

JANNALI Netball Club

Grading Policy and Procedure

Reviewed: January 2013

Aim

The aim of this policy is to ensure grading is fair, effective and in the best interests of the Club and players.

Grading

Grading is the process of establishing the number and composition of Jannali Netball Club (JNC) teams to compete in the Sutherland Shire Netball Association (SSNA) competition.

Grading is influenced by the following key factors:

- The current structure (age and division levels) of the SSNA competition
- SSNA by-laws concerning age limitations in all divisions
- The number and ages of players registered with JNC.

Jannali Netball Club grades all players from ages 10yrs to 16yrs. This applies to both re-registering players and new players. Whilst the JNC committee is keen to maintain the important elements of fun and enjoyment of the game, there are reasons, which support the need for grading. These include

- To meet the requirements of SSNA that Clubs grade players and teams to facilitate the Association and State netball competitions
- To form teams which will be competitive in their assigned grades
- To place players, wherever possible, in a team most appropriate to their ability
- To offer opportunities to players to achieve at a higher skill level than would be possible if grading did not occur
- To support the objectives of both the State and Sutherland Shire Netball Associations where talent identification is of a high priority
- To offer optimum opportunities to those players who have already achieved either Regional Selection or Talent Development Squad selection, and to those who demonstrate the potential for selection.

Grading Process

Grading is an ongoing process. The Grading Committee draws extensively on information from the previous season as well as the Club grading day/days which take place at the beginning of each season. There are four components to grading:

1. Coach's Evaluation

At the end of the season each coach provides a written evaluation of each player's skill, fitness, commitment to and attendance at training and games, teamwork and attitude. This evaluation is confidential and not available to players or parents.

2. "Silent grading"

During the season, committee appointed assessors attend various games and report their observations of each player's skill level to the Grading Co-ordinator.

3. Paper Grading

Prior to practical grading the grading committee assesses the above reports and places players into teams for the practical grading session.

4. Practical Grading

On grading day/s the grading committee invites independent assessors, who are experienced players and/or coaches, to assess each player in the player's nominated position.

Players new to the Club are assessed on their performance at grading days, their grade and success from the previous season and Club, and if they wish may bring an evaluation/recommendation from their previous coach and Club.

In forming teams, the Grading Committee will take into consideration the Coaches' reports, 'silent grading' reports, paper grading and play observed at practical grading, while also prioritising that a netball team requires a balance of height, agility and ball skills, as well as defenders, centre court and shooters.

Players aged 8 and 9 years of age will not be graded. Requests to play with friends will be accommodated under special circumstances depending on overall registrations in that age group. Requests relating to team placement of 8 and 9 year olds need to be notified in writing on the registration forms stating reasons and will be considered by the grading committee.

Practical grading of 9 year olds will be completed towards the end of the season.

While players aged 17 to Seniors are predominantly block registrations, JNC reserves the right to practically grade if necessary. The club reserves the right to place an individual into a block team as required.

Policy

The JNC player will be placed into an appropriate team, using the following principles:

- Grading will aim to achieve teams that have a balanced group of players in playing positions
- Each team will be competitive in its grade

- Teams will be submitted to a SSNA grade appropriate to the team's ability.
- Players will be placed in a team/grade which is appropriate to their skill development
- Players should demonstrate an ability to cope with the demands of the division in which they are selected.

Responsibilities

Jannali Netball Club Grading Committee is responsible for conducting grading. The Committee will:

- Be chaired by the Grading Coordinator
- Consist of an uneven number of no more than five people invited by the grading co-ordinator, in consultation with the executive committee
- The grading co-ordinator remains as head selector
- Plan and conduct grading according to the club's Grading Policy
- Ensure grading times and locations are communicated to players at club registration (sign on), on the club's website, and via email where possible
- Provide an opportunity for players to demonstrate playing ability through organised games and other methods where appropriate (eg skill drills)
- Organise alternative times for wet weather occurrences.

Jannali Netball Club President - The President will:

- Be an ex-officio member of the grading committee
- Ensure the Grading Policy is adhered to
- Provide an explanation to any player about their grading situation if required
- Arbitrate on matters relating to grading.

Jannali Netball Club Players - Players will:

- Arrive promptly and appropriately dressed and equipped for grading sessions
- Provide the Club Secretary with written/email notice prior to grading if they are unable to attend
- Perform to the best of their ability at grading sessions.

Grading Criteria

In assessing the ability of a player, the Grading Committee will take into account:

- Footwork/Movement Skills - for example balanced landing and moving; demonstrating good body control; changing direction effectively and appropriately
- Ball Handling - for example catching effectively; passing accurately; using a variety of passes in appropriate situations; using more advanced skills such as faking a pass, one hand control and passing on either side
- Attacking Skills - for example moving into or creating space with basic leads, dodges and changes of direction; using a variety and/or combination of attacking moves; an awareness of the use of

- space; shooting action and accuracy; using more advanced skills such as double dodge, half and full roll, front cut
- Defending Skills - for example recovering to 3 feet; getting hands over the ball; shadowing effectively; effective footwork, body control and positioning; defending from front, side and back; defending the shot; using more advanced skills such as tagging, anticipating and positioning for intercepts, communicating, switching with and covering team mates.
- Perception/Cognition Skills – for example awareness of space, players, ball and game situations; on-court decision-making; timing of movement and pass release; pass selection; creating and play options, “reading” the game; concentration; performance under game pressure
- Fitness and consistent effort and work ethic, especially for those who wish to be considered for higher grades.

Team Announcements

Teams will be announced at team night. It is compulsory to attend or to send an apology. The date is available on the website.

Disputes

If a player or parent/guardian (in the case of a player under 18 years) feels she/he has been unjustly treated in the grading process, her/his concerns and any supporting information should be put in writing to the Club Secretary.

The Grading Committee will then reconsider the grading decision. The Committee may utilise other information to assist its deliberation including coaching reports from the previous season.

The Chair of the Grading Committee will inform the player of the Committee's decision as soon as possible. If the player is still dissatisfied, the matter will be submitted to the club's Executive Committee for resolution.

Jannali Netball Club aims to ensure team grading is conducted fairly and effectively. Players and parents are urged to be objective and reasonable in their expectations.