



SAINTS NETBALL CLUB – GRADING POLICY

Updated 6 February, 2025

Saints Netball Club participates in netball competitions facilitated by Townsville City Netball Association. This Grading Policy applies to all teams in the Set/Go (U10) and Junior (U12-U18) age groups.

OBJECTIVES OF GRADING, TRIALS OR TEAM PLACEMENTS

For Players

To provide a clear process for all players to be placed in a team that will:

- A – Best represent their level of skill and ability
- B – Maximise opportunities to develop and improve their skills
- C – Maximise their enjoyment and love of the game

For the Club

- A – Ensure that all players are placed in teams in a fair and equitable manner by the relevant persons
- B – Enable the Club to accurately assess and nominate team placing (i.e. which division) for the season
- C – Provide the Club with the ability to build balanced, competitive teams wherever possible

GRADING COMMITTEE

Grading is conducted by the Saints Netball Club Grading Committee which consists of Netball Australia accredited coaches. Should the Club not have any Netball Australia accredited coaches then the Grading Committee will consist of the Club Coaching Convenor, Junior Convenor, Club Coaches and/or other persons as deemed appropriate by the Saints Netball Club Executive Committee.

Coaches from each season are consulted by the Coaching Convenor to obtain feedback on their team and individual players to assist with grading and team placements for future seasons.

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Requests are sought and welcomed throughout the registration process via the Club's returning player forms and new player expressions of interest. These are considered by the Club wherever possible.

AGE GROUPS

U10 Teams (7-10yrs) – No individual player grading is carried out. Younger players are placed into teams by age, friendship group or experience level. Currently Set and Go teams play with fluid grading by TCNA across two divisions – a higher and a lower in each.

U12-U18 Teams (11-18yrs) - Individual player grading is carried out except when a full team of players joins together (eg a School-based team). Saints Netball Club prefers all Junior teams to have a minimum of 8 players and a maximum of 10 players. This will be at the discretion of the Lane Cove Netball Club Committee and is dependent on final numbers of players in an age group.

GRADING & TEAM PLACEMENT PROCESS

U10 Teams – Saints Netball Club recognises that children of this age want to play with their friends, so it is always the Club's objective to achieve this ideal scenario. In some instances, experienced 10 year olds may be asked to play up in the U12 age group, due to ability, friendship groups or player numbers.

U12-U18 Teams - To ensure that all players are placed in appropriate teams, attendance at the Club's Grading/Team Placement days is compulsory for all Junior players. All players must grade in their own

age group (i.e. the age that they are turning that calendar year). Players may be invited to attend grading of a higher age group at the discretion of the Club.

Each player will have the opportunity to trial in at least one of their preferred positions. Playing positions will be considered to ensure each team has the necessary spread of positions (shooters, defenders, and midcourters). If players don't advise the Club of their preferred positions, they will be placed in positions during Gradings/Team Placements at the discretion of the Grading Committee.

A player must make every effort to attend all the Grading / Team Placement sessions as set out by the Club.

If a player does not attend, then placement into a team for this player will be based upon:

- Coach's Evaluation (if returning player)
- Observation by Team Coaches at the nominated training session prior to the start of the season (note this may result in changes to Team Placement occurring if necessary).

SKILLS ASSESSMENT OF JUNIOR PLAYERS

When grouping players by ability, the Grading Committee considers a wide range of netball skills, including:

- A – Ball Handling
- B – Passing/Catching Technique
- C – Footwork
- D – Shooting Technique & Accuracy
- E – Defensive Skills
- F – Attacking Skills
- F – Speed and Endurance
- F – Teamwork and Attitude
- G – Athletic Ability
- H – Positional Play & Awareness
- I – Potential to Improve

A variety of mechanisms may be employed by the Club to evaluate these skills including observation, skill matrices etc.

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 (U10, U12, U15, U18). Age is calculated as of 31st December of the playing season.

On occasion, there may be exceptions to this rule. Prior to, during or following grading, should the Grading Committee identify a player of higher ability, then that player may be offered the opportunity to play in a higher age group. The player is not required to accept such an offer.

In addition, should the Club have insufficient player registrations in adjacent age groups to form full teams, players may be asked 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 (and ideally age) to the other players in the team in which they will be placed.

A player may request to be graded in an older age group to play with players in the same year level at school or with friends. Such a request may be denied if the Club does not believe this to be in the best interest of the player. It may also be denied if the Club has insufficient player registrations in that player's correct age group to form a full team without that player, or too many players in the older age group.

NOTIFICATION OF TEAMS

Players will be advised of their team selection via email.

Initial team notifications are subject to change at the discretion of Saints Netball Club.

DISPUTES

Saints Netball Club takes the process of allocating players to teams very seriously and expends hundreds of volunteer hours on doing so.

A significant amount of time, thought and experience goes into the final allocations – with the primary goal of setting up players for a great season of netball with players of similar abilities. Ultimately, team placement decisions should be considered final.

Despite all this care and attention, sometimes the Grading Committee may get it wrong. They are only human after all! The Committee is willing to receive respectful queries from parents about placement but ask that the following steps are followed:

1. Consider the thorough, objective grading process that has taken place over numerous sessions, using multiple assessment techniques.
2. Consider the skills, abilities and physical characteristics of the player compared to their peers.
3. Consider any special requests made by the player which may have had a bearing on placement.
3. Consider the skills and netball knowledge of those on the Grading Committee and that this process is not new to them.
4. After considering the above, if you wish to seek feedback on team placement, please email saintsnetballtsv@gmail.com. No team placement issues will be discussed over the phone or in person. Members of the Grading Committee will reconvene to consider the complaint and will advise their decision via email at their earliest convenience.

The Committee's decision is final.

TEAM GRADING & FINAL DIVISIONS

- Saint Netball Club nominates each Junior team into a division deemed suitable by the Club for TCNA grading purposes.
- Teams are then settled into final competition divisions by TCNA following the completion of their grading process.
- Saints Netball Club does not have any control or input into this team grading process.
- These divisions are final.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All grading assessments sheets and player evaluation reports (coaches' feedback summaries) are the confidential property of Saints Netball Club.