

MANLY EAGLES BASEBALL CLUB

Team Selection Guidelines 2026

Preseason squads, weekly grades and finals • 2026 review

Our commitment

MEBC will select teams through a fair, consistent and transparent process. Selection will recognise performance, development, team needs, conduct, commitment, eligibility and player welfare, while respecting the professional judgment required of coaches and selectors.

Policy owner	MEBC Board
Operational owner	MEBC Head Coach / Baseball Operations Lead
Applies to	Players seeking selection and all coaches, selectors, team managers and officials involved in senior, women's, under-age, futures and other MEBC teams
Approval date	24/08/26
Next review	Annually before preseason, and after any material competition-rule change
Related documents	MEBC Constitution; Player and Coach Codes of Conduct; complaints policy; safeguarding and member-protection policies; current Baseball NSW competition and eligibility rules

Status note: Before approval, confirm current team names, competition rules, finals eligibility, registration and financial-clearance arrangements.

1. Purpose

The purpose of these guidelines is to establish a fair, transparent and consistent approach to the weekly selection of players for Manly Eagles Baseball Club teams competing in the Baseball NSW State League Competition.

The Club fields teams in:

- 1st Grade
- 2nd Grade
- 3rd Grade
- U18

These guidelines aim to:

- reward player commitment and availability;
- promote the overall success of the Club across all grades;
- provide opportunities for player development;
- encourage player commitment to both training and match participation;
- comply with Baseball NSW State League Competition rules; and
- ensure that team selections are made in a fair and consistent manner.

2. Selection Philosophy

The Club's objective is to field the strongest and most competitive teams possible across all grades, including U18, while recognising player commitment, availability and development.

The Club also supports players who represent Australian Baseball League teams, Baseball Australia or Baseball NSW at sanctioned events and recognises that such participation benefits both the player and the Club.

Selectors will seek to balance:

- the interests of individual teams;
- the overall success of the Club;
- player development;
- fairness to players who consistently make themselves available; and
- compliance with Baseball NSW State League Competition rules.

No player has an automatic entitlement to a starting position in any grade.

3. Weekly Availability

Players are expected to advise their availability by the deadline determined by the Club each week.

Player absences will be categorised as either Approved Absences or General Unavailability.

Approved Absences

Approved Absences include:

- employment or work commitments;
- illness;
- injury;
- participation in an Australian Baseball League, Baseball Australia or Baseball NSW sanctioned activity, including:
 - representative trials;
 - selection events;
 - representative training camps;
 - championship competitions; or
 - any other officially sanctioned baseball event.

The Club recognises these commitments as legitimate and supports players meeting their employment obligations, recovering from illness or injury, or representing baseball at a higher level.

General Unavailability

General Unavailability includes any absence for reasons other than those listed above, including holidays, personal commitments or any other voluntary absence.

Players should notify the Club of any absence as early as reasonably practicable.

3.1 Training Attendance

The Club regards attendance at scheduled training sessions as an important component of player commitment, preparation and team development.

The primary Club training session is conducted on Tuesday evenings. Players are expected to attend training regularly and advise their availability in the same manner as game day availability.

Where a player is unavailable for a Tuesday night training session, the player is expected to attend the alternate Thursday night training session for that week when reasonably practicable. Attendance at Thursday training is intended to be an alternative arrangement for occasional Tuesday absences and is not intended to replace regular Tuesday attendance.

Training absences will be managed in the same manner as game day absences. Selectors may consider both training attendance and the reasons for any training absences when making team selection decisions.

For the purposes of these guidelines, training absences will be assessed using the same principles applied to game day availability, including consideration of:

- Approved Absences;
- General Unavailability;
- player commitment and availability;
- fairness to players who consistently make themselves available; and
- the overall interests of the Club.

Where a player is unable to attend either scheduled training session in a given week, the player should notify the Club as early as reasonably practicable.

4. Return Following Absence

A player returning after missing one or more matches or training will not automatically return to their previous position in the starting line-up.

The normal expectation is that the returning player will:

Option A

Return through the starting line-up of the grade immediately below their previous grade; or

Option B

Return as a reserve (bench player) in their previous grade before regaining a starting position.

This principle recognises and rewards players who have remained available and contributed during the player's absence.

Where the absence was an Approved Absence, selectors will give appropriate consideration to the reason for the absence. An Approved Absence does not guarantee immediate reinstatement to the starting line-up but should not disadvantage a player in the same manner as a voluntary absence.

5. Exceptions to the Return Principle

The Selection Committee may depart from the normal return principle where one or more of the following circumstances apply.

5.1 Restricted Players

Certain players are only eligible to compete in 1st Grade due to competition requirements or Club guidelines. These include:

- current Australian Baseball League (ABL) players;
- former Australian Baseball League players where competition rules or Club guidelines require;
- any other player whose eligibility is restricted by Baseball NSW State League Competition rules.

These players may only return through the 1st Grade bench or starting line-up as permitted by competition rules.

5.2 Weekly Player Numbers

Selectors will consider:

- the total number of players available across the Club;
- injuries and illnesses;
- late withdrawals;
- the need to field competitive teams in all grades; and
- the equitable distribution of players throughout the Club.

Where player numbers require adjustment, selectors may vary the normal return process.

5.3 Positional Requirements

Selectors will consider the balance of each team, including the availability of players capable of filling specialist positions.

Player versatility and the overall balance of each team will also be considered.

Where specialist positions cannot otherwise be filled, a returning player may be restored directly to the starting line-up.

5.4 Finals Qualification

The Club recognises the importance of ensuring eligible players qualify for finals.

Where Baseball NSW State League Competition rules require players to have achieved minimum appearances or recent participation in a particular grade, selectors may adjust weekly team selections to ensure players remain eligible for finals.

These decisions will balance:

- compliance with competition rules;
- the competitiveness of all grades, including U18;
- fairness to all players; and
- the best interests of the Club.

6. Promotion and Demotion

Movement between grades is an expected part of the season.

Players may be promoted or moved between grades based on:

- performance;
- availability;
- positional requirements;
- player development;
- team balance;
- injury or illness; or
- other strategic Club requirements.

Movement between grades is not to be interpreted as disciplinary action.

7. Starting Line-ups and Bench Players

A player may only be named in the starting line-up for one grade on any competition weekend. Except for 3 U18 players who are allowed to be named in the starting line-up for both U18 and either 1st or 2nd Grade.

Players may also be selected as reserve (bench) players. Selection as a reserve does not create an entitlement to a starting position in subsequent weeks.

8. Rewarding Commitment

The Club values players who consistently make themselves available throughout the season.

Where selection decisions are otherwise evenly balanced, preference will generally be given to players who have:

- maintained regular availability;
- fulfilled Club commitments;
- attended scheduled training sessions where reasonably possible; and
- contributed consistently throughout the season.

9. Selector Discretion

While these guidelines establish the normal framework for team selection, it is recognised that circumstances will arise that cannot reasonably be anticipated.

Accordingly, the Selection Committee retains discretion to depart from these guidelines where exceptional circumstances exist and where doing so is considered to be in the best interests of the Club.

Any such decision should:

- be based on objective reasons;
- be consistent with the principles of these guidelines;
- comply with Baseball NSW State League Competition rules; and
- maintain fairness across all grades, including U18.

10. Review

These guidelines will be reviewed annually before the commencement of each Baseball NSW State League Competition season and may be amended by the Club Committee as required.