

Subiaco AFC Grading Policy

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
4.2	Amendments for 2020 Season	Approved by Committee Jan 2020
4.3	Corrected grammatical error and typo	Approved
4.4	Corrected grammatical error	Approved

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Club believes that playing football with similarly skilled players maximises a player's enjoyment of the game and their development potential. Therefore, 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.

Returning players are only required to attend grading if they wish to be considered for an Academy team or wish to be reassessed.

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.

2.0 GRADING OBJECTIVES

The objectives of player grading are to:

- Allocate new and existing players to a team that best suits their ability;
- Minimise the possibility of bias by using the expertise of the Technical Coaching team to decide a player's level;
- Provide all players with the opportunity to play in a competitive environment, appropriate to their skill and ability;
- Enable an environment where players learn from their peers and develop an appreciation and love of the game;
- Ensure the club can field competitive teams at the most appropriate levels in each age group;
- Provide a clear pathway for players to progress within the club from 5s to 18s, then beyond to senior football; and
- Allow players, coaches and parents to 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.

Team Coaches will be requested to provide feedback on player performance and behavior at the end of each season. This information will also be taken into account when grading players.

4.0 GRADING PROCESS AND DETAILS

Attendance at the Club's promulgated grading sessions is compulsory for the following players:

- ALL players registered in the boys 8s league;
- Players seeking to play in one of our Academy teams in the 9s – 16s age groups;
- Any player wishing to have their level reassessed from the previous season; and/or
- New Subiaco AFC players.

All other players are not obligated to attend grading and will be allocated to a team based on the previous season's allocation and coach feedback. It should be noted that the allocation of players from the previous season's team into the same team may not always be possible due to various reasons.

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 players in our 5s-7s age group.

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.

The number of Academy teams per age group may vary and is subject to registration numbers in each age group, coach availability and other factors. Academy players from the previous season who do not attend grading will be allocated to the highest non-Academy team.

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 additional players; or
- Permission to play up an age group has been granted by the Technical Coaching Team.

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

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, determination, enthusiasm and work ethic. Comments and coach reports from the previous season shall be considered. Returning Subiaco AFC players shall be given preference if two players are assessed as similarly skilled.

Players who cannot attend a grading session shall contact their Age Group Coordinator via email to explain the reason for their absence. Where possible, the Club will endeavor to take that player's previous performance into account.

Should two or more players wish to play together, those 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.

Before or during the grading process, no player will be guaranteed placement in a particular team. Player and parent expectations may differ with the Grading Selection Panel, however the Grading Selection Panel has absolute discretion in allocating players to specific teams. The Club philosophy is to grade players using the expertise of the Technical Coaching Team. The Grading Selection Panel will ensure all players receive fair and equal opportunity in allocating players to teams.

5.0 GENERAL

Once assigned to a team, players will commence training 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 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

Questions, suggestions 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 has commenced will forfeit the refund of \$50.00 of registration fees per player.