

GRANGE THISTLE PLAYER GRADING POLICY

Context

Football Brisbane runs graded junior competitions from the Under 9 age group through to Under 17. The gradings are as follows:

- Under 9 to Under 11 (Small Sided Football) have three grades: Komodo Dragons, Goannas and Geckos.
- Under 12 to Under 17 divisional premierships generally have up to six divisions (Div1 through to Div6).

The Grange Thistle Football Club grades our players in accordance with the Football Brisbane competitions. We do not grade our Under 6, Under 7 or Under 8 teams.

Purpose

To provide a consistent approach to placement of player into teams; to ensure that they have an enjoyable and challenging season competing with and against players of a similar ability level.

Scope

Teams playing in the Football Brisbane competitions in the Under 9 through to Under 17 age groups are nominated by the clubs to participate in the various divisions based upon player ability. Players need to be graded into teams based on individual ability. Where the club has sufficient players to field teams in multiple divisions all players in the age group shall participate in the grading procedure.

All players playing for the Grange Thistle Football Club in the U9-U17 competition shall be graded each year.

Assessment Criteria

Player Grading Assessment consists of two main components: Basic Skills assessment and Game Play.

Basic Skills Assessment – The skills assessment trials consist of four basic skill tests.

- Dribbling,
- Tackling,
- Passing & Control,
- Shooting,
- Throw Ins and Heading,

Game Play Assessment will involve players participating in trail games and being assessed on the following criteria.

- Ability to read the play.
- Team play.

- Control.

The player assessment sessions are organised so that each player is rated and assigned a score using these two sets of criteria. The scores are summed and a total score calculated for each player. Based on the highest to lowest scores of the players in the age group, the players are placed into nominal grades, and Grange Thistle will nominate to Football Brisbane the number of teams they will have playing in the different grades.

Assessment Staff

The club will arrange for experienced coaches and managers to carry out the assessment. For skills assessment, teams of two are provided. The assessors are assigned an activity and assess each group of players on the same activity. All care is taken to provide an impartial assessment of players.

Assessment Process

Basic Skills Assessment

The players involved in the assessment are divided into equal groups at random.

Each group has a manager and an assessor assigned. Both manager and assessor provide input into the player assessment.

Each group will be directed to an activity where each group is instructed on what the activity involves and how the assessment is made. The players are each asked to perform the activity and scores are recorded against each player.

The groups are then moved to the next activity where the process is repeated.

The scores are totalled and collated on the master assessment sheet, after the session is completed the assessors meet to review the scores and discuss specific cases where required.

Game Play Assessment

The players involved in the assessment are divided into three equal teams at random.

Each team has a manager and an assessor assigned. Both manager and assessor provide input into the player assessment.

Each team plays the other two teams over 20-minute sessions. Each player is assessed for each of the three playing criteria.

The scores are totalled and collated on the master assessment sheet, after the session is completed the assessors meet to review the scores and discuss specific cases where required.

NB. The assessors will be involved in both skills and game play sessions so consistency can be maintained.

Failure to Attend Grading Assessment

Players that are unable to be assessed at the session time will be assigned to a division at the discretion of the Assessment team.

When a player signs on after the assessment sessions has been completed, the players will be invited to trial with a team, usually the highest division in the age group. Players are then assessed by the coaching staff of the team, and a recommendation is made as to the player's ability.

Appointment to a Team

The scores for both sessions are collated and players are placed into teams based on their ranking amongst their peers.

The Team Coach and Manager are advised of which players have been successful in being graded into the various teams. The Coach and Manager then contact each player in their team and advise them of training times.

Appointment to a team is weighted on the lower divisions as it is administratively significantly easier to bring a player up a division rather than apply to regrade down a division.

During registration and during the grading sessions, the players will be able to nominate if they wish to be assigned to a team with other specific players, and if they want that assignment to override the player's individual grading. Note that this option will never result in a player being assigned to a higher grade than their individual grading. It will only result in a player being assigned to a team in the same grade or a lower grade than what was identified in the player's individual grading.

Assessment Appeal

Appealing a player's assessment is available to players and parents, however this must be made in writing to the club junior committee and will be discussed at the next committee meeting.