

St. Thomas More Netball Club

Grading Policy



1. INTRODUCTION

STM NC is committed to providing a safe, enjoyable and inclusive environment to maximise individual participation in netball. Our Club believes that playing netball should be a positive experience which contributes to a life-long love of playing sport as well as providing a sense of community.

Grading and team selection are conducted in order to create STM Netball Club WINTER teams that participate in the Frankston District Netball Association (FDNA) competition running from March until September (winter season).

2. PURPOSE OF GRADING

The purposes of grading are:

- i) to enhance the enjoyment of each player's game and development;
- ii) to ensure all players feel valued as STM Netball Club members, regardless of previous experience or personal attributes, such as gender or ability;
- iii) to establish balanced teams of similar skills and ability, and
- iv) to allow players/teams to play in a suitably competitive environment.

Grading Sub-Committee (or President if one is not appointed), may invite additional individuals, including non-members of the Club, to assist in the task of grading and team selection.

3. THE GRADING PROCESS

In order to form teams, the Grading Sub-Committee will consider all of the following factors:

- i) performance at the Practical Skills Assessment/Grading Day(s);
- ii) court position and team balance;
- iii) having someone that is known to each player e.g. previous teammate/school friend
- iv) coach feedback from the season prior
- v) attitude and commitment to matches and training, and
- vi) the number of players registered within each age category.

Discussions (if required) may occur between previous coaches and the Grading Sub-Committee members on a case-by-case basis to ensure that player wellbeing is upheld, should a player be

required to move teams.

4. GRADING OF EACH AGE GROUP

NON- COMPETITIVE

NetSetGo

These players play by competition rules, but do not accrue competition points nor play a Final series.

Players playing NetSetGo are not graded and are placed in teams based on age category, and any prior experience.

COMPETITIVE

11U

These players play by competition rules, but do not accrue competition points nor play a Final series.

13U, 15U & 17U

Players in 13U and above play by competition rules, accrue competition points and play a final series.

Players playing out of their age category

The general policy for the FDNA and STM Netball Club is that all players play within teams of their own age category. However, on occasion, there may be exceptions to this rule.

During grading, individual players may be selected on merit to play in a higher age category.

Alternatively, should STM Netball Club have insufficient player registrations in adjacent age categories to form full teams, players may be requested to play in a higher age category. In both such instances, the selections will be based on these players being of similar ability to the other players in the team in which they are intended to be placed. The parent/caregiver and player will be approached in order to discuss and obtain consent to any final team selection, in these circumstances.

A player may initiate a request to be graded in a higher age category with players in the same year level at school. These requests will be considered, having regard to the team numbers in both the correct and higher age category. If the respective age category numbers cannot justify accommodating such a request, it may be declined.

5. PRACTICAL SKILLS ASSESSMENT/GRADING DAY

One or more Grading Day(s) shall be held prior to each playing season on a date(s) determined by the Committee. Teams shall be selected on the performances at these Practical Skills Assessment/ Grading Days.

Grading shall be held for all age categories in which the Club fielded teams the previous year and for which it anticipates it may field teams in the ensuing year.

Players in each age category shall be assessed jointly by two to three members of the Grading Sub-Committee and/or external graders. To be eligible for grading and selection on Practical Skills Assessment/Grading Day, players must:

- (i) be registered and financially paying members at the close of Registration Day; and
- (ii) either attend the Practical Skills Assessment/Grading Day(s) during the time allocated for grading of their age group or notify the Grading Sub-committee prior to the allotted time of their inability to attend.

The majority of the time on the Practical Skills Assessment/Grading Day will be spent in actual on-court play. Players may be asked to trial in positions other than their preferred position, either to make up a team or because the Grading Sub-Committee would like to see how they perform in those positions. For several reasons, it may not be necessary for all players to play an identical number of quarters during the Practical Skills Assessment/Grading Day. For example, if a player is new to the Club, more court time may be allocated to them.

6. GRADING CRITERIA

In assessing a player, the Grading Sub-Committee and/or external graders will consider:

Ball-handling skills	Attacking skills
Defending skills	Attitude and sportspersonship
Game-sense	Movement (footwork, speed, agility)

7. TEAM SELECTION

It is envisaged that most players in 11U should be able to be placed in a team that includes at least one familiar person e.g. friend or previous teammate. Friendship requests will be given the least weighting/consideration when forming the A/AReserve teams in all age categories. Players can expect that their teammates' ages will span the two birth years that make up these categories (for eg 11U teams will have players born in both 2013 and 2014 in 2024) .

