



JNA GRADING POLICY

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Drafted by	S.Knott	Approved Date	
Responsibility	Joondalup Netball Association	Review Date	01 November 2023

OVERVIEW

Joondalup Netball Association has an obligation to maintain a fair and enjoyable environment for all members including (but not limited to) association Board members, association officials, staff, registered athletes, umpires, coaches, team managers, club committee members, club members, parents, spectators and sponsors.

The purpose of this policy is to outline the guidelines regarding Association grading and placement of teams into divisions for Winter and Spring Competitions at the Association.

This Policy should be read in conjunction with other Joondalup Netball Association policies and procedures and guidelines.

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains relevant to Association operations and reflects both community expectations and Australian legal requirements.

The following guidelines apply to both Winter and Spring Competitions:

- The Grading Committee will consist of five (5) members made up of the presiding Association President, 1 additional Board member, Competition Coordinator, Association Development Officer (ADO) Association Umpire Development Officer (AUDO)
- Grading will be by paper and consideration given the following:
 - Previous season's performance
 - Teams retaining at least 5 players from the previous season will be considered as retaining its identity.
 - Win/loss ratio and goals for/against in previous season's competition.
 - Final series performance
 - Club recommendations

Should a team be deemed to be too strong for the nominated age group or competition, the Board reserve the right to move that team into an age or division it deems appropriate for their skills and experience. This decision may require a Club to reconsider player team selections.

If a resolution cannot be found, the Board may refuse to accept a team registration.

Winter Competition Grading Process.

An initial paper grade will be undertaken by the Board. The guidelines as listed above will guide initial grading decisions.

New teams to the Association will be provided the opportunity to apply for a specific division, however allocation to a division will be based on a 'best fit' and subject to availability of space in their requested division.

Where possible, during grading rounds, each division will contain a maximum of 6 teams.

A review of teams' performances and results will be conducted at the end of the grading rounds for the Winter Competition. The grading period will be determined as fixtures are finalised, but generally is based on 5 weeks. The Board reserves the right to regrade at any time it is deemed necessary.

The Grading Committee will conduct the regrade.

Generally, a team that remains undefeated after grading rounds will be moved up a division and a team that has not won any games will be moved down a division. However, teams will not automatically be moved if they have won or lost all games during the grading rounds.

Considerations will include:

- Win/loss margins
- Injuries
- Availability of players
- Club requests

Teams may be moved into higher or lower age groups, provided the Association Policies are adhered to (i.e.: a 15s team cannot move to a 10s competition). Clubs will be consulted when this is deemed necessary as it may result in a change to game times for the team being moved. However, the final decision will be made by the Association Grading Committee.

It should be noted that regrading may result in game time changes. Where possible requests will be accommodated, however game times set by the Association are final.

Spring Competition Grading Process.

Representatives from Clubs/Independent teams are not consulted during the Spring grading process.

All requests for teams to be placed into specific divisions must be included on the team registration form. These requests will be considered, however allocation to a division will be based upon 'best fit' and subject to availability of space in the requested division.

Where possible each division will have a minimum of four (4) teams, which will allow teams to play each other at least twice during the 8-week season.

There are no grading rounds during the Spring Competition and fixtures are final once the season has commenced.

Version Number:	Date Authorised:	Signed:	JNA Position:
1	14 November 2021		President
Version Number:	Date Authorised:	Signed:	JNA Position:
2			President