

Subiaco AFC Grading Policy

Table 1: Version Table

Version	Description	Status
1.0	Initial Version	Submitted for Secretarial Review
2.0	Grammatical errors updated	Submitted for Committee Approval
3.0	Committee Updates	Approved by Committee 06 Jan 2019

Policy Summary:

Grading is conducted for all players wishing to play in one of our 8s – 18s teams, subject to registrations numbers in each age group.

Players in the 5s – 7s age group will be coordinated into teams according to parental assistance, school relationships, friends, requests at registration, and coach availability. There is no grading for 5s-7s players.

Why do we grade?

Subiaco AFC grades players participating in the 8s League and older as we believe that playing football with similarly skilled players maximises not only their enjoyment of the game but also their development potential.

We are a community based, grass roots Club, which provides an excellent opportunity for children to play football and get to know others in their community, not just their school friends. Friend requests are a secondary consideration when allocating players to a team.

The Details

The Technical Coaching Team (Prof Adi Juric and Branko Jelic) will manage the grading process as directed by the Management Committee. The dominant considerations in deciding on team allocations are player competence, determination and enthusiasm. Returning Subiaco AFC players shall be given preference if two players are assessed as similarly skilled.

Players must play in their correct age group, unless permission is granted from the Management Committee.

Should a player (or players) wish to play together, all players will be allocated to the team where the weakest player is graded.

Players may be moved to a different team throughout the season at the discretion of the VP Coaching and Development. The Age Group Coordinator, coaching staff and parents are usually consulted before any such move is finalised.

Detailed Policy:

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Players wishing to play in the 8s-18s age groups shall be graded into teams based on ability level as decided by the Technical Coaching team and the VP Coaching and Development. The Club believes that playing football with similarly skilled players maximises a player's enjoyment of the game and their development potential.

Subiaco AFC is a community based, grass roots Club, which provides the opportunity to play football and get to know others in the community, not just school friends. For this reason, a

player's preference to play with particular friends is a secondary consideration of the grading process.

The Committee is responsible for requesting each team's entry into specific Football West leagues in each Age Group.

Players in the 5-7s age groups are coordinated into teams according to parental assistance, coach availability, and friend requests. There is no grading process for players in these age groups.

2.0 GRADING OBJECTIVES

The fundamentals of grading players ensure that:

- New and existing players are allocated to a team that best suits their ability;
- The possibility of bias is minimised by using the expertise of the Technical Coaching team to decide a player's level;
- All players have optimum opportunity to play in a competitive environment, appropriate to their skill and ability;
- Players learn from their peers and develop an appreciation and love of the game.
- The club can field competitive or 1st teams in each age group;
- There is a clear pathway for players to progress within the club from 5s to 18s, then beyond to Senior Football;
- A club culture takes priority over individual team culture; and
- Players, coaches and parents, have fun, enjoy the season, and return to the Club year after year.

3.0 GRADING SELECTION PANEL

VP Coaching and Development is responsible for co-ordination of the grading process.

Age Group Coordinators provide help with the grading sessions by coordinating players, equipment and paperwork.

Technical Coaching Team shall be led by Prof Adi Juric and Branko Jelic. Additional experienced coaches will be engaged to assist with evaluating players during grading sessions.

Feedback from the preceding season's coaches will also be taken into account when grading.

4.0 GRADING PROCESS AND TIMETABLE

Attendance at the Club's three grading sessions is compulsory for all players in the 8s-18s age groups. Where there are limited player registrations, the Club may decide NOT to conduct specific grading sessions for particular age groups. Instead, players will be graded over a number of training sessions if required.

Grading dates and times will be notified via the Club Newsletter, Facebook posts and the Club website.

All players must be graded and play in the age group in which they are registered. The only exceptions are:

- If the age group has a surplus number of players and the age group above can accommodate those players; or
- Permission to play up an age group has been granted by the Technical Coaching Team.

Players must be registered with Subiaco AFC. Players who are not registered for the current season will not be offered a place in a team.

Each player being graded shall be assessed on skill, attitude and work ethic. Comments and coach reports from the previous season shall be considered. Returning Subiaco AFC players shall be given preference to progress to a higher team if two players are deemed similar.

Should a player (or players) wish to play together, all players will be allocated to the team where the weakest player is graded.

At the conclusion of the grading process, the Grading Selection Panel shall meet to review and discuss the formation and allocation of individual players to each team.

Where practicable, members of the Grading Selection Panel shall not undertake an active role in the grading or allocation of their own child.

At no stage will Subiaco AFC provide a guarantee to any individual player or parent to place children in a team that they believe would be best for their own personal gain or based on their belief of what may be best. The club philosophy is to grade players using the expertise of the Technical Coaching Team. The panel will ensure all players receive fair and equal opportunity. Should players or parents be unhappy with grading decisions, they can go through the Subiaco AFC dispute resolution process where a review will occur to investigate any player or parent dissatisfaction.

No player will be guaranteed placement in a particular team. Player and parent expectations may differ with the Grading Selection Panel and Subiaco AFC will not allow players or parents to discuss an individual player's ability or preferences with individual selectors.

5.0 GENERAL

Once assigned to a team, players will train with their respective coaches. Where possible, the Club will try to ensure that teams from each age group train at the same time and location, to allow interaction between coaches and teams. However this is not always possible due to pitch allocation restrictions and coach availability.

During the season, a player may move between teams at the absolute discretion of the VP Coaching and Development who will consult with the Technical Coaching Team as required. The Age Group Coordinator, Coaching Staff and parents are usually consulted before any such move is finalised.

In the best interest of the players and the Club, the Committee may act outside of this policy in the forming of teams. This may occur in special circumstances and will be at the discretion of the Committee.

6.0 QUESTIONS, APPEALS & SUGGESTIONS

Question or queries regarding the grading process, policy or results should be forwarded via email to the Club Secretary, clearly marked to the attention of the Grading Selection Panel.

Please note that voluntary de-registrations after the grading results have been announced will forfeit the refund of registration fees up to an amount of \$50.00.