



Introduction

1. The Club's mission is to provide opportunity for the youth of the area to participate in healthy, well organised competition at the most appropriate level to the individual's skill.
2. This policy statement has been developed:
 - a. to provide players, team officials and parents with an equitable grading process which ensures all players are given the best opportunity to develop their skills and knowledge of the game; and
 - b. to provide clarity, transparency and objectivity to the process of grading or allocating players into teams.
3. Team allocation for the mini age groups (U5 to U7). The Club strongly supports the principles of non-competitive soccer, which are designed to focus on participation, skill development, teamwork, friendship and enjoyment of the game.
4. Note that for the purposes of this document:
 - a. *trials* refers to the process of selecting players for a particular team; and
 - b. *grading* refers to the process of selecting players for various teams (or divisions) depending on ability.
5. For Premier League, U21, M-League Women, and All Age Ladies Division 1 teams, trials will be held to select players.
6. For Division 1 junior teams, trials will be held to select players.
7. Other players in junior age groups will be graded and allocated into teams.
8. All Age senior team selections will generally be through a team nomination process based on past performance.

Responsibilities

Grading Sub-Committee

1. To ensure fairness and equity is maintained at all times, the Club Grading Sub-Committee will oversee, ratify and have the final say on all player grading and team allocation decisions.
2. The Grading Sub-Committee shall comprise the positions, as a minimum, of President, Competition Secretary, Coaching Co-ordinator, Ladies Co-ordinator, Senior Executive Officer, Junior Executive Officer and the Minis Coordinator.
3. The Senior Executive Officer will be responsible for all senior team gradings. The Junior Executive Officer and the Minis Coordinator will be responsible for all junior and mini team gradings and team allocations respectively. The President and Coaching Co-ordinator will oversee all player and team grading decisions. The Club Technical Director will support the committee to oversee the grading process.
4. Any decision made by the Grading Sub-Committee in relation to the player and team grading provisions contained within this policy will be final.

Coaching Co-ordinator

1. The Coaching Co-ordinator will contact the previous years' coaches to determine who will be returning.

- Returning coaches will be invited to participate in the grading process alongside the Grading Sub-Committee members.

Club Technical Director

- The Club Technical Director will participate in the Grading Sub-Committee discussions and provide advice on the grading process.
- The Club Technical Director will be present during grading sessions to ensure fairness, equity and objectivity is observed at all times during the process of grading players.
- The role of the Technical Director is to assist in the process of grading players into higher division teams based on their level of demonstrated skill, ability and commitment.

Grading/Trials Schedule

- The schedule for grading is detailed in Table 1.

Table 1 – Grading Schedule

Grade	Timeframe
Sub-Committee formation and meeting	November
Premier League and U21 Trials	Early November
M-League and/or All Age Ladies Division 1 Trials	Late November
Division 1 All Grades Trials	Early December
All other divisions and All Age grading	During the months of January and February
U5, U6 and U7 Team Allocations	Early February

Advertising and Communications

- Each category of trial and grading as listed in Table 1 is to be advertised on all Club social media platforms and on the Club website.
- The following forms of written communication are to be prepared for the upcoming season:
 - Registration help flyer, including details related to obtaining a Working with Children Check;
 - Match day team sheet completion guide for coaches and managers;
 - General Club expectations and information flyer; and
- The following forms are to be signed by players before the commencement of trials or grading:
 - Injury Waiver if participating in trials or grading after 31 October;
 - Club Code of Conduct Agreement; and
 - Terms and Conditions on selection for players required to pay a deposit on registration.

Player Grading

Minis (U5 to U9)

- Mini soccer age groups U5 to U7 are non-competitive, and as such there is no player grading in these age groups. Rather, players are allocated into teams based on the criteria set out in this section.
- Player allocations will be carried out prior to the commencement of each season on days determined by the Grading Committee and advertised as per the normal club communication

platforms. Any player who does not attend these sessions will be placed into a team that has vacant positions available.

3. Where possible, the Grading Committee representatives will give consideration to players wishing to play in the same team as their friends and to teams that have played together in previous years.
4. Mini soccer age groups U8 and U9 are non-competitive also, but a graded into high, medium and low categories, in line with Southern Districts Soccer Football Association (SDSFA) rules. Players will be graded in accordance with the MSC grading policy and Table 1.
5. A coach and manager for each team must be allocated on the team allocation/grading day. Teams that are formed without officials are at risk of folding before the season starts.
6. Team sheets are to be completed for each team with the players names, guardian's name and phone number, coach's and manager's name, phone number and email address.
7. Information is to be provided, particularly to new players, regarding the registration process and match day information to new coaches and managers.

Under 10 to 12, Junior and Senior Teams

1. Trials and grading sessions will be held in accordance with Table 1.
2. For Under 10, Under 11, Under 12 and junior age groups, trials for Division 1 will take place separately to the remaining divisions to allow unsuccessful players to grade for lower divisions.
3. All Age teams will grade or be allocated a division based on the team's ability and/or by request of the team.
4. Following the player grading/team allocation process, and before the deadline set by the Southern Districts Soccer Football Association (SDSFA), the Club will submit to the SDSFA a list of all teams to be entered into the current season's competition along with nominations for each team's proposed divisional grading.
5. All nominations for team gradings will be determined by the Grading Committee following close consultation with all relevant team officials.
6. As a general rule, where a team was placed 1st or 2nd after the last round of the previous season's competition, that team will be promoted by the SDSFA into the next highest division. Similarly, where a team finished last or 2nd last, that team will be demoted into the next lowest division.
7. The Grading Committee will make every effort possible to ensure team grading nominations submitted are accepted by the SDSFA.
8. All team grading decisions made by the SDSFA are final and cannot be influenced by any further Club representation.

Appeals on Player and Team Gradings

1. Any appeals relating to player and/or team gradings should initially be brought to the attention of the Grading Committee via the Minis Coordinator, Ladies Co-ordinator, Junior Executive Officer or the Senior Executive Officer for informal resolution.
2. Where an appeal cannot be resolved informally by the Grading Committee then the matter must be referred in writing to the Club's Grievances and Disputes Committee for formal resolution under the provisions of the Grievances and Disputes Policy.
3. Any decision made by the Grievances and Disputes Committee will be final.