

# Fury Netball Club Grading Policy

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## Aim

Fury Netball Club is committed to ensuring team grading is conducted fairly and effectively. The aim of this policy is to ensure grading of teams is undertaken in this manner, and in the best interest of the club and its players.

## What is grading?

Grading is the process of establishing the composition of our teams to compete in the Success Netball Association (SNA) competition.

The aim of grading is to form teams that have a balanced group of players of similar ability levels across all playing positions. Grading will be influenced by the number and ages of players registered within the club each year.

## Why do we grade our teams?

Netball is a graded, competitive sport, from the age of 11 with representative opportunities available.

To ensure the best chance of success for all of our teams and the greatest level of enjoyment and development for our players, it is necessary to grade players into teams with similar abilities.

Stronger players always enjoy the challenge of harder, faster competition and do not develop to their potential if graded to a lower team to be kept with a friend.

Similarly, players who are placed in teams that are above their ability will also not develop to their potential when being constantly overshadowed by stronger players around them. In such situations, these players can quickly become disheartened and lose self esteem and their love for the game.

Players and parents should also be aware that the success of a team one year, does not guarantee 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 teams may still occur.

Players and parents are urged to be objective and reasonable in their expectations and encourage their children to be happy in their chosen sport, no matter what team they are ultimately placed in.

## Playing with friends

Request from players need to be in writing at the time of registration, stating the reasons. However, please be aware that the grading panel can only place them together if they are of the similar skill level as outlined in the “**why do we grade our team**” section or a player may be considered to play in the lower division at the detriment of their development.

Parents and players alike are encouraged to support this and enjoy the experience of meeting new friends/parents where team changes occur and embrace the Fury spirit. Together we are strong!

## **Players playing out of their 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.

During grading, should the grading panel identify a player of higher potential of which a team of similar ability does not exist in their age group, then that player may be offered a chance to play in a higher age group.

In addition, should the club have insufficient player registrations in adjacent age groups to form full team, players may be requested to play up an age group in order to form a team of composite age. In such instances these players, will need to be of similar ability to the other team they would be placed in.

## **Net Set Go**

Players aged 5-10 playing in Net Set Go are playing modified rules, non competitive netball and will not be graded.

Request to play with friends at this age will be accommodated where possible, depending on the overall registrations in each age group. We love teams to come together but also recommend individuals joining, so players and parents can meet new friends amongst our Fury family, it also helps the process moving into junior netball at 11years and above.

## **Juniors U11s-U17s**

All junior players aged 11-17 must attend at least one (1) practical grading day.

The number of practical grading sessions required for each age group will be determined on an annual basis.

## **Seniors**

Senior players will be advised if practical grading is necessary.

## **Grading Panel**

Our grading panel undertakes all grading on behalf of the club.

The grading panel consists of the President, Vice President, our Development Coordinator and an invited grader to assist with the grading process

## **Grading Criteria**

In assessing the overall skills of a player within an age group, the Grading Panel will take into account:

- a. Footwork.
- b. Speed and Agility
- c. Ball Handling Skills
- d. Attacking Skills
- e. Defending Skills
- f. Perception/Cognition Skills
- g. Sportsmanship and Attitude

## **The Grading Process**

### **(a) Coach's Evaluation**

At the end of the season, each coach of a Net Set Go and junior teams will be asked to provide a written evaluation of each player in their team. This evaluation covers areas such as skills, attendance at training and games, teamwork and attitude. All such reports will remain confidential and be viewed only by the Grading Panel and the Club's Executive.

### **(b) Independent Player Assessments**

During the season, Coaching Panel members will attend various games and report their observations of player's skill levels back to the Coaching Coordinator.

### **(c) Paper Grading**

For age groups where there will be no Practical Grading session/s, Grading Panel members will assess the above reports and place players into teams on that basis

### **(d) Practical Grading**

Each Practical Grading session shall be watched by at least three (3) members of the Grading Panel. Practical Grading may include a number of activities including various netball training drills but will always include a session of actual on-court play.

Players presenting for Practical Grading shall be formed into teams for the purposes of this on-court game. Players shall trial in two (2) positions that they have nominated, but may be asked to trial in other positions, either to make up a team, or because the Grading Panel would like to see how they perform in those positions. Where players are asked to fill other positions during grading, they will still have an opportunity to play in each of their nominated position/s during the selection process.

**\*\*For a number of reasons, it may not be necessary for all players to play an identical numbers of quarters during the game session.**

## **Failure To Attend Practical Grading**

If a player is unable to attend practical grading, the player or parent/guardian must notify the Secretary prior to grading. Placement into a team for this player will be based upon Paper Grading and, where applicable, Coach's Evaluations and Independent Player Assessments. All players are strongly encouraged to attend Practical Grading as Paper Grading may result in disappointment.

## **Formation of Teams**

In order to form teams, the Grading Panel will conduct either a Practical or Paper Grading, dependent upon the age group of the players. The Grading Panel will also take into consideration the Coaches' Evaluation, Independent Player Assessments and the number of players registered with the Club within each age group prior to determining the final placement of each player.

**\*\*All grading decisions of the Grading Panel are final\*\***

## **Announcement of Teams**

Once the grading process has concluded and the Grading Panel has formed teams, these teams will be announced on the Club's website

Ideally this will occur within one (1) week of the final Practical Grading session taking place.

## **Nomination of Teams to SNA**

Following the formation of teams, the Grading Panel will determine an appropriate grade under which to submit the team for registration with SNA (E.g. Div 1 or Div 2). Whilst the Grading Panel determines these grades based on their assessment of the team during the grading process and with the team's best interests and abilities in mind, these are only recommended grades for SNA nomination purposes.

Ultimately, SNA will determine the final grading of a team and will make this decision by assessing the merits and ability of teams from our Club versus those submitted by all other clubs where necessary.

On occasions, the Grading Panel may also recommend that an entire team be nominated for a competition of a higher age group to ensure they are provided with an appropriate level of competition (E.g. a 14 Year old team be nominated for 15 Years A Grade). Such nominations will be made only after consultation with that team's coach and ratification by the Club's Executive.

## **Coaching Appointments**

All teams will have coaches appointed by the Club. Each coach (or their manager) will contact players/parents to organise training sessions. Coaching appointments will be determined by the recommendation of the Grading panel and based on suitability, availability and commitment to continue with Coach Education and development. All Coaches will be asked to complete at least the Foundation Level Coaching On-Line Course prior to taking up a position.

All coaching appointments must also be ratified by the Club's Executive.