

Player Grading & Movement Policy

1. Purpose

This policy outlines the procedures and criteria for player grading and player movement within the club. It ensures a fair, transparent, and consistent approach to placing players in appropriate teams based on skill level, development needs, and overall team balance.

2. Player Grading Policy

2.1 Grading Committee

The Grading Committee is comprised of the following members:

- Grading Coordinator
- Players Coordinator
- Two (2) additional graders appointed jointly by the Grading Coordinator and Players Coordinator

The Grading Committee is responsible for appointing four graders per age group, consisting of:

- Two (2) graders for the SAUCNA competition
- Two (2) graders for the SUNA competition

Graders may be selected from:

- Current coaches
- Past coaches
- Senior players
- Other experienced netball participants

Conflict of Interest:

Graders are not permitted to grade family members.

2.2 Team Formation and Trial Preparation

Once player registrations have closed, the Grading Committee will:

1. Determine the number of teams that can be formed in each age group.

2. Review player registrations, including nominated positions and coach evaluation forms from the previous season.
 3. Schedule trial games and prepare initial team lists for the first trial session.
-

2.3 Trial Process

Trial Duration and Positions

- Each player will participate in a minimum of three (3) trial games, each lasting 8–10 minutes.
- Players will trial in the positions nominated during registration.
- If a trial game is short of players in a particular position, players may be asked to temporarily fill alternate positions.
 - Performance in these temporary positions will not impact overall ranking, but may be considered to support final team placement decisions.

Observation and Rating

- In each trial game, graders will be assigned to observe either the black team or orange team.
 - Players will be ranked based on the total number of teams in the age group (e.g., in an age group with five teams, players will be ranked from 1–5, with 1 being the highest).
 - Graders will provide written feedback for each player, including strengths, areas for improvement, and overall game sense.
-

2.4 Post-Trial Review

After the First Trial

The Grading Committee will:

- Collate all grading scores and feedback
- Establish an approximate team placement for each player
- Use these rankings to organise teams for the second trial session

Second Trial

- Graders will rotate to observe different groups from those assessed during the first trial.
- Players will again be rated on performance.

Final Grading

Following completion of the second trial:

- All grading scores and written comments will be collated
 - Final team placements will be determined based on the combined assessments
-

2.5 Team Placement Criteria

When finalising team placements, the Grading Committee will consider:

1. Each player's grading results and feedback in their two nominated preferred positions
2. Coaches' evaluation forms from the previous season, assessing overall netball attributes

Teams will consist of 8–10 players, with every effort made to balance positional requirements within each team.

Once finalised, team placement notifications will be emailed to all players.

Note: Player movement may still occur during pre-season and the first four (4) weeks of competition matches, based on attendance, attitude, skill development, and team balance.

3. Player Movement Policy

3.1 Eligibility to Play in a higher age group

- Players may be invited by the Grading Committee to play up an age group one season early, but only after completion of the first trial.

3.2 Placement Requirement

- To be eligible to play up an age group, a player must currently be placed in Team 1 of their age group and competition.

3.3 Assessment for Playing Up

During the first trial, graders and the Grading Committee will assess whether each eligible player:

- Requires movement to a higher age group
- Is capable of successfully competing at a higher level
- Should remain in their current age group

3.4 Playing in a higher age group by One or Two Seasons

- Players wishing to play up early by one (1) or two (2) seasons, while also continuing to play in their current age group, must register their interest prior to trials.
 - Requests must be submitted via email to our Players Coordinator at players@covenetballclub.com.au to ensure inclusion in trial matches for both age groups.
-

Play-Up Grading Policy for 9&U Players

1. Purpose

This policy ensures that any 9-and-under (9&U) player requesting early movement to the 11-and-under (11&U) division demonstrates appropriate experience, maturity, and skill development to participate safely and competitively.

2. Eligibility Requirements

A 9&U player may be considered for early placement in the 11&U division only if all of the following criteria are met:

2.1 Age Requirement

- The player must turn at least eight (8) years old within the same calendar year as the season for which early placement is requested.

2.2 Minimum Seasons Requirement

- The player must have completed a minimum of four (4) officially recognised seasons in the 9&U division prior to the start of the requested season.

2.3 Trial Participation

- All 9&U players requesting early movement must participate in trials alongside all 11&U trialling players.

2.4 Playing Level Requirement

- The player must be currently playing in 9&U Division 1.

Any exemptions to all requirements will be considered at the discretion of the Board.