FDNA has requirements and restrictions with regards to Representative Squad Players' participation at Associated Clubs (e.g. STM NC) which are subject to change and are relevant for A/AReserve grade team composition. These can be found in the FDNA Bylaws, FDNA Grading Policy and the FDNA Representative and Qualification on their website. For example, there is a limit of four (4) squad

players in any one team in all age groups. Players will be allocated to teams in keeping with this FDNA restriction as well as having regard to all of the STM NC factors enumerated at Section 3, above.

When forming all teams, the aim shall be to achieve strength and balance within the team. Where possible, a team shall consist of nine (9) players. However, due to variables in the number and ages of STM Netball Club registered players, some teams may have eight (8) to ten (10) players. Although player preferences with regards to court positions may have been provided, this does not mean that when placed in a team the player will play in, or only in, these positions.

Grading Sub-Committee shall select teams on the Practical Skills Assessment/Grading Days, match play time prior to the season commencement, and feedback from previous coaches. Teams will be announced after they have been entered for competition with FDNA.

Age groups may train as squads in the weeks between the Practical Skills Assessment/Grading Day and before teams are announced.

Members of the Committee and the Grading Sub-Committee shall keep all selection decisions and deliberations confidential from all other parties until:

- i) approved teams have been entered to the FDNA for competition; and
- ii) the entered teams have been communicated to players.

Anyone wishing to play but who did not meet the eligibility requirements for grading and selection on Practical Skills Assessment/Grading Day may subsequently request to be selected to a team. Such requests will be considered on the following conditions:

- i) all teams selected and approved following Practical Skills Assessment/ Grading Day have been communicated;
- ii) a vacancy exists on an existing team of suitable age and grade;
- iii) all players in the same age group who did attend Practical Skills Assessment/Grading Day met eligibility requirements have first been placed in a team, and
- iv) the player requesting selection, if and when selected, shall within seven (7) days, and in any event before joining the team in training or in competition, meet all the requirements to become a Financial Playing Member of the Club.

The Committee shall consider such requests and shall at its discretion decide the response.

8. TEAM SELECTION APPEALS

It is hoped that players and parents appreciate the challenge of grading and allocating hundreds of players to teams, and accept the judgement and good intentions of the Grading Sub-Committee and the Committee. However, an appeal as to team selection may be made.

An appeal may be made once only via email to stmncmounteliza@gmail.com.au within seven (7) days of team notification. The email should include:

- i) the allocated team;
- ii) the issue with the grading/ team selection; and
- iii) the solution(s) sought by the appealing parent/ player.

Parents should be aware that any change for their child will usually necessitate changes being made for other players in teams already submitted to the FDNA.

The Committee shall consider such appeals and at its discretion decide on the resolution. The decision made in response to the initial appeal is final.

Players shall play for the teams to which they are selected. Should a player wish to withdraw from a team and therefore STM Netball Club, their Registration will **not be refunded**. Whilst the Committee and/or Grading Liaison determines proposed grades in which to enter a team (based on their assessment) these are only recommended grades for FDNA nomination purposes. Ultimately, FDNA will determine the final grading of a team.

Any changes to team selection due to the departure of a player or for any other reason during the season must be ratified by the Committee.

9. CONCLUSION

STM Netball Club is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all volunteers including our Committee members, Coaches and any independent selectors. All communication with any volunteer of STM Netball Club should reflect the underlying principles of the Victorian Government's 'Fair Play Code' - integrity, respect, responsibility, fairness and safety. Rude, aggressive or disparaging communications about grading and or team selection towards any of the STM Netball Club volunteers will be in breach of the STM Netball Club Player and Parent/Caregiver Agreement and as such, referred to the STM Netball Club Resolutions Officer and recorded at the next Committee meeting.

Players and parents are urged to be objective and reasonable in their expectations, and to encourage children to be happy in their chosen sport no matter what team they are placed in. Please bear in mind that many hours of time and care are volunteered for grading and team selection by fellow parents and netball community members. These individuals give up their time and resources to facilitate the enjoyment of netball and deserve your support. An 'attitude of gratitude' and even a word of thanks to those involved, would be much appreciated!