

Confidential



GRADING POLICY NFA JUNIOR COMPETITION TEAMS

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28/8/09	Wayne Moloney	First draft	1.0
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Springwood United Football Club Inc. (SUFC) will grade all junior competition teams prior to the start of each football season in accordance with this policy.

Teams will be graded for participation in the Nepean Football Association (NFA) competition. For the purpose of this policy junior competition teams are defined as Under 12 to Under 18 inclusive. The grading policy will also extend to Under 11 (non-competition) and Under 21 (senior competition team) as per the NFA's By-laws.

Grading will be scheduled and will commence after the closure of the player registration period for the NFA competition season each year.

The Football Committee **must** be advised in writing of any form of pre-season training within three (3) weeks prior to the commencement of the grading process. Any pre-season training must be approved by the Football Committee and be inclusive of all players within the nominated age group wishing to train.

Purpose

This grading policy is designed to ensure that grading of SUFC teams is undertaken in a consistent manner and that the players, coaches and parents have an expectation of the outcome of grading. In grading players into teams SUFC will show commitment to promote fairness, consistency and transparency in the selection process. It is therefore the objective of SUFC, where possible, for all players to play in a team for their age and in a division best suited to their ability.

The grading of young players is seen as an important step in their football development and their ultimate enjoyment of the game.

Grading of players will:

- Arrange players of similar skill level into appropriate teams.
- Define teams into the division according to player strength (in accordance with NFA guidelines and directions).
- Challenge their ability and enhance a player's enjoyment of the game (have fun).

Process

Grading will be managed by the SUFC Grading Coordinator, appointed by the SUFC Football Committee. The Grading Coordinator, with the assistance from the President of Football and Competition Secretary, will select a Grading Committee which will be responsible for grading nominated age groups.

Best efforts will be made for the grading of each age group to be managed by an independent coordinator. However, this will be subject to the availability of suitable volunteers. Assistance may be provided during grading sessions by previous season coaches applicable to the age group, if considered appropriate by the Grading Committee. Coaches may also be used during the grading process to consult and advise on the performance and skills of individual players.

Grading will be undertaken over a number of grading sessions involving a combination of skill sessions, small-sided games, and where possible and considered necessary, trial games. Note that the number and mix of these sessions will be determined by the Grading Committee and may vary depending on age group, number of players and the skill level of the players involved.

The Grading Committee shall conduct the necessary skills, drills and small-sided games that will suitably assess the competency of the players. As a guide, a typical grading session may consist of:

- Warm up;
- Skill based drills – passing, ball control, dribbling, heading, shooting etc;
- Small-sided game/s (players rotating);
- Specialist goalkeeper trials – this will be a specialist position for all competition teams. Players selected as goalkeepers must play the majority of game time in that position.

All players are to be graded, both new and existing members of the club. If a player for whatever reason is unable to attend grading, then he/she will be placed in a team deemed appropriate by the Grading Committee.

Players wishing to be considered for Division 1 MUST attend ALL grading sessions; this may involve independent grading from the rest of the age group.

If a team wishes to play together, the Grading Coordinator must be notified in writing grading@sprinwoodunited.com.au before grading commences. Requests to play together must be received from EACH individual player and/or parent/guardian – no player or parent/guardian can make a request on behalf of another player.

Players must wear boots and shin pads to be eligible for attending grading regardless of age group. Throughout attendance at the grading process, players are not permitted to wear any representative attire or any training attire that identifies them as belonging to a particular team.

Note: This is consistent with FNSW policy.

Only players who have registered and paid registration fees will be graded.

Please note that during any grading sessions parents are prohibited to neither instruct and approach their child, nor stand around the areas where the grading sessions are being conducted.

Selection of teams

The basis of selection will be the combination of:

1. Merit – the application of both individual and team skills in the game of football in grading trials as detailed above.
2. Team balance with respect to player positions.
3. Grading reports submitted by team coaches at the end of the previous season.
4. Attitude of the player to grading and training.
5. Willingness and ability of the player to receive instruction.
6. Team spirit.

The objective of the selection of teams is to group players of similar ability in that age group together so that teams are able to be placed in appropriate divisions.

New players to SUFC will be evaluated by the Grading Committee and will then be placed with groups of players of similar experience and ability.

On occasions there will be instances where the number of players in an age group does not allow the formation of equal numbers of players in each team. In these situations the Grading Committee will endeavour to allocate the higher numbers of players in the lower division teams in an age group in comparison with the higher division teams, provided it is in the best interests of the age group. This will allow players to be promoted should there be withdrawals, and minimise the need for players to be relegated to lower grades prior to the commencement of the competition.

Players may request to play above their age group, in a specific team or with friends. Reasonable endeavours will be made to accommodate such requests. The Grading Coordinator must be notified in writing grading@sprinwoodunited.com.au before grading commences. Requests to play together must be received from EACH individual player – no player or parent/guardian can make a request on behalf of another player. If such a request is made, the following is to apply:

1. The Grading Coordinator will only consider placing a player in a lower division, another age group or specific team if it does not impact upon the team, division or age group for which the player would have played (for example leaving insufficient numbers to form a team).

2. Team balance (in terms of goalkeepers, defenders, midfielders and attackers).
3. The Grading Coordinator may refuse a player from playing above his/her age group or in a requested team if it is the opinion of the Grading Coordinator that it would be detrimental to the player's performance or development, or to the team's performance or development.
4. Players requesting to play above their age group do so on the clear understanding that the following year they may be required to return to their appropriate age group.
5. Players making specific requests to play with friends will be graded to the level of the lowest graded player within that team. If this is seen as detrimental to a player's performance or development, or to a team's performance or development, the Grading Coordinator may refuse the request.

As soon as possible after the final grading of all players for each age group;

1. Players shall be notified of their grading and team.
2. Nominations for coaches and managers will finalised.
3. Team lists will be supplied to the coaches and managers.

Grievance procedure

If any player or parent is not satisfied with grading the player receives, they can make a submission in writing to the SUFC Grading Coordinator requesting a review of the player's grading, outlining why they think the grading is not correct. The SUFC Grading Coordinator will consider this submission in consultation with the Grading Committee and Competition Secretary to make a final decision on whether or not to change the player's grading.

Should a player not accept this decision and decide to withdraw from SUFC, paid registration fees will be refunded, less a reasonable administration fee (to be determined prior to the commencement of each season's grading).

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