

WEST IVANHOE NETBALL GRADING POLICY

Philosophy

Our vision is to provide all local children and adults the opportunity to participate in the sport of netball.

Our mission is to promote, encourage and foster unity in our community netball club that allows its members to play netball and develop their netball skills in a fun, safe and fair environment, with the necessary equipment, facilities and personnel.

Our future is a club that embraces diversity and equality. A club that encourages and welcomes all children in the community to participate in the sport of netball. A club that creates an environment where children feel they belong to the greater community, to play with familiar friends and meet new friends. A safe environment to have fun!

Aims and objectives

The aim of the grading policy is to ensure that team grading is conducted fairly and effectively and in the best interest of the players and club.

Grading will occur at the end of the netball Season 2, however there may be some movement to teams after Season 1 due to team balance.

The objective of this grading system is to:

- create teams of similar skill and ability
- allow teams to play in a suitable competitive environment
- allow West Ivanhoe netball club to be represented in each section of the BDNA competition
- allow opportunities for players to be eligible to play in a Representative competition

W.I Netball Club acknowledges that players enjoy playing with friends therefore we envisage that most players should be placed with 1 friend of similar ability. However, this is not always possible and the W.I netball Club recognises that playing outside these friendship groups is a good opportunity to meet new friends.

During the grading process:

- every child is treated as an individual member irrespective of previous team, grade or club
- every child has an equal opportunity
- feedback from coaches will be considered during the grading process

Grading of each age group

U9

Players in U9 are not skills assessed. A request to play with friends will be accommodated if numbers allow.

Teams will be loosely ranked by the coaching committee based on age and previous experience.

U11

Players will be graded via the process described in this grading policy as well as;

- skills assessment
- age
- team balance (team positions)
- friendships

U11 will have the opportunity to make **1** Friendship request. If there is a skill difference between players they will be ranked in a team suited to the less skilled player.

Requests will have to be submitted and signed by both parties. One sided requests will not be considered.

U13-U17

Players in this age group will be graded via the grading process described in this grading policy as well as

- skill set
- age
- team balance (team positions)

After teams are selected they cannot be altered without good reason and can only be done by the head coach and the Netball Club President.

Friendship teams

Requests for friendship teams will be considered for all age groups. All players in a friendship team must be registered on or before registration day.

If you would like to register as a friendship team you will need a minimum of 8 players.

All players need to be in the same age group

The club reserves the right to add players to a friendship team if necessary

A list of the friendship team needs to be submitted to the club on or before registration day.

Teams will be placed in the section of the local competition based on the less skilled player.

Players playing out of age Groups

It is a general policy of the club that all players play within their age group.

There are however some circumstances when a player may be selected for a higher age group. These are:

- Extra players are required in a higher age group to meet minimum team numbers
- A player's DOB is close to qualifying for the higher age group, they possess the necessary skills and experience to play in the higher age group, and there are other supporting reasons (e.g. the player has a history of playing with peers who will be moving to the higher age group).
- A player is performing at the same skill level as an older age bracket team and is the right fit for the older age bracket team. This decision is at the discretion of the Team Selection Committee and must be supported by the parent/guardian. The player and parent/guardian have the right to refuse, in which case they will remain in their natural age group.
- In some circumstances the club may choose not to fill teams by moving players up. For example, if there are no suitable players to move up or it will not be beneficial for players and teams to do so. The club will try to source players externally

Grading Criteria

During the assessment process the following will be taken into consideration

- footwork
- speed and agility
- ball handling skills
- attacking skills
- defending skills
- fitness
- versatility
- perception and cognition skills
- sportsmanship and attitude

Players will have the opportunity to trial in their preferred position and they may be asked to play in position that is not their preferred position. This will help the assessment process.

Parents, players and non-coaches are not to approach assessors at any time during the assessment process in an attempt to influence grading and team formation.

New players will be invited to attend the training sessions for their age group so they can be assessed on their experience and skill level.

Grading Process

The team selectors/assessors (consisting of Head Coach, Coaching support personnel and team coaches) will watch teams throughout the season to look at players and review team and player performance.

A team of objective experienced assessors will be assisting in the assessment process.

Parents who are coaches will not be assessing their own children.

There will be consultation between team selectors and existing team coaches when assessing playing.

The objective of the grading process is to assess players in an unbiased, fair manner.

U 9

This age group is not assessed however the U9 girls moving to U11 the following year will be reviewed during game time towards the end of Season 2 as per the U11 grading criteria.

U11

- assessment process is undertaken during competition time
- assessors will spend a minimum of 3 weeks reviewing the team during game time towards the end of Season 2
- player assessment will also take place during the usual training time towards the end of season 2
- minor adjustments to teams may be made for team balance during the first 3 weeks of grading to adhere to the BDNA competition guidelines
- team coaches will be informed that their team is being assessed during game time
- team coaches will ensure players are placed in their preferred position and players will be placed in non-preferred position if requested by assessors only after discussion with the team coach

U13-U17

- players will be asked to attend 2 x 1.5hr sessions for assessment on separate days
- players will be informed on which days the grading assessment will take place
- this will take place instead of a regular training session
- all current coaches will attend as well as grading assessors

- to ensure that players are given equal opportunity it is encouraged that players attend both grading sessions

Depending on the number of players attending the grading assessment day, will impact the number of objective assessors required. The results along with advice from coaches of previous teams will be used to form the teams.

The session will consist of on court game playing and possibly a number of netball drills.

For a number of reasons, it may not be necessary for players to play an equal number of quarters during the session.

Assessors will review players fitness, skills, performance, teamwork and attitude.

Team Formation

- Teams will ideally consist of 9 players, a coach and team manager.
- When assessing players and forming teams, mid-court, attack and defense positions will be taken in to consideration to ensure a fair spread of positions as well as
 - grading performance
 - coaches' assessment
 - court position (preferred and non-preferred)
 - friendships
 - sportsmanship and attitude
 - age
- The outcome of the grading assessment is to develop teams that will be of standard for each section of the BDNA competition. However, there is no guarantee that BDNA will accept our team grading.
- Parental support and communication with coaches is required to ensure a smooth transition of players into new teams by encouraging children to make new friends.
- When forming teams, the aim is to achieve strength and balance in a team.
- Team selectors have to find balance in a team and one change can affect multiple teams.
- The registration form that families submit implies that families accept the selection decisions and children will play in the teams that they have been placed in.

Final Announcement of teams

- Players will be informed via email from the Netball Junior Registrar of their team and possibly their coach and Team manager. The W.I netball club aims to do this before the end of the school year however sometimes this may not happen until the new year.
- All information pertaining to team formation and grading assessment is confidential and will not be discussed outside of the committee.
- Once teams are allocated no changes are permitted except for the following circumstances:
 - player leaving the club
 - player unable to play due to injury
 - special considerations agreed upon by the netball committee
- There will be no team changes for players who wish to play with their friends or are unhappy with the division that their team is placed in.
- Late registrations will be accepted if there are vacancies within a team. The player will be placed in a team suitable for their skill level. This may result in some players moving up to accommodate the skill level of this player.

Concerns

- Whilst it is hoped that players and parents appreciate the difficulty of grading and team allocation process and accept the final decision made by the team selection committee, an appeal may be made.
- If a family considers that their child has been treated unfairly during the assessment process and team allocation they must submit their concerns in writing via email to Club President and Head Coach within 1 week of the team postings.
- Members of the Committee will convene to consider any concerns and will advise the family of their response. No appeal will be discussed over the phone. The Response from the committee will be the FINAL decision