



Where everyone's a star

GRADING POLICY & PROCEDURES

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Introduction

- Allstars Netball Club is committed to the development of players, coaches and umpires and we encourage play that fits with the spirit of the game, being fair and competitive, whilst having fun in a safe environment.
- We provide a supportive environment for netball players to reach their full potential, whilst establishing friendships, improving fitness, and developing a strong sense of community.
- Allstars is committed to ensuring team grading is conducted fairly and effectively. The aim of this policy is to ensure grading of teams is undertaken in the best interests of the club and players.

Grading Process

- Grading is the process of establishing the composition of our teams to compete in the Redlands Netball Association competition. The aim of grading is to form teams which have a balanced group of players of similar ability across all playing positions (shooters, attack, defence).
- We select teams to ensure the best chance of success, greatest level of enjoyment and highest potential for individual player development. The process is also influenced by the number of registered players in the season per age group and divisions.

Grading Teams

- Netball is a graded, competitive sport from the age of 11 with representative opportunities from the age of 12. To ensure the best chance of success for our teams and the greatest level of enjoyment and development for our players, it is necessary to grade players with similar ability.
- Stronger players enjoy the challenge of harder, faster competition and do not develop to their potential if graded to a lower team to be kept with friends. Similarly, players who are placed in teams above their ability will also not develop to their potential when being constantly overshadowed by stronger players. In such situations, these players can also quickly become disheartened and lose self-esteem.
- Netball teams also provide a valuable opportunity to broaden children's friendship groups and to develop the skills of making new friends and working alongside a variety of different personalities.
- Parents should also be aware that success for a team one year does not always ensure they will remain together the following year. Due to the nature of change, new registrations, and differing development rates of players from season to season, player movement between teams may occur.
- Players and parents are urged to be objective and reasonable in their expectations, and to encourage their child to be happy in their chosen sport irrespective of the team they are placed in.

Attending Grading

- Under 7's, 8's and 9's age groups do not undertake grading. Any requests for specific team placement of these ages should be emailed to allstars.registrar@outlook.com. Requests for specific team placement will only be agreed where it does not compromise even distribution of players and is within the correct age group.
- Players in the under 10's, age group through to our Cadets divisions are required to attend a practical grading day. Under 10's will complete a soft grading process (skill development), which helps to get them ready for grading from under 11's.
- Grading sessions are compulsory. If a player is unable to attend, they must email allstars.registrar@outlook.com before the scheduled dates.
- Players who choose not to attend their nominated practical grading day will be placed in a team at the Grading Committees discretion.
- Players who have not paid registration fees will not be allowed to take the court for grading due to Netball Queensland insurance requirements. Players registering late cannot be assured of a team.
- Allstars Netball Club may accept registration of a complete team which must also have an appointed coach. The team is still required to attend the practical grading session to assist the Grading Committee in establishing the grading principles. The Grading Committee will also ensure the team is placed in the grade which is most appropriate to their skill level.

Grading Principals

- Players will be placed in a team which will enhance their enjoyment of the game.
- Players will be placed in a team and grade which is appropriate to their skill level.
- Players will be placed in a team which will enable them to attain desired skills.
- Teams will be selected to allow for a good balance of players preferred playing positions.

How We Grade

- Grading is an ongoing process and draws extensively on information from the previous season as well as the club grading days. Allstars considers the following:
 - **Coaches' Evaluation:** Confidential short written report by the Coach at the end of the season covering topics such as skill, fitness, attendance, teamwork, and attitude.
 - **Practical Grading Day:** Allstars employs independent assessors as well as experienced coaches to assess each player in their nominated positions. At times, they will assess players in non-nominated positions, depending on prospective team formation.

- Grading Committee: The Grading Coordinator will oversee this committee and the grading process. The Grading Committee and age group leads will make the final decision on each graded team.
- Paper Grading: The Grading Committee assesses teams or individual players based upon previous coaches' evaluations, observations, and graded playing experience from the practical grading day.

