the selection process, they should raise the matter with the Junior Coordinator in the first instance who may refer the matter to the club committee to review. Players selected for Division 1 may also receive feedback from selectors, on request, aimed at identifying areas for improvement that the player can work on during the season.
- 1.5 Players from other clubs are welcome to participate in the grading sessions however preference will be given to registered Concord players assessed as meeting Division 1 standard or potentially reaching Division 1 standard during the season. If there are additional places available in the team, players from other clubs may be invited to join the team either as a friendship player or on temporary transfer subject to agreement of the League and the player's club. In the event that our club cannot accommodate its genuine Division 1 players in a team, it will assist those players in finding a suitable team within another club either as a friendship player or on temporary transfer subject to agreement of the League.
- 1.6 Players should not discuss transfers with other clubs without first discussing the matter with Concord's Junior Coordinator and players should note that unauthorised transfers between clubs may prevent a player from participating in representative teams. Players should also note that playing for another club as a friendship player will still be recognised towards their player Continuity under the Concord Baseball Club's Ten-Year Loyalty award however temporary transfers do not count towards the Ten-Year award.

2. REQUIREMENTS OF CONCORD COMETS COACHING STAFF

- 2.1. To ensure the team has a balanced group of athletes in specialist and generalist playing positions, enabling development of a team which matches with the desired playing approaches and strategies.
- 2.2. Inform individuals that are trialling, what is required and expected of them during the trials.
- 2.3. Provide a brief summary of how the selection process works, the trial format, what the selectors will be looking for and any other information that may relate to the trial process.
- 2.4. To ensure that all individuals are given a fair opportunity to showcase their skills within the given trial period.
- 2.5. To provide honest, unbiased and constructive feedback to players on all aspects of their performance at trials if requested.

3. TEAM/SQUAD SELECTION & RATIFICATION

- 3.1 All teams will be selected giving consideration to the following:
 - Speed
 - Skill
 - Batting ability
 - Fielding ability
 - Throwing ability
 - Pitching/ Catching ability
 - Personal attitude
 - Personal presentation
 - Likely team dynamics
 - The needs of the team will always be considered ahead of the individual
- 3.2 The final decision lies at the discretion of the Concord Comets Coaching Director who will select the team based on grading results, fielding position and attitude within the team.
- 3.3 All teams selected will be subject to ratification/endorsement by the Concord Comets Management Committee, and the team members will be informed of selection, by email and the Concord Comets website (www.concord.baseball.com.au).

4. SELECTION/TRIAL FORMAT

- 4.1. The Concord Comets Division 1 selection process will comprise of a combination of the following:
 - Player Assessment – in addition to previous player history, the weekly Pre-Season ‘Shake Off the Cobwebs’ sessions will be taken into account.
 - Open Grading Nights
 - Concord Coaching Director to allow exemptions where deemed acceptable, practical or necessary
- 4.2. Subsequent Trial days if required, will be conducted as per guidelines determined by the Coaching Director.

5. NOTES

- 5.1. The grading night(s) are open trials available for any Concord Comets player wishing to play in a Division 1 Team
- 5.2. Players selected in a Division 1 Team squad must make every effort to attend all Friday night matches, scheduled training sessions, and adhere fully to the specified training program