

# Galston Netball Club

[www.galstonnc.nsw.netball.com.au](http://www.galstonnc.nsw.netball.com.au)



## **GRADING POLICY:**

Last amended: March 2024

### **Aim:**

Galston Netball Club is committed to ensuring junior team grading is conducted fairly and effectively and in the best interests of the Club and its players. It is our intention that these guidelines will ensure the grading process is performed with careful consideration, transparency and professionalism.

This grading policy has been formed in accordance with and subject to current Galston Netball Club and Hills District Netball Association's (HDNA) By-Laws, Codes of Behaviour and the Netball NSW Member Protection Policy. It is a working document that is subject to change without notice.

This Policy is a guide for players and parents so that they can be better informed on the current grading process and the level of involvement and strategic thoughts that go into Club grading.

### **Objectives:**

- Establish teams of similar skill and abilities avoiding, where possible, placement of two teams in the same age, division and grade
- Allow teams to play in a suitably competitive environment and ensure the best chance of success for ALL of our teams
- Provide opportunities for players and develop and improve their skills
- Maximise player enjoyment and love of the game

### **Age Groups:**

- Children turning 6/7/8/9 years in the year of competition (NetSetGO). Players will be placed in teams within their age group and will not be graded.
- Children turning 10-15 years in the year of competition (juniors) will be placed in teams as per their age. Where there are enough players registered for more than one team in an age group, this age group will need to be graded.
- Cadets register as a team and there is no formal grading
- Seniors register as a team and there is no formal grading

### **Role of the Galston Netball Club Executive Committee in Relation to Grading and Team Formation:**

- Select and approve an independent grading committee at the club's AGM
- Arrange for three (3) independent, experienced graders to attend grading day
- Select and approve appropriate umpires for grading day
- Book courts for grading day
- Organize for suitable playing equipment for grading day
- Consider and support/oppose any special requests
- Arrange for approved relevant information to be made available to graders and grading committee
- Forward complete player lists/registrations to the grading coordinator in preparation for grouping and court time at grading day
- Advise parents and players of final team selections submitted by the Grading Committee
- Recommend a grade/division for each team to HDNA after final team formations
- Once HDNA grading has been completed and confirmed, advise parents and players of final team grades and divisions

### **Role of the Graders:**

- Three (3) independent, experienced graders will be present at Grading Day
- Graders will assess and evaluate the ability and skill levels of the players
- Graders will prepare grading assessments and recommendations for each age group
- These assessments and recommendations will be forwarded to the Grading Committee for final team formation

### **Role of the Grading Committee:**

- The Grading Committee shall consist of three (3) independent members
- Members will be selected and approved at the Club's AGM
- The current Registrar can be a consultative member of the Grading Committee with no voting rights
- The role of the Grading Committee is to place girls into teams based on the relevant information made available to them from the Graders and the Executive Committee
- One (1) of the three (3) members will be nominated as Grading Coordinator and will attend Grading Day
- The Grading Coordinator will oversee grading day proceedings
- The Grading Coordinator will group players by age and preferred positions in preparation for court time at Grading
- Submit final team selections to the Executive Committee for team announcements

### Grading Day:

- Grading is to take place after Galston Netball Club Registration closes
- Notification of Club Grading Day will be informed to members with their registration information. Dates, times and location will also be placed on the Club website and on the Club's Facebook page. Individual players will be advised of their age group's time slot via the email address provided on their registration form
- Grading will be carried out by at least three (3) independent, experienced graders
- All junior players turning ten (10) before 31 December in the year they are registering to play, and above, will be graded unless otherwise notified
- Players must be registered with full payment before she can take the court for grading
- Players are graded in the age group appropriate to their date of birth, regardless of whether they have played in an older age group in previous years
- Graders may request individual players to attend a grading session of an older age group This does not necessarily indicate the player will be placed in a team in that age group
- Each player will have the opportunity to trial in the two positions nominated on their registration form
- A player may be asked to play in a position that is not their preference to aid the grading process
- Court time for each player is dependent on the graders
- The following skills may be assessed and evaluated but are not limited to:
  1. ball handling skills
  2. passing
  3. footwork
  4. speed and agility
  5. attacking skills
  6. defending skills
  7. shooting style and accuracy
  8. fitness
  9. versatility
  10. perception and cognition skills
  11. ability to play as part of a team
  12. sportsmanship, effort and attitude
- Any player who is unable to attend grading day must notify the Club's Secretary by email prior to the day. Players who are absent will be graded according to their previous seasons coach's report and past playing experience
- Additional grading sessions will be added at the discretion of the Grading Committee
- Graders will prepare grading assessments and recommendations for each age group
- These assessments and recommendations will be forwarded to the Grading Committee for final team formation

