

Player Movement Policy		07
Lead Program Area	Director of Coaching	
Key Interfaces	Coaching Panel, Sports Science Coordinator	
Policy Application	Players	

Background

Player movement within the Club team is a necessary action of the Victorian Netball League (VNL). Player movement may be necessitated due to injury or illness, availability, performance &/or finals' qualification requirements.

Melbourne University Lightning will follow this Player Movement Policy when it is deemed necessary to promote &/or relegate a player(s) from within selected teams or where a vacancy exists in a team, & there is a requirement to add a new player from outside the Club to the team.

The Club will follow this policy to ensure transparency for players, coaches & other stakeholders. The Club will communicate player movements as & when appropriate. The Club will endorse player movement keeping in mind at all times, team & Club success, & individual player development.

Responsibility

The Director of Coaching (DC) will work in partnership with Club coaches to administer this policy. The DC will also ensure that coaches implement the communicative procedures of the policy to the promoted/relegated player & team.

Team Hierarchy

While the success of each Melbourne University Lightning team is important, Club success will be measured on seasonal results according to the following team hierarchy:

- a) Championship Team
- b) 19U Team
- c) Division 1 Team
- d) Lightning Bolts Development Team

This focus may shift during the season where a team's performance renders success their unlikely, & another team remains in finals' contention. Team hierarchy & the likely success of teams will be a consideration in the decision making.

1. The Player Movement Ladder

Players will be promoted/relegated according to the Player Movement Ladder.

Players will generally be promoted from the Lightning Bolts (development team) to the 19U team; from 19U team to the Division 1 team, & from the Division 1 team to the Championship team.

Players will generally be relegated in the reverse order, except where they are ineligible to participate in the 19U team due to age constraints, & as such will generally be relegated to one of the Melbourne University Netball Club teams.

2. Player Movement Rationale

Justification for player movement will generally be focussed around three questions:

- a) What position(s) is/are required?
- b) What is the length of time required for the player movement?
- c) Why is the player movement required?

3. Player Movement Decision

Player movement decisions will be based on the request's potential impact on team success according to the Team Hierarchy & the questions relating to Player Movement Rationale.

4. Player Movement Communication

Communication around player movement requests is vital for each of the impacted player(s), coaches & their team members. The following communication will be expected once a decision has been formed regarding promotion &/or relegation:

- a) The DC will telephone the impacted player(s) & their coaches with the Player Movement decision & any subsequent instruction regarding training &/or game day.
- b) The coach receiving the promoted or relegated player will communicate via telephone with the player regarding the next training session &/or game.
- c) The impacted coaches will inform their team of the promotion &/or relegation of the relevant player.

The following communication will be expected once a decision has been made regarding adding a new player (from outside of the existing squads) to a team.

- a) The DC will telephone the new player & welcome to the club.
- b) The DC will email the Club President to advise of the external player & how long they will be joining the team involved.
- c) The impacted coach will contact the player & provide details regarding training &/or game day.

5. Player Movement Ladder

PROMOTION: Player movement with regards to promotion will generally follow the ladder below, with a Training Partner connected to a Team given priority over a player promoted from a lower level team, assuming they are able to fill the position required on court.

Academy	→	Bolts
Bolts	→	19/U
19/U	→	Division 1
Division 1	→	Championship

Note: A player relegated to a lower level team will take priority over a Training Partner promotion. Previous players of the club may be considered as options to fill in. Alternative players will only be considered in extreme circumstances.

RELEGATION: Player movement with regards to relegation will generally follow the ladder below.

19/U	→	Bolts
Division 1	→	19/U (Dependent on age) or Melbourne University Netball Club (MUNC)
Championship	→	Division 1 or MUNC