**Whitehorse Representative Netball**

**Rep Terms of Reference**

**About the Rep Program**

* The Rep program is run by the appointed Head Rep Coach with assistance from office staff admin.
* The Whitehorse Rep Program is targeted to players in the domestic competition that want to take their netball to the next level.
* These guidelines refer to all representative teams. They are to ensure the smooth running of our program.
* Our philosophy links directly to the Whitehorse Strategic Plan 2021-2024 of creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for all eligible players. We aim to promote a pathway from a Junior Development Squad to Open Age where there are opportunities to develop skills and grow as a young athlete.

**Rep Trials**

* The selectors panel will consist of the Head Rep Coach, a leading coach of each age group and 1-2 independent selectors appointed by the Head Rep Coach and GM (depending on the number of attendees)
* All players wishing to attend the Whitehorse Rep trials must already play in a domestic club or be actively looking to join one for the upcoming season for 11/U, 13/U, and 15/U. This will be actively monitored by the Head Rep Coach and Rep Administrator, and applies to both seasons of the Saturday competition.
* Players selected in 17/U and Open do not have to play in the WNA domestic competitions
* All decisions made by selectors and approved by the Head Rep Coach are final.
* Any unsuccessful players may request feedback
* Should any players decline their position, second round offers may be offered to any unsuccessful trialists, chosen by the Head Rep Coach after deliberation with selectors.
* The number of teams that will be selected for the upcoming year will be decided after the rep trials. There are no set number of teams.
* A decision will be made by the Head Rep Coach and GM regarding the number of teams in any given year.
* A squad is selected in each age groups, not teams.
* Up to the first 4 weeks of games, players may move between teams to find which combinations work best. Players change in skill a large amount between October and February so it would be unfair to lock them into a team when they may be stronger or weaker than we first observed based on trials.

**Training Partners**

* Training partners may be offered in any age and there is no minimum/maximum number of offers to be given
* They are expected to attend as many trainings as possible, as a squad member would
* It is to the coach’s disrection when the training partners are called into the ‘game-night’ squad.
* Training partners are invited to all tournaments.
* Their fees will be half of that of a squad member for the season

**Coaches**

* Coaches will be announced for each age group after trials have been completed
* Coaches will not be announced for specific teams prior to the first game of the season commencing so we can find which coach is the best fit with each team.
* The selection of coaches will be conducted by the Head Rep Coach alongside two independent persons appointed by the Head Coach and GM
* Current coaches holding a position within the same calendar year will undergo a performance review. Within this, it will be discussed if the coach wishes to return for the following year
* The re-appointed of coaches will be based on on-court success, team performance and cohesion across both seasons, player development and overall satisfaction of the Head Rep Coach and GM.
* Coaches should maintain a current Development Coaching Accreditation from Netball Australia, to be renewed every four years. Coaches must maintain a current Working With Children’s Check or equivalent.
* At the conclusion of the year, a ‘Coach of the Year’ award may be presented to one or more coaches from the two seasons. Criteria may include on-court performance, team enjoyment and initiatives and a successful training program. The coach/es will be selected by the Head Rep Coach with approval from the General Manager.

**New Coaches**

* Each year, interviews will only be held for new prospective coaches. Positions will be advertised in the month of September
* New coaches must provide a netball related reference.
* Before commencing their role, all coaches must hold an NCAS Foundation Coach Accreditation, with the desire to reach their Development Coach Accreditation in their first year.

**Association Championships**

* The 1s and 2s teams from 13/U, 15/IU and 17/U attend Association Championships
* To coach at Association Championships, each coach must hold a minimum Development Coach Accreditation. This must be sent to the Head Rep Coach before attending the tournament
* If coaches do not hold a Development Accreditation, they will not coach their team at this tournament

**Age Limits**

* The age groups are 11 and under, 13 and under, 15 and under, 17 and under and Open. If you turn that age in that year, you are permitted to play.
* Boys are eligible to play in 11/U and 13/U. Should they turn 13 during the year of playing, they may finish that season and following this, may participate in mixed or men’s competitions

**Pathways**

* Whitehorse Netball is committed to providing quality coaching and competition for our players. Our goal is to provide competitive teams and playing opportunities whilst keeping costs to a minimum.
* Talent Identification opportunities exist for players through Association Championships and State Titles (Chisholm Region), leading to selection for the Central East Talent Academy Program and Underage State Representative Teams.
* Players may also be talent identified at any time, by Netball Victoria selectors, within the 15/U program
* Should a player be excelling in their correct age group, the coach of their current team and Head Rep Coach may permit them to trial for an age group above their own.
* This process can only be initiated by the Head Coach and the player’s current coach, and approved by the General Manager. It cannot be initiated by a parent
* If a player is noticeably stronger than those in their designated age group, it would be unfair to the player to hold them back from developing their skills. They may be moved to a higher age group.

