



## **GRADING POLICY**

West Ryde Rovers Football Club  
(Amended February 2023)



## CLUB GRADING POLICY

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### DOCUMENT CONTROL

Version	Description of Change	Author	Owner	Approve	Issue Date
1.0	New Policy	L.Donald	WRRFC	AGM	
1.1	Change to layout only	L.Donald	WRRFC	GCM	17/05/2015
1.2	Update Document	L.Donald	WRRFC	GCM	TBA 2020
1.3	Document Review & update.	M.Downs	WRRFC	ECM	01/02/23

Legislation/Regulation	Reviewed by	Date of Review

### UPDATES AND DISTRIBUTION LIST

Suggested changes to this document shall be proposed by the document owner. These shall be reviewed with the WRRFC management committee where relevant and, if applicable, approval of any proposed changes shall be provided to the general committee.

The following shall be advised of policy and/or procedure changes:

- Management Committee,
- General Committee, and
- Any other roles identified as accountable or responsible.

### REVISIONS

The next revision of this document is to take place within 3 years after the last issue date unless there have been changes in legislation or scope of application.





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### INTRODUCTION

The main objective of this document is to formulate the processes by which West Ryde Rovers Football Club (WRRFC) will conduct its junior grading. This document should be accessible to members of WRRFC and the general football community.

Senior teams (U21s, All Age and Over 35/45/55, Premier League and Super League teams) are not in scope of this grading policy. The WRRFC management committee will oversee general placement of these teams in relation to previous year's performance and requests from players in each team.

### JUNIOR GRADING POLICY

The grading policy of WRRFC is to be used to provide the grading committee with clear process and procedure outlines to ensure that WRRFC grading is conducted with the utmost integrity, professionalism, and transparency.

The objectives in relation to the grading of our junior teams (U5-U18s), are as follows:

#### Players:

Provide a clear, well-defined process to ensure that all players are to be placed in a team that will:

- best represent their individual level of skill and ability,
- ensure teams formed are comprised of similarly skilled players,
- maximise opportunities to develop and improve their skills
- maximise their enjoyment and love of the game, and
- to provide clear and well managed pathways through age groups and divisions.

#### Club:

- ensure that players are placed in teams in a fair and equitable manner by independent persons,
- enable the club to properly assess and nominate team placing's (i.e., divisions) for the upcoming season, and
- ensure that stakeholders (players/parents) concerns are taken into consideration and addressed as necessary.

### GRADING COMMITTEE

The grading committee is led by the elected Grading Coordinator of the WRRFC general committee and includes the Coaching Director of WRRFC and an additional three (3) senior members of the club, who preferably have had at least 12 months experience on the WRRFC committee, or are experienced coaches. For all positions other than the grading coordinator and





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coaching director, nominations will be called for those interested in becoming a part of the grading committee.

The grading committee will make recommendations on player placements (team selections) and proposed divisions to the WRRFC management committee for approval prior to team nomination closing dates, as determined by North West Sydney Football (NWSF). These recommendations are formed from a combination of results from grading sessions, prior playing history and player evaluation reports from previous season coaches.

## AGE GROUPS

- Under 6 - 7 - There is no individual player grading, but a team ranking assessment.
- Under 8 - Combination of individual player grading and whole team ranking.
- Under 9 – 18 – Individual player grading will occur.

## GRADING DATES AND TIMES

Exact grading dates and times will be advised when registrations are open for the commencement of the season. Notification will be listed on the WRRFC website <https://wrrfc.com.au/>, social media outlets and in bulk club emails.

Players are required to be in attendance at the nominated venue, at least 15 minutes before start time to sign-in.

## LATE REGISTRATIONS

Non-registered players will not be allowed to participate in grading.

Late registrations will only be accepted if player vacancies still exist in applicable age groups.

Where vacancies exist players may be able to register on the day of grading and must pay in full before they can participate in the grading process.

Players registered after grading has been completed are unlikely to be considered for the highest graded team, although where there are exceptional circumstances a player may trial (at the discretion of the grading committee) to earn a place in this team. This will only occur if there are spaces available in that team.

## GRADING ATTENDANCE





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Attendance at grading is as follows:

**Mixed and Female U6-7 & U8** – Team grading will occur at Mini Gala (usually in March) all players are required to attend where possible.

**Mixed U9-U18s** – Any player who is trialling for the highest ranked team, or have a previously playing history of Division 1, 2 or 3 will be required to attend grading day. This may change dependant upon player registrations in each age group and will be at the discretion of the committee. All other players are welcome to attend grading day for individual player grading, this is helpful for new players to the club to ensure adequate team placement.

**Female U9s-U18s** – Dependent upon registered players in each age group, grading may be required. Age groups that require grading will be individually notified.

Any player who will be absent from the grading session for their age group is required to notify the grading co-ordinator in writing (via email) prior to the grading day.

In a players absence from grading sessions, the players previous playing experience, coaches comments, player evaluation sheets and special requests will be assessed to determine the grading level of that player. Special requests will only be considered if notification of absence is received prior to grading session.

There is no guarantee that a player will play in the same team as last season.

Additional grading sessions (where necessary) may be added at the discretion of the grading committee.

Based on player registrations, the grading committee may not need to go ahead with a grading session in any particular age group. If so, contact will be made with all players to notify them of any cancellation.

## SPECIAL REQUESTS

Special requests are to be made on the player registration form. Special requests will be considered but not guaranteed.

In line with the objectives of junior grading as outlined in this policy, where there is a request to play with friends or same team as last season, if that is from a Div 1, 2 or 3 player, their attendance at the club grading day is required to ensure that correct team placements are considered.

For players with previous playing history of division 4, 5, 6, 7, 8+ where a request to play with a friend/s has been made, the players (if all agree) will be placed in the team that matches the player with the least level of assessed ability.

The initial grading session is the final opportunity for players/parents to make special requests.

## GRADING PROCESSES





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### UNDER 6/ 7 RANKING

In these age groups, WRRFC recognises that players want to play with their friends, so at all times it is the clubs' objective to achieve this ideal scenario.

To ensure maximum enjoyment of the game, minimising lopsided score lines, in these age groups, teams are assessed and placed into one of three ranking levels.

### U6/7 GRADING PROCESS

The team rankings will be determined at the preseason Mini-Gala Day (generally early March), where all teams will play several matches and the grading committee will assess each team as a group. The rankings of teams are based solely on a team assessment and not specifically on individual player ability.

It is essential that all players attend this day, so the teams can be properly assessed, and place them in the appropriate team ranking. It is also a lot of fun for the kids and provides a good opportunity for them to meet new teammates and the parents to get to know one another, if they already do not, and to determine Coach and Manager for the team.

### UNDER 8 GRADING

Under 8's has three different ranking levels which the Grading Committee needs to look at when placing players (see Grading Process below). Please note: this is across NWSF and not specific to WRRFC.

The highest ranking level is commonly known as '8 Blue Division' and WRRFC will always endeavour to enter a team to play in the blue division wherever possible.

This is the first age group where individual player grading is deemed necessary and therefore is also one of the hardest age groups to grade. However, individual grading at this age group is restricted primarily to those that likely to be placed in the '8 blue division' team.

The blue division is generally where those players, who show signs of being a talented footballer in these developing years, can play and test their skills against the best players from other clubs. It provides a valuable guide for the following season, when the players start in the Under 9's and where all teams and players are graded, based on individual ability.

After the blue division, the 2nd and 3rd ranking levels are based on team assessments, but in order to get these team assessments, we first need to look at each individual player.

The main reason for the rankings is to as far as possible try and get teams of roughly the same ability playing against one another in the same competition, to prevent lopsided score lines. Again this helps maximise the kids all round enjoyment of the game, which is vitally important at this age.





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### U8 GRADING PROCESS

In the U8's, players are expected to play in many different positions and not be pigeon-holed to one particular position, so assessments are based purely on the players all round skill set.

In determining the 8 blue division team, the club will look at the player assessments on grading day, player evaluation forms and whether they have any special requests. Those players that are deemed of the ability to play in the U8 blue division team will be asked to stay back at grading completion and be addressed by the grading coordinator.

If the grading committee is unable to grade the required number of individual players (10) for the '8 blue division', WRRFC will determine whether a team will be entered for this level.

Once the 8 blue division team is determined, the grading committee will then be able to place all other players into a 2 or 3 ranking, whether individually or as a group.







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### UNDER 9 – 18 GRADING

Players wanting to trial for the highest ranked team, as well as those with previous playing history of Division 1, 2 or 3 are expected to attend grading. The Committee may request entire age groups attend grading, this will be at the discretion of the WRRFC Committee and will be communicated to specific age groups if this occurs. The expectation is in these age groups players will be graded into teams that best represent their level of ability.

### U9-18 PROCESS

Under 9 grading is especially important as it is the first year where **all** individuals are assessed for their skills and abilities, and as such will be placed in a team/division that best reflects these core abilities.

In the Under 9's, the main emphasis in the grading process will be on a player's all round skill set and not whether they are good in a particular position.

From Under 11 on, a player's preferred position will be taken into account, with teams selected with an even balance of forwards, midfielders, defenders and goalkeepers.

### HIGHEST RANKED TEAM GRADING

At registration, WRRFC will gauge from players (especially new players) whether they intend to grade for the highest graded team or not, via notification on their registration form.

If necessary extra grading sessions will be arranged. Grading may also include pre-season trial games.

All players from the highest team (except 8 Blue's) in the previous season are deemed to have earned the right to participate in the second grading session (if required).

Players that have chosen to grade for the top team and are not successful in making the squad, should not expect to be placed automatically in the next lower division. The grading committee will take into account all relevant information into consideration and shall place the players in the most suitable team.

### GOALKEEPER GRADING

In age groups 8-10, there will be no grading of specialist keepers in these teams, although a player's ability as a keeper will be taken into account in the grading process.

Specialist goalkeeper grading will be considered for teams playing from Under 11 on. Any players that wish to grade specifically as a goalkeeper must indicate this to the grading committee prior to the start of the initial grading session.





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Any WRRFC team that is playing in Division 1 from Under 11 on should at all times attempt to have a specialist goalkeeper that will play the majority of the games in that position.

Depending on the number of goalkeepers that wish to grade in each age group, at the discretion of the grading committee a special session just for goalkeeper grading maybe required.

## GRADING CRITERIA

When assessing players the grading committee will be primarily assessing the following criteria:

- a) ball control / dribbling;
- b) passing;
- c) shooting;
- d) heading\*;
- e) tackling\*;
- f) 1 v 1\*;
- g) first touch\*;
- h) speed and endurance\*;
- i) strength\*;
- j) team work\*; and
- k) goalkeeping skills (for goalkeepers only).

\*Used more specifically from Under 11's on.

The first three criteria will hold the most weight in assessments for players in U8s-U10s. From U11s onwards the remaining skills in the criteria list develop and become increasingly important in player assessments.

## PLAYER NOTIFICATIONS

All team notifications throughout the grading process will be via team specific email correspondence.

All initial team notifications are provisional only and are subject to change at the discretion of the WRRFC management committee.

While WRRFC will always attempt to place those players who have registered with the club in a team in their age group, there are the odd occasions where unfortunately player numbers don't match the required numbers that are generally permitted for each squad.





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If this scenario occurs, WRRFC will endeavour by all means possible to place players into another WRRFC team if there are player vacancies.

If WRRFC exhaust all options internally, and players ultimately will have to be let go from the Club, our second option is assisting in finding a position for these players with other clubs who might be needing players in that age group. In this scenario, preference will be given to those players who register on time (i.e. prior to grading) and then if necessary, the length of time they have been WRRFC players. Ensure you get registrations in on time. Players who register late, will not be accepted if we have the required numbers already, no matter if you previously played at the club or not.

## DISPUTES

All grading assessment sheets and player evaluation forms are the Committee-in-Confidence property of WRRFC.

Following initial team notifications, any disputes regarding grading must be received within 48 hours of team notification. Any disputes must be in writing to the grading coordinator. The disputes will be reviewed by the grading committee and an outcome/response will be made at the time.

If a parent/guardian is still unsatisfied with their child's graded level following the review of the grading committee, they may apply for their grievance to be heard by the WRRFC management committee for a resolution. The decision of the WRRFC management committee will be deemed final. Application for this must be made in writing and sent to the WRRFC Secretary.

If a parent/guardian requests a change in team for their child after team allocations are completed, they must notify the team manager ASAP. Please note: that players can only be moved down a grade and will only be approved if a player from the lower grade is willing to move up. If no team manager is in place, they should inform the WRRFC Secretary.

