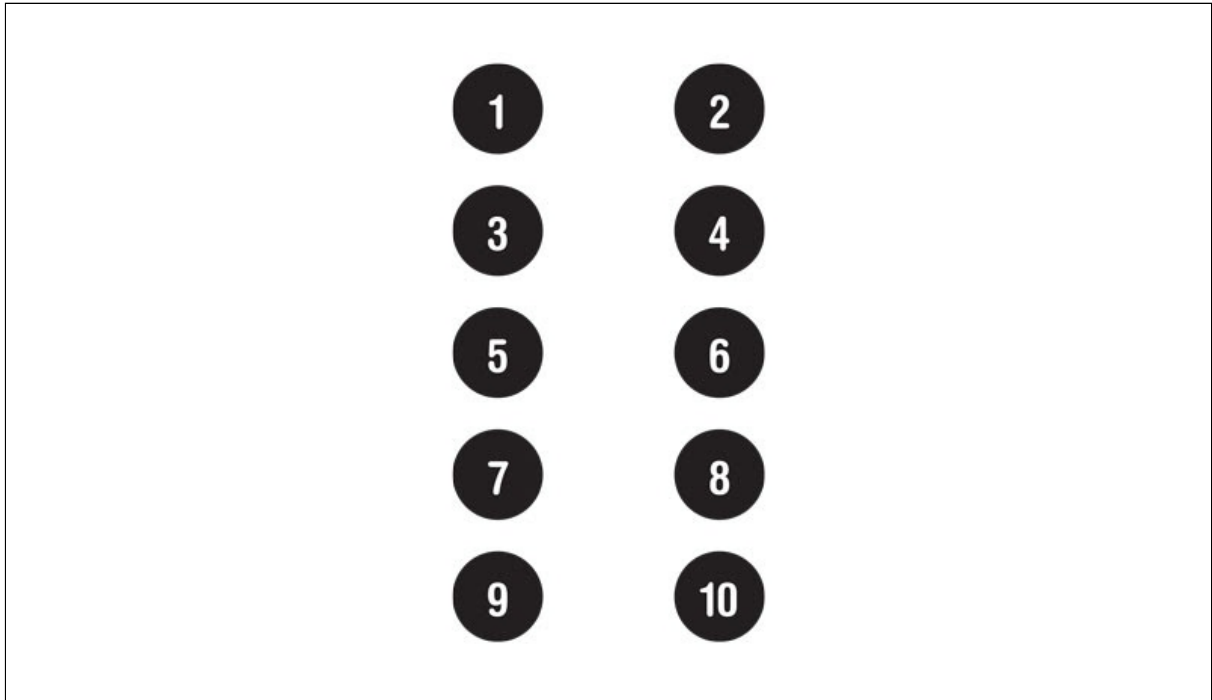


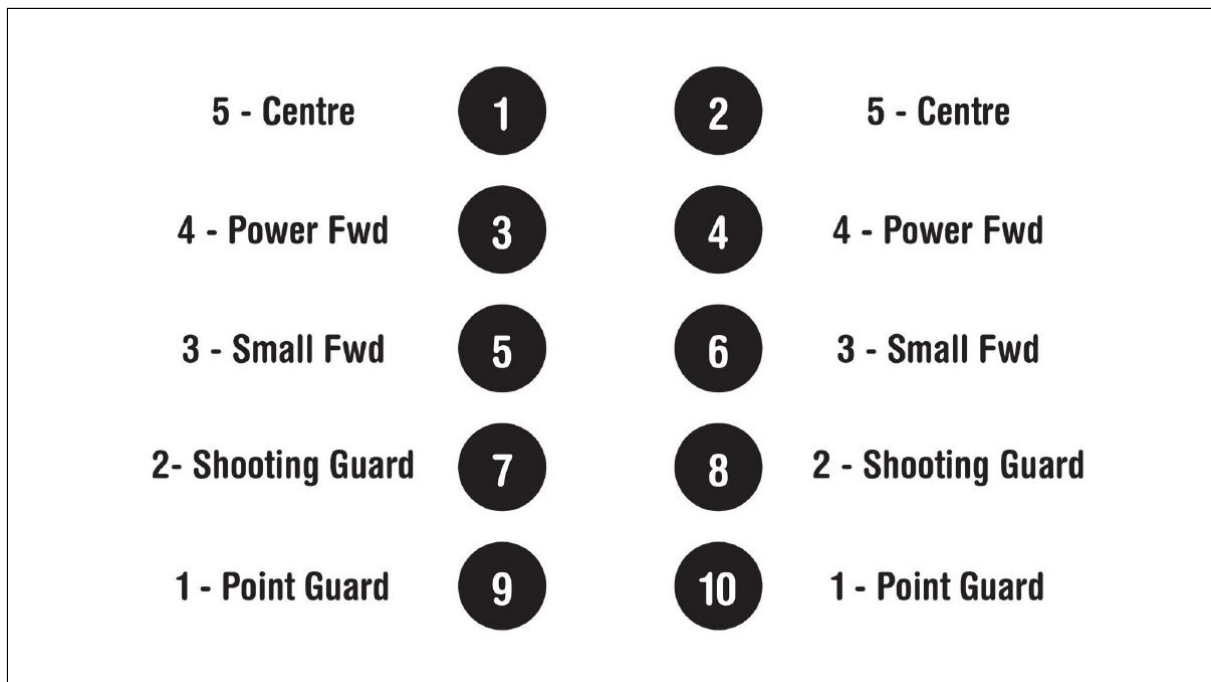
# How basketball teams are built

As we all know, there are 10 players in a basketball team.



When selecting a basketball team, it's not a matter of taking the 10 most talented players you can find and putting them into a team. Teams must have positional balance.

This is the traditional way of building a positionally balanced basketball team:



The above has evolved over the years to look more like this:



When you hear a coach referring to a player as a 5-man, or a wing, this is what they're referring to.

There are two key things to share about how selection discussions go with regard to basketball teams.

**ONE:** The first 6-7 players usually pick themselves because they are demonstrably the best available players for their position. Here's an example of what this can look like:



**TWO:** The remaining 3-4 positions are the ones that can deliver selections that might seem like 'head-scratchers' to people who have not been privy to the selection conversations. That's