



## **Junior Player Grading Policy**

In the NFA, age groups U11 and above play competition games (U11 do not play for competition points). The Board will appoint a Grading Committee to grade players to form teams.

Where there is more than one team entered into the same age competition (U11 and above), then a player will be graded into a team based on their ability. Grading sessions will assess the four core skills as prescribed in the FFA curriculum *i.e.* striking the ball, running with the ball, first touch and 1 vs 1. The Grading Committee will also assess a player's game play *i.e.* positioning/awareness and communication.

All players U11 and above should, where possible, play in a team for their age and in a division best suited to their ability. Players who wish to play in the higher age competition will be graded on their ability to play in the higher age team. The Grading Committee will only consider playing a player in a higher grade if it does not impact upon the team for which the player would have played. When there are an insufficient number of players in a team, it may be necessary for the Grading Committee to require some players to play in the higher age competition to even out the player numbers in all teams.

The Grading Committee grades players such that players of similar ability are placed in the one team. Teams will then be graded according to the players abilities based on an independent assessment by the Grading Committee, as well as advice from coaches of the teams.

All players in U11 and U12 age groups will be graded using grading sessions, as well as input from previous coaches (if available), to determine the appropriate team for each player.

For players U13 and up who have previously played for the Club, the Grading Committee may not require players to undergo a grading session and will rely on previous coach inputs and previous grading sessions to determine a player's team. If, however, there are a number of new players or a number of returning players indicate they wish to be graded, then the Grading Committee will continue with the grading sessions to assist in the forming of teams.

If a player does not attend a grading session, the Grading Committee will place the player in a team that best suits the requirements for the forming of teams based on, but not limited to, considerations such as previous player history (where available) and optimal player numbers per team. It may include placing the player in the lowest division team. The player can be later regraded depending on performance in trial/competition teams, provided the regrading does not impact player numbers of their current team.

If circumstances prevent grading sessions being held, the Grading Committee will use available information (e.g. previous coach's input, previous grading sessions) to form teams.

Once the Grading Committee has decided the grading, a player cannot change teams.

If any player or parent/guardian is not satisfied with the grading the player receives, they can make a submission in writing to the Club's President requesting a review of the player's grading, outlining why they think the grading is not correct. The President will, in consultation with the Grading Committee, consider the request and make a decision on whether or not to change the players grading. The President's decision is final.