

# Grays Point Soccer Club – Grading FAQ

## What is Grading Day?

Grading Day is a fun, low-pressure session held before each season where players take part in simple drills and small-sided games. The purpose is to help Grays Point Soccer Club (GPSC) place players into teams with others of similar ability so the season is fair, balanced, and enjoyable for everyone.

Grading Day is **not a trial** — every registered player will be placed in a team.

## Will grading run the same as last year?

No. GPSC has introduced a new grading process for 2026. Grading will now include skills sessions and small-sided games.

The updated **MiniRoos and Junior Grading Policy** is available on the GPSC website. Please review the policy before Grading Day so you know what to expect.

## Do I need to register before Grading Day?

Yes. All players must be registered for the 2026 season by **Thursday 5 February 2026** in order to participate.

Registering early assists with planning and ensures all players are covered by insurance.

Registration information is available at:

GPSC website: [www.grayspointsoccer.com.au/registration](http://www.grayspointsoccer.com.au/registration)

PlayFootball: [www.playfootball.com.au/register](http://www.playfootball.com.au/register)

## When and where is Grading Day?

**Location:** Grays Point Oval, 109 Angle Road, Grays Point

**Dates:** Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 February 2026

Session times will be posted once finalised.

## What if I can't attend Grading Day?

Please refer to the **GPSC MiniRoos and Junior Grading Policy – Section 5.2 (Non-Attendance)** and follow the outlined process.

## What age group is my child in?

Age groups in the SSFA competition are determined by birth year.

For example: **Players born in 2019 play in the U7 competition.**

Players may play **up to two age groups higher** but cannot play in a lower age group.

Your child will attend the grading session for the age group they registered in for the 2026 season.

If you're unsure of the correct age group, please contact the club for assistance.

## How do I know if my child's age group needs to attend grading?

All players registered in an age group with **more than one team** must attend grading. Age groups requiring grading will be confirmed closer to the day.

If registration numbers result in **one team only**, formal grading is not required and team placement will be based on coach input and previous performance.

## Can my child remain in the same team as last season?

All MiniRoo and Junior players (U7 and above) will be graded in 2026. This means teams may change from last year.

Teams may be merged or reshaped to balance numbers and support individual development.

Teams will **not** be formed before grading. Team placement notifications will be sent after grading is completed.

## How does team formation work for U6?

Players born **2020 and 2021** are eligible for U6.

At GPSC, U6 teams are **not formally graded**. Instead, teams are formed based on friendships and social connections.

We encourage parents to discuss team groupings ahead of time to help form teams of ideally **5–6 players**.

If you are new to the club, don't worry — all children will be placed in a team on Grading Day.

More information is available in **Section 4.1 (Under 6)** of the Grading Policy.

## How are teams placed into divisions for the season?

GPSC nominates a grade for each team, but the **SSFA makes the final decision**, based on:

- Previous season results
- The club's nomination
- The number of teams within the competition
- Any new players joining the team

Teams may be reviewed in the early rounds and re-graded to maintain fair competition.

## What will Grading Day 2026 look like?

The updated grading structure includes skill-based drills and small-sided games. Players are observed in a relaxed, fun environment to help form balanced teams of similar ability and development level.

### Sessions will include:

- A short warm-up
- Simple skill drills (passing, ball control, shooting)
- Small-sided games

**Please arrive 15–20 minutes early** to sign in, collect a numbered bib, and move to your allocated field.

### Players must bring:

- Shin pads (mandatory – no shin pads, no participation)
- Boots
- Water

Good news for parents — **Sideline Coffee will be open!**

## How can players prepare for Grading Day?

Players can prepare by bringing the correct gear, arriving early, and getting plenty of rest. In the days before, it helps to:

- Kick a ball around
- Practice simple skills like passing and dribbling
- Build confidence by having fun with the ball

Try to avoid making grading the **first time they kick a ball since last season**.

Most importantly, remind your child that grading isn't a test — it's simply a chance to play, try their best, and enjoy the session.