

Grading Policy

Adopted 7th January 2013

Background and overall policy

The club was founded and operates successfully as a family based club providing a sporting, recreational and social environment for those interested to learn, participate, develop and enjoy the team sport of soccer.

The club's overall policy is that the grading of players, although encouraged, is done on a voluntary basis, subject to the rules and procedures set out below.

Team grading

Nepean District Soccer Football Association (NDSFA) under its By-laws requires the club to nominate teams into grades for all "competition" ages (i.e. from Under 12 and above). This is done at the beginning of each season by a committee headed by the registrar, based on the teams entered in each age bracket. Factors considered include:

- Previous year performance
- Experience and skill level of players within the team
- Requests and information from team coaches and managers

Although the NDSFA only requires team grading from Under 12 and above, the club recommends that if there is sufficient interest, player grading should commence from Under 11 and within the parameters outlined under Player grading policy.

The club will strive to compete at the highest possible levels within the NDSFA competition and within each age group.

First division premiers are expected to participate and represent the local association (NDSFA) in state (NSW) competition(s). This could involve travel to other participating districts within NSW.

All teams are strongly encouraged to participate and represent the club in local association (NDSFA) competition(s).

Player grading

Grading is strongly encouraged but not limited to the highest graded team in each age group, under 11 and above. Individual players can choose whether or not they wish to participate in grading on the understanding that players attending grading will have the best opportunity to be placed in skill appropriate team(s) and division.

Teams wishing to maintain a more social presence and remain together are able to continue to do so and will play at the level assigned by NDSFA. The club committee, however, reserves the right to make final decisions regarding team makeup.

Generally, grading is conducted within the following parameters:-

- Grading at all ages and levels is voluntary and dependent upon numbers attending. Players who attend grading, however, will have the best opportunity to be placed in skill appropriate team(s) and further develop their skills.
- The top two teams in under 11 (if sufficient players request grading) will be graded. Grading, however, is strongly encouraged across all teams within each age group. Where there are sufficient numbers attending grading for any other age group, more than 1 team may be graded.

- Where players attend grading above their age group, the grading panel should, within the first session if possible, inform any players who are unlikely to be selected. This will enable such players to then compete for the top grade in their own age group. It is highly recommended wherever schedules allow the player should attend grading in their own age group prior to attending the higher age group
- Players who have been selected for the highest graded team/s will be announced on the Colo SFC website www.colosoccer.com.au. Announcement dates will be advised at the last grading session and advertised on the Colo SFC website
- When the Colo Executive Committee has finalised grading other players will be advised into which team / division they have been graded by attending orientation (check Colo SFC website for orientation dates).
- Where vacancies occur in a graded team after grading, the opportunity to fill that vacancy should be sought within the club before proceeding with transfers from another club. The club registrar should be notified of any such vacancies. New players to the club arriving after grading has been completed must be placed in a lower division and assessed by the Grading Committee.

Grading process

Where sufficient players nominate, formal grading sessions are held in the 2-3 week period following registration. Dates, times and locations are published before and on the registration days. The grading process may also include participation in pre-season trial games.

All players must be registered as Colo Soccer Football Club players before they are eligible to take part in grading sessions.

The following is the process to be followed:

- The club committee will, wherever possible, appoint the team coach prior to the commencement of the grading process. However if the Coach has a relative trialling for the team it must be determined by the Grading Panel that the player will be selected before the Coach has input into the team selection. This may mean the Coach might not have input until the second grading session
- A grading panel comprising at least 3 experienced club members is formed for each age group. This will include the team coach (if appointed) and at least one person who are independent of the nominated players.
- Players and parents of junior players will be provided with a letter (see appendix 1) outlining the main aspects of the grading process and the responsibilities of graded players. (See section "Players who are graded" below for more details)
- Players are graded at the grading sessions and/or at pre-season trial games. Each player will be given a grading number. Players/Parents should make a note of this number as it will be the players number, not their names which will be announced on the Colo SFC website. This method has been adopted to comply with Member Protection issues.
- Players are required to attend at least 1 of the first 2 grading sessions plus pre-season trials unless otherwise advised by the grading panel.
- In circumstances where players are of similar ability, selection preference will be given to players who played with the club in the previous football season, and to player's trialling in their correct age group.

- The successful players grading numbers (not their name) will be announced on the Colo SFC website www.colosoccer.com.au Announcement dates will be advised at the last grading session and advertised on the Colo SFC website
- Under no circumstances will any player or parent be advised whether or not a player has made the graded team until teams have been finalised and announced on the website
- The grading panel will promptly advise the Colo SFC Committee the order in which the players have been selected. The Colo SFC Committee will make the final decision taking into account the number of players registered. Once the decision is final the Colo Registrar will be informed so that all other players can be allocated to teams as necessary.
- A player who is unable to attend the scheduled grading sessions, or registers late due to unavoidable circumstances, may apply to the grading panel to be assessed at a later date. If the current team numbers allow, the grading panel will assess the player at a training session or a trial game, and determine if the player is suitable in comparison to the players that were unsuccessful at the grading sessions.
- Where players trial for a specialised position i.e. Goal Keeper should they be selected for that position they cannot then refuse to play the position. In the event of this occurring the player will be demoted to the lower division and the player deemed to be next in line by the grading results will be promoted
- All endeavours will be made to complete the process as quickly as possible and prior to finalisation of team nominations for the upcoming season.

