



Miranda Magpies Netball Club Grading Policy



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Introduction

At the beginning of each season the Miranda Magpies Netball Club grades players in the 10 to 16 age groups based on ability level.

The grading process gives all players the opportunity to demonstrate their skills so they can join a team of similar ability and progress their skills at a comfortable speed.

A variety of graders are used thus giving all players (irrespective of the team they played with in the previous season) a chance to play in the highest division in the new season. The Club holds this as important in providing equal opportunity to all players.

The club philosophy is to grade players through the club Grading Process (as per 4.0).

1. Grading Process

Grading is the process of establishing the number and composition of Miranda Magpies Netball Club teams to compete in the Sutherland Shire Netball Association (SSNA) competition and which grades/divisions of competition to request for each team.

The following approach ensures selections run smoothly and utilises a variety of information to inform grading decisions:



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- Individual Player Assessments - During the season, Graders may observe player's skill levels during games or receive reports from other sources e.g. other Executive Committee members
- Coach's Evaluation - At the end of the season, each coach provides a grading sheet of each player's positions played, ability, attendance at training and games, attitude etc.
- Paper Grading - Prior to practical grading, Graders assess the above reports and place players into teams for the grading session.
- Practical Grading - Each Practical Grading session shall be watched by at least two (2) Graders. If a player cannot attend, we cannot guarantee the same grading outcome had they attended and participated.

2. Grading Considerations

The grading considerations and overarching policy is designed to address several player and club needs, some of which invariably conflict.

The following may be just some of the factors considered:

2.1 Ability and Skill Level

Playing with people of similar ability ensures skills are developed at the correct pace, playing is enjoyable for all players and playing is safer for all players (as playing with like-skilled individuals reduces injury potential).

Experience tells us:

A player of lower-skill in a team of higher-skill may:

- Feel inadequate at their inability to match their team-mates
- Spend more time on the side-line than more skilled team-mates
- Lose interest.

A player of higher-skill in a team of lower-skill may:

- Feel frustrated by the inability of team-mates to perform at the same level
- Not play to their full ability
- Lose conditioning and interest.

To not grade the children based on ability would take away the opportunity for some to ultimately progress to representative netball. However, we do understand that not every child would like to pursue this path. If you would like your child to play at a less competitive level, please ask the Club Secretary if your child can be placed in a lower grade prior to the grading process commencing at the start of the season. This may or may not be possible based on other considerations.



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2.2 Availability for both training and playing

Reasons for missing training and/or playing may include: holidays, parties, other special occasions, conflicting commitments, ability to be punctual, sickness, injury, or several other factors.

Each player's availability from the previous season is taken into consideration.

2.3 Sportsmanship

Behavioural factors also have an impact on team cohesion

Please see the Codes of Conduct for both players and their families (spectators) as attitudes, interactions and communications with others can have a strong impact on team cohesion.

2.4 Coachability and focus

How players and their parents respond to coaching and feedback is a strong indicator of a player's ability to improve their playing in the following season

2.5 External Grading

If a player is joining Magpies from another club, we are required to grade the player taking into consideration what grade they played at their previous club if the grading took place within the past 2 years

2.6 Balancing Team Numbers

Players may be placed in older age groups at the discretion of the Graders and in consultation with the player and their parents based on the number and ages of players registered with the club.

Balancing of team numbers in the first few weeks directly after grading is also sometimes required for various reasons.

Familiar Faces

The club recognises that for some children having a friend or 'familiar face' in a team can be comforting. On some occasions, requests to play with friends may be considered. However, not where it will undermine the grading process.

While there are some advantages in forming teams based on friendships (verses gradings) this soon becomes an issue in several ways. Please see "Ability and Skill Level" for the likely resulting scenarios.

In our club's experience, children at this age tend to make new friends quickly and this also means that they extend their circle of friends; Miranda Magpies Netball is a community club and we see it as a positive for children and parents to extend their circle and meet others within our local community.



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3. Team Finalisation

Player and parent expectations may differ with the Grading decisions. The club will not enter into debate about a player's ability or individual gradings. Nor will the club participate in a discussion comparing players.

We hope that players and parents understand the complexities of grading and the difficulties that the Graders have in achieving teams that have a balanced group of players in different playing positions.