because once the first 6 players slot in, some very specific gaps open up. Gaps that might be filled by players you consider to be 'weaker' than others available.

The reason a 'weak' player can be picked in a team ahead of a 'strong' player is that the 'weak' player is filling a position where there is low competition for spots while it is the opposite for the strong player.

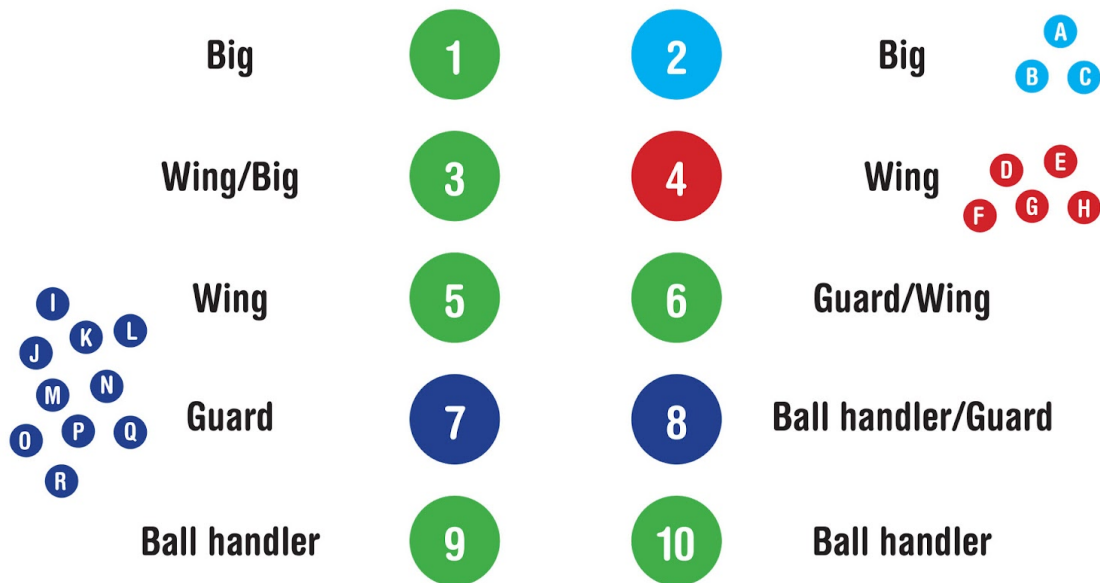
Competition for 'BIG' spots is generally low.



Competition for 'Wing' spots, is a little higher:



Competition for guard spots is intense:



If your child misses out on the team they feel they belong in, it's not useful to look at the team above and identify players in that team that your child is better than and feel aggrieved that they missed out. You must look at who was selected **in the position your child plays**. And understand that there any number of reasons why those players were preferenced over your child including:

- Potential for development
- Year born
- Attitude
- Coachability
- Defensive ability
- The list goes on