

GPCC Netball Club

Grading Policy



Green Point Christian College Netball Club (GPCCNC) is committed to providing our members with the opportunity to play netball in competitive teams where they can develop their skills as individuals and as a team. Grading is the means by which we aim to achieve this objective for all our players.

Netball is a graded, competitive sport from the age of 10 with representative opportunities. To ensure the best chance of success for all our players and teams and to achieve the greatest level of enjoyment and skill development, it is necessary to grade players into teams with players of similar ability.

Each year, GPCCNC will follow the processes outlined in this policy for all teams that require grading. By doing this GPCCNC can ensure that grading is completed in a fair and equitable manner.

THE AIM OF THE GRADING PROCESS:

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

- best represent their level of skill and ability
- maximise opportunities to improve their skills
- nurture their enjoyment and love of the game

This policy provides a framework that GPCCNC will follow for grading sessions each year. This document is also a guide for players and parents so that they can understand the grading process, the level of involvement and strategic thought that goes into grading.

Players and parents should understand that placement in a team one year does not ensure they will remain together the following year. Grading is influenced by many factors including:

- the number and ages of players registered with GPCCNC,
- experience of new players
- rates of development of players from season to season, and
- player movements in and out of teams.

THE GRADING COMMITTEE:

At GPCCNC, the Grading Committee consists of the Coach Convenor/s and a team of independent, experienced graders (usually past and present coaches and senior players, along with GPCCNC Committee members). Grading Committee members are selected and approved by the GPCCNC Committee.

Graders will be independent, experienced with on court play and the skills of netball in varying positions.

The Grading Committee will ensure there is no conflict of interest during any grading session to ensure the grading process is fair, transparent and unbiased. Graders cannot grade age groups where family members and/or close friends are involved and where graders are coaches they cannot grade their own teams or age groups.

NON-GRADED TEAMS:

7s, 8s and 9s Non-Competitive Nettas Program

Players in the 7, 8 and 9 year old teams are not graded. In these teams, requests to play with friends will be accommodated where possible, depending on the overall numbers of registrations in each age group.

Preferences for friendships are indicated in your registration form.

GRADED TEAMS:

Junior (10s, 11s, 12s, 13s, U15s and U17s) and Senior (18s+) Programs

Individual player grading will take place where there is more than one team in an age group. Where this occurs all registered players will be asked to grade in their nominated age group. In exceptional circumstances players may be able to play in the age group above or below their calendar age (eg school year group).

THE GRADING PROCESS:

In addition to a player's performance at the grading sessions, the following factors are also taken into consideration when forming teams:

1) Coaches Report

At the completion of each season, each coach submits their team/player report. This report looks at a player's:

- attendance (at training and games)
- attitude (enthusiasm, willingness to learn/play),
- performance (ability, transfers from training to court, skill during play, fitness),
- positions (strongest/preferred).

2) Previous Experience of the Player

Where a player is new to GPCCNC, the Coach Convenor will discuss the player's previous experience with their parents.

3) Paper Grading

The Grading Committee will review the new seasons registrations along with the Coaches Report to plan the grading sessions.

4) Grading Session Performance

Grading may include a number of activities, including netball training drills but will always include sessions of actual on-court play.

In assessing the overall skills of a player within an age group, the following will be taken into account:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| - footwork/movement | - speed and agility | - netball decision making skills |
| - ball handling skills | - attacking skills | - defending skills |
| - shooting (if relevant) | - fitness | - sportsmanship and attitude |

Each player will nominate their two preferred positions in their GPCCNC registration form and will play for a minimum of one quarter in these positions.

For a number of reasons, it may not be necessary for all players to play an identical number of quarters of on-court play during the session. At times a player may be asked to play out of position so others can be graded in their preferred position. In this circumstance the player playing out of position will not be graded.

5) Team Court Positions

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

6) Friendship Requests

Where appropriate friendship requests may be taken into consideration. It may be appropriate to move a player to a lower grade however players will not be moved to higher grades based on friendship requests.

7) End of Season Sideline Grading

In 2017, GPCCNC will trial sideline grading during the last 3 rounds of the season. This will ensure that players are being viewed at the peak of their playing in the season. Teams will not be informed prior to games nor do they need to anything different from any other game. This information will feed into the grading process for 2018.

ABSENCES:

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 (secretarygpcnc@gmail.com) 24 hours prior to the grading session.

A player who does not attend their grading session will be placed in a team based on paper grading. This will take into consideration the player's previous playing experience and the coach's report. There is no guarantee that the player will play in the same team as last season.

LATE REGISTRATIONS:

Where a registration is received after club grading and team allocations, a paper grading will occur. The individual player will be allocated to a team dependent on the composition of existing team numbers. Members of the Grading Committee may undertake in-game grading as required.

Prior to play, all late registrations must be processed by GPCNC and payment received. Paperwork needs received by GNA one week prior to playing and approval given by the GNA Grading Committee.

FAMILIES, PLAYERS AND COACHES:

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

Only players being graded, the graders, members of the Grading Committee and umpires will be allowed on the courts or in the MPC during a grading session. Families are welcome to stay for the duration of the grading session however they must remain in the undercover area adjacent to the MPC.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF TEAMS:

After the grading sessions have been completed for all age groups, the Grading Committee will meet. They will take into account the graders recommendations, the coach's reports and any other considerations to finalise teams. The Committee will also take into consideration the Gosford Netball Association grades (divisions) in which the teams are likely to be placed.

Players will be advised on their team via email within a week of the grading session.

APPEALS:

If a family has objections to the grading outcome they must submit their concern exclusively in writing via email to the GPCNC Secretary (secretarygpcnc@gmail.com) within 48 hours of team announcements.

Members of the Grading Committee will reconvene to consider appeals and will advise the family of their final decision within 48 hours of receipt of appeal.

FEEDBACK:

As a club, we encourage parents and players to be reasonable in their expectations and encourage positive feedback so that our players will be happy in the teams in which they are ultimately placed. Feedback can be sent directly to the GPCNC Secretary (secretarygpcnc@gmail.com).

CONFIDENTIALITY:

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

NOMINATION OF TEAMS TO GOSFORD NETBALL ASSOCIATION:

Following the formation of teams, the Grading Committee will determine an appropriate grade (division) to submit each team for registration with Gosford Netball Association (GNA). For example, 10As, 10Bs or 10Cs.

While the Grading Committee determines these grades based on their assessment of the team during the grading process and with the team's best interests and abilities in mind, these are only recommended grades for GNA nomination purposes.

Ultimately, GNA will determine the final grading of all teams and will make this decision by assessing the merits and ability of teams from our Club versus those submitted by all other clubs as necessary.