**USC Lion Volleyball Club Team and Player Selection Policy**

**Purpose:**

To clarify the team selection process and to ensure that it remains in line with the USC Lion Volleyball Club’s (“the Club”) values and objectives as outlined in the Club’s constitution and is consistent with other club policy.

**Key Relevant Club Objectives:**

* To win the Skip cup
* To encourage the development of player sporting, personal and social skills to their fullest potential.
* Maintain a collaborative culture and accountability throughout the junior and senior membership cadre.

**Team Selection Criteria:**

The following criteria will be taken into consideration in the selection of players:

**SENIOR**

Following discussion between the senior coaches and coordinators for each gender, either during or toward the end of each week’s training session:

Player/team selection each week to be based on the following criteria:

* No outstanding debt to the club (ie Players should be fully paid playing members)
* Attendance at training
* Performance at training
* Performance in matches
* Position played

Teams to be announced each week by any method necessary as to ensure all players are informed (eg verbal, email, phone, Facebook, etc)

Finals selection policy – as specified in the VSA Competition Rules, and as determined by the USC Lion Volleyball Club Coaches and Committee

AIS / National Team / International Player may be considered for selection in round robin & finals matches provided they are financial with the club and have completed a membership form.

**JUNIOR**

**Key Relevant Club Junior Objectives:**

**U13**

* To provide a platform for young athletes to enjoy the sport while learning the basics of the game
* To develop player self-esteem.

**U15**

* To encourage the development of player sporting, personal and social skills to their fullest potential.
* Learn how to play all the various positions within the game.
* To develop player self-esteem

**U17**

Div 1

* To obtain the best results within the SAVL competition
* Development of players within specific roles and positions.

Div 2 and lower

* To encourage the development of player sporting, personal and social skills to their fullest potential.
* Learn all the necessary positions within the game.
* To develop player self-esteem

**U19**

Div 1

* To obtain the best results within the SAVL competition
* Development of players within specific roles and positions.

Div 2 and lower

* To encourage the development of player sporting, personal and social skills to their fullest potential.
* Learn all the necessary positions within the game.
* To develop player self-esteem

**SLJ**

* To obtain the best results within the SAVL competition
* Development of players within specific roles and positions.

**Team Selection Criteria:**

The following criteria will be taken into consideration in the selection of players:

**Primary**

* Player’s membership is currently financial
* Player’s skills & confidence (sporting/social/leadership)
* Player’s motivation level
* Player’s level of fearlessness and ambition
* Team balance and competitiveness for all teams (U17D1/U19D1/SLJ)

**Secondary**

* Player’s age
* Player size
* Player development / extension
* Provide each player opportunity to experience some success during the season
* Existing friendships and opportunities to extend friendship circles. (U13/U15)

***Note1:*** Existing friendships will only be a prime consideration in the selection of teams if there is a robust logistical justification and skill levels are appropriate. For U17/U19 Div 1/SLJ and above, this will not be a consideration.

***Note2:*** The Club believes that the development of individual players is best served in a sporting sense and socially by playing in a group where they fit and can demonstrate suitable ability in all aspects of skill, interpersonal and socially.

**Player Selection Criteria:**

The Club authorises the elected co-ordinators, coaches and team managers at each age level to select the teams in accordance with the above criteria.

**Team Numbers Selection Process:**

Each team will have a maximum number of 12 players nominated for the season. This number is not to be exceeded, to ensure that all team players obtain a suitable amount of court time.

**Player Rotation Between Different Grades:**

Coaches may also rotate players between differently graded teams in line with the

above criteria for the purpose of player sporting and or social development and also

team balance and competitiveness. However, it must be done in a way that

recognises the importance in team games of maintaining team stability and also the relevant competition rulings and per SAVL rules.

**Special Needs:**

The Club appreciates that there may be extenuating circumstances where two players are required to play in the same team. Such requests, with documented justification, should be made through the Junior Co-ordinators, with input from the relevant coaches and team managers. In the event that difficulties arise accommodating the request, this must be referred to the club Committee.

**Finals Selection:**

It is generally acknowledged that finals in each sport are different from regular season games. To that end, selection for finals games may result in some difficult decision-making. The process and selection for finals teams will follow the guiding principles, but must be in line with the relevant competition rulings:

* The club will provide an opportunity for as many players as possible to experience finals competition.
* Coaches will ensure that playing time and player selection is managed as equitably as possible.

Finals Selection Criteria

* Player’s skills & confidence (sporting)
* Player’s motivation level and commitment
* Player’s level of importance to team structure
* The player is a regular player in that team

The selection process for teams at Under 13,15 and 17 Div 2 and below level will follow the guidelines as outlined above, although the coach must implement an all-inclusive approach for the development of all players rather than a ‘win at all cost’ philosophy.

**Authority:**

The Club authorises the Junior and Senior co-ordinators and nominated coaches at each age level to select the teams in accordance with the above criteria. During the trial process, a selection committee is to be selected to ensure independence from parent conflict of interest.

**Explanations:**

The Club believes that its junior values and objectives are more likely to be achieved by the above range of criteria in the selection of teams rather than the simplistic selection of all the ‘best’ players in the higher graded team. In particular, the Club recognises that in graded age level competitions player’s self-esteem is less likely to be positively developed if they are playing in a grade significantly above their current sporting or social abilities. Conversely a player’s sporting and social development will be less likely to be enhanced if they are playing at a level, which is well below their sporting or social abilities.

The Club understands the importance of friendships as a key motivating factor for all people, especially the very young, to participate in sport as well as the need for this to be balanced within the context of the above, the aim of creating competitive teams and the role team sport can play in extending young people’s social networks. In U17/U19 Div 1 and SLJ and above finals matches, the club believes that the team being as competitive as possible is a higher priority than in fixture games. This may mean that some players may get less game time and others may not be selected. However, in finals selection, the club will endeavour to balance team competitiveness with offering as many players as possible the opportunity to take part in the finals series and to therefore share in the success of the team.

**Grievance Process:**

In the case of dispute/grievance/disciplinary issue, the matter must be initially referred to the relevant co-ordinators. Any parent of a player in that age group must not make a decision without the agreement/support of the other members of the coordinator committee.

Matters escalated to the club’s committee are to be acknowledged within 7 days. The

committee shall determine the appropriate resolution and / or penalty for policy contravention. Should the parties not reach a resolution, the dispute may be escalated to the Association Committee for consideration and resolution.