



JNA GRADING POLICY

Policy Number	6	Version Number	3
Drafted by	A. Hopkins	Approved Date	
Responsibility	Joondalup Netball Association	Review Date	01 November 2024

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 at least 3 members made up of the presiding Association President, 1 additional Board member, and Competition Coordinator. Other Board or Committee members may be invited as required to ensure a good knowledge of all clubs and age groups.
- Grading will be decided upon using a combination of:
 - Previous season's performance
 - Retained players and historical performance
 - 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 Grading Committee. The same guidelines as listed above will guide initial grading decisions. At the Grading Committee discretion divisions or tiers may be a larger size through grading to get a wider view of performance. This may result in Play HQ ladders not correctly reflecting teams' performance at the conclusion of grading rounds as in some cases, not every team in that division or tier will have played each other team in that same division or tier.

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.

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 if it is deemed necessary.

The Grading Committee will conduct the regrade.

Divisions may be reduced in size beyond the regrade, once performance assumptions have been tested. Clubs will have the opportunity to discuss the grading decisions at a Club Grading Meeting to be held prior to the finalisation of divisions and fixtures.

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.

Requests to move an age group will where possible be discussed at week 3 of grading rounds giving clubs enough time to consult with players and coaches as required.

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.

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
Version Number:	Date Authorised:	Signed:	JNA Position:
3	14 May 2024		President