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## Roleystone Netball Club – Grading Policy

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Roleystone Netball Club (RNC) is committed to providing our members with the opportunity to play netball in either a non- competitive social environment or in competitive teams. Players will be asked at the point of registration if they wish to play for friendship or competition. This indicator will allow the grading committee to have a better understanding as to the player's wishes and what process will be put in place to determine their placement within a team.

For those who wish to play for friendship, the committee will accept fully formed teams and teams where all players do not necessarily wish to play to further themselves on a competitive level.

For those who wish to play for competition, each age group will have one or two teams formed specifically for those who wish to play at a higher or competitive level.

All players will go through a two stage grading process before teams are then finalised, and teams are graded by the Kalamunda Districts Netball Association (KDNA).

The aim of the grading process is to ensure all players are placed on a team that will:

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

This policy provides a framework that can be followed by the 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 when grading for competition, 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.

For those players who wish to solely play for friendship, they will also be part of the grading process, though their desire to stay as a team to play for friendship will be considered above all other placements. However, due to a number of reasons, which include registrations in and out of the club, player conflicts, and players who may wish to continue competitively, placement in a specific team is not guaranteed. Again 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.

The number of teams created per age group will depend on player numbers and coach availability. If we do not have enough coaches to cover our teams, players from one team may be split and absorbed into other teams.

NetSetGo Players:

Players aged 10 and under, playing in NetSetGo teams are not graded. A request to play with

friends will be accommodated where possible. Such requests can be made on the Online Netball Registration Form when registering. As per Junior & Senior teams, placement in a team one year does not ensure they will remain together the following year.

Teams will be loosely ranked by the committee based on the age of the players and previous experience, including coaches feedback if applicable.

NSG-aged players will be placed in NSG teams where possible. This may mean part of a previous season's team can go into a junior team while some players will be in a NSG team.

Grading Committee:

The Grading Committee will be formed by the committee at the commencement of year each. The Grading Committee may have representation from committee members and other persons invited to sit on the committee (i.e., past/previous coaches).

To provide a non-biased grading environment, coaches from another grade division will be asked to grade for a division they have not been coaching. Eg, a NetSetGo! coach, may be asked to help grade the senior teams, or a Senior coach may be asked to help grade the junior teams.

The Grading Committee will be responsible for conducting the grading process and making recommendations to the committee on final team allocations.

Grading Process:

### **Stage 1 – Coaches Report**

Midway through the winter season (July school Holidays), the coaches will submit a team/player report. This report looks at player's general skill level (passing, footwork, breaking, defending), their commitment, attitude, fitness and whether they were appropriately graded that season.

At the end of the winter season, coaches will again be asked to submit a team/player report. This will give them the opportunity to reflect on their player's improvements and skill development and overall attitude throughout the season.

These reports are paramount to a smooth and fair grading process. The coach's feedback is highly regarded when it comes to grading the players for the next season.

### **Stage 2 – Paper Grading**

Upon the receipt of all registrations all players will be "paper graded" into teams. The process for paper grading is:

- Consideration given to players wanting to play for friendship or competition

All registrations will be grouped via age group

- Based on previous year's team allocations players may be placed in another age group for paper grading consideration
- Based on Coaches Report from previous year players may be placed in another age group for paper grading consideration

- Teams are allocated within each age group
- Consideration given to ensure that there is a fair spread of positions across mid court, attack and defence positions
- Consideration given to any specific parent's/player requests as per Registration forms

Note:

- It is the club's 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 as per KDNA requirements.
- Requests to place siblings in the same team will be considered. If placing both siblings in one team, if possible, they will be graded into the team of the lowest graded sibling.

### **Stage 3 – Grading Sessions/Carnival**

If there is more than one team per age group players will be invited to attend a grading day where the Grading Committee, Committee and other invited people will grade players and finalise teams for the year

At the Grading Sessions, selectors will be appointed to each age group.

The following will be taken into account when grading players:

- 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 committee must also consider the spread of positions (attack, mid court and defence) 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.

### **Stage 4 – Final Team Selection**

After the grading sessions have been completed for all age groups, the Grading Committee will convene and prepare recommended Team Allocations. The Grading Committee will present these to the committee who will endorse.

The announcement of teams:

Players will be advised on their team selection via email directly from the committee or a representative, e.g., Registrar.

**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 Registrar within two (2) working days of the team announcements. No grading issues will be discussed over the telephone or in person.

All appeals will be considered within two (2) working days of being received, and a decision given within two (2) days. All decisions of the committee will be final.

Families who are not happy with the outcome of their dispute may request a refund of fees up to three (3) weeks before the season commencement.

**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.

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