



Grading Policy & Procedure

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PURPOSE

This document is to articulate the process undertaken for Grading players each season and is for the benefit of all members, including players, parents, coaches and committee members.

GRADING POLICY AND PROCEDURE

The Hope Valley Netball Club is a volunteer organisation, run by people who are doing their very best to provide an inclusive and fun environment for all members.

Prior to the commencement of each playing season, the HVNC committee appoints a Grading Convenor and Grading Panels who do their utmost to ensure that the grading process is as fair and impartial as possible.

Each season and for each age division, the HVNC grading panel is comprised of at least three people with relevant netball experience. As a general principle, panels do not contain the parents of children who will be competing in that age division. Where this is not possible, to avoid any conflict of interest, the parent involved will be asked to recuse themselves from the conversation concerning placement of their child (i.e. they will leave the room), and they are to have no input into any discussion concerning their child's placement, or the placement of children who are friends of their child.

GRADING PROCESS

The Grading is based on several factors:

- Coach's evaluation for the current season. The coach's evaluation includes ratings for player attitude, fitness level, training attendance, footwork, and ball skills, along with an overall comment regarding the player's level of improvement throughout the season, and whether their current grade is suitable.
- Graders will, where possible, observe players in matches played at SADNA before and after the grading sessions.
- The Grading sessions are an opportunity for graders to assess skill levels, performance, and potential to play at a higher level. Attendance at the grading sessions is paramount if an effective and fair grading is to be achieved for the players and the teams.

GRADING SESSIONS CONDUCT

- Players to be at the courts at least 15 minutes prior to the allocated time to allow for administration before the Grading Session.
- Wear Short Sleeve non-club top and shorts.
- Bring a full water bottle and a jacket for off court if it is cold. Jacket will not be worn on court.
- No Jewellery, including earrings, nose rings, lip rings or watches. Nails to be short.
- Players are assessed throughout the sessions on their attitude, personal discipline, maturity, leadership and social skills.
- If a player is injured or ill (and non-contagious), they should still attend the grading sessions in order to support others and to demonstrate enthusiasm and commitment.
- Please do not ask questions of or distract the Graders and Marshalls. They have limited time to conduct the grading activity and want to do their best for all players. Questions on grading are to be submitted in writing to the Grading Convenor at grading.hopevalleync@gmail.com.

At any one time there may be an excess or a deficit of attacking, defending or mid court players vying for positions in a team; hence why players may feel as though they deserve a higher placement but do not achieve this. If any player requires feedback or has concerns regarding their placement, requests and questions are to be submitted in writing to the Grading Committee through the Grading Convenor at grading.hopevalleync@gmail.com.

Members are not to approach any grader or coaches personally. Coaches, committee members and members of the grading panel are not to discuss player performance and assessment, either before or after grading. All communication re grading outcomes is to be in writing to grading.hopevalleync@gmail.com.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- Grading panels are made up of independent graders in most cases, but if a parent of a player is on the grading panel, they do not make decisions about the team placement for their own child and are required to recuse themselves from the discussion concerning their child or friends of their child.
- Graders generally watch a number of matches being played at SADNA as well as the matches played during trials.
- Graders also review evaluations from current coaches. Coaches will provide a rating on a number of factors, including skill level for player attitude, fitness level, attendance at training, footwork and ball skills. Coaches will also advise if they think the player is capable of playing higher, or if they are graded correctly.
- Coaches are not assigned to teams until after the teams have been determined – this is to ensure that a player’s placement in a team is not impacted (i.e they are neither advantaged nor disadvantaged) because their parent or guardian has volunteered to coach.
- Teams are selected to as to ensure a balance of positions - each team needs 3 defenders, 3 centre court and 3 goalies.
- Team placement is a comparative process - you may think that your child is a very strong centre court player, but if we have many centre court players in a season they may not be placed in as high a grade as you would like. Unfortunately this is unavoidable – as explained above, we need to have balanced teams - we are not able to have team of only centre courts even if they are all equally strong. Having said this, we also never have exactly 3 of each across section in each team in an age group, so it is not always possible to have every team perfectly balanced.
- We find that some parents want their children to play in a high grade, but the children themselves just want to play with their friends and have fun. Please consider what your child wants in the first instance rather than pressuring them to play in a higher grade if that is not what the child wants.
- Many parents would like teams to stay together from season to season, however this is not usually possible due to a number of factors, for example:
 - changes in age requirements (for example, some players are older so have to go up to the next age division),
 - players constantly come in and out from season to season – for instance, to compete in other sports,
 - due to limits on the available positions across the age group – as mentioned, in order to put together balanced teams, we need to assign 3 goalies, 3 centre court and 3 defenders to each side.

- Naturally we do not always have 3 of each position available for every team, so from time to time we will ask a player to consider playing a new position. Players who are adaptable and can play multiple positions are easier to place into a team - flexibility is a really important part of any team sport, so we encourage players to be open minded about the position they play.
- Teams are nominated to SADNA for the grade the club feels will be appropriate to the team's ability and potential, to ensure they are challenged and will develop as netballers.

GRADING BY SADNA

It should be noted that the club does not generally allocate teams in the same grade (unless there are more teams than grades in an age group). We prefer that Hope Valley teams do not compete against each other, but due to the clubs' success, strength, and number of teams, SADNA have the final say as to team placement, this can be a different grade to the grade that we (HVNC) have nominated.

Where two teams from our club are competing in the same grade and play against each other, we expect that all players will comport themselves with good sportspersonship, friendliness and goodwill.

Any issues or concerns with respect to the grading process should be sent to the Grading Convenor. If you are not satisfied with the response you receive, please see the Grievance Procedure available on our website at <https://www.hopevalleync.com.au/hvnc-policies>.