### **Final team formation:**

- This task will be done by an independent Grading Committee selected and approved by the Executive at the Club's AGM
- The current Registrar can be a consultative member of the Grading Committee with no voting rights
- The Grading Committee will have access to the following information:
  1. Graders recommendations from Grading Day
  2. Previous seasons coach's reports
- When placing girls in a team consideration is given to:
  1. Team members will have similar skill and ability
  2. Teams will have a suitable balance of position areas, that is shooters, defender and mid court players
  3. Team member's individual positions will be taken into account to adequately cover all court positions
  4. Players attitude and approach to the game and her team
  5. Team formation will be influenced by the number and ages of players registered with the Club each year
  6. The number of players in a junior team will be no more than 9 and no less than 7 per team. If there is more than one team in an age group, the lower graded team will have the greater number of players
  7. Should the Club have insufficient registrations to form full teams, players may be placed up an age group in a mixed age team of similar ability in order to place the player in a team
  8. Should the Club be unable to form complete teams of players with similar skill and talent, players may be placed in a mixed aged team of similar ability in order for the team to be suitably competitive for their recommended grade
  9. Where possible, avoid forming two teams in the same age, division and grade
  10. Any special requests approved by the Executive Committee
  11. Any requests from higher standard players to try out for an older age group
- The Grading Committee will submit final team selections to the Executive Committee for team announcements

### **Team Announcements:**

- Players will be advised of their team selection via email to the email address provided at the time of registration
- Finalised teams will generally be released by the Club before HDNA registrations each season. This is normally in February each year
- Team selections are final except in extraordinary circumstances

### **HDNA Grading Committee:**

- Following the formation of teams, the Grading Committee will determine an appropriate grade/division under which to submit the team for registration with HDNA
- The HDNA Grading Committee has the power to place teams in Divisions and Grades considered warranted by such Committee, without any contact with Galston Netball Club personnel whatsoever
- Final decisions may not be the same as submitted by the Club
- After completion of the grading by the HDNA Grading Committee the grading results will be published on the HDNA website
- These team placing/divisions are final

### **Parallel Grading:**

- If two teams from our Club are placed in the same division or grade by the HDNA Grading Committee, Galston Netball Club generally will choose not to take the opportunity given to us by HDNA to parallel grade such teams

### **New Players:**

- The ability to take new players is limited by the maximum number of players permitted in each team (9 players)
- The club will endeavour to accommodate all requests for registration however cannot guarantee any child a place in a team
- Players will only be waitlisted or turned away when there are no player positions available in appropriate teams

### **Late Registrations:**

- Any junior (10-15 yrs.) registrations received after closing dates will be considered late registrations and players will be waitlisted if no player positions are available in appropriate teams
- Junior players (10-15 yrs.) who register after teams are formed will only be placed in teams where a vacancy exists, regardless of skill or ability

### **Altering Existing Teams:**

- Players and parents should be aware that the success of a team one year does not always ensure they will remain together the following year
- Teams will be influenced by the number and ages of players registered with the club each year
- Differing development rates of all players from season to season can influence player movement in and out of such teams
- Parents and players alike are encouraged to enjoy the experience of meeting new friends where team changes occur

### **Playing With Friends:**

- Galston Netball Club and the Grading Committee understand that players (and their parents) often want to play sport with friends and in friendship groups
- However, it is the Club's duty to place junior players in teams based on their age, ability and skill level, whilst taking into account the positions that they have nominated to play and the team requirements
- To ensure the best chance of success for all our teams and the greatest level of enjoyment and development for our players, it is necessary to grade junior players into teams with players of similar ability
- We strongly encourage players to embrace the opportunity of playing with the team that they have been placed in, and in making new friends. We greatly appreciate the support of parents in ensuring that the team settles in to an enjoyable netball season

### Playing Up an Age Group:

- **The general policy of the Club is that all players play within teams of their own age group**
- However, on occasion, there may be exceptions to this rule:
  - ▶ **To fill vacancies:** When the Club has insufficient player registrations in adjacent age groups to form full teams, the club may place younger players in an older age group, in order to form complete teams. In such instances, players will be placed in a team of composite age comprising of players with similar skill and ability.

