
SWAN CHRISTIAN NETBALL CLUB GRADING & TEAM SELECTION POLICY



[Version 1.1](#)

[February 2026](#)

CONTENTS

Philosophy	2
Aims & Objectives.....	2
Team Formation	3
NetSetGo – Set & Go is a modified, non-competitive program.....	3
NetSetGo – SET.....	3
NetSetGo – GO	3
Registration is Compulsory.....	4
Grading Criteria	4
Skills Evaluation Ages 11+.....	4
Competitive Ages 11+.....	4
Grading Process	4
Ages 11+	4
Players playing out of age Group – Grading players Ages 11+ ONLY.....	5
Grading Attendance	5
Grading Day(s)	5
What To Bring and wear:.....	5
On Arrival Players must:	6
Match Play:.....	6
Grading Panel	6
Selection Summary.....	6
Final Team Announcements.....	7
Grading Concerns and Appeals	7
Policy Review	8
Swan Christian Netball Club contacts.....	8
President.....	8
Vice president.....	8
Secretary.....	8
Treasurer	8
REGISTRAR.....	8

PHILOSOPHY

Swan Christian Netball Club exists to promote, encourage and foster unity within our community through the sport of netball. We are committed to providing opportunities for all members to participate, develop their skills and enjoy the game in a fun, safe and fair environment, supported by appropriate equipment, facilities and volunteers.

We strive to be a club that embraces diversity, inclusion and equality — welcoming children and adults of all abilities and backgrounds to participate in netball. We aim to create an environment where players feel a sense of belonging within the club community, build friendships, and grow in confidence both on and off the court.

This grading policy provides guidance for players and parents on the process, considerations and level of planning involved in team selections at the start of each season. Team formation is undertaken with care, fairness and the long-term development of players and teams in mind.

Players and parents are asked to approach grading and team selection with understanding and realistic expectations, and to support players in accepting their placement positively.

Swan Christian Netball Club is a community-run organisation led by volunteers. The success of our club relies on the ongoing support, respect and collaboration of our players, families and wider community.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

At Swan Christian Netball Club (SCNC), we aim to provide a positive, inclusive and supportive environment where all members can participate in netball and develop their skills.

The grading process is designed to ensure every player is given the opportunity to play at a level that best supports their development, enjoyment and confidence within an encouraging and respectful team environment.

The aim of grading is to establish teams that:

- Consist of players with similar skill levels, experience and game understanding
- Participate in an appropriate and suitable level of competition
- Are competitive within the Swan Districts Netball Association (SDNA) competition structure
- Support both individual and team skill development across the season

This policy ensures that, for grading purposes:

- Every player is recognised and treated as an individual member of the club
- Every player is provided with a fair opportunity to be placed in a team that best suits their skills, abilities, development needs and attributes
- Team formation may be influenced by the number of registered players within each age group or season
- Input and feedback from coaches and graders will be considered as part of the grading process

TEAM FORMATION

NETSETGO – SET & GO IS A MODIFIED, NON-COMPETITIVE PROGRAM.

Players aged 7–10 years (typically school Years 2–5) participating in this program are **not graded**. The focus of NetSetGo is to support young players to learn fundamental netball skills — including movement, passing, footwork, positioning and shooting — in a fun, safe and supportive environment.

Where possible, requests for players to be placed with friends will be considered. However, this cannot be guaranteed and will depend on overall registration numbers within each age group.

Team formation each season may be influenced by:

- The number of players registered in each age group
- The ongoing development and confidence of individual players from previous seasons
- Team balance to ensure all teams have adequate coverage across playing positions
- Creating a positive and supportive learning environment for all participants

NetSetGo team placement prioritises participation, enjoyment and development rather than competition or performance outcomes.

NETSETGO – SET

- School Grade and friendships are given consideration as all players are starting with minimal netball skills.
-

NETSETGO – GO

The NetSetGo GO program is designed to support players as they transition from skill development into modified game play. Players are not formally graded; however, structured team formation is required when multiple teams are entered.

When forming GO teams, consideration may be given to:

- School year level and friendship requests where possible
- Previous netball experience and participation
- Previous team placements
- Demonstrated skill development and confidence levels (to support balanced teams)

All NetSetGo players aged 7–10 years will be invited to attend a NetSetGo club session prior to the season. This session supports team formation and provides an opportunity for players to reconnect, build confidence and become familiar with the upcoming season.

The session will include:

- Netball-based skill activities (ball handling, passing and footwork)
- Teamwork and confidence-building games
- A short, modified game experience where time allows
- Uniform fitting opportunities and assistance with online ordering

Registrations must be completed prior to attending this session.

Coaching Coordinators, with support from committee volunteers, will oversee the session and use this time to assist with finalising team groupings, including friendship considerations and school year alignment.

The focus of NetSetGo GO remains participation, enjoyment and development, not competition or performance-based selection.

REGISTRATION IS COMPULSORY

All players aged 11+ intending to attend grading must be registered by 5pm the day prior to their grading session. Unregistered players will be denied taking the court until registration is completed. This requirement is in place because Netball WA and Swan Districts Netball Association (SDNA) require all participants to be covered by insurance, which is included as part of the registration fee.

