



# Team Formation and Grading Policy

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**Bungendore Netball Club Inc.**

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# **Team Formation and Grading Policy**

## **Aim and objective**

The aim of this policy is to ensure team grading is conducted fairly and effectively. The Policy will ensure that:

- For team formation and grading purposes, every player is treated as an individual club member, irrespective of previous team or grade.
- Every player has an equal opportunity.

Team formation and grading is influenced by the number and ages of players registered with BNC. Team formation and grading will aim to achieve teams that have a balanced group of players taking into account:

- Consideration of friendships.
- Consideration of skills and ability.
- Consideration of playing positions (only considered when teams are required to be graded by QNA).

## **Why do we grade our teams?**

The reason we grade is to ensure that all players of all varying abilities get to play with, and against, players of similar skill level. It is important to keep in mind that our teams will play against other competitive and well skilled opponents; these teams will have also gone through a grading within their own club. Stronger players always enjoy the challenge of harder, faster competition - they do not develop to their potential if graded to a lower team just to be kept with a friend. Similarly, players who are placed in teams above their ability will also not develop to their potential when being constantly overshadowed by stronger teammates and opponents. Players put in this environment may become disheartened and lose self-esteem. All this helps to produce a fairer level of competition, a better fit within a team, more individual confidence and a more constructive learning experience.

## **Playing with friends**

Requests to play with friends in the non-competitive are groups (8-12yrs) will be accommodated where possible, within their correct age group, depending on the overall number of registrations in each age group. Requests must be made on the Player Registration Form on registration day. The Club, however, encourages players to join as individuals so players and parents get to meet new friends – this process also makes it more comfortable when they enter a graded playing age group.

## Team Formation and Grading Sub-Committee

Our Team Formation and Grading Sub-Committee personnel are experienced coaches and Club members who bring their knowledge and impartiality when assessing the skills of our players. Where possible the Club will invite independent graders from other clubs or associations to assist with the grading process.

Where a conflict of interest exists (for example, the grading session involving a child of the grader/s) that member shall declare that conflict of interest and this will be managed by the Sub-committee.

For grading we do ask the girls what positions they enjoy playing but we also consult with the coaches to nominate at least 2 positions they feel are the player's strongest positions - this is not to disadvantage but to provide opportunity. Towards the end of the season we ask the coaches for an evaluation of their players in areas such as skills, attendance at training and games, teamwork and attitude. All such reports remain confidential and are viewed only by the Team Formation and Grading Sub-Committee and the BNC Executives.

In assessing the skills of a player the Team Formation and Grading Sub-committee will take into account:

- Footwork
- Speed & Agility
- Ball handling skills
- Attacking skills
- Defending skills
- Perception/Cognition skills
- Sportsmanship & Attitude

When grading is conducted it may include a number of activities including various netball training drills but will always include a session of actual on-court play. Players will be formed into teams and trial in at least 2 positions that they have nominated or were nominated by their coach.

Players unable to attend the practical grading session will need to notify the Team Formation and Grading Sub-committee prior to the grading day. Placement into a team for this player may be based upon paper grading taking into account the Coach's evaluation report or previous playing level if transferring from another club. This placement will be evaluated over the first three weeks and may be amended. A failure to attend grading may lead to dissatisfaction to the player. All players are strongly encouraged to attend the practical grading as paper grading may result in disappointment.

The Team Formation and Grading Sub-committee recommendations will be considered and finalised by the Bungendore Netball Club Committee.

On occasions the Team Formation and Grading Sub-committee may recommend an entire team be nominated for a competition of a higher age group to ensure they are provided with an appropriate level of competition. Such nominations will be made only after consultation with that team's Coach.

At a coach's request the Team Formation and Grading Sub-committee will also assess a player (or players) for allocation to the appropriately skilled team in the future.

## **Considerations particular to each Netball Program**

### **Net (5-7yrs)**

A skills-based program run according to Netball Australia's Net Set Go Program. No games are played. This is a non-competitive age group; therefore, no grading is undertaken.

NB: Some U7s are ready and willing to play actual games of netball, after doing the Net Set Go program for 2 years already. In this case, BNC will attempt to either create an U7s team or combine an U7 & 8s team, providing there are enough players. If there are only enough U8's for one team. The U8s players will get the preference. Parents and the Club can attempt to recruit more players to form another team to cater for the U7s. In this case the less experienced U8's (those who have not played before included) will be combined with the U7s.

### **Set-Go (8-10yrs)**

This age group plays under Netball Australia's Net Set Go modified rules program. It is still a non-competitive age group, therefore no grading is undertaken. There are no finals in this age group. Teams are defined by ages groups, if there are enough registered players for 2 teams under the same age group, teams will be determined using;

- Friendship Groups – players at time of registration will be asked to write down 1 or 2 players in which they would like to play with in the upcoming season.
- Skills and Ability

### **Junior (11-12yrs)**

This is the age in which players start to play full rules. In many larger areas grading starts in this age group. Due to Queanbeyan Netball Association (QNA) being a smaller association, there are not enough teams to warrant divisions. Teams are still played in their age groups, in one competition. In the case that there are enough registered players for 2 teams under the same age group, teams will be determined with consideration given to the following points;

- Friendship Groups - players at time of registration will be asked to write down 1 or 2 players in which they would like to play with in the upcoming season.
- Skills and Ability
- Playing positions (is given consideration as in this age group players should be beginning to work out where they enjoy playing most and what their natural playing positions are)

## **Cadets (13-17yrs)**

QNA calls this age group – “Cadets”. It is also known in other Associations as *Intermediates*. This is when the grading of players begins. Players MUST attend a grading day which will be held after registrations and before the QNA competition starts. At this grading day, the Team Formation and Grading Committee will grade all players in conjunction with the *Team Formation and Grading Sub-committee* section above.

## **Seniors (17yrs and over)**

13-17yrs can also play Seniors if they are already in the Cadets comp.

Senior teams are also graded and MUST attend the grading day held after registrations and before the QNA competition starts. If Cadets players wish to play in the senior competition, they must also attend this grading day and be graded in both the Cadets and Seniors grading sessions. The Team Formation and Grading Sub-committee will grade all players in conjunction with the *Team Formation and Grading Sub-committee* section above.

## **Team Formation and Grading appeals**

Whilst it is hoped that players and parents appreciate the difficulty of grading and accept the decision of the BNC Committee an appeal may be made.

Any appeal must be made via email to the BNC Secretary. The final outcome will be formalised by the BNC Executive Committee.

Parents and players are encouraged to enjoy the experience of meeting new friends and playing partners where team changes occur. The support of parents is greatly encouraged for this to occur smoothly. In most cases there is not a great deal of change to the team make-up.

We agree that all our Club members are excellent netballers and we are proud to have them as representatives of our Club. We understand that each player strives to be better and would like some recognition of that effort and achievement.

Please be proud of the team and give it your all when you are at training and playing a match. Look forward to making new friendships. For parents, please be objective and reasonable and make sure your child feels happy and excited about playing netball. Please be aware that we want your child to be successful and that it's not about being in Division 1 or Division 4, it's about being in a team sport, having fun and learning as much as you can, but also being able to be competitive at a similar skills level.