



Winston Hills Netball Club Grading Policy

Mission Statement

Winston Hills Netball Club is to provide a fun, supportive environment for netball players to reach their full potential in playing, umpiring and coaching whilst establishing friendships, improving fitness and developing a strong sense of community.

Grading Policy

1 Aim

Winston Hills 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 players.

2 Purpose

In meeting this objective, this policy sets out the Club's grading process for all registered players aged 9-15 inclusive, and for Senior Grades, if required.

The policy will ensure that for grading purposes, every child is treated as an individual club member and has an equal opportunity.

3 What is Grading?

Grading is the process of establishing the composition of our teams to compete in the Baulkham Hills Shire Netball Association (**BHSNA**) competition. The aim of grading is to form teams that have a balanced group of players of similar ability across all playing positions.

It is not always possible to please everyone. Players and parents are urged to be objective and reasonable in their expectations, and to encourage their children to be happy in their chosen sport no matter what team they are ultimately placed in.

4 Special Considerations

Players can may a written request to be placed in a particular team or with particular players where there are extenuating circumstances. If requests are made to play with a particular player, please be aware that the players will be placed in the grade of the lower graded player.

5 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. If a player of exceptional talent is identified for whom a team of similar ability does not exist within their own age group, then that player may be offered the opportunity to play with the higher age group. In these cases, the player must grade with the higher age group as well as their own.

In addition, should the Club have insufficient player registrations in adjacent age groups to form full teams, players may be requested to play up an age group in order to form a team of composite age. In such instances, the players asked to play up an age group will be selected based on them being of similar ability to the other players in the team in which they may be placed.

Players will be re assessed on a year-to-year basis.

6 Grading Committee

The Grading Committee shall be a sub-committee of the Club, reporting to the Executive.

6.1 Membership

The Grading Committee will be chaired by the Grading Coordinator. The Grading Committee will be appointed following nominations prior to the commencement of the season. A minimum of three graders will be nominated and will be involved in grading ALL WHNC teams.

6.2 Required Qualifications

Graders must have coached at least 2 years of club level netball. Graders are encouraged to have completed the Netball NSW 'Select for Success' short course to ensure a good understanding of the way teams can be constructed to benefit players and player relationships. Where the grader has a child in the respective grade, they will not grade that age group.

7 Grading Process

The following is taken into consideration during the grading process.

7.1 Coaches Evaluation

Each coach will provide a report of each player's positions played, ability, attitude, attendance at training and games

7.2 Independent Observations

Selectors will observe player's skill levels throughout the season.

7.3 Grading Day

Prior to the commencement of the season all registered players will participate in a grading day to be sorted into teams. All players must be registered to participate in grading day.

8 Grading Day Process

A grading day will be coordinated by the Grading Committee, under the supervision of the Grading Coordinator, where the players will be graded into teams with reference to their coach's report, independent observations and their performance at grading day.

8.1 Positions & Playing Times

Players shall trial in two positions. The positions will be those nominated by the players at registration and/or by their previous coach. Players may be asked to trial in other positions, either to make up a team, or because the graders would like to see how they perform in those positions. It may not be necessary for all players to have equal playing time during the grading day.

8.2 Failure to Attend Grading Day

Failure to attend grading day will result in the Grading Committee making the decisions to place the player in those most suitable team based on their previous performance and the ability.

8.3 New Players

All new players must attend grading day, failure to do so may result in them placed in the bottom team.

8.4 Late Registration

Where players register after grading day, the player's past playing history will be taken into account and they will be placed in the most suitable team, subject to vacancies.

9 Team Formation

Graders will form teams based on the grading day, the coach's report and the independent observations. The club aims to carry a minimum of 8 players per team. When forming teams, the goal is to achieve strength and balance in each team.

Preliminary teams shall be presented at the next WHNC committee meeting. No player or parent shall approach any of the Grading Committee and must not attempt to influence the grading or team formation process.

Any changes to team formations after teams have been graded must be ratified by the Grading Committee. Once the teams have been lodged with BHSNA registration cannot be transferred to another club.

10 Announcement of Teams

Once the grading process has concluded and the Grading Committee has formed teams, teams will be announced on the Club's website (www.winstonhillsnetball.com.au) and through Team App. The Coach will contact the team in due course.

11 Nomination of Teams of BHSNA

Once teams are formed, the Grading Committee will determine an appropriate grade under which to submit the team for registration with BHSNA. The Grading Committee determines these grades based on their assessment of the team during the grading process with the teams previous grade, ability and coaches' recommendations in mind. The grades allocated by the Grading Committee are only recommendations and BHSNA will make the final determinations of the grades.

12 Appeals

Members may appeal against any departure from the WHNC grading policy, the WHNC By-Laws and/or Constitution. Appeal must be by way of a written letter sent to the Club secretary.

Update	Comments
July 2019	Version 1 adopted by WHNC
July 2020	Version 2 adopted by WHNC
April 2021	Version 3 adopted by WHNC