**Casuarina Hockey Club
8B. (Club Rules) Selection Policy, Grading and Game/Training Policy** as atAugust 2015

The Coaching and Selection Committee provides the following information for coaches, managers, parents and players. This policy is to be used as guidelines that are followed when selecting teams, grading players and utilizing players to fill in across team, in higher grades and when a Casuarina team plays another Casuarina team in the same grade.

**Selection:**
Every player registers to play in one team (primarily their age group) which is considered their main game. Players selected in representative teams and players showing a higher level of skill and training commitment (refer c. in Selection Policy on second page) may be offered the opportunity to train and play in higher grades at times and as agreed by coaches.

Coaches will play players listed in their main game and then utilize other players playing a secondary game as fill in players. Juniors wishing to have the opportunity to play in senior teams must pay a junior playing senior fee. **This will not guarantee games in senior teams**.

Players playing up a grade and ungraded players will be used to fill teams when regular members of these teams are away (preferably 13 players but a maximum of 14 players). Selection of the replacement players will be made as per c. in Selection Policy.

When selecting players to play up a grade, Coaches will identify the strongest player or consider the position needed to be filled and then work down the list as per c. in the Selection policy to find the next replacement player. This decision will also be based on training attendance.

**Additional Training:**Every player is required to train with their main team. On occasions players may request to train with another team due to conflicting commitments. Such changes need to be agreed to by the player/parents and coach of both teams.

Representative players ie. Players that have been selected or identified by State Schools and Hockey Queensland, and players identified by the coach or Selection Committee may be asked to attend additional trainings.

Players may ask a coach or a Selection Committee member to attend additional training sessions as well. This will need to be approved by the coach or Committee and will also depend on the skill level of the player ie. Young players looking to train with Div 2 may not be up to the skill level or with multiple teams training on one field there may not be enough space for additional players to train.

It is recommended that players wishing to improve their skill level and the opportunity to train or play another game other than their main game, firstly do additional skill and fitness sessions themselves. Coaches are however happy to assist where possible. If players are preparing for School or State trials consideration will be given to attending additional trainings as agreed by the coaches.

**What is Grading?:**
Each team has to **grade the top 7 best players in each team** when there are two Casuarina teams in each grade. These graded players cannot play across in the other Casuarina team in that grade or play down a grade. Replacement players (as per Tweed Bylaws) are only allowed from the ungraded players. If a graded player is played illegally, the team playing this player will lose points for that game/s,

**Selection Policy:**
The Casuarina Hockey Club has had a selection policy for a number of years. An extract of this policy is below. The full policy, Rules and other information is available on the Casuarina Hockey Club website [www.casuarinahockey.com](http://www.casuarinahockey.com)

**Selection of Casuarina teams in the same grade:**

The Club has a policy of fielding a maximum of two even teams from U11-Division 1, rather than one strong team and one weaker team/s in a grade. Once registrations of the two teams in a grade or age group reach 14 in each team, registrations will be closed and any other new players will be encouraged to register with another club.

Based on previous year’s performances and the best knowledge of new players at the time, the Selection Committee will rank each player in the grade with a number from 5 (being the best player/s) to 1 (being the weakest player). The adding up of these points and position play consideration will be used by the Committee to identify two even teams.

Understanding that this can be a very difficult task. Some players will improve more or less rapidly over the course of the year, some players may need to be together where possible for transport purposes i.e. travelling from Lismore, and ensuring that players get to play with at least one friend. Although these points will be taken into consideration, they will not determine the final outcome of the team selections.

**Coaches/Managers Expectations when a Casuarina team plays another Casuarina team in the same grade:**

When one Casuarina Team is playing another Casuarina Team, the expectation is, The Club takes precedence. Coaches will be expected to share their non-graded players if one team is short and ensure the game is played in the best spirit of the game and that the matches are as even as possible. If one team is stronger and scoring more goals, coaches would be expected to use strategies to help this situation ie. Encourage the winning team to make 10 passes before moving forward, change the stronger players out of main positions and if necessary move better players across team.

Parents and supporters are asked to encourage and cheer for both teams and ensure an environment of health competition, support and acknowledgement that the Club takes priority. Many coaches actually coach and assist all players in the age group at trainings and this ensures an inclusive, positive Club experience. During finals matches, it is expected that teams will have full complements of players and that team’s play to win, however, the spirit of the occasion should reflect that we are from the same Club.

Casuarina Hockey Club Selection Committee.