



Blackburn South Netball Club Inc.

Grading Policy

3 May 2026

Purpose

This policy outlines the principles and processes used to grade and allocate players to teams within the club, ensuring fair, safe, and appropriate placement.

Scope

This grading policy relates to Blackburn South Netball Club players participating in the Whitehorse Saturday and Monday Go competitions. This policy does not apply to players participating in the Whitehorse Mixed Saturday competition.

Goals

This grading policy aims to:

- Ensure all players are placed in teams where they can play with and against players of similar ability and attitude; and
- Ensure players and parents are appropriately consulted to help inform grading decisions.

Grading Approach

Grading decisions are the responsibility of the Grading Committee. For each season, the Grading Committee will determine whether teams are:

- Internal graded; in accordance with this policy; or
- Externally graded; by an appointed third party.

Team Structure

Team Size

- The preferred team size is nine (9) players.
- Teams will consist of no fewer than eight (8) and no more than ten (10) players, except in exceptional circumstances.

Exceptional Circumstances

Exceptional circumstances may include:

- Known player unavailability (e.g. injury, family commitments)
- Players known to be joining mid-season
- Insufficient overall player numbers to fill club team(s)

The following are not considered exceptional circumstances:

- Friendship requests
- Player elevation

Competitive Placement

The club will aim to field teams in their highest possible section of each competition.

Placement Principles

All grading decisions will be guided by the following principles:

- Where a team requires an additional player based on its [Team Size](#), the strongest player for the required position will be selected, taking into account:
 - Age and emotional maturity relative to the team
 - Physical safety, including size and strength differences

Player Movement

Elevation

A player may be elevated where:

- A higher-graded team requires additional players;
- The player satisfies the [Placement Principles](#); and
- The player and/or their parent/guardian provides consent.

Players will not be elevated solely to satisfy friendship requests.

Demotion

Players will not be moved to a lower-graded team without consent, except where:

- Their team is regraded by the association; or
- Their team is dissolved.

In such cases, players will be reassigned to the most appropriate team based on the [Placement Principles](#).

Sideways Movement

Players may be moved between teams within the same section without requiring player or parent/guardian approval.

New and Returning Players

- New and returning players (ie. players who did not participate in the previous season) will be graded in accordance with the [Placement Principles](#).
- Friendship requests may be considered but will not override grading principles.
- The Grading Committee reserves the right to reassign players in their second season if their initial placement is not deemed appropriate.

Conflict of Interest

Where a grading decision involves a Grading Committee member's child or dependent:

- The member must declare a conflict of interest; and
- The decision will be made by the remaining committee members.

Friendship and Special Requests

- All requests must be made in writing to the club.
- Requests will be considered in accordance with the [Placement Principles](#).

Appeals

- Appeals must be submitted in writing to the club.
- Refunds will not be granted based on grading outcomes, except in exceptional circumstances approved by the President.