**Court Time**

* All players in the 11 & Under Tournament teams will be given equal court time where possible.
* Court time in the 13 & Under teams will be at the discretion of the coach, however all players will be given at least two quarters at each match where possible.
* Court time in the 15 & Under, 17 & Under teams and Opens will be at the discretion of the coach. Several factors will be taken into consideration by the coach when assessing court time. They will include such things as your attendance at training, level of fitness, player injury, your behaviour and attitude towards the coach, players, and officials. With ten players to twelve players in each team, there may be some games where you may not get any court time or are only on the court for 1 quarter.
* Should a player not attend training, court time may be limited at the discretion at the coach. Please note, this may mean no court time at all.
* Court time in finals is to the discretion of the coach. Some players may not take the court.

**Matches**

* A medical clearance is required for players returning from injury where more than 1 week has been missed.
* A medical clearance is required for any head injuries, regardless of time missed.
* All players are to arrive for the match in full uniform ready to play at the coach’s specified time.
* Players will be played in the positions for which they are selected. However, during the season if a coach feels a player is better suited for another position the coach will discuss this with the player and their parents/guardian. If any player and/or parents/guardian are dissatisfied with this situation they can refer the matter to the Head Rep Coach.
* Teams may be entered into Sunday tournaments if the coach and players are available. Whitehorse Netball will give adequate notice to the team of the intention to enter a tournament. If for any reason the team is short of players, the coach may seek substitute players from another team in the same age group or a player in a lower age group. At tournaments, court time will be at the coach’s discretion. Tournament fees may be included in season fees.
* If a player is unable to attend, it is expected that the player/parent will personally contact the coach (via text message), team manager and email Whitehorse Netball (rep@whitehorsenetball.org.au).

**Fees**

* Fees are set by the GM upon completion of the annual budget
* Following acceptance of a position within any squad, a $100 deposit must be provided within 7 days to secure a spot
* This deposit is non-refundable
* In February and July (beginning of each season), the fees will be sent, and must be paid within 30 days
* If a player chooses to withdraw from the squad, there is no refund on the season’s fees unless a replacement player can be found
* If a player sustains a long-term injury (defined as longer than half a season out of action), depending on the circumstance, they may be refunded a percentage of their fees
* If a player has a prolonged absence due to schooling endeavours, they may receive a percentage off their season fees

**Individual Coaching**

* Individual coaching consists of 1 on 1 or 2 on 1 sessions with players and the Head Rep Coach or a team coach
* The session can consist of fitness, court sense, footwork/ballwork or any aspect of their game that the player deems necessary to improve
* Each player has been provided with one 1-hour session for the year within their fees

**Training**

* All players are expected to attend regular training sessions. If a player is unable to attend, it is expected that the player/parent will personally contact the coach (via text message) and email Whitehorse Netball (rep@whitehorsenetball.org.au).
* Failure to attend will result in reduced court time in the game following the missed session if the number of available players and combinations permit.
* From time to time a coach may call an additional or alternative training session for which a consequence, if any, for non-attendance is completely to the discretion of the coach.

**Problems/Complaints**

* If a problem arises during the season, regardless of the nature, we suggest a first point-of-call to be the team coach. Coaches can be available for 15 minutes prior to training and warm up for games and 15 mins after training and games. All matters will be kept strictly confidential. This can be done by the player, parent, or both parties.
* If, following this approach, you are not satisfied, the problem continues/escalates or you feel the issue is of a serious nature, please contact the Head Rep Coach for a discussion or to organise a meeting.
* If the problem continues to occur, please contact the Whitehorse Netball General Manager for advice.

**Feedback**

* All coaches are to provide weekly feedback to their team and players when possible. This can be verbal or written feedback at the day of the game and or the following training.
* All players have the right to ask for further individual feedback at any stage during or after games and trainings.
* If a player is receiving less court time than others, the coach should discuss with them why it is and what they need to do to increase their court time in the future.

**Rep Presentation Night**

* Each year the Head Rep Coach and Rep Administrator will organise a Rep presentation night
* 11/U, 13/U, 15/U, 17/U and Open players, parents, and coaches will be invited.
* Each coach will award 2 or 3 coaches awards for various reasons to players in their teams.
* Each player will be provided with food and soft drinks, paid as part of their fees
* All coaches will be provided with food and beverages.
* All Parents will be charged a fee decided by the GM to attend and will be provided a meal.