

## **MOSMAN NETBALL CLUB – GRADING & PLAYER DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

Revised Oct 2024

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This document provides information and directions for Grading, Player Development and Competition Court Time.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Since 2019 Mosman Netball Club has introduced an independent Grading program that has been run by independent and qualified selectors. We are focused on player development over time and what will suit the individual and team environment as they grow over their time in the Junior division.

The goal of Grading is to achieve enjoyable competitive teams that hold a balanced group of players in playing positions and ability levels.

Mosman Netball Club's grading process is applicable to our **JUNIOR DIVISION (Namely U10-15 age groups)** and is a compulsory requirement of the Club.

Registration fees must be paid in full before attending Grading events. Payment of your registration fee is acceptance of the Grading Player Development Policy. All decisions of the Grading Selection Panel Committee will be final.

- SENIORS (15 years and above) – individual grading is not required every year. This is due to the smaller number of registrations and our prior knowledge of players and their formatted teams. Any change to this will be advised accordingly.
- INTERMEDIATE & OPEN A GRADE PATHWAY TEAMS - the Club will preference open trials for those interested players to form identified competitive pathway teams - Eg; Intermediate Division 1 and teams entered into the A4-A1 divisions - this will be as required/determined by the Club each season.
- NETSETGO (7-9 years) is an ungraded competition and does not require grading. Teams are formed on an informal friendship basis (refer NSG section on our website for more information)
- From the 2025 season, all players must turn 9 in their final season of NSG, if a player is young for their peer group they will remain in NSG and form a team with others in the same situation.
- Players must be turning 10 in the year of play to progress into the U10 Junior Competition.

### **The Mosman Netball Club Grading & Player Development Policy will ensure that:**

1. For grading purposes, every child is treated as an individual club member, irrespective of previous team or grade.
2. Every child has a fair and equal opportunity in grading assessment
3. Teams are formed based on a spread of positional requirements for each team and the potential development of a player across those positions.

## GRADING PROCESS

In forming teams, MNC Grading committee take into consideration:

- individual play observed at practical grading
- player fitness and agility
- ball skills
- balance / coordination
- teamwork
- attitude
- physical attributes relative positional and team requirement, against skill sets
- Coaching reports (PAS reports are prepared by all Coaches at the end of every season and are used in the following seasons team formation)
- previous season's final result standings for the team.
- achieving a balance of defense, centre court and goal shooter players.
- Note: Grading is influenced by the number and ages of players registered with Mosman Netball Club (MNC / the Club) and strict requirements set by NSNA.

A comprehensive 3 step process is undertaken during our Grading process.

**STAGE 1:** Individuals nominate 2 positions (at the time of registration) to be considered during Grading. Selectors ensure players are trialed in their 2 nominated positions at a minimum during this first Grading session. If a player misses session 1 selectors will make their considerations as part of Stage 2 - players may not get to trial in both positions during that stage and will be placed where their skill sets match the standard of teams being formed.

Skill levels are assessed through a combination of drills, match play opportunities and other means required to select teams to play at a particular level of competition and provide development opportunities for all players.

**STAGE 2:** This final phase sees teams formed and match play undertaken to assess appropriate combinations of talent for a particular grade and age group.

This stage can be conducted in segments to maximize the court time available to participants; half of the group formed to attend earlier followed by the other later in the session. The format and timings determined by the selection panel.

- Players are expected to attend all grading sessions to ensure their individual and team skills are on display.
- Teams are typically formed with Goalers, Centre Court and Defence Circle in mind with interest in a player's ability to play across like positions.

Other Considerations:

- If a player is unavailable to attend Grading, the player or parent / guardian must notify the Director of Coaching in writing ASAP. Placement into a team for this player will then be estimated by way of previous grade and previous coach feedback and any other available information.
- In some circumstances for absent players, they may not be placed into a team until the selectors are satisfied with the match of skill and grade - this will be assessed at training
- Withdrawing a child because parental dissatisfaction has a knock-on effect that is unfair to other players. It also may preclude that child from registering with MNC the following season.

- Special Requests from individual players must be submitted in writing at the time of registration stating the extenuating circumstance.
- We are unable to accept whole teams registering together for reasons of friendship in a graded competition.
- We encourage our players to accept their team and make new friends. We find that once the season starts, children usually settle in and enjoy playing netball with their new team even if it is made up of girls they didn't previously know. New friendships are part of team sporting experience and often these new friends become friends for life.
- Please also consider that any indication of position preference at registration is no guarantee that a player will be selected to play in that position or that the team's coach will choose to play them in that position.
- The Club maintains that netball is a team sport and each player contributes in equal measure to the success or otherwise of a team. The support of parents in accepting these conditions is greatly encouraged to avoid any disappointment to our young players.

## **GRADING DISPUTE**

A grading dispute may be lodged in writing within 24 hours of teams being announced. All responses must be made on an individual basis. Formal documentation must be emailed to the Director of Coaching via email [coaching@mosmannelball.com.au](mailto:coaching@mosmannelball.com.au) outlining your specific concern and evidence to verify your request.

Submissions will be reviewed individually and a response granted within 72 hours.

- Withdrawing your daughter due to grading disagreement jeopardizes the entire team's registration since NSNA accepts only teams holding a minimum of 8 players.
- Withdrawal not only disrupts the team but also the grading process and committee efforts - hence withdrawing your child can preclude your daughter's registration with MNC the following year.
- The registration fee is non-refundable under these circumstances.

## **PLAYER DEVELOPMENT**

Under our Player & Coaching Development Program, our focus is the ongoing development of players - today they may be Goal Attack and next season possibly a Wing Attack or Centre. It's important we explore the very best opportunities for the player, hence selections using the Netball Australia player pathway may see a player selected earlier for their forecast future positions.

An example of this is where we see a large number of Centre Court players with higher skill sets competing for the highest grade, the few ranked the highest will be placed in the first team and others the second team and so on to play centre court positions. Those showing skills and potential to most likely develop as Goalers and/or Circle Defenders are then placed accordingly.

We believe players must learn and play with the skills required in at least 2 positions, preferably "like" positions (C/WA/WD or GS/GA etc).

All players are introduced to, and educated in, the strength and conditioning Netball Australia Knee Program during their training and match preparation, this specifically nurtures and develops all players and helps prepare them for a safe and injury free netball playing future. Group warm up and learning practices are part of our culture promoting unity and strength of friendship across all age groups.

Specialist sessions are often provided throughout the season outside regular training times, this may be on another day or before/after a training session - we encourage all players to participate where possible.

## **COURT TIME**

1. A player who does not attend the training session or arrives late prior to a competition match (sick/injured/other activity), does not automatically start the competition match - the Coach has the right to make this decision depending on the availability of all other players for the match. Given a team will have practiced and prepared for the upcoming match during the training session, they should be given the opportunity to start with those players in the first instance.
2. Players can expect to play a minimum of a half game in any regular season match. Games that are being clearly won or lost in the view of the Coach will see these players receive additional court time.
3. It is recognized that 1 or 2 players may not be at the standard of the others in a team - attention to their further development at training will be a focus to promote additional match time, this is a player and coach responsibility.
4. Semi Finals - the above applies.
5. Grand Final - All players will take the court for at least 1/4.