

BRIARS NETBALL CLUB

(version 3; February 2021)

TEAM GRADING POLICY

1. Why do we offer grading as an option?

We participate in the Inner West Netball Association competition. From the age of 10 it is a graded and competitive sport. In the initial days of Briars Netball Club it was not necessary to grade due to the small number of teams. Since 2018 BNC has graded the incoming u10 players who choose to grade due to the increased number of teams and the requirement to field a competitive division 1 team. Grading is not compulsory as we believe players who wish to remain in their team of friends of varying abilities should be able to do so. As such we are able to provide players with aspirations of playing in higher divisions or more competitive environments to be given that opportunity, whilst allowing those players who do not wish to be graded from having to be.

Please note that grading for age groups 11 + is at the discretion of the Executive Committee based on the number of players registered. It is reviewed each year.

2. Our commitment

Our club supports an open and fair process for the grading of teams. Grading will be based on clear criteria that are communicated with all eligible players prior to the season commencing.

3. What we will do

3.1 Criteria

Grading decisions will be based primarily on performance at the grading session, however they will also consider:

- attendance at competition, training and club / team events (commitment)
- good sportsmanship (values)
- abiding by our club's Code of Behaviour on and off the field (behaviour).

In addition, players or athletes:

- must be financial members of the club as of the close of registration for the current winter competition

- may be precluded from selection if there is a concern about their ability to compete safely or if their participation poses a risk to others.
- In the grading intention form, the player must nominate 3 positions that they would like to try for

3.2 Process

- a) Eligible players will be informed in writing of the dates, location and criteria for team selection via email and/or BNC website.
- b) Payment of registration fees will be completed prior to participation in the grading process.
- c) All BNC teams participate in a competitive association competition and as such, those players being graded will participate knowing that BNC will appoint them to a team based at their appropriate skill and competitive abilities.
- d) The On Court Grading Committee and Grading Administrators will be appointed by the Executive committee and will be responsible for pre-season selection decisions.
- e) The Executive, through the Grading Committee, are responsible for the grading of players and the allocation of players to teams. The Executive are responsible for the allocation of non-graded players and appointment of all coaches to graded teams. No individual player will be guaranteed a position on a team or a coach allocation.
- f) The minimum age that any player can grade for is that age that they are turning or have turned during the competition year (i.e.: If they are turning 11 during the competition year, they will have to trial for the age 11 team).
- g) Exception to age restriction:
 - I. The minimum age for any player to be graded is 9 years of age (being the age they will turn during the relevant competition year) as there is no possibility for a player of 9 to be graded for that age.
 - II. Any player who is 9 or turning 9 during the relevant competition year will be aware that the first preference for team selection will be players turning 10 during the relevant competition year. It will only be if that 9 year old displays exceptional skill, or there are insufficient numbers of players, that the 9 year old would be graded into the 10 year old team.
 - III. Any player grading for 11+ age groups: When grading is offered for these ages, a player is eligible to grade for an age above their competition age. The player will be aware that first preference for team selection will be for players of the same competition age. If a player displays exceptional skills, or there are insufficient numbers of players, that younger player may be graded into an older competition age team.
 - IV. Concerns about team selection should be discussed with a member of the Executive or Member Protection Officer in the first instance. If these concerns cannot be resolved and the player believes s/he has not been treated in accordance with the selection policy a written letter of complaint may be forwarded to the Executive Committee.

- h) The minimum number of players required for grading is 10 for each age group. Only in exceptional circumstances will grading take place with less than 10 players (eg: if there is a position in a previously graded team that needs to be filled and there are multiple players available for that one position grading may be held for a smaller number of players).

4. Grading Personnel

The Grading Committee consists of volunteers who act in good faith and have the best interests of the child as an important consideration in the process

The On Court Grading Committee will be overseen by an experienced member of the Executive. The Grading Committee will include experienced personnel from within BNC, notably the coaching co-ordinator, an experienced Briars junior team coach and a third independent selector who will provide their knowledge and impartiality to the committee to assess the players. If there are a higher number of players grading, extra selectors will be used. There will also be Grading Administrators from within the BNC Committee to ensure consistency, impartiality and transparency of the grading process.

4.1 Observations

The On Court Grading Committee will make observations of the following skills:

- Footwork
- Speed
- Agility
- Ball handling
- Attack skills
- Defence skills
- Ability to read the game
- Sportsmanship and attitude

All notes and records kept in relation to the grading process will remain confidential and will not be disclosed to any person outside the Grading Committee.

4.2 Coaches

All coaches of BNC are volunteers. Coaches are encouraged to follow the '*BNC Coaching Handbook*' and will receive the support of the Committee in relation to decisions made about team selection once the season commences.

5. What we ask you to do

5.1 Grading Administrator

- Ensure that each player is registered on the grading day.
- Ensure that each player is dressed appropriately.
- Allocate randomised numbers to the players, writing them on player's arm and leg.
- Keep records of the allocated number and player.
- Ensure players parents/ guardians have signed the Grading Confidentiality Form.

5.2 Selection committee

- Ensure players and parents/ guardians are informed about and understand the grading criteria and processes
- Make fair and unbiased decisions based on the grading criteria.
- Do not use players names during the grading process, please use their allocated number.
- Where there is a conflict of interest during the grading process (eg: child of a parent on the grading committee) that member of the grading committee will be excused from grading that age group and a suitable replacement will be allocated at the discretion of the Executive.

5.3 Players

- Wear your BNC Training t-shirt or a plain coloured shirt (no rep shirts please)
- Wear pants that are suitable to exercise in – running shorts or leggings. Strictly NO DENIM.
- Wear appropriate footwear, preferably netball shoes with tread on the soles.
- Bring 2 bottles of water with you.
- Make yourself familiar with the selection criteria and clarify any concerns with the club prior to trials.
- Talk with your coach about any concerns and seek feedback about how to improve your performance.
- Abide by the Player Code of Conduct.
- Have fun with the experience!



Grading Policy Acknowledgement

I, _____, the parent/ guardian of _____
have read and understood the policy and will abide by it as a member of Briars Netball Club.

Parent/guardian: _____

Signature:

Date: