

Grays Point Soccer Club – MiniRoos and Junior Grading Policy V2.1

1. Purpose

This policy outlines the framework for grading junior players at Grays Point Soccer Club (GPSC).

This policy's purpose is to ensure a clear, fair, and consistent process for placing players in the appropriate team for their skill level and stage of development.

The grading process aims to support a player's long-term enjoyment, development, and retention in the sport.

2. Guiding Principles

The GPSC grading policy aligns with GPSC's core values and the Australian Sports Commission's "Playing for Life Philosophy," which promotes age-appropriate development.

Key principles include:

- **Player-First Approach:** Prioritising enjoyment, growth, and retention.
- **Fairness and Transparency:** A consistent, open, and impartial process.
- **Development Focus:** Supporting technical, tactical, and social growth.
- **Club Values:** Reflecting inclusion, respect, and community spirit.

3. Grading Panel

At the start of each season GPSC will form a grading panel to assist with the grading process. The Club Coach and MiniRoos Coordinator will appoint the grading panel.

The Grading Panel includes:

- Club Coach
- MiniRoos Coordinator
- Other Committee members
- Other GPSC community volunteers

All panel members must declare any conflicts of interest, maintain confidentiality and act objectively and consistently.

Other processes or people used to assist with the grading process include:

- **Coach Feedback Forms** - Coach feedback forms are a tool used to assist in assessing a junior player's development. These forms are completed at the

conclusion of a season to gather information that will be utilised to assist in the grading process for the following season.

- **Grade Coordinators** – GPSC Committee appoints Grade Coordinators. Their role is to support the grading process with insights from previous seasons. They are not involved in final team selection.
- **Independent Graders** - Independent Sutherland Shire Football Association (SSFA) graders may assist with the grading process.

4. Grading Process

This policy applies to all players from Under 6 to Under 18.

Team formation depends on the number of registered players in each age group.

If registration numbers are resulting in one team only for an age group, formal grading is not required. Team placement will be based on previous performance and coach input.

4.1 Under 6 – Introductory MiniRoos

- **Objective:** Encourage enjoyment, inclusion, and basic social and motor skills.
- **Process:** No formal grading. Team selection is based on friendships and social links.
 - Considerations given to ensure evenly matched teams to promote development, confidence and fun.

4.2 Under 7, 8 & 9 – Development MiniRoos

- **Objective:** Place players in teams of similar ability to support appropriate development and progression.
- **Focus:** Fundamental skills and understanding of the game.
- **Grading:**
 - One structured session including basic skills and small-sided games.

**Goalkeeper – In Under 8 & 9's goalkeeper is a development position. All players may fill a dual position of goalkeeper and field player and are subject to the same grading assessment.*

4.3 Under 10 & Under 11 – Skill Development Phase

- **Objective:** Place players in teams of similar ability to support appropriate development and progression.
- **Focus:** Technical skills, teamwork and match awareness.
- **Grading:**
 - Up to two structured session including basic skills and small-sided games.

**Goalkeeper - Players intending to fill a dual position of goalkeeper and field player are subject to the same grading assessment as field players.*

4.4 Under 12 & Above – Competition Age Groups

- **Objective:** Place players in competitive teams that foster development and success within SSFA competitions.
- **Focus:** Technical ability, tactical awareness, fitness, and teamwork.
- **Grading:**
 - Up to two structured sessions including warm-up, technical/tactical drills and positional gameplay.
 - Players assessed on:
 - **Technical:** Ball control, passing, dribbling, shooting
 - **Tactical:** Game sense, positioning, decision-making
 - **Physical:** Speed, endurance, agility
 - **Team Contribution:** Communication, resilience, effort

**Goalkeeper - Players intending to fill a dual position of goalkeeper and field player are subject to the same grading assessment as field players.*

5. Grading Logistics

5.1 Pre-Grading Notification

- Registered players will be notified of grading dates, session times, and what to bring at least two weeks prior.
- All players must be registered to attend grading.

5.2 Non-Attendance

- If a player is unable to attend due to illness or another valid reason, written notification must be provided to the grading panel. The player will be allocated to team at the discretion of the grading panel.
- Players who miss grading without prior notice will be allocated to a team at the discretion of the grading panel.
- Late registrations will be placed according to team availability and may require assessment on playing ability to ensure team balance.

5.3 A-Grade Expression of Interest (EOI)

- To retain A-grade competition teams, EOI for A-grade players may be circulated externally prior to the start of a new season.
- EOI may include trial sessions that occur prior to published GPSC grading days.
- All registered players in the age group from the previous season will be notified prior to give them opportunity to trial.

- Trail sessions will follow a formalised grading session as outlined above.
- Team selection may be finalised during this process. Players selected for A-grade teams during trail sessions do not need to attend further grading sessions.

5.4 Team Formation

Team selection is based on:

- Grading day performance
- Previous season's coach assessment
- Team structure and balance

6. Communication of Outcomes

- Team selections are approved by the Grading Panel and endorsed by the GPSC Committee.
- Team selections are final and are not subject to an appeals process.
- Team notification is communicated via email.
- The club will not provide:
 - Individual grading scores
 - Player rankings
 - Peer comparisons

7. Confidentiality

All grading records, discussions, and outcomes are confidential. GPSC will not share player specific comparisons or scoring.

8. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the GPSC Committee in consultation with the grading panel, coaches, and where appropriate, parent representatives.

9. Contact Information

For questions or further information about the grading process, please contact the Club

Coach or Club Secretary:

Club Coach: clubcoach@grayspointsoccer.com.au

Club Secretary: secretary@grayspointsoccer.com.au