

Championship Division Wildcard Selection Policy

Purpose

Wildcard entries provide Basketball Australia with the ability to include a limited number of teams in the Championship Division where they have demonstrated they are capable of competing at Championship level but have not qualified through the standard qualification process.

Wildcard selections are not guaranteed and will only be awarded where Basketball Australia believes it is in the best interests of the competition.

Wildcard Application Process

Schools seeking consideration for a Championship Division wildcard must submit a formal application to Basketball Australia by the advertised closing date.

Applications must be submitted via **email** (Cheyne.Hackett@australia.basketball) as a **Word document** and should include, at a minimum:

- School name
- Background on the school's basketball program and history.
- Results from the relevant State or Territory qualification event.
- Recent performances at Australian Schools Championships (if applicable).
- Performance at other recognised school or representative basketball competitions.
- Details of the current team's playing roster, including any representative or high-performance athletes (where relevant).
- Reasons why the school believes it should be considered for a Championship Division wildcard.
- Any exceptional circumstances that may have impacted qualification.
- Any additional information the school believes is relevant to assist the Selection Panel.

Basketball Australia may seek further information from the school or the relevant State or Territory School Sporting Organisation during the assessment process.

Note: Submission of a wildcard application does not guarantee selection. All applications will be assessed by Basketball Australia, in consultation with the relevant State and Territory Sporting Organisation, against the published selection criteria.

Selection Panel

Wildcard applications will be assessed by Basketball Australia in consultation with the relevant State and Territory Sporting Organisation (SSOs).

The Selection Panel may include:

- Basketball Australia Events & Competitions representatives
- Basketball Australia High-Performance representatives
- Representatives from the relevant State or Territory Sporting Organisation(s)
- Other technical advisors as determined by Basketball Australia

The Panel's decision is final.

Selection Criteria

The Selection Panel will consider a combination of the following:

1. Demonstrated Playing Standard (Primary Consideration)

- Results from State or Territory School Championships.
- Performance against Championship-calibre opposition.
- Overall competitiveness and team quality.

2. Previous Australian Schools Championships Performance

- Recent Championship Division results.
- Finishing positions over previous Championships.
- Consistent ability to compete at Championship level.

3. Strength of State/Territory Competition

- Depth and competitiveness of the qualification pathway.
- Quality of opposition faced during qualification.

4. Exceptional Circumstances

Examples may include:

- Narrowly missing qualification.
- Significant player unavailability during qualifying events.
- Changes to qualification formats or unforeseen circumstances outside the school's control.

5. Competition Integrity

Basketball Australia may consider whether the inclusion of a team will strengthen the Championship Division and ensure the highest standard of competition.

Additional Principles

- Qualification remains the primary pathway into the Championship Division.
- Wildcards are exceptional and will only be granted where justified.
- Receiving a wildcard in one year does not provide any future entitlement.
- Basketball Australia reserves the right not to award a wildcard if no application meets the required Championship standard.
- The Selection Panel may request additional information from schools or SSOs if required.

Decision Making

Where multiple schools are considered of similar standard, the Selection Panel may consider:

1. State Championship placing.
2. Head-to-head results.
3. Results against common opponents.
4. Average winning margin (where appropriate).
5. Strength of schedule.
6. Overall assessment from Basketball Australia and relevant SSOs.