

<b>Training Partner Policy</b>		<b>08</b>
<b>Lead Program Area</b>	<b>Director of Coaching</b>	
<b>Key Interfaces</b>	<b>Coaching Panel</b>	
<b>Policy Application</b>	<b>Training Partners</b>	

### **Training Partners**

1. Athletes selected as MUL Training Partners are provided with an opportunity to experience the MUL training environment & will be linked to a particular team within the MUL Club structure.
2. Training Partner opportunities will be offered to athletes with potential to reach the next age group or team, as identified by MUL selectors &/or Coaches in consultation with the Director of Coaching.

### **Selection of Training Partners**

1. Individual athletes are generally identified as potential Training Partners during selections, with recommendations made by a Selector for MUL or current MUL Coach. There may be circumstances such as relocating from inter-state or a change in family or work circumstances that may result an athlete who was previously unavailable being offered a Training Partner opportunity throughout the year.
2. The decision to offer an athlete the opportunity to become a Training Partner would be made in consultation with the athlete, intended team Coach & MUL Director of Coaching. Final approval is required from the Management Group before confirming the offer to an athlete.
3. The Fee Structure for a Training Partner will be reviewed & set annually by the Committee.

### **Number of Training Partners per Team**

1. Whilst there is no cap on the number of Training Partner opportunities that can be offered in a season, the decision-making process must take in account whether the Club can provide adequate development through exposure to the MUL training environment.
2. Generally, only one Training Partner opportunity should be provided in each area of the court to allow adequate training & development opportunity.
3. Similarly, the ability of the Coach to manage the larger player group & cater for the development & training needs of all team members needs to be considered when scheduling Training Partner participation. As a result, there may be differences in the commitment of each Training Partner to attend sessions & in the opportunity provided by the Coach to attend training sessions throughout phases of the season.

### **Participation of Training Partners**

1. The Training Partner is a member of the Club & should be provided with the maximum opportunity to experience the MUL training environment within the limits of their availability, without compromising the integrity of the existing team structure.
2. The athlete's wellbeing & long-term development should not be compromised by the extent of their participation. In most cases the athlete will also have training & playing commitments with a non-VNL Club running concurrently with the VNL season which may impact their availability to attend trainings or Club activities, particularly in-competition.
3. Specific examples of opportunities offered to Training Partners include, but should not be limited to the following;

- Pre-Season & in-season fitness testing
  - Pre-Season training sessions
  - Home Holiday Programs (prior to training resuming in January)
  - Monitored Pre-Season strength & conditioning programs
  - Medical Screening / injury monitoring
  - Individual gym membership at MU gym
  - Attendance at MUL Club Day & other Club events such as presentation or awards nights
  - Information or player education sessions provided throughout the season
  - Club training uniform
4. Whenever possible, opportunities should be provided to the Training Partner to develop their general & court specific skills, as well as provide opportunities to apply these skills in game like activities & game play through Intra or Inter-Club practice matches, & Specialist sessions offered across the Club.

#### **Monitoring Participation of Training Partners**

1. The Coach is required to document Training Partner attendance at training & other commitments, similar to the requirement to maintain accurate records for all athletes within the team. In addition, the Coach should record each opportunity offered to Training Partners inclusive of the dates offered & Training Partner availability.
2. The Coach & athlete need to maintain open communication regarding levels of participation, with the Coach regularly communicating this information to the Director of Coaching. The discussions in the first instance should be between the Coach & Training Partner, with the Director if Coaching consulted if there is a discrepancy between actual & desired training attendance, by either the Coach or Training Partner.
3. The training frequency can be negotiated on an individual athlete basis, taking into account their availability due to work, study or family commitments, as well as other netball team commitments.
4. MUL would encourage Training Partners to play at a suitable standard of competition with a non-VNL Club & whenever possible would assist to recommend a suitable playing opportunity. In the first instance MUL would look towards Melbourne University Netball Club to source a playing opportunity however it is the athlete's choice about where they will play.
5. If the Training Partner attendance during Pre-Season or in-competition is less than 50% (less than every other session) the Director of Coaching should be notified to ensure that this meets the needs of the Training Partner, Coach & other athletes within the team. Similarly, if the Training Partner has not been offered a training opportunity or has not attended a session for more than two weeks the Director of Coaching should be informed.
6. The regular monitoring of consistent participation is important as the Training Partner is included in the Player Movement Ladder & will be offered priority over a player from a lower division.