GRADING CRITERIA

SKILLS EVALUATION AGES 11+

In assessing the overall skills of a player within an age group, the Grading Panel will consider:

- Ball Handling skills
- Passing
- Footwork
- Speed and Agility
- Attacking skills
- Defending skills
- Shooting style and Accuracy
- Fitness
- Versatility
- Perception and Cognition skills
- Ability to play as part of a team.
- Sportsmanship, Effort and Attitude

COMPETITIVE AGES 11+

Players 11+ years (school year 6 – 9), All Junior players aged 11+ must attend a practical grading day. This is a compulsory requirement. Failure to attend may result in players being paper graded based on previous seasons coaches' reports. SDNA will grade teams from all clubs to form divisions of similarly skilled teams.

GRADING PROCESS

AGES 11+

Teams are formed using a combination of objective grading outcomes and holistic player considerations to ensure balanced, competitive, and development-focused teams.

Primary considerations include:

- Demonstrated skill level at grading
- Consistent and comparable skill levels within each team
- Balanced team dynamics
- Previous team allocations and coaches' assessments
- Age:
 - Year 6–9 teams formed within school year groups where possible
 - Year 10–12 teams formed within school year groups and will be dependent on registration numbers – this may change from season to season.
- Teams will ideally consist of **9 players**, plus a coach and team manager (dependent on registration numbers)

When assessing players and forming teams, midcourt, attack and defence positions will be taken into consideration to ensure a fair spread of positional coverage across each team.

Additional factors considered:

- Grading performance on the day
- Coaches' end-of-season assessments (used to support the following season's team formation)
- Previous season team results and division standings
- Court positions (preferred and secondary)
- Sportsmanship, attitude and teamwork
- Age and stage of development

This process supports fair team placement, player development, and a positive team environment across all year groups.

Note: Players and parents should understand that team success in one season does not automatically mean the same team will remain together the following year. Due to changing player numbers, differing development rates, and new registrations each season, some movement of players is almost inevitable. Players and parents are encouraged to maintain realistic expectations and support their children to enjoy their netball experience, regardless of the team they are placed in.

PLAYERS PLAYING OUT OF AGE GROUP – GRADING PLAYERS AGES 11+ ONLY.

It is a general expectation of the Club that all players participate within their natural age group.

However, there are some circumstances where a grading player may be selected to play in a higher age group. These may include:

- Where additional players are required in a higher age group to meet minimum team numbers and the player is of comparable ability.
- Where a player is performing at a skill level consistent with an older age-bracket team and is considered an appropriate fit. This decision is at the discretion of the Executive Committee and must be supported by the parent/guardian. The player and parent/guardian have the right to decline, in which case the player will remain in their natural age group.
- Where, during grading, the Grading Panel identifies a player of exceptional talent and offers them the opportunity to trial or play in an older age group.
- In some circumstances, the Club may choose not to fill teams by moving players up, for example where there are no suitable players or were doing so would not be beneficial to the development of players or teams.

Regardless of which year group or team a player participated in during the previous season, all players will grade in their current year group. Players invited to grade in a different age group will be contacted directly by the Club.

GRADING ATTENDANCE

If a player is absent from grading, their previous playing experience, coach reports, and other relevant information may be used to determine their grading outcome.

Returning players who register late will be 'paper-graded' and placed into a team at the discretion of the Grading Panel. This decision will be based on prior knowledge of the player and, where possible, consultation with their most recent coach.

New players will typically be placed in a division based on their previous club's team selection. This placement will be reviewed and confirmed by the Grading Panel during the first three weeks of team training (or longer if required).

Players must notify the Club if they are unable to attend a scheduled grading session. Notification must be provided as soon as possible by emailing the Club President. Grading sessions are carefully planned in advance, and late changes are difficult to accommodate on the day.

GRADING DAY(S)

WHAT TO BRING AND WEAR:

- Wear your SCC Sport uniform or a suitable plain T-shirt.
- Wear pants suitable for exercise — running shorts (appropriate length) or leggings. **Strictly NO denim or short shorts.**
- Wear appropriate footwear, preferably netball shoes or joggers with tread on the soles.
- ALL jewellery must be removed; nails cut, and hair tied back. Umpires will check these before match play begins.

- Bring a bottle of water.
- Familiarise yourself with the Grading Criteria outlined in this policy.
- Bring your best listening ears.
- Most importantly — have fun and enjoy the experience!
- Uniform fittings and online ordering will also be available.

ON ARRIVAL PLAYERS MUST:

- Arrive on time to the Swan Christian College Senior School Gym courts at 3:15pm.
- Have your name marked off for attendance and confirm your two nominated positions.
- Write your assigned ID number clearly on both the left and right calves so it is visible to graders.
- Listen for directions from a club member to begin the warm-up.
- Be ready and listening for the graders' welcome and overview of how the session will run.

