



Dolphins Netball Club Inc.

GRADING POLICY

Why we grade our teams

Netball is a graded, competitive sport from the age of 11 with representative opportunities. The grading process gives all players the opportunity to demonstrate their talents to nominated evaluators thus giving all players (irrespective of the team they played with in the previous season) a chance to play in the highest division, according to their ability, in the new season. Grading at Dolphins Netball Club endeavours to cater for all players of all abilities.

Care is also paramount when catering for players in teams across all grades. It adds to a player's enjoyment if they are playing with and against players of a similar or equal ability. This gives each player the chance to fully participate, enjoy the experience and develop to his/her full potential as a netball player. Past experience has shown that it is frustrating for any individual to play in a team in any sport which is clearly above or below their level of ability.

Players and parents should also be aware that success for a team one year does not always ensure they will remain together the following year. Due to the nature of change, new registrations and differing development rates of all players from season to season, player movement in and out of such teams may still occur.

Grading Principals

Grading is the process of establishing the number and composition of the Dolphins Netball Club teams to compete in the Redlands Netball Association competition.

- Players will be placed in a team which will enhance their enjoyment of the game
- Players will be placed in a team / grade which is appropriate to their skill level
- Players will be placed in a team which will enable them to attain desired skills
- Teams will be selected to allow for a good balance in terms of players preferred playing positions

Specific Grading Processes

1. Grading committee: will consist of the current club President, Secretary, Registrar and Coaching Coordinator. The grading committee will make the final decision on each graded team.
2. Previous season coach's evaluation: this is a strictly confidential short written report by the coach to the coaching coordinator at the end of the season covering such topics as skill, fitness, attendance, teamwork and attitude. The grading committee may meet prior to the physical grading day to discuss possible team formation.
3. Physical grading session: the club will advise to all members the dates and times of physical grading sessions. These occur at the beginning of the season after general registration. The club will obtain independent assessors as well as experienced players and coaches to assess each player in their nominated positions. At times, they may assess players in non-nominated positions, depending on prospective team formation and to allow other players to be graded in their preferred positions.
4. Paper grading: this is when the grading committee assesses teams or individual players based upon previous coaches' evaluations, observations and graded playing experience from the physical grading day.



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Grading and Team Configuration

Teams are put together based upon the grading of individuals' skills, requested positions, development needs and fitness levels. The grading committee will take into consideration any written requests submitted to Dolphins Secretary prior to physical grading. The grading committee considers the best mix of players including the number of defenders, mid court players, shooters and attack players to ensure the competitive composition of the team.

Whilst the grading assessors grade players in their nominated positions, it is for the season team coach to determine the positions played by individual team players throughout the season. The coach will consider the development of individual player's abilities, player's skills and importantly the needs of the team to play competitively.

Size of Teams

The club strives to have no greater than nine (9) players per team. The number of players registered in any age group will have a significant influence on the numbers that can be placed in each team.

Physical Grading

Who needs to attend grading day?

U7, U8, U9 and U10 Age Teams: the club does not physically grade these age groups. Requests for specific team placement of age 7, 8, 9 and 10 players should be made to the club in writing at the time of registration of the players. Requests for specific team placement will only be agreed to where it does not compromise an even distribution of players across the teams.

U11 to Cadet Divisions: are to attend physical grading days. The grading timetable will be made available closer to the start of season.

All sessions are compulsory. If a player is unable to attend, they must notify the club at secretary@dolphinsnetballclub.com.au before the scheduled dates.

The club will accept the registration of a complete team which must also have an appointed coach. If requested, the team is required to attend the physical grading session to assist the grading committee in establishing if the club grading principals are being met for all teams. If the grading principals are not being met this may result in changes to the registered team. The grading committee will also ensure that the team is placed in the grade which is most appropriate to their skill level.

Any player who hasn't paid their registration fee will not be allowed to take the court for grading due to insurance requirements.

Players registering late cannot be assured of a team and may be put on a waiting list.

Where does physical grading happen?

Grading trials will be held at the Redlands Netball Association courts, Pinklands Sporting Complex, Thornlands.

What do I need to wear/bring with me?

Players need to be at the courts at least 15 minutes prior to the start of their session. This is to allow time to sign in, have a number written on their legs (so graders can easily identify them on court) and to warm up.

Don't forget plenty of water and to wear appropriate clothing and footwear for strenuous physical activity (no short denim shorts please).



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Representative players are not to wear their representative gear to grading.

How does physical grading work?

Independent assessors, as well as experienced players and coaches, as selected by the management committee, will assess each player in their nominated positions. Players will play a series of games of approximately 8-minute halves. Each player will play at least once in both of their two nominated positions. **Nomination of player grading positions occurs in the online player registration in MyNetball.** Grading will not cease until this has been achieved and sometimes more time will be required. Assessors will agree that they have sufficiently seen each player in order to confirm an assessment of them. Assessors will record notes on player's skill and abilities.

Players may only spend a small amount of time in their preferred positions as some players are quite easy to grade i.e. the graders can quickly identify their skills in that position. This does not mean they haven't been given an equal opportunity to be placed in an appropriate team.

All players will be observed looking at the following criteria (appropriate to their age group):

1. *Footwork/Movement Skills* – balanced landing and moving; demonstrating good body control; changing direction effectively and appropriately
2. *Ball Handling* – catching effectively; passing accurately; using a variety of passes in appropriate situations; using more advanced skills such as baulking; one hand control and passing on either side
3. *Attacking Skills* – 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, and front cut
4. *Defending Skills* – recovering to 3 feet; getting hands over ball; shadowing effectively; effective footwork; body control and positioning; defending from front, side and back; defending the shot; using more advanced skills such as sagging, anticipating and positioning for intercepts, communicating, switching with and covering teammates
5. *Perception/Cognition Skills* – awareness of space, players, ball and game situations; on-court decision making, timing of movement and pass release; passing selection; “reading” the play; concentration; performance under game pressure.

Playing up an Age Grade

All players wishing to play up an age are to grade in their correct age group and the grade they wish to play up in. Requests to play up will be considered but need to be submitted to the club secretary in writing prior to grading. In considering the request the grading committee will take the following into account:

1. The needs and abilities of the individual player;
2. Numbers available to make up age teams;
3. The competitive nature of the teams affected.

How do I find out which team I'm in?

Teams will be announced 1-2 weeks after grading. **Please do not contact the committee prior to this to see what team you are in.**



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Grading Disputes

The club recognises that players and parents/guardians of players disagree at times with the grading decisions made. If a family member considers their child has been unfairly treated in the grading process they must submit their concerns in writing within seven (7) days to the club secretary. Members of the grading committee will reconvene to consider the complaint and will advise the family of their decision.

If the player or parent/guardian of the player is still of the view that the grading process was not fair, then the matter will be referred to the management committee to be dealt with at its next meeting to be resolved as it sees fit.

The club is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all volunteers including our committee members, grading assessors and coaches. Any form of abuse or harassment of volunteers as a result of disputed grading decisions will not be tolerated and membership may be terminated.