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Grading Guidelines 4th September 2017

Aims and Objectives

Impalas Netball Club is committed to ensuring team grading is conducted fairly and effectively, and in the best interests of the Club and its players.

The intent of these guidelines are to:

* Establish teams of similar skills and abilities
* Allow teams to play in a suitably competitive environment
* Allow Impalas to be represented in all ages and grades as per BHSNA
* Allow the opportunities for individuals to be eligible for BHSNA representation

Impalas also acknowledge that players enjoy playing with friends. It is therefore envisaged that most players should be able to be placed in a team that includes at least one, if not more, friends of similar ability. Impalas also recognise that playing outside these friendship groups is a great opportunity to meet new friends.

The policy will ensure that:

1. For grading purposes, every child is treated as an individual club member, irrespective of previous team, grade or club.
2. Every child has an equal opportunity.

*Note: If a child played the previous year, their coach for that year will have submitted feedback on each member of that team. In the circumstance that there are players new to the club, more court time may be allocated to them to allow for more accurate grading to occur.*

Playing Out Of Their Age Group

The general policy of the Club is that all players play within teams of their own age group (Age is calculated as of 31st December of the playing season.)

However, on occasion, there may be exceptions to this rule.

During grading, should the Graders identify a player of exceptional talent for whom a team of similar ability does not exist within their own age group, then that player may be offered the opportunity to play in a higher age group.

In addition, should the Club have insufficient player registrations in adjacent age groups to form full teams, players may be requested to play up an age group in order to form a team of composite age. In such instances, the players asked to play up an age group will be selected based on them being of similar ability to the other players in the team in which they will be placed.

A player may request to be graded in an older age group in order to play with players in the same year level at school. Such a request is only to be denied if the Club has insufficient player registrations in that player’s correct age group to form a full team without that player, or too many players in the older age group.

Grading Day

An official Grading Day will be scheduled by the Club. In the case of bad weather a back up date may be scheduled.

For relevant Club members the Grading Day will be advised in advance on the website.

Three independent graders will be appointed to grade players on the day, with outcomes to be provided to the Grading Committee. Advice may also be sought from the coaches of previous teams. Members of the Grading Committee will be invited to attend the Grading Day.

Grading includes a number of on-court games.

Players presenting for Grading shall be formed into teams for the purposes of this on-court game.

Each grading team shall be watched by the three (3) independent graders.

**Players shall nominate when registering which area of the court they prefer to play in - goals, midcourt or defence. However, this does not mean that when placed in a team they will play in this area of the court. Players may also be asked to trial in other positions, either to make up a team, or because the Graders would like to see how they perform in those positions. Graders will create as balanced team as possible.**

For a number of reasons, it may not be necessary for all players to play an identical numbers of quarters.  
Graders will judge players on fitness, skills, performance, teamwork and attitude on a point system (1-5) and will also write comments relating to their play.

Grading Criteria

In assessing the overall skills of a player within an age group, the Grading Committee will take into account:

* Ball Handling Skills
* Attacking Skills
* Defending Skills
* Perception/Cognition Skills
* Sportsmanship and Attitude
* Footwork
* Speed and agility

The outcome of the grading session is to develop teams of A, B, C or D standard for each age grade for submission to BHNAS There is no guarantee that BHNAS will accept our team grading.

A player must make every effort to attend the Grading Day. If a player does not attend this Grading Day and there is no further scheduled grading session, then placement into a team for this player will be based upon:

1. Coach’s Evaluation (for existing players)
2. Observation by Head Coach and/or Team Coaches at the nominated training session prior to the start of the season.
3. Discussion with committee members from previous club if available