



GRADING POLICY

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1. GRADING SUB-COMMITTEE

- 1.1 The Grading Sub-Committee shall be responsible for Grading.
- 1.2 The Grading Sub-Committee shall comprise of:
 - a) A Grading Convenor (officer bearer), elected at the Annual General Meeting.
 - b) A six member committee, elected at the Annual General Meeting each year.
 - c) The Fixtures Convenor will act in the capacity of scribe for the Committee.
- 1.3 Eligibility:
 - a) Nominees must be registered senior members of NNA.
 - b) Nominations for all of the committee positions must be on the NNA approved online form with all details fill in.
 - c) Committee members and convenors should represent a cross-section of the association – with each member (including convenors) coming from a different club.
 - d) Additional Graders may be called on to assist and take part in practical grading, as directed by the Grading Convenor.

2. DUTIES OF GRADING COMMITTEE

- 2.1 All Graders should be conversant with NNA Grading Policy, in order that grading procedures are standardised.
- 2.2 Graders and convenors must be committed to ensuring as fair as possible competition for all teams registered in the NNA competition. They must not think of themselves as advocates for their own club.
- 2.3 On occasion graders may be asked to provide additional information or clarification about teams with whom they are aligned.
- 2.4 Attendance is mandatory at:
 - a) Paper grading
 - b) Practical grading
 - c) Grading Review

3. GRADING PROCESS

- 3.1 Prior to registration a representative from all clubs will be invited to attend an information-gathering forum convened by the Grading Convenor. The objective of the forum is to discuss the possible make up of divisions to allow clubs to enter their teams accordingly.
- 3.2 After registration:
- a) **Net Set Go** teams will be paper graded.
 - b) **10yrs** will be court graded on the designated date listed in the Newcastle Netball calendar.
 - c) **11yrs, 12yrs, 13yrs, 14yrs & 15yrs** will be paper graded.
 - d) The graders will decide if an **open intermediate** competition is viable. If so it will initially be paper graded. Court grading may be required. If not, nominated teams will be placed into alternate grades.
 - e) **17yrs and 21yrs** will be paper graded.
 - f) **Seniors** will be paper graded.
- 3.3 If necessary, any of the above grades other than 10yrs may be required to attend court grading. If teams need to attend, they will be contacted on designated date listed in the Newcastle Netball Calendar.

4. PAPER GRADING

- 4.1 Teams will be paper graded.
- 4.2 Clubs shall provide accurate information on registration papers.
- 4.3 Clubs shall provide contact numbers for people who may be contacted on grading day.
- 4.4 Where possible grades should consist of eight teams.
- 4.5 Clubs shall be advised of provisional grading at the grading review session.

5. PAPER GRADING GUIDELINES

- 5.1 Paper grading will be based on past results and individual player history.
- 5.2 Teams who retain five players from the previous season generally shall be recognised as retaining their identity.
- 5.3 The grading committee will take the following into consideration in combination when conducting paper grading:
- a) Win/loss ratio and goals for/against ratio in competition.

- b) Final series performance.
- c) Number of teams entered in age group.
- d) The top two teams from previous season could be promoted and the bottom two teams relegated.

6. COURT GRADING

- 6.1 The 10yrs age group will be court graded each year. Other grades may be court graded as decided by the Grading Committee.
- 6.2 Scores shall be recorded in the 8yrs and 9yrs age group in order to facilitate a more effective initial paper grading prior to the practical grading the following year.
- 6.3 Teams will not be court graded with less than five registered players.
- 6.4 During court grading, graders may request information from coaches regarding the strength of the available team. ie. key players unavailable etc.

7. GRADING REVIEW

- 7.1 Clubs will be contacted on the Saturday of paper grading if there are any discrepancies in Grade and Age Groupings, and given the opportunity to address any issues raised. The discrepancies are defined as “differences from nominated grade and division to proposed grade and division”.
- 7.2 Clubs will be given the Saturday evening and Sunday morning to rectify and/or address the issues so raised by the Grading Committee, and will need to come back to the Committee by 12pm Sunday with any discussions/alterations to team grades.
- 7.3 On Sunday from 2.30pm to 5.00pm after paper grading amendments, if any, a representative from each Club is required to view the provisional grades in the clubhouse. Graders will be available for discussion.
- 7.4 If a representative cannot attend this viewing, then he/she may phone to acquire the information.
- 7.5 Clubs must be aware that these grades may alter following review.
- 7.6 The FINAL GRADES will appear on the website the next day (Monday).

8. REGRADING

- 8.1 Regrading will be considered by the Grading Committee after the first five games of the season (i.e. after each team in a standard division of six teams has played every other team once) for at-risk teams.

- 8.2 Regrading requests will only be considered in the following situations:
- a) Where a team is requesting to be regraded down, the Grading Committee will only accept requests from teams with zero wins and who have had repeated large losses of 40 or more goals. If a second team in the same division wishes to be regraded down they will also be considered as long as the only win they have had is against the other team wishing to be regraded down.
 - b) Where a team is requesting to be regraded up, the Grading Committee will only consider teams who are sitting at the top of the ladder and who have been having large wins.
 - c) The committee usually does not consider regrading where it involves a change of timeslot.
 - d) The committee cannot guarantee that a team will be regraded, as this depends on the suitability of the division above or below them.
- 8.3 The Grading Committee has the discretion to regrade teams up or down, regardless of requests being received, if it is felt it will improve the competition.
- 8.4 Should regrading occur, the following point allocations will be made:
- a) A team moving into a division of seven or eight teams will be given the average points of the current 4th and 5th position teams, slotting into 5th place.
 - b) A team moving into a division of five or six teams will be given the average points of the current 3rd and 4th position teams, slotting into 4th place.
 - c) If necessary percentage will be used to adjust ladder positions.
- 8.5 Teams in grades where regrading has occurred, but who were not involved in the regrading, will retain their points and percentage as scored when the regrading process was initiated.
- 8.6 All decisions of the Grading Committee in relation to regrading changes are final after discussion with the affected teams.