Players who would prefer to play up an age group and be considered for any vacant positions in an older team are asked to contact the Club and lodge a 'special request' in writing expressing their preference to play up. This opportunity is available to ALL NetSetGO and junior players however, there is no guarantee that the player's request will be met as team formation is dependent on the number of players registered in each age group. Players who have lodged special requests may be invited to attend junior grading day and trial with the older age group. An invitation to junior grading day with the older age group does not guarantee a position in an older age group team as all final team formation decisions are dependent on the number of registrations and grading outcomes.
  - ▶ **Talented Players:** Higher standard players with talent, skill or ability beyond their age group who require the opportunity to be challenged by a higher level of competition may request to play in an older age group in order to continue their growth and development in netball. Interested players and parents are asked to refer to the "*Talented Player Request for Higher Age Group*" procedure. This form and procedure is available from the Club Registrar from the time of registration. Interested players must submit a completed application form via email to the Club by the closing date on the application form. This opportunity is only available to players 12-14 years of age and placement in an older age group team is subject to grading outcomes.
  - ▶ **Unbalanced Teams:** When the Club is unable to establish teams of players with similar skill and ability within an age group, players may be placed in a team of composite age in order to form balanced teams across age groups.
- In all instances, the players selected to play up are based on them having:
  1. Technical ability - similar ability to the other players in the team in which they will be placed
  2. Physical ability - have the ability to physically blend in with players of the intended age group in terms of physical size, strength and speed
  3. Mental ability - have similar awareness and general knowledge of the game
  4. Social ability - the player must be able to interact with players with the intended age group on and off the court
- To be graded into an older age group, it is not only the player's ability that is considered, but that of the entire team and its ability to work together
- The Club will not allow a player of lesser ability to play in a higher age group/division when there are players of higher/equal ability registering in that age group. Players of the appropriate age will not be deprived a position in a team of proper ability
- To ensure the best chance of success for ALL of our teams, consideration to form balanced, suitably competitive teams in both age groups is mandatory

### **Junior Players Playing Up in a Cadet Team:**

- CADET grades are for players turning 16, 17 and 18 years on or before the 31st December of their playing year
- However, five (5) players only who turn 15 years on or before the 31st December will be allowable in a team, providing these players are of equal or similar standard to the other registered players in the team
- The exception being junior HDNA Club players who are playing as a team in the Senior competition. These players can only play for Galston Netball Club in the Junior competition

### **Representative Players:**

- It is not a Club or Association rule or requirement to place HDNA Representative players in the highest graded team in a particular age group
- The club's position is that everyone should be treated equally and graded accordingly
- The HDNA current By-Law ruling is *“Junior Clubs (i.e. 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 years) will only be permitted a maximum of 4 Representative and Squad players to be registered in any one Club Team. Extenuating circumstances to be considered if more than 4 players were registered in the same club team in the previous year.”*

### **Special Circumstances/Requests:**

- Special requests must be given in writing to the secretary of the Galston Netball Club
- These requests will only be considered by the Grading Committee, with the support of the Executive Committee, in exceptional circumstances
- All requests will be considered however, there is no guarantee that the request will be met
- Players considering to request playing in an older age group are asked to refer to the guidelines on page 7 (Playing Up an Age Group)

### **Parents and Players:**

- No parent is to be involved in the grading of his/her own child (exception being a Coach's Report)
- No parent is to be involved in the formation of teams of his/her own child
- Parents will have no direct contact or personal contact with the graders or the Grading Committee prior to, after and including grading about grading decisions
- We encourage players and parents to accept their team. The support of parents will help this process
- Players and parents are urged to be objective and reasonable in their expectations
- Failure to comply with the code of behaviour will result in appropriate action being taken in accordance with the Member Protection Policy

### **Appeals:**

- Appeals or concerns in relation to the grading process or team placement must be submitted as per the Club's Dispute Resolution Policy within 7 days of team announcements
- Appeals in regards to junior grading will be accepted in writing only, submitted by email to [secretary.galstonnetballclub@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.galstonnetballclub@gmail.com)
- The graders and Grading Committee are not to be approached or contacted in relation to grading matters or decisions
- All appeals will be responded to after the concern/dispute has been investigated
- The decision of the Galston Netball Club Executive will be final

### **Confidentiality:**

- All grading assessments, coach's reports and graders discussions are strictly confidential. Parents and guardians are reminded not approach the Grading Committee or graders for this information