



JOEYS NETBALL CLUB - 2026 GRADING POLICY

Overall Aims

Joeys Netball Club (“Joeys”) encourages play that fits with the spirit of the game – being fair and competitive, whilst having fun in a safe environment. All players U10s – U17s must grade unless specified. Joeys aims to make the grading process fair, transparent, and ultimately in the best interests of all Joeys players and teams.

The aim of our grading policy is:

- That players are given the opportunity to play and develop at a level that suits their individual needs and abilities.
- To form teams that can play competitively in their assigned grade.
 - To submit teams to the SSNA grade appropriate to the team's ability, thus enabling the team to enjoy a competitive season.

Who does not have to Grade:

- 8-9 Age Teams - Joeys does not practically grade age 8 and age 9 teams. Requests for specific team placement (i.e friend requests, to play in a team that plays Fridays only vs plays Fridays / trains an additional day) should be made on Joeys PLAYHQ at the time of registration. Where possible, requests to play with friends will try to be accommodated (depending on the numbers of players in that age bracket)
- Seniors (18 and Opens Teams)
- Any teams that the Joeys' Executive Committee has agreed to accept as a block team

Grading Requests – Relevant Age Group

It is Joeys policy that players grade and play in their correct age group. However ultimately player numbers and player ability can affect decisions surrounding the formation of teams.

Any players specifically wishing to play in an older grade need to submit a grading request via the 2025 Joeys Grading Request Form prior to the 9th Feb 2025. The grading convenor will consider each grading request.

In considering the request the Grading Convenor and Committee will take the following into account:

1. Numbers available to make up age teams in both age grades affected
2. The needs and abilities of the individual player
3. The competitive nature of the teams affected.

Players will be required to grade in both their relevant and older age groups to assist in making this decision, unless advised prior to grading by the Grading Convenor (via the Vice President joeysvice2023@gmail.com).



Grading Requests - Other

Specific grading requests and block teams within U10s to U17s will only be considered in exceptional circumstances and are at the discretion of the Grading Convenor and Executive Committee (via the Joeys 2025 Grading Request Form by 9 February 2025). Enquiries for junior block teams should be emailed to joeysregistrar@gmail.com who will arrange for a Joeys Committee member to discuss with the team contact (prior to the team contact submitting the 2025 Junior Block Team Request Form).

Organisation

The Grading Convenor will organise the timetable for the grading process, including the dates and venue. These details will be communicated via the website, Facebook and email. If a player is unable to grade, please complete the 2025 Joeys Grading request form explaining the reason for being unable to attend by 9 February 2024).

Grading Processes Available to Joeys

- Previous Seasons Coaches Evaluation (all grades under 17's). This is a strictly confidential short written report by the Coach to the Grading Convenor at the end of each season covering such topics as skill, fitness, attendance, teamwork and attitude
- Practical Grading. Joeys will advertise to all members the dates and times of practical grading days. These occur at the beginning of the season after general registration. Joeys will usually employ an independent assessor as well as experienced players and coaches to assess each player in their nominated positions. At times they will assess players in non-nominated positions, depending on prospective team formation.
- Paper Grading. This is when the Grading Convenor and Committee assess teams or individual players based upon previous coaches reports, observations and graded playing experience

Grading Process

The Grading Convenor will organise selectors to form a grading panel for each age group. Selectors are chosen according to their netball knowledge, impartiality and fairness. Where possible, the Grading Convenor will appoint an independent selector from outside Joeys. The grading of players is highly confidential and should not be discussed outside of the selectors (unless with the Grading Convenor and/or the Executive Committee).

In organising the grading process, the Grading Convenor will organise the team selection sheets for each grading age. Wherever possible, these should be adhered to, to ensure parity for all players.

The Grading Convenor will try to ensure that:

- All players have approximately the same opportunity on court
- As certain positions can be more popular than others, players may be asked to play outside of their nominated position to ensure the two teams on the court are complete.



Selectors will be informed when players are playing outside of their nominated position.

Team Selection

The age panel selectors will grade on individual netball skills and positional abilities. These skills and abilities are considered within a team framework and players graded based on

- positional play/movement
- speed/agility/fitness
- footwork
- ball handling/passing
- attacking/defending skills
- sportsmanship/attitude

The outcomes from the grading days are collated by the Grading Convenor along with the selected age grading panel.

The Grading Convenor will then consider

- coach's report from the previous seasons
- representative playing experience
- previous season results and statistics
- the best mix of players including the number of defenders, mid court players and attack players to ensure the competitive position of the team

The teams are then presented to the Executive Committee to formally approve the teams. Once approved, players will be sent an email with information about their team for 2024.

Size of Teams

- Teams registered as a block should have a minimum of 8 players but no less than 7 players, and a nominated coach and manager at the time of registration.
- 18s and Seniors must have a minimum of 8 players and a nominated adult linked to the team.
- In all other cases Joeys will strive to have teams no fewer than 8 players and no greater than 9 players. However, final team numbers will depend on the number of registered players for a particular age group.

Withdrawals after Grading

If