



GRADING - A BETTER UNDERSTANDING

At Donvale Netball Club, the decision of where players should be graded, and what teams they will play in, is an involved process. This document is a guideline for this process.

Graded teams are submitted to the Club's affiliated Netball Association who decides which divisions/age groups the teams will play in for that year. The Club's affiliated Netball Association reviews all teams submitted from all of the clubs that play in the Club's affiliated Netball Association competition, to ensure fair opportunity and competition challenges for all teams

Just because players have been in a certain netball team in previous years, this does not mean that they will remain in the same team or with the same players year after year. There is often movement amongst teams as some players do not return to the club whilst new players join.

Grading Committee

The Donvale Netball Club grading committee will consist of the current club President, Secretary, Registrar, Grading Co-Ordinator and Coaching Co-Ordinator. Sub-Committees for each age group will be appointed by the Grading Co-Ordinator who will oversee the Grading Committee, Sub-Committees and the grading process. The Grading Committee will make the final decision on each graded team.

Paper Grading

Paper Grading will be carried out prior to placement in teams, relying on prior knowledge of teams, players and the previous year's coaches' reports. The coaches' reports will be confidential and only seen by the grading committee.

Grading Day or Days

Players will be graded by Grading Sub-Committees or the Grading Committee. If the club is able, it will appoint up to 3 Grading Sub-Committee members to assess the potential of the players to form balanced teams. The Grading Sub-Committees will have access to relevant coaches' reports and will be given a 'proposed' team list which will be provided by the Grading Committee based on registration of players and previous seasons' coaches' reports. If the Grading Sub-Committees are unable to be sourced for any reason, the players will be graded by the Grading Committee.

Individual age groups and grades will be established by the following methods:-

- i) Paper grading – conducted prior to practical grading and considering previous experiences; coaches reports from previous years and observation during the preceding year by the grading committee.
- ii) Practical – trial matches on grading days viewed by the independent graders and/or grading committee. All players are required to attend grading sessions. Any player not attending grading sessions will be placed in the most appropriate team by the grading committee, according to previous experience, and/or information provided on the registration form. On Grading Day/s, every effort will be made for players to have the opportunity to trial in their preferred position/s (as advised). No existing player shall be moved more than one division the following year without consultation with that player, or in the case of junior players, the parent or guardian, unless extenuating circumstances prevail. Court time for each player on grading day will be determined by the Grading subcommittee members. A player may be asked to play in a position that is not their preference to aid the grading process.
- iii) The following skills and attributes may be assessed but are not limited to:
 - a. ball handling skills
 - b. passing
 - c. footwork
 - d. speed and agility
 - e. attacking skills
 - f. defending skills

- g. shooting style and accuracy
- h. fitness
- i. versatility
- j. perception and cognition skills
- k. ability to play as part of a team
- l. sportsmanship, effort and attitude

When placing players in teams, consideration is given to:

1. Team members who have similar skill and ability
2. Ensuring teams will have a suitable balance of position areas, that is shooters, defenders and mid court players
3. Team members' individual positions to ensure adequate coverage of all court positions
4. Players attitude and approach to the game, team and training
5. The number and ages of players registered with the Club each year
6. The possibility that should the Club have insufficient registrations in an age group 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
7. Ensuring a team will be competitive for their recommended grade
8. Particular friendships where made known to the Grading committee in writing

Final Team Placement

Teams will not be announced on grading day. All players will be advised of team placement 1-2 weeks after grading has taken place, via email and/or listed on the Club Team App. In some circumstances, due to team numbers or needs, a player may be advised via email by the Grading Committee that they may be placed in a team outside their age group.

The decisions made by the Grading Committee will be final.

Parent or guardian enquiries regarding grading, either pre or post placement in teams, shall only be accepted in writing in email forwarded to the Grading Committee via the Club's email system. Inappropriate correspondence will not be considered or responded to.

The Club understands that it can be difficult to manage a team of 10 players and will therefore do what is possible to have a maximum of 9 players per team. It is also understood that it can be just as difficult to have a team of 7, especially with injuries/illness that occur throughout the season, therefore, the Club will do their best to place players into teams of 8 or 9 where it is at all possible.

The Club may choose to pre-allocate a coach and/or manager to any team formed on grading day.

Without due reason in writing received by the Grading Co-ordinator prior to Grading, failure to attend designated training and/or grading sessions may affect final placement.

New Players

New players to the club will be assessed as fairly as possible and will be placed into appropriate teams according to their history and performance on grading day.

Recommendations to the Club's affiliated Netball Association

The Grading Committee will make a recommendation to the Club's Affiliated Netball association about which grade a team would be best suited to when the team is registered. However, despite this, the Club's Affiliated Netball association make their own decisions on the grade a team is placed into and they are not obligated to go with the Club's recommendation.

Representative Players

It is not a Club or Association rule or requirement to place Representative players in the highest ranked team in an age group. The Club's position is that everyone should be treated equally and graded accordingly.

Late Registrations

Registrations received after registration day, will be accepted at the discretion of the Grading Committee, depending on the number of players already registered in any given age group and vacancies available in teams.