MATCH PLAY:

- Players will have the opportunity to trial in their two (2) nominated positions but may also be asked to play in other positions to balance teams or to allow Graders to assess their versatility and overall performance.
- Match play will run for a minimum of 7–10 minutes per rotation.
- In some instances, games may become unbalanced (for example, if one team is dominating possession or scoring). Where this occurs, players may be rotated or positions adjusted to ensure fair opportunities and more even competition.
- During match play, some players may be placed in specific positions to allow comparison between athletes of similar ability. This assists Graders in making fair decisions and may also involve matching players against opponents of similar skill level to observe performance under game pressure.
- We encourage players not to feel discouraged if they believe they did not receive as much court time as others. Please continue to try your best and enjoy the experience — there is a team placement pathway for all players who attend grading.
- We understand that grading can be an anxious time for many players. Please be assured that we will do our very best to keep the environment supportive, relaxed and equitable. Our goal is for every player to feel confident, encouraged to improve, and excited to continue enjoying the game of netball.

GRADING PANEL

All grading is undertaken by a Grading Panel comprised of Executive Committee members and independent, experienced selectors appointed each season. The objective of the grading process is to assess players in a fair, consistent, and unbiased manner.

Parents, players, and non-coaches must not approach or attempt to influence assessors at any time during the grading and team selection process. Following grading, the Executive Committee will meet as required to finalise team selections.

Consideration will be given to:

- Coach reports and team allocations from the previous season
- Player skills and competitiveness demonstrated during grading
- Number of players grading for the same position(s)
- Balance of teams (defence, attack, and centre court coverage)

SELECTION SUMMARY

The Grading Panel always strives to ensure fair and equitable selection practices. Significant time and care are invested in the team selection process, and decisions are never made lightly. The best interests of all players remain at the centre of decisions made by the Executive Committee.

Swan Christian Netball Club encourages every player to take pride in the team they are selected in and to give their best effort at both training and on game days. It is normal for players to feel some uncertainty at the beginning of a season; however, this is often eased as they settle into their teams, build friendships, and focus on playing netball.

It is important to remember that netball is a team sport. Swan Christian Netball Club promotes enjoyment, skill development, and healthy competition by placing players alongside others of similar ability levels.

Parental support plays an important role in helping players transition into new teams. Open communication with coaches and encouraging children to build new friendships supports a positive and successful season for all players.

FINAL TEAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

All players will be notified via email of team allocations once coaches have been assigned. Coaches will then contact their teams to confirm training arrangements and share any other important information.

Teams are subsequently submitted to Swan Districts Netball Association (SDNA) for divisional placement. Team submission dates are set by Swan Districts Netball Association (SDNA) each season.

All information relating to team formation and grading assessments is confidential and will not be discussed outside of the committee.

Once teams are finalised, changes will not be permitted except under the following circumstances:

- A player leaves the club.
- A player is unable to participate due to injury.
- Special considerations approved by the netball committee.

GRADING CONCERNS AND APPEALS

Whilst it is hoped that players and parents appreciate the complexity of the grading process, all decisions made by the Grading Panel are final.

An appeal may be made following team selections.

- If a player is unhappy with a decision made by the Grading Panel based on playing ability, they may lodge an appeal requesting a review of the decision.
- Appeals requesting placement with friends will not be considered grounds for review. The Grading Panel works carefully to balance teams and believes that playing outside friendship groups provides valuable opportunities to build confidence and form new connections.

Before lodging an appeal, please consider the following:

- The Grading Panel consists entirely of volunteers.
- A significant amount of time and care goes into forming teams.
- All teams must be balanced and include coverage of all playing positions.
- Have you spoken with your child about the positive aspects of being part of their allocated team?
- Team numbers are carefully structured — how would a withdrawal or change impact the rest of the team?
- Could this be an opportunity for your child to develop new friendships and connections within the club?

Appeals must be submitted in writing to the Club President within 7 calendar days of the Team Announcement. All appeals will be acknowledged and reviewed, and a response will be provided once the investigation process has been completed. The outcome of this process is final and binding. Graders and Executive Committee members are not to be contacted directly regarding grading matters. Any enquiries will be redirected to the Club President. We also ask that appeals are not discussed with your team's Coach or Team Manager. These volunteers are focused on planning the upcoming season, including training schedules and team organisation, and are not involved in the appeals process.

POLICY REVIEW

This policy provides guidance for players and parents on the Swan Christian Netball Club grading process, including the level of care, consideration, and planning involved in team selection. The grading information is a working document that is regularly reviewed and updated to ensure it remains fair, transparent, and aligned with club and association requirements. We welcome feedback and suggestions for improvement. If you would like to share input on the grading process, please contact the Club President via email.

SWAN CHRISTIAN NETBALL CLUB CONTACTS

PRESIDENT

president@swanchristiannetballclub.com

VICE PRESIDENT

vicepresident@swanchristiannetballclub.com

SECRETARY

secretary@swanchristiannetballclub.com

TREASURER

treasurer@swanchristiannetballclub.com

REGISTRAR

registrar@swanchristiannetballclub.com

