



Watsonia Warriors Grading and Selection Policy

1. Objective

The objective of the Grading and Selection policy is to maximise participation by all players. The club aims to ensure all players have a rewarding basketball experience whilst providing a pathway for those players looking to progress to a higher and more competitive standard.

2. Scope

This policy describes the processes used for:

- Ability based grading of individual players
- Placement of players into teams
- Initial grading of teams

3. Accountabilities

The processes of grading individual players, placement of players into teams and grading of teams are initially the accountability of the Team Coordinator. Team coaches have no formal role, although the Team Coordinator seeks their feedback in the form of grading and rating players at the end of each season.

The Team Coordinator will present recommended team selections and initial team gradings to the committee for review and endorsement prior to publication. This will be done via a meeting prior to the public announcement of teams. Ownership of final published teams and gradings rests with the committee as a whole rather than any individual member.

4. Ability based grading of individual players

The criteria used for selection of teams at various age groups are as follows:

- Under 8: teams selected primarily based on friendship groups
- Under 10-12: teams selected taking into account both friendship groups and ability based grading
- Under 14-20: teams selected based primarily on ability based grading

At any age group, ability based grading is only applicable where there are sufficient players to form more than one team in that age group.

The Team Coordinator will establish a robust process prior to each season to gather ability based grading information for all players in the relevant age groups. This process may include some or all of:

- Collection of previous playing history via the registration process (especially for new players to the club)
- Establishment of a grading panel for the purposes of:
 - Observation of players in match situations during the current season
 - Observation of players at pre-season try outs
- Discussions with coaches during the current season
- Review of performance statistics from the current season

It is very important that information gathered during this process is kept confidential and remains the property of the Coordinators only.

5. Placement of players into teams

The Team Coordinator will select teams for each age group based on the following criteria:

- Club policy with respect to the size of each team
- Matching ability levels (see Section 4)
- Player friendship groups (lower age groups only)
- Any requirement for early advancement of players
- The need to provide a coach for every team

Requests in relation to team selection made by players and parents will only be considered in rare circumstances. **Specifically, requests made to keep entire teams together between seasons will not automatically be accepted.** Movement of players into and out of age groups each season makes this impractical and does not accommodate players developing at different rates. Participation in different teams over a period of time is seen as an important aspect of player development.

5.1 Team size

Wherever possible, teams will consist of 7 or 8 players. In rare circumstances, and where there is no other option, a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 10 players may be selected in a team. Any variation from 7-8 players will only proceed with endorsement of the committee and consultation with the team coach.

Addition of new players to teams after the competition grading rounds is discouraged and should only occur if the team has less than 7 regular players.

5.2 Matching ability levels

The Team Coordinator should use the outcomes of the player grading process to match the ability levels of all players in each team as closely as possible.

5.3 Friendship groups

Players will have an opportunity to nominate friendship groups when registering to play each season. The Team Coordinator is not bound by these nominations when selecting teams.

5.4 Early advancement

Every effort will be made to select players in teams within their age group. In some circumstances, relating to team balance or individual player ability, the Team Coordinator may select a player in a higher age group. These cases will require approval of the player and their parents and endorsement by the committee.

5.5 Coaches

All incumbent coaches each season should be contacted to establish their intentions to coach the following season before any new appointments are made. The Team Coordinator and Coaches Coordinator have the discretion not to reappoint incumbent coaches. The Team Coordinator has the discretion to select players in different teams in order to provide coaches to all teams.