Practical Grading Day

- Players' list two positions they would like to trial for. On practical grading days several 7-minute games are played to allow everyone to have two turns. It is a busy day, so we ask players to gather promptly when asked and listen carefully for their name to be called.
- Players will be assessed for their requested position/s but may also be asked to play in other positions. Sometimes our grading assessors see potential in a player in another position and sometimes a gap needs to be filled due to absence or the demand for certain positions.
- While every effort is made to give players time in their two requested positions sometimes this is impossible because of the number of players wanting to trial in the same position. Players may only spend a small amount of time in their preferred positions as some players are easier to grade.
- During practical grading the following is considered: footwork, speed and agility, ball handling, attacking, and defending skills, fitness, versatility, perception, sportsmanship, and attitude.
- Players wishing to play up an age group are to grade in their correct age group. Requests to play up will be considered but need to be emailed to the Registrar prior to grading. In considering the request the following will be considered:
 1. The needs and abilities of the individual player.
 2. Numbers available to make up age teams.
 3. Competitive nature of the teams affected.
 4. Redlands Netball Association Rules.

Formation of Teams

- In most cases Allstars will strive (depending on the number of player registrations for a particular grade) to have teams no greater than 9 players. In some cases, we may take 10 players.
- What if my daughter is put into a team without her friends? This can be daunting, but no more daunting than starting a new sport. We ask parents/guardians to have faith in the system and support your child to branch out and get to know her new teammates.

Announcement of Teams

- Teams will be announced 1-2 weeks after grading via email from the Coach. A full team list will also be placed on Team App (under documents).

- Please be aware that we want your child to build resilience and be successful and that it is not about being in Division 1 or Division 3, it is about being in a team sport, having fun and learning.
- Players are asked to be proud of their team selection and give it their all when at training and playing a game. We take the approach at Allstars that winning is not about coming first, but doing better than you did before and learning something new.

Grading Disputes

- Please note individual grading results for players are confidential and are not shared.
- Allstars recognises that players/parents may disagree at times with the grading results. If you wish to further discuss the grading results, please email allstars.registrar@outlook.com.au.
- If the player/parent are still of the view that the grading process is not fair, then the matter will be referred to the Grading Committee. The Committee will review prior season paper grading, feedback from coaches, technical grading results (compared to QLD Netball curriculum for the relevant age group) and feedback from independent graders.
- If the grading dispute cannot be resolved, the player may be asked to play a game during a training session for the Grading Coordinator and relevant coaches to review and check. During this process feedback will be given to the player/parents. The Grading Coordinator will then address the situation to the Management Committee for their final decision.
- Please note regardless of any grading dispute or agreed changes, Allstars still needs to ensure a place is available in the correct division/age group. If teams are full or the position the player plays is not available in a team, no further changes will occur.
- Allstars Netball Club is committed to providing a supportive environment for volunteers including our Grading Coordinator, Committee Members, Grading Assessors and Coaches. Any form of abuse or harassment of volunteers, because of disputed grading decisions will not be tolerated.
- Please note abusive language or threatening behaviour by players or parents towards graders, umpires or club officials at any time will not be tolerated.

- During the grading process and depending on the circumstances an individual or group of people may be given one or more of the following by any member of the Allstars Management Committee:
 - A verbal warning
 - A verbal request to leave the club and/or RNA courts temporarily
 - Request to attend a meeting with the club and/or RNA
 - Written warning notice of inappropriate behaviour
 - Written notice revoking attendance to the club and/or RNA.

Re-Grading & Transferring Between Clubs

- Allstars reserves the right to move players during the first four games of the season (round 1 to round 4) if it is deemed, they have been graded incorrectly (in too high or too low a grade), and/or team numbers have changed.
- Players have the right to transfer to another club (providing the other club has agreed prior to accepting the transfer) during the first two weeks of Redlands Netball Association grading (subject to RNA approval). Please contact the Allstars registrar if you require further details on transferring to another club.