



# The Basin Football Club Inc.

## Home of The Bears

### The Basin Football Netball Club Grading Policy

#### Introduction

The Basin Football Netball Club (TBFNC) prides itself on the supportive, family-oriented environment which has produced a collaborative community of good people over a long period of time. The responsibility of grading players is a difficult one and one which is not taken lightly. TBFNC will endeavour to place players in the appropriate team based on this policy.

#### 1. All age groups

- 1.1 Where two or more teams are within the same age group, the Grading Policy will come into effect. This policy mirrors the policy of the Eastern Football Netball League (EFNL), that where a club has two or more teams registered for an age grade competition, the general split will be one team in a higher division and one, or more, team(s) in a lower division.
- 1.2 Where two or more sides are formed in the same age group there should be an equal spread of numbers where possible.
- 1.3 To ensure fairness to all players, the grading process will take place each year (where applicable) to give the opportunity for TBFNC to re-grade players based on their individual development.

#### 2. Under 8 to Under 10 age groups

- 2.1 TBFNC recognises that in these age groups the emphasis is placed on participation and enjoyment with friends. Additional goals are the acquisition of football skills and the nurturing of physical and emotional development and wellbeing.
- 2.2 In keeping with EFNL policy for non-competitive age groups (Under 8 to Under 10 inclusive), as a guideline TBFNC will encourage players to play with friends, family and schoolmates while also being mindful to ensure adequate numbers on all team lists.

#### 3. Under 11 to Under 17.5 age groups

- 3.1 The EFNL provide graded divisions within these age groups to equally assist more advanced teams while also providing an opportunity for players to develop their skills in other divisions. TBFNC supports the League and the structure they have developed.
- 3.2 In keeping with EFNL policy for competitive age groups, Under 11 to Under 17.5's inclusive, TBFNC reserves the right to organise players in appropriate teams to provide an environment in which players can be both competitive and continue to develop their football skills.

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The Basin Junior Football Club – Awarded the Eastern Football League - Gordon Parker - Best Conducted Club for 2013

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- 3.3 Where two or more sides are formed in the same age group, the team graded in the higher division will have a list of players that the Football Department deem as having a higher level of development thus benefiting from playing a higher level of football. TBFNC will endeavour to ensure that all teams will be as competitive as possible in their respective divisions.
- 3.4 Ensuring that there is an even spread of positional players across the multiple teams is also a priority.
- 3.5 The decision to grade must be looked at in terms of that year and what is important to the player's individual development. It must be remembered that the players are still young, maturing at different levels and stages and, more fundamentally, hopefully have many years of sport (not just football) in front of them.
- 3.6 Due to the grading process, it's expected that teams may not be finalised until close to the commencement of the season. However, the club will endeavour to keep players and families involved in the on-going process as best as possible.

#### **4. Team Selection Process**

- 4.1 The Committee of the TBFNC will confirm a final date for when a decision is to be made on whether one or two teams will be entered in a specific age group.
- 4.1.1 Where there is the potential for a specific age group to have two teams entered, the parents of the registered players and the players themselves will be notified of the final date and will be provided with a copy of this policy for their information. Parents and players can be notified by the common method used to communicate to the team (eg. team Facebook page).
- 4.2 Once the final date has passed, the committee of the TBFNC will decide if one or two teams will be entered.
- 4.2.1 Parents and players will be notified of the decision.
- 4.3 If the decision is made to enter two teams in a specific age group, a Selection Panel, comprising of both teams' coaches and a representative from the TBFNC Football Department (who will be selected by the Football Operations Manager) will be appointed.
- 4.3.1 Where one (or more) of the teams does not yet have a coach appointed, the Football Department of TBFNC will decide who will comprise the Selection Panel.
- 4.4 For Under 8 to Under 10 age groups, the appointed Selection Panel will select the teams based on their knowledge of each player's friends, family and school friends.



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- 4.4.1 The Selection Panel may follow up with other people to discuss/confirm these details.
- 4.4.2 The teams will be selected as quickly as possible after the decision to have two teams is made.
- 4.5 For Under 11 to Under 17.5 age groups, the Selection Panel will develop a schedule of activities that will help them select the teams. This could include training sessions, practice matches and other activities.
- 4.5.1 The schedule of activities will include a final date for selection of the players into each of the teams and plans for announcing selections to parents and players.
- 4.5.2 The full schedule of activities (including relevant dates) will be communicated to parents and players.
- 4.6 The Selection Panel will select the teams by:
- Observing all players during the pre-season 'try-out' period.
  - Taking into account attitude and attendance at pre-season training.
  - Taking into account interleague and TAC obligations of the individual.
  - Liaising with the previous year's coaches.
  - Taking into account the previous season's performance, attitude and attendance at training.
  - Where possible, assessing players in pre-season practice matches. Match practice will be used to:
    - a) help assess and observe the players' football skills, ability to read the play, competitive skills, work ethic, and ability to get the ball, follow instructions and play within the team structure and;
    - b) determine the most suitable position and team for the individual player. Players will be played in a variety of positions to assess this.
  - Where appropriate, discussing with the player their preferred team (eg. a player may wish to play in the lower graded team, to better suit their development).
- 4.7 Should the Selection Panel not agree on the formation of the two teams, the Football Operations Manager will make the final assessments, based on observations and discussions with the Selection Panel.
- 4.8 Once team selections have been made, parents and players will be personally notified and feedback will be supplied to assist with the decision.



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4.8 As part of this communication, TBFNC will, under no circumstances, “compare” players and will only provide feedback in respect of the individual player.

4.8.1 Coaches should be mindful that children and parents may be sensitive to their team selection or have a preference for selection in a team. It is important that the child’s welfare and self-esteem are managed, and positive communication is encouraged.

### 5. Grievances

5.1 Team selection is not an exact science and requires consideration of a range of factors. Any person who feels aggrieved should first raise the matter with the Football Operations Manager. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the matter may be referred to the TBFNC Complaints Officer prior to Round 3 (Note EFNL rules make it difficult to move players after Round 3) for consideration in accordance with the **Complaint Process policy** of the TBFNC.

