



**ST NICHOLAS NETBALL CLUB
INCORPORATED**

GRADING POLICY

The St Nicholas Netball Club Grading Policy will ensure that:

1. For grading purposes, every child is treated as an individual club member, irrespective of previous team or grade.
2. Every child has a fair and equal opportunity in grading assessment.

What is grading and why do we do it?

Netball is a graded sport from the age of 9 through to 17 with representative opportunities. It is for this reason that we take such care in the grading of our players and aim for our teams to have a balanced group of players of similar ability levels, across all playing positions. Due to new registrations and differing development rates of players from one season to another it is important that players are graded yearly. Every child is treated as an individual club member, irrespective of previous team or grade. Every child has a fair and equal opportunity in grading assessment.

Not all age groups will be graded and this will be the decision of the club executive who will look at history of teams and numbers of registrations.

All Players MUST be registered before attending any grading sessions, unless receiving permission from the club due to differing circumstances.

The aim of St Nicholas Netball Club is to ensure that grading is conducted in a fair and effective manner, resulting in teams that are happy, competitive and thus provide an enjoyable season for players, coaches and club alike.

Who will be doing the Grading?

Internal and sometimes External graders will ensure that grading is conducted without bias. This grading will be conducted shortly after registration. These selectors are often experienced Rep coaches past and present.

A Team Placement Committee consisting of qualified coaches within the club will then place players into teams based on age, ability and special considerations (if appropriate). The coaches' reports from the previous year will also be reviewed if required.

A list of the selected teams will be put before the Executive Committee of the St Nicholas Netball Club for approval. The decision of the Team Placement Committee and Executive Committee is final.

Failure to attend Grading Session

- If a player is unable to attend the grading session due to illness or injury or employment, the player or parent/guardian must notify the Registrar prior to grading.
(stnicholasnetball@gmail.com)
- Placement into a team for this player will be based upon paper grading (playing history) and where applicable, the previous coaches evaluation.
- All players are strongly encouraged to attend these grading sessions as paper grading may result in disappointment.

What will I be graded on?

- **JUNIORS (ages 9 to 17 years)**

Grading is an assessment of skills within a set age group.

Taken into account by the graders will be:

- individual play observed at grading
- player fitness and agility
- ball skills,
- catching and throwing
- shooting skills
- defence skills
- balance / coordination
- overall performance
- teamwork
- attitude, focus and commitment
- previous coaches report
- previous season's final standings for the team
- Consideration for some teams may also include balance of defence, centre court and goal shooters.

The Grading Process

- Players will be placed into teams of no set ability for the purpose of on court games.
- Players shall trial in positions that they have nominated, but may be asked to trial in other positions for the purpose of making up a team for the trial **or** because the graders would like to see how they perform in different positions.
- Where players are asked to fill other positions during grading they will still have an opportunity to play in their nominated position/s during the selection process.
- Late registrations will be paper graded and placed into teams where available.
- The Grading Committee will then place players into teams based on age, ability, and special considerations (if appropriate).

Players Playing in Correct Age Groups

- For SNNC to be competitive, teams need to be organised according to age, ability and skill. Hence this is why your child has been through a grading process and this will always be our preferred method of team placement.
- SNNC will endeavour to place players from 9 years of age in their correct age group. The executive has the discretion to place players in higher age groups if the need arises.
- Players may request to trial in a higher age group. Please note that if your request to trial in a higher age group is granted, this does not guarantee placement in a team in a higher age group.

Announcement of Teams

- **Teams will be announced online within one (1) week after the completion of grading by Penrith.**
- Players will be contacted by their coach within thirty (30) days of grading or the team placement session date (depending on what was required for that age group).
- Training session times will be advised at this point.

NETSETGO COMP (ages 6, 7 and 8 years)

Players aged 6 and 7 years playing in the modified, non-competitive competition NetSetGo are not individually graded. Players in the 9 years competition will be graded on playing history and coaches reports.

Requests to play with friends will be accommodated where possible, depending on other pressures in that age group. Requests relating to team placement of NSG players needs to be in writing to **stnicholasnetball@gmail.com** prior to registrations closing briefly stating reasons for consideration. This will not be taken into account once the teams are announced.

Playing with friends

Requests from the players concerned need to be given in writing at the time of registration stating the extenuating circumstance and will be considered by the Committee providing the players are of a similar ability. Stronger players always enjoy the challenge of harder, faster competition and do not develop to their potential if graded lower to be kept with a friend. If the players are of a different ability and if team sizes allow, the players may be placed together in the team of the lowest graded player. We are unable to accept whole teams registering together for reasons of friendship. Players may not register as a complete team. All players are subject to grading.

Please bear in mind that netball is a graded, competitive sport from the age of 8. We encourage our players to accept their team and make new friends. We find that once the season starts, children usually settle in and enjoy playing netball with their new team even if it is made up of girls they did not previously know. New friendships are part of the team sporting experience.

Please also consider that any indication of position preference at registration is no guarantee that a player will be selected to play in that position or that the team's coach will choose to play them in that position. The Club maintains that netball is a team sport, and each player contributes in equal measure to the success or otherwise of a team.

The support of parents in accepting these conditions is greatly encouraged to avoid any disappointment to our young players.

Coaching Appointments.

Coaching appointments will be determined by the committee and are based on the following criteria:

Qualifications

Suitability

Availability

Experience

Commitment to continual education and development

Completion of child protection paperwork and the receipt of Working With Children Check number

14.01.2022