

## North Epping Rangers (NER) Netball Grading Policy



### **Aim**

NER Netball Club is committed to providing our members with the opportunity to play netball in competitive teams. Grading is the means by which we aim to achieve this objective for our players.

The aim of the grading process is to ensure all players are placed in a team that will:

- a) Best represent their level of skill and ability
- b) Maximise opportunities to develop and improve their skills
- c) Maximise their enjoyment and love of the game

This policy provides a framework that can be followed by the netball committee in conducting grading sessions each year. This document is also a guide for players and parents so that they can be better informed on the grading process and the level of involvement and strategic thought that goes into grading.

Players and parents need to understand that placement in a team one year does not ensure they will remain together the following year. Due to changes in the number of players registered with the Club, experienced players coming from other teams/clubs and the rates of development of players from season to season, player movements in and out of teams does occur. Parents and players must be reasonable in their expectations, encourage positive feedback and trust that they will be happy in the teams in which they are ultimately placed.

### **Grading Committee**

The grading committee consists of the Grading Convenor and a team of independent, experienced selectors (usually past and present coaches and senior players, netball executive members). Grading committee members are selected and approved by the NER Netball executive committee.

### **Grading Policy**

Only players who are financial members of NER will be placed in a team.

#### ***Netta/Modified players***

Players in the Under 7, Under 8 and Under 9 year old teams are not graded. A request to play with friends will be accommodated if numbers allow. Such requests can be indicated when registering online via MyNetball.

#### ***Junior (Under 10 - Under 15) and Cadet players***

Individual player grading will take place where there is more than one team in an age group. Attendance at Grading Day is compulsory for all players who wish to be considered for the top 2 division teams in their age group (or top division team for cadets). All players must grade in their correct age group (the age you are turning that playing year) unless you are contacted by the grading convenor. When grading players, mid court, attack and defence positions will be taken into account to ensure a fair spread of positions.

All other players (who do not attend grading day) will be graded in to teams according to coaches reports, previous playing experience, end of season grading and friendship groups.

### ***Additional note for Cadet players***

In addition, cadet players can indicate, when registering online via MyNetball, who they wish to play with (for cadet teams other than the top division team which is a graded team). The committee will do their best to try and accommodate these requests.

## **Grading Process**

There are several criteria on which players are graded including the coach's report and the player's performance on grading day.

### ***1. End of season grading***

Players are observed by the grading committee at the end of the season to determine if they had been graded appropriately. The grading committee member will discuss with the team coach whether players were in their usual playing positions or if there were any other extenuating circumstances.

### ***2. Coaches Report***

At the completion of the winter competition, the coaches will submit their team/player report. This report looks at a player's general skill level (passing, footwork, breaking, defending), their commitment, attitude, fitness and whether they were appropriately graded that season.

### ***3. Paper Grading***

Prior to grading day, the grading committee will review the coach's reports to plan the on court grading session.

### ***4. Grading Day***

If a player wishes to be considered for the top 2 division teams in their age group, then, they must attend grading day. There is no guarantee that if a player attends grading that they will be automatically placed in either of the top 2 division teams for their age group. All players, whether they are attending grading day or not, need to RSVP to the Club Secretary [ner.netball.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:ner.netball.secretary@gmail.com) prior to grading day. If a player will be absent for grading day but wishes to be considered for the top 2 division teams in their age group then this needs to be indicated when they RSVP.

A player who does not attend their grading session will be placed in a team based on paper grading. This will take into consideration the player's previous playing experience, end of season grading and their coach's report. There is no guarantee that the player will play in the same team as last season.

At the grading day, selectors will be appointed to each age group.

During the grading session the following will be taken into account:

- Footwork
- Speed and agility
- Ball handling skills
- Attacking skills
- Defending skills
- Fitness
- Versatility
- Perception and cognition skills
- Sportsmanship and attitude

Each player will have the opportunity to trial in at least one of their preferred positions. A player may also be asked to play in a position that is not their preference to aid the grading process.

The Grading Committee will also consider the spread of positions (attack, mid court and defence) required in a team.

Parents, players and coaches are not to approach the selectors at any time during or after the grading process. However, coaches may be consulted by the selectors if required.

#### **5. Final Team Selection**

After grading day the grading committee will convene to finalise teams. They will take into account the selectors recommendations, the coach's reports and any other considerations (such as number of registrations within each age group) to finalise teams. The committee will also take into consideration the divisions in which the teams are likely to be placed.

### **Announcement of teams**

Parents/Players will be notified by email of their child's /their initial team placement.

### **Disputes**

If a family considers that their child has been unfairly treated in the grading process they must submit their concern in writing via email to the Club Secretary ([ner.netball.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:ner.netball.secretary@gmail.com)) within 24 hours of team postings. No grading issues will be discussed over the phone or in person. Members of the grading Committee will reconvene to consider the complaint and will advise the family of their decision at their earliest convenience.

### **Confidentiality**

All grading assessment sheets, coach's reports and selectors' discussions are strictly confidential. Parents and guardians must not approach selectors or members of the grading committee for information.