

Doncaster Netball Club Grading Guidelines

Doncaster Netball Club is committed to providing our members with the opportunity to play netball in competitive teams. Grading is the means by which we aim to achieve this objective for our junior players.

The aim of the grading process is to ensure all players are 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

These guidelines provide a framework that can be followed by the grading committee in conducting grading sessions each year. This document is also a guide for players and parents so that they can be better informed on the grading process and the level of involvement and strategic thought that goes into grading.

Players and parents need to understand that placement in a team one year does not ensure they will remain together the following year. Due to changes in the number of players registered with the Club, experienced players coming from other teams/clubs and the rates of development of players from season to season, player movements in and out of teams does occur. We encourage parents and players to be reasonable in their expectations and encourage positive feedback so that children will be happy in the teams in which they are ultimately placed.

Grading Committee

The grading committee consists of the Grading Coordinator and a team of independent, experienced selectors (usually past and present coaches and netball managing committee members). Grading committee members are selected and approved by the Doncaster Netball Club managing committee.

Grading Guidelines

Under 9 players

Players in the Under 9 year old teams are not graded. A request to play with friends will be accommodated if numbers allow.

Teams will be loosely ranked by the committee based on the age of the players and previous experience

Under 11 - Under 17 players

Individual player grading will take place where there is more than one team in an age group.

Grading is compulsory for all junior players. All players will be asked to grade in the age they are turning that calendar year. At the discretion of the Grading Committee players may be invited to attend the grading session of an older age group.

When grading junior players, mid court, attack and defense positions will be taken into account to ensure a fair spread of positions.

It is the clubs aim to have everyone play in the correct age group however some players may need to play in an older age group and this will be at the discretion of the grading committee.

Grading Process

Each year, Doncaster NC will follow the processes outlined in this document for all junior teams. By doing so, Doncaster NC will ensure that grading is completed in a fair and equitable manner.

There are several criteria on which players are graded including the previous coach's evaluation and the player's performance on grading day.

Any special requests can be made by contacting the grading coordinator by email at coach@doncasternetballclub.com.au These will be considered by the netball grading committee when teams are being selected.

1. Coaches Evaluation

The evaluation of previous season's coaches of players is highly considered with respect to placement of players. Coaches and officials will provide input on player's general skill level (passing, footwork, breaking, defending), their commitment, attitude, fitness and whether they were appropriately graded in previous season.

2. Grading Day

If a player knows they will be absent from the grading session for their age group they are required to notify the Club Secretary by email prior to grading day. Email can be sent to info@doncasternetballclub.com.au

If a player who does not attend their grading session they will be placed in a team based on the player's previous playing experience and their previous coach's evaluation. There is no guarantee that the player will play in the same team as last season.

At the grading day, selectors will be appointed to each age group.

During the grading session the following will be taken into account:

- Footwork
- Speed and agility
- Ball handling skills
- Attacking skills
- Defending skills
- Fitness
- Versatility
- Perception and cognition skills
- Sportsmanship and attitude

Each player will have the opportunity to trial in at least one of their preferred positions. A player may also be asked to play in a position that is not their preference to aid the grading process.

The Grading Committee must also consider the spread of positions (attack, mid court and defense) required in a team.

Parents, players and coaches are not to approach the selectors at any time during or after the grading process. However, coaches may be consulted by the selectors if required.

3. *Final Team Selection*

After the practical grading sessions have been completed for all age groups, the grading committee will convene. They will take into account the selectors recommendations, and any other considerations to finalise teams. The committee will also take into consideration the divisions in which the teams are likely to be placed.

Announcement of teams

Players will be advised on their team selection via email.

Disputes

If a family considers that their child has been unfairly treated in the grading process they must submit their concern in writing via email to the Club Secretary within 72 hours of team postings. Members of the grading Committee will reconvene to consider the complaint and will advise the family of their decision at their earliest convenience via email.

Confidentiality

All grading assessment sheets, coach's reports and selectors' discussions are strictly confidential. Parents and guardians must not approach selectors or members of the grading committee for information.