



St Ives Netball Club

Grading Policy

Version 1.1

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Document Owners: Grading Coordinator / Management Committee

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure St Ives Netball Club grades junior players (ages 9–17) in a fair, transparent, and consistent manner.

Grading aims to:

- Group players with others of similar ability
- Support player development and enjoyment
- Form balanced teams across all court positions
- Align with Ku-ring-gai Netball Association (KNA) competition requirements

2. Scope

This policy applies to all players who turn 9–17 at any point in the calendar year, regardless of their age at registration or on grading day, and who register to play with St Ives Netball Club and participate in KNA competitions.

It covers club-level player grading and team formation only. Association-level grading is managed separately by the Ku-ring-gai Netball Association (KNA).

3. Policy Statement

St Ives Netball Club grades all junior players annually. Grading:

- Is compulsory for players aged 9 to Cadets
- Uses multiple data points to ensure accuracy
- Is conducted independently by experienced graders
- Prioritises fairness, consistency and player development

Additional end of season grading may be held to help with planning for the next season.

The club is committed to grading and team formation in a way that is respectful, inclusive, and supportive of all players.

4. Responsibilities

4.1 Grading Sub-Committee

The grading process is managed by the Grading Sub-Committee, consisting of:

- Grading Coordinator
- Age Group Graders
- Senior Independent Graders
- Club President (oversight)

4.2 Independence & Conflict of Interest

To maintain integrity:

- Graders must not grade an age group in which their child plays
- Any conflicts of interest must be declared
- Graders must act impartially at all times

4.3 Role of the Grading Coordinator

The Grading Coordinator:

- Manages all grading-day logistics
- Coordinates player flow and game rotations
- Communicates with parents and graders
- Is the only point of contact for families on grading day

5. Procedures

5.1 Grading Inputs

Player grading uses several evidence-based inputs to ensure accuracy and fairness:

A. Coach Reports and Grader Notes

Each player's grading profile includes:

- Mid-season coach report
- End-of-season coach report
- Senior grader notes collected throughout the year

These reports provide important longitudinal context on skill development, attitude, and gameplay.

B. Position Nominations

Players will trial in:

- Positions they nominate during registration
- Players may also trial in positions recommended by their previous coach (if different)

C. Grading Day Performance

Live assessment is a critical component of player evaluation.

5.2 Grading Day Process

Grading Day provides structured opportunities for players to demonstrate their skills under game conditions. This approach ensures fairness and enables consistent comparison across the age group.

On Arrival players will:

- Sign in and receive a trial identification number, drawn in marker on arms and legs to help graders identify players on court
- Warm up before trials commence

During Trials players will:

- Receive a bib
- Participate in short, structured grading games
- Rotate through multiple positions
- Play with and against a variety of teammates and opponents
- Be assessed by multiple graders

Parents, supporters and coaches are to refrain from coaching or commenting from the sideline while trials are progress.

Communication Protocol

- All communication must go through the Grading Coordinator
- Parents and players must not engage graders directly
- Questions or concerns can be submitted after team announcements (see Appeals section)

5.3 Grading Focal Points

Graders assess players using the following criteria:

Understanding of the Game

- Rules knowledge
- Spatial awareness
- Reading play, decision-making, pass selection
- Timing, movement patterns, and composure under pressure

Footwork & Movement

- Balanced landing
- Change of direction
- Body control and agility

Ball Handling Skills

- Catching technique under pressure
- Pass accuracy and power
- Use of appropriate pass types
- Advanced skills (fake passes, one-hand control, passing from either side)

Attacking Skills

- Creating and using space with basic leads, dodges, change of direction
- Combination moves
- Shooting technique and accuracy
- Advanced skills (front cut, double dodge, half and full roll)

Defensive Skills

- Recovery to three feet
- Getting hands over the ball
- Shadowing and positioning
- Defending shots and blocking for rebounds
- Advanced skills (tagging, anticipating and positioning for intercepts, communication and teamwork in defence)

Fitness & Work Rate

- Sustained effort
- Repeat efforts in attack and defence

Versatility, Sportsmanship & Attitude

- Ability to play multiple positions effectively
- Respect, teamwork, resilience
- Coachability and focus

5.4 Team Formation

Teams are formed by:

- Selecting players who demonstrate the strongest skills in each position
- Ensuring each team has an appropriate balance of shooters, mid-courters and defenders
- Arranging teams from strongest to developing, so the top team reflects the highest overall ability in the age group
- Basing placements solely on ability and team structure, not friendships or carpool requests

Inter and Cadet divisions:

- Age or school year does not determine team placement
- Where possible, the club will aim to include at least two players from the same school year or age group in each team to support player comfort.
- Social teams may be submitted in the Cadets age group only and will be placed in Grade 3 or below. Refer to the Registration Policy for detailed requirements

5.5 Unable to Attend Grading Day

Players who cannot attend must notify the Club at least two weeks prior to grading day.

Players who miss grading will be placed in teams based on:

- Coach reports
- Senior grader notes
- Prior performance ("paper grading")

The Club will make every effort to place absent players fairly, but absence may limit placement accuracy.

5.6 Late Registrations

Late registrations are only accepted:

- If a vacancy exists in a suitable team, and
- At the discretion of the Grading Sub-Committee

If the Club cannot place an on-time registered player, every effort will be made to help them find a suitable alternative club.

5.7 Team Announcements

Teams will be announced as soon as possible following the last club grading session, on the target date listed in the season calendar.

5.8 Appeals / Disputes

While the Club aims for accuracy and fairness, appeals may occur.

The Appeals Process is as follows:

- Appeals must be submitted in writing within 48 hours of team lists being published
- Appeals must be emailed to the Club Secretary at secretary@stivesnetball.com.au
- Appeals will be acknowledged upon receipt
- The Grading Committee will review all appeals and respond in writing
- Decisions made by the Grading Committee are final

6. Communication & Consultation

This policy may be communicated through:

- Club website
- Registration information
- Pre-season briefings
- Direct communication from the Club Executive

7. Review & Update Cycle

This policy is reviewed annually by the Grading Sub-Committee and approved by the Management Committee.

8. Version Control

Version	Date	Approved By	Summary of Changes
1.1	4 December 2025	Management Committee	Initial release using new policy template