



Junior Player Grading Procedure

Only players who have registered and paid registration fees will be graded.

Players must wear boots and shin pads to grading sessions.

During grading sessions, parents/guardians are requested to stay away from the areas where these are being conducted.

Each player will be assessed using a relative-based 5-point scale:

1	2	3	4	5
Needs Developing	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Well Above Average <i>(exceptional skill level)</i>

Each player will be assessed in 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.

Skills

- Striking the Ball – Accuracy and strength of both passing and shooting. Consider both feet.
- Running with Ball – Control, speed and ability to beat defenders in 1v1 situation. Consider both feet.
- 1st touch – How well ball is received and controlled, including one-touch passing & shooting. Consider both feet.
- Defending 1v1 – Balance, timing, decision-making when defending attacking opponent 1-on-1.

Game Play

- Positioning & Awareness – Ability to position, anticipate and read open-field play.
- Communication – Level of ability to communicate with teammates during play.

Coaches Input

The Grading Committee will invite any former coaches and/or prospective coaches to grading sessions, for their input.

Team Announcement

Announcing teams can be a very stressful time for players, parents and the Grading Committee. The Grading Committee will discuss into which team each player should be placed. Where a clear decision cannot be made, and rather than be rushed into a decision at the grading session, some players will be placed into a lower division team so they can be watched at trial games before a final decision is made. This will allow players to be promoted should there be withdrawals, but it also minimizes the need for players to be relegated to lower divisions prior to the commencement of the competition.

The announcement of teams will normally be made via email to all players/parents soon after the last grading session.