

**Kissing Point Netball Club**  
**Grading Policy and Grading Process**

**Background:**

Kissing Point Netball has adopted a Grading Policy whereby players will be graded into teams based on their ability/skill level, attitude and commitment.

Kissing Point Netball recognises that players have a variety of motives to play netball and possess a range of skills and ability. The primary focus of our club is the development of players in conjunction with their overall playing ability (which comprises skill level, fitness and attitude) giving all players the chance to play in a team which will allow them to develop their skills.

The intent of these guidelines is to outline the selection process of players into a team that is administered fairly and consistently and in a manner appropriate to all members of Kissing Point Netball.

**General**

The aim of grading is to select teams that are competitive for their grade and provide an enjoyable season for the players.

Grading is compulsory for all players aged 9-17yrs playing in the Age Grades (9, 10, 11 and 12 years), Intermediates and Cadets. Individual players will be evaluated on their skills and abilities to ensure they are graded into the most suitable team available.

For players aged 6-8yrs playing in the modified program NetSetGO it must be remembered that this program is meant to be a learning ground. It is intended for the younger players to have fun while developing skills.

**Forming teams**

Ideally numbers of players placed in a team will allow maximum court time for all players in the grade. Kissing Point Netball endeavors to have a min of 7 players and a max of 10 players in any one team.

Several factors can affect team formation:

- Number of players in each age group
- Balance of positions in a team (ie shooting, mid court, defence)
- Representative players' restrictions as per KNA by-laws

**NetSetGO (6 - 8 yrs)**

Players will be placed in teams with their friends where possible within their age group.

**9 yrs to 17 yrs**

Kissing Point Netball will grade all players 9 -17 yrs based on their ability. This ensures that players are playing at a level appropriate to their skill level, which should ensure that they get maximum enjoyment from their netball.

KNA Round Robin for 9yr olds - once teams are selected all 9yr old teams are required to attend the KNA 9yrs grading day

**Seniors**

It is anticipated that most senior teams will be registered as an entity. If, however there are players who do not have a team, players will be placed into teams based on ability, age, or numbers. If required, a grading session will be conducted to evaluate new senior player's ability and to determine appropriate team level.

Grading is to be organized by the Kissing Point Netball Grading Convenor(s) who will appoint graders who may be internal Kissing Point and/or external graders. The graders may have prior grading/selection/coaching or senior playing experience. The Convenor(s) and the graders are responsible for the placement of players into teams based on a player's ability, and the best interests of that player and the club.

**All players must be registered before attendance at grading sessions.**

Following the close of on-line registration, a review is conducted of the number of players per age group, the number of teams likely to be formed and the spread of preferred positions (as included in the online registration form). Playing grids are developed to ensure all players take court in the grading session games in their preferred positions against players of a similar level where possible. Players arriving late, leaving early or changing preferences without adequate notification to the Grading Convenor(s) makes the fair rotation for all players more difficult. Please notify the Registrar or Grading Convenor(s) if you are unable to attend a grading session or will be late or need to leave early.

Players will normally be graded into their appropriate age group (as at 31 Dec) and must attend the grading session for their age group (unless advised otherwise), however players may be selected for older age teams if appropriate or numbers require at the discretion of the club and following discussion with the player's parents.

Teams that are successful one year will not necessarily remain together the following year – this should be understood clearly at Junior levels due to the nature of change and development of all players from season to season.

**Grading Sessions:**

**Grading sessions are compulsory - All players must attend the nominated grading sessions if possible.**

We do however understand that some people may not be able to attend due to circumstances out of their control. We wish to emphasise that grading is one of the most essential components in preparing for a successful season and players should be aware that it is to their advantage to be seen by our graders as much as possible. Players who do not attend either grading days will be placed in a team based on paper grading. If you are unable to attend grading session(s) you must notify the Registrar and Grading Convenor(s) as soon as possible prior to the day.

On grading days, Kissing Point Netball committee members will be in attendance. Their role is to confirm players preferred positions and co-ordinate players for each game and to liaise with the Grading Committee when necessary. They will be your contact point on grading day, parents and players should NOT approach the graders. If you have any concerns, please raise them as soon as possible so they may be addressed.

Participation at Grading Day is acceptance of this policy.

Confidentiality of grading information.

KP does not release to any parent, player or KP committee member not involved in grading any information that may be considered sensitive contained in any documents/communication that a KP volunteer has generated, including but not limited to grading and coaching reports/comments. The information generated by coaches and graders needs to be an open and honest assessment of players and potentially making public this sensitive information would limit their comments and undermine the effectiveness of the grading process.

### Grading Process

Grading is organized by the Grading Convenor(s) and carried out by a Grading Committee setup by the Grading Convenor(s) and is based on some or all of the following components.

#### Previous Season Observations:

During the previous season the Grading Committee or their representative may have observed players during their games.

#### Previous Season Coaches' Reports/Comments:

Coaches at the end of each season may be asked to complete a report detailing player position preference; strengths and weakness; general ability and attitude. Alternatively, coaches may also be contacted during or after the season for information on any of their players. All coaches' reports/comments remain confidential.

#### Age-related grading sessions:

Following registration, all registered "age" players (9yrs to 17yrs playing in the 9yrs to cadet grades) are required to attend grading sessions.

Grading sessions will consist of a series of short games. Players will take the court at least twice. We endeavor to place players in their preferred positions as nominated on-line at least once. Players may be asked to play in a position that is not their preference at some point based on coaches reports or at Grading Convenor(s) discretion.

Player's ability against other players of their own age group are assessed based on some or all of the following:

- Ball handling (passing/catching) skills
- Attacking skills
- Defending skills
- Goal shooting (if relevant)
- Footwork and movement
- Positional play / understanding of game

During these sessions, graders may request to observe specific players in specific positions against other players to assist in their review of players.

Following the initial grading session for each age group, a review is undertaken of grading results and new draft team lists and grids are compiled for the second session should it be required.

### Late Registrations

Late registrations will only be accepted if there is a vacancy in an appropriate team and at the discretion of the Kissing Point Registrar and Grading Convenor(s).

Any players new to Kissing Point who are registering late must be seen by graders prior to inclusion in a team. They will only then be considered for placement in a team. If they have requested to play in a particular team, then they will only be placed there if they are up to the standard and they are not taking the place of a returning KPNC player who may otherwise have been moved into that team. Any players who have played previously with KPNC who are registering late may be placed in a team based on previous history or may require to be seen by graders prior to inclusion in a team.

### Team announcements

Teams will be announced via our website [kissingpointnetball.com.au](http://kissingpointnetball.com.au).

### Team Placement Review

It is hoped that players and parents appreciate the difficulty of grading and accept the decision of the grading committee. However, if any player or parent is not satisfied with the decision of the grading committee they may make a submission in writing requesting a review of the decision.

This request must be made in writing within 2 days of the team lists being posted and be sent to:

Grading Convenor(s): [ramthist@bigpond.com](mailto:ramthist@bigpond.com) or [dahdahr@hotmail.com](mailto:dahdahr@hotmail.com)

No team placement reviews will be discussed over the phone. All reviews will be discussed by the Grading Convenor(s) and appropriate graders and relevant Kissing Point Committee member(s) and will be responded to in writing. The decision of the Grading Committee and Kissing Point Committee will be final.

### Deregistration

Players are not eligible for refunds should they choose to de-register due to dissatisfaction with team placement.

Refunds for other reasons for de-registering are subject to registration refunding at the discretion of the Kissing Point Committee.

All de-registration requests with reason, must be in writing and sent to Kissing Point Registrar ([tina@tritton.me](mailto:tina@tritton.me)).

### Suggestions on grading improvements

This is a guide for players and parents on the current grading process and the level of effort and thought involved with grading of Kissing Point's junior players.

The grading information is a working document being constantly reviewed and updated. If you wish to provide feedback or suggest improvement of the grading process, please send comments to the Grading Convenor(s): [ramthist@bigpond.com](mailto:ramthist@bigpond.com) or [dahdahr@hotmail.com](mailto:dahdahr@hotmail.com)