Preamble: This policy has been developed from the wider Sports Policy, which was drawn up in January 2015. Sporting selections should be made in alignment with the Sport Policy and the Mission and Values of the school.

Team Selection
Selection of players for league teams will be based on merit. The strongest team will be picked, regardless of age.

If there are specific rules with regard age group limitations, these must be applied, no matter how talented the younger player may be. (E.g. Rugby).

Team selections will be influenced by the need for specific player skills in specific positions.

The coach and/or manager should consider the skill set required, fitness and physical attributes required in a particular position, player attitude and commitment, balance in a team and the ability to play together in key, paired positions.

New pupils who arrive during any year should be given the opportunity to contest for team selection. If they deserve selection on merit, they may oust an established player.

The coach and/or manager may drop a player for reasons such as bad sportsmanship and/or disciplinary transgressions.

The coach will make the team selection. The manager may be included in this process. The decision of the coach and/or manager is final.

In the case of serious dispute the Deputy Head: Wider Curriculum may be involved.

Captaincy Selection
The coach and/or manager will select the captain and vice-captain.

They may choose to consult the players as to who they feel will be the best leader of the team. However, this should not be a popularity vote, but rather should be based on leadership skills, knowledge of the game and ability to favourably represent the school and the sport.
**Age Groups**
Players must play in their appropriate age groups, however:
If in order to field a full team, over-age players have to play in a younger age group team, approval must be obtained before the fixture from the opponents.

Players from younger age groups or lower teams can be drawn to fill places in older/higher teams. This may be necessary in order to field a full bench of reserve players. The coach must exercise responsible judgement to ensure that younger players are able to face the challenges that participation in an older age group will present. This may only be done within the laws of the sporting body.
If there are not enough players available, the lower team may have to forfeit their fixture in order to fill places in the higher team.

Preparatory School children may not play in College teams unless they exceed the Prep age group divisions. This will only be done after consultation with the Heads of Prep and College.

**Fast Tracking**
This allows for children with exceptional talent to be moved up the system to allow them exposure at a higher level, where appropriate.

The social and emotional maturity of the individual needs to be considered and this can only happen with the prior consent of the Heads of Sport, in consultation with the Deputy Head: Wider Curriculum.

It is not advisable that this happens between Prep and College sections.

**Tour selection**
The same criteria, as detailed in the section Team Selection, above must be applied.
Younger players may be drafted into the tour squad in order to gain experience and to create continuity for future teams and tours.
Players may only be selected for tours if their school accounts are of good standing. This may mean that players from lower teams may have to be selected for a tour squad. These players must be selected on a “next best” basis.
After any tour, the non-touring players should be re-integrated into the squad wherever possible. Younger players could also be required to return to play in their own age group, after the tour.

**Educational Opportunities:**
When a player is dropped, for whatever reason, the onus rests with the coach and/or manager to explain why this has happened and to explain what needs to be done to change the situation.

The same should apply if a keen player fails to be selected.