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| C:\Users\pgallagher\Documents\St Patricks FC\2015\Logos\St Patricks Logo 2014-corrected OUTLINED.jpg St Patricks Football Club  Sutherland  Operational Guideline | Document Number: 1.1 |
| Document Name: Grading Guidelines Mini Roos |
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| Approved by: Executive Committee |

GRADING GUIDELINES

1. Purpose

The committee has the care and responsibility for the club in the grading of its players. These guidelines are designed to address player and club needs, some of which invariable conflict.

The fundamentals of the grading guidelines are designed to ensure;

1.1 That a clear process for the grading of new and existing players exists

1.2 Any bias is minimised by using a grading committee which is endorsed by the Club executive and where possible an independent assessor from the SSFA (Sutherland Shire Football Association)

1.3 That the grading process provides players with an equal opportunity to demonstrate their skill and ability

1.4 Where possible players are placed in their correct age group and grade and are able to participate in games commensurate with both their football skill and physical development and are able to continue to develop their football ability without undue pressure

1. Scope

It is important for players to be given the opportunity to experience a team sport and have fun. Care must be taken to cater for those who have less ability than others but still enjoy the game

2.1 In the Under 6’s and Under 7’s the emphasis is on being given the opportunity to participate and develop friendships rather than assess a child’s ability

2.2 As children progress from Under 8’s to Under 16’s St Patrick’s FC will focus more on a player’s ability and grade children accordingly

2.3 The decision to grade is to allow each player to grow and advance as footballers. Selecting players of like ability in the same team allows coaches and managers to design specific skills for that team

2.4 Past experience has shown that it is frustrating for any individual to play in a team which is clearly above or below their level of ability

2.5 Grading must help all players of all abilities.

3.0 Grading Process

3.1 There will be no grading or trials for Under 6’s and Under 7’s, but instead a team allocation/orientation day

3.2 Players in the Under 6’s and Under 7’s will be placed in teams within their peer groups, friends or school colleagues. For players who are not part of a pre organised team the club registrar will ensure that every player is allocated appropriately to a team.

3.3 The team allocation day/orientation is for players and parents to meet each other as well as for the club to orientate children and parents to the club and answer any questions

3.3 Grading of players in age groups Under 8’s to Under 16’s will be dependent upon the number of players registered. If there is enough players for one team only then a formal process of grading would not be required, however a grading type process may be required in order for the club to better understand what grade a team should be nominated to play in.

3.4 If an age group has enough players registered to form more than 1 team then it will be necessary for the club to grade players in each of those age groups.

3.5 Where possible the club will make every attempt to enter gender specific teams (all boys and all girls’ teams)

3.6 At the conclusion of each season coaches are requested to complete a player summary that evaluates an individual’s skill and ability throughout the year. The coaches will also be asked to recommend a grade that they believe each player would be suited for the next season.

3.7 These assessments will be used as guide only in the following seasons grading process as young player’s ability, skill and strength can develop dramatically during the off season

4.0 Friendship Teams

The club acknowledges that there are many players that would like to continue to play with friends and do not wish to be graded in a higher grade. If there is sufficient numbers in an age group to form a friendship team then this should be discussed with the club’s registrar prior to grading. Friendship teams are still required to attend grading so that the grading committee are able to assess a suitable grade for the team to nominate to the association. However friendship teams may not be possible if the level of ability of players in the proposed team is significantly diverse.

In addition Friendship teams may not be possible because as players move through age groups the number of players required to fill a team increases from the number of players that were in that age group in the previous year

5.0 Sibling Grading

If there are siblings all playing in the same age group and they need to play in the same team, then each child will be assessed on their own ability. If all siblings are of similar skill level then it is very likely that all will be graded in the same team. If any sibling demonstrates a higher level of ability than another it is likely the siblings will be graded into different teams. If siblings are graded into different teams and this is inconvenient to the parents/guardians and they would like the children to remain in the same team then the siblings will be placed in the grade where the sibling with the lesser ability was allocated. The grading committee should be advised prior to grading commencing if parents/guardians want siblings in the same team.

6.0 Playing up a Grade

Some players may want to be considered for a team in a higher age group. The club recognises that this may be the case for a number of reasons and asks that players wishing to play up advise the registrar at registrations.

There may be occasions where there are not enough players registered in a particular age group to form a team or teams. Depending on the age groups that are affected the club may be required to combine a lower age group with a higher age group. If this may be the case all parents will be informed accordingly. It is likely that the grading session/s will need to be combined.

As per the Sutherland Shire Football Association Rule book, players who qualify by year of birth to register to play in age divisions up to and including Under 16 cannot register to play in an age group more than two (2) years older than the age they turn by the 31st December

7.0 Players not able to attend Grading Days

Players that are unable to attend or be assessed at the grading session/s will be assigned to a team at the discretion of the Assessment team

**8.0 Method**

The Grading days will be nominated prior to registration and published on the club website. Players are graded in the appropriate age group with assessments being conducted over two sessions. All players must make every effort to attend grading.

The Management Committee will establish the grading committee to manage grading days and will invite senior club members and/ or experienced players and coaches to be assessors along with the clubs technical director. One member of the Management Committee will serve as an independent and advisor to the grading committee as well as to ensure that process remains fair and equitable and no nepotism exists. Coaches will not be allowed to participate in the grading process but may be approached by a member of the grading committee to elicit specific information about a specific player or team should the need arise.

Player Grading will be a two stage process consisting of Basic Skills assessment and Game Play. The following skills are assessed and consist of four categories

* First Touch
* Running with the ball
* 1 v 1
* Striking the ball

Game Play Assessment will involve players participating in small sided games played on a reduced size field relevant to the age group being assessed.

The assessor/s will be observing the following

* Positioning
* Communication
* Decision making
* Competitiveness

Players will score points in each skills criteria and game assessments on a scale of 1 (Poor) – 5 (Excellent). The scores are summed and a total score calculated. All players in the age group are given a score and the players are placed into teams based on highest to lowest. Players are then placed into a team, according to the likely best fit between the player’s skills, abilities, and the requirements of the team/s.

**9. Grading Decisions**

In the end the grading of players is an opinion. Some player’s will stand out which is usually due to an early physical or personal skill development. It is the requirement of the club to grade players each year so every player has the opportunity to progress. It is important to note that junior players differ in their ability and move through the various stages of development at different rates. The club encourages parents and players not to focus on which team a player is in, rather on the player’s own soccer development. The aim of the club is to grade players as fairly as possible.

Some parents place undue pressure on their children expecting them to always be in the top team. We suggest parents help their children through the grading process by being supportive. Our request is that, in cases where a parent is in disagreement with the end result, they accept the final decision of the club officials. We ask that you trust our ability and honesty in selections.

10. Assessment Appeal

A parent/guardian is able to appeal their child’s grade if in their opinion their child has been incorrectly graded. The appeal must be made in writing to the club committee within 7 days of the announcement of the team. The appeal should be emailed to [secretary@stpatricksfc,com.au](mailto:secretary@stpatricksfc,com.au) and will be discussed at the next committee meeting. The decision of the committee will be final and a response will be provided to he parent/guardian informing them of the outcome of their appeal