6. Initial grading of teams

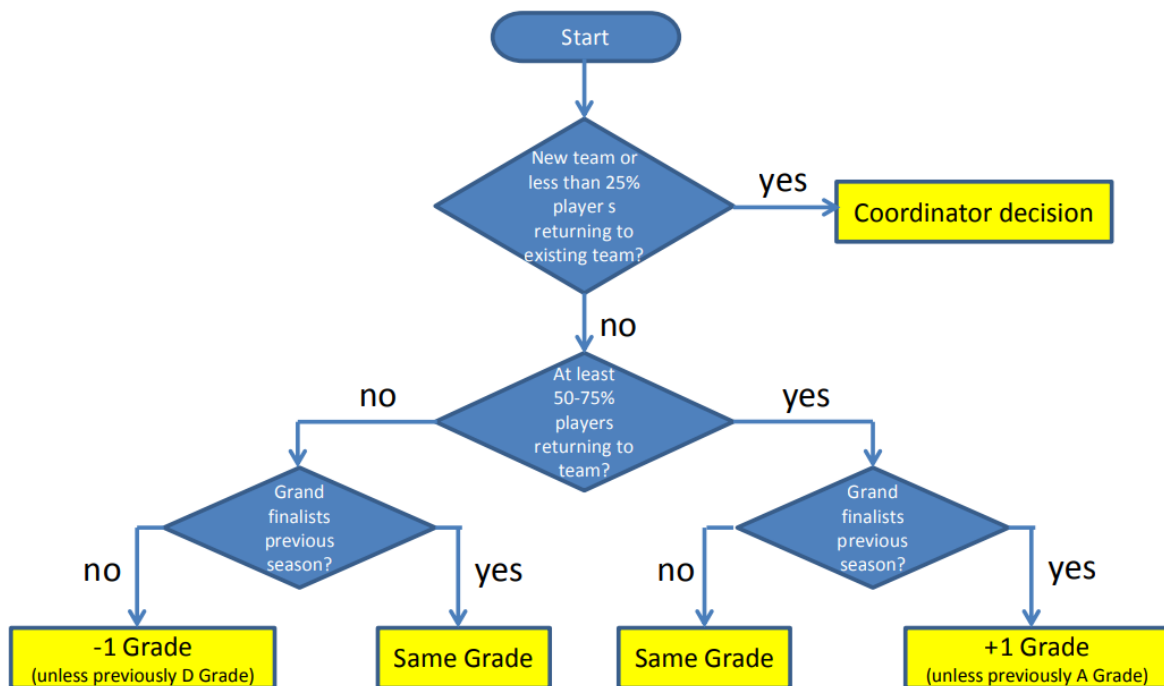
An initial grading will be applied to all teams prior to each season. The objective is for teams to commence each season in the most appropriate grade. Whenever there is doubt, the Team Coordinator is encouraged to err on the side of placing the team in the higher initial grade.

The main criteria to be considered in assigning an initial grade are:

- The performance of teams during the previous season and
- Changeover of players in teams between seasons.

The Team Coordinator should prepare a list of recommended initial gradings for endorsement by the committee before submission to the DVBA. The decision tree below provides a guide that can be used to assign an initial grade to each team. Coordinators can depart from this approach with justification.

The final grade for each team is determined by the DVBA based on results from the grading games.



7. Other items

7.1 Eligibility

To be eligible to take the court, players must complete the registration process and pay any registration due by the dates nominated by the committee. The Team Coordinator will advise coaches of any players selected in teams who do not meet these criteria. Players who have outstanding fees from earlier seasons are not eligible to take the court until the debt is fully discharged.

7.2 Late registrations

Players who register after the registration period has closed (including after the season has commenced) will be placed in a team if a vacancy exists. Late players will be added to a suitable team only if the team has less than eight players and, if the season has already commenced, with the endorsement of the coach. If the team already has eight or more players, late registrations will be placed on a waiting list which may not result in a team placement. The Team Coordinator should advise any players who are on a waiting list.

Fees applicable to registrations received after the season has commenced are as follows:

- Registration fee – full applicable fee
- Game fees – 10% of total games fees for each remaining regular season game up to a total of 100% game fees if there are 10 or more regular season games remaining

7.3 Publication of teams

The Team Coordinator will email families advising which team their child has been selected in. This email will confirm the team, player singlet numbers, coach and training details, uniform information, club social media contacts and any other relevant information.

A separate email will be sent to all confirmed coaches providing them with full contact details for all players,. It is the accountability of Coaches to contact individual players to confirm playing and training requirements.

7.4 Refund of registration fees

Players who are unable to take their place in a team may apply to have their registration fees refunded. The committee will consider the circumstances of each application and make a final decision on whether any refund of registration fees is warranted. The registration fee may be non-refundable, at committee discretion, for any player who withdraws any time after teams are published without good cause (withdrawal due to dissatisfaction with the team selection process is not considered good cause).

7.5 Refund of game fees

Players who are unable to take their place in a team, or withdraw from a team during the season, may apply to have their game fee refunded. The committee will consider the circumstances of each application and make a final decision on whether any refund of game fees is warranted. Typically the absence should be for at least 5 consecutive matches. Where a refund is approved, it should be calculated on the basis of total game fees paid less 10% for every match played.

7.6 Substitute players

To ensure the fielding of competitive teams, coaches are encouraged to request substitute players (subject to any DVBA restrictions), whenever they have less than five regular players available for a match. Coaches requiring a substitute player should use the substitute player matrix provided to them at the start of the season by the Coaches Coordinator, or contact the Coaches Coordinator if they're unable to find a suitable substitute using this method..

The Team Coordinator must be notified of any substitute players to ensure they have the necessary insurance.

7.7 Complaints

Parent/player complaints relating to this policy will only be dealt with after being received in writing by the President. The President will consult with the Team Coordinator and Coaches Coordinator if required and make a final decision. A written response to complaints will be provided within a reasonable time frame.