Team Numbers

- Under 11 - A minimum of 9 players and a maximum 13 players will be selected for any graded team.
- Under 12 and above -A minimum of 11 players and a maximum of 16 players will be selected for any graded team.
- When there is insufficient numbers for the non-graded teams in any age group, only the minimum of 11 players will be selected. As registration numbers increase, positions in the graded team may be offered to players that attended grading but were initially unsuccessful,
- When there is sufficient numbers in the non-graded teams, and sufficient numbers attending grading, the number of players selected will be determined in consultation with the Colo Executive Committee and the team coach.

Players who are graded

The following are conditions that graded players and parents will be required to comply with:

- Players and parents are to comply with the club's Code of Conduct.
- 1st division premier teams are expected to participate and represent the local association in state competitions. This may involve travel to other participating districts within NSW.
- Players are selected into a team, not a position the only exception being the Goal Keeper. A player's position may be changed to suit the needs of the team, as determined by the Coach this includes the Goal Keeper.

- Training may be scheduled twice weekly. Players are expected to attend both sessions, wearing appropriate training gear. Appropriate footwear and shin pads are compulsory. Junior players are to be accompanied by at least one parent/carer at training and at games.
- All players are expected to participate positively and enthusiastically at training and comply with the directions of the coach and/or manager.
- If a player continually disrupts a training session the player may be asked to leave that session. If such disruption recurs on a regular basis, the player may be dropped from the team.
- The coach is not to be questioned during the match. The coach may be approached privately after the game has finished.
- Players are obliged to notify the coach/manager as early as possible if they are unable to attend training or a game. It is the responsibility of the parents of junior players to comply with this requirement.
- **Any disputes** regarding either the grading process or unfair treatment of a player during the season should be referred to the committee through the club's disputes process.
- Any issues members have with their children playing under a particular coach must be dealt with before grading/training begins.

Players who are not graded

Players who do not wish to be considered for grading will be placed in non-graded teams by the registrar. Where possible the player's wishes regarding which particular team he or she wants to be placed in will be taken into account. However final team content of non graded teams will be determined by the registrar to satisfy the best interests of the majority.

Disputes and final grading decisions

The club committee makes the final decision regarding any grading matter, in accordance with the normal procedures set down in the club's rules.

Appendix 1 – Letter to be given to parents/players involved in grading

Thank you for attending our grading session. Grading is being undertaken using the guidelines outlined in the club's grading policy which is available on our website.

Listed below are some of the conditions that you are expected to abide by should you/your child be selected to play in the highest division/s for their age group. Should you need any clarification of these conditions please ask prior to the grading session/s.

- Players and parents are to comply with the club's Code of Conduct which is available on the Colo website at www.colosoccer.com.au
- Players are required to attend at least 1 of the first 2 grading sessions plus pre-season trials unless otherwise advised by the grading panel.
- In circumstances where players are of similar ability, selection preference will be given to players who played with the club in the previous football season, and to players trialling in their correct age group.
- The successful players grading number (not their name) will be announced on the Colo SFC website on a date which will be announced at the last grading session and advertised on the Colo SFC website.

- 1st division premier teams are expected to represent the local association in state competitions. This may involve travel to other participating districts within NSW.
- Players are selected into a team, not a position the only exception being the Goal Keeper (see next item). A player's position may be changed to suit the needs of the team, as determined by the coach this includes the Goal Keeper.
- If a player trials for a specialised position i.e. Goal Keeper should they be selected for that position they cannot then refuse to play that position. In the event of this occurring the player will be demoted to the lower division and the player deemed to be next in line by the grading results will be promoted
- Training may be scheduled twice weekly. Players are expected to attend both sessions, wearing appropriate training gear. Boots and shin pads are compulsory. Junior players are to be accompanied by at least one parent/carer at training and at games.
- All players are expected to participate positively and enthusiastically at training and comply with the directions of the coach and/or manager.
- If a player continually disrupts a training session the player may be asked to leave that session. If such disruption recurs on a regular basis, the player may be dropped from the team.
- The coach is not to be questioned during the match. The coach may be approached privately after the game has finished.
- The Coach will endeavour to give equal time over the season
- Players are obliged to notify the coach/manager as early as possible if they are unable to attend training or a game.
- It is the responsibility of the parents of junior players to comply with this requirement.
- Any disputes regarding either the grading process or unfair treatment of a player during the season should be referred to the committee through the club's Disputes process.
- Note that player attitude, team spirit, attendance at training and games will be considered when selecting a player.

Please explain these conditions to your child should he/she be selected.

The Committee,

Colo Soccer Football Club