



**Narrabeen
Football Club**

Grading Policy

This document outlines how Narrabeen FC conducts its annual grading and team formation.

The Narrabeen FC Grading Policy provides the Grading Committee with a clear process to follow, ensuring grading and team formation is conducted professionally, thoroughly, and with integrity.

Why does Narrabeen FC grade players?

As a grassroots club Narrabeen FC recognises that all players want to play football in a safe, fair and enjoyable environment. We also understand that players have very different reasons for playing - there is a very broad range of motivations that we have the responsibility of meeting to ensure that all players enjoy playing football; ranging from those starting their football journey, those who want to play with their friends, to those who want to take it more seriously and play at the highest level possible.

There are multiple reasons why Narrabeen FC undertakes grading of its players including:

- Per MWFA rules grading is compulsory at competition age (U11 upwards) this is above and beyond Narrabeen FC policies and is to ensure that there is fairness and equity for all teams.
- Grading ensures players get maximum enjoyment from playing and training with players that have a similar level of ability.

Below competition age, teams are divided into divisions for the weekly matches – the grading process will assist in ensuring that Narrabeen FC teams are placed in the correct division in line with the team's level of ability to best ensure players get maximum enjoyment and benefit from playing with a team they are best suited to in terms of both the ability of their own team and also against teams of a comparable ability.

Who gets graded?

Registered players who have paid their annual registration fees ahead of formal announced grading days are permitted to participate in player grading.

Grading is compulsory for U11 mixed and women's players to U18 mixed and women's players. Grading is optional for Mixed U8 - U10 and Women's U9 and U10. There is no grading for Mixed U6 and U7 and Women's U7 and U8 aged players.

If a player wants to trial as a goalkeeper please advise the relevant age coordinator at the time of registering on the grading day.



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Grading for non-competition ages

From 2024, a three tier grading and team formation structure was introduced for U8-U11 mixed and U9 - U11 womens players (non-competition age):

Performance Stream - MUST grade

Players selected for this stream will show a high level of ability and meet the required standards in all four (4) core skills and games (as set out at official grading day/s). More than one (1) team could be created in this stream. The Performance Stream will be part of the Narrabeen FC Youth Program where a Football Australia Advanced Licensed Coach (FAALC) will be provided for the team.

- MU8 – MU10 = Red Division
- W9 – W10 = Strong Division
- U11+ & W11 + = Division 1

Development Stream - MUST grade

Players who opt to grade but do not meet Performance Stream required standards, will be placed in the Development Stream with players of comparable ability. The Development Stream aims to improve core skills and prepare players for potential grading into the Performance Stream in the following season.

Players and coaches in the Development Stream can participate in the Narrabeen FC Youth Program to receive support, direction, and up-skilling for coaches of age groups U8 to U13 (Skill Training) and 14+ (Game Training) in a minimum of five (5) sessions with FAALC.

Participation in the Narrabeen FC Youth Program requires coaches to attend MWFA Skill Training & Game Training Certificate Courses.

- MU8 – MU10 = Blue Division or Green Division
- W9 – W10 = Other Division
- U11+ & W11 + = Division 2 or Division 3

Social Stream (NO GRADING)

The social stream is for players who want to be grouped with friends and focus on team development. Through the Narrabeen FC Youth Program, social teams can access at least five (5) sessions with a FAALC to assist with coaching, training plans and skill development, if coaches attend a MWFA Skill/Game Training Course.

- MU8 – MU10 = Green Division
- W9 – W10 = Other Division



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The Narrabeen FC Grading Process

Narrabeen FC's grading process aligns with the FFA National Football Curriculum and includes a number of skill and small-sided game sessions. This will allow coaches to assess players in various game-related scenarios.

The grading assessment will focus on the following four core skills that are identified within the FFA National Curriculum:

- First touch & ball mastery
- Striking the ball (passing & shooting)
- Dribbling & running with the ball
- 1v1s

At the completion of grading days, the grading committee will review grading scores and player assessment reports (provided by prior seasons coach) before forming teams. If the grading committee deems an age group of grading data is too close to distinguish, an additional grading day may be announced. The committee will work with age coordinators to ensure players are placed in the appropriate teams.

The Narrabeen FC Grading Committee

The Narrabeen FC grading process will be supported by a number of FA Accredited Coaches and experienced coaches who form teams after careful consideration of various factors, including registration numbers and in consultation with members of the Narrabeen FC Executive Committee

The main goal of grading remains to enhance the player experience and ensure maximum enjoyment.



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Non-Attendance & Late Registrations

The Performance Stream is only available to players in the mixed U8-U10 and women's U9-U10 age groups who attend grading. Those who do not attend grading may be considered for the Development Streams if a previous coaching report is provided. Attendance at grading is given priority.

If a player is unable to attend grading due to an injury or medical condition, the Grading Committee and/or Executive Committee can decide to grade the player independently if the process allows. The decision will be made on a case-by-case basis and requires evidence of a serious injury or medical condition.

Late registered players will be placed in teams with available positions by the Grading Committee and relevant Age Coordinator, without the opportunity for official grading outside of the designated days.

Appeals Process

If you wish to appeal a decision of the Grading Committee you or your parent/carer must notify the Grading Coordinator by email, details of the issue must be noted and any supporting evidence be provided.

The Grading Committee will review the information provided, the initial assessment and provide a decision within five(5) days.

The Grading Committee's decision is final, no subsequent appeals will be considered

Confidentiality

All assessment information from grading days prior seasons coaches reports will be treated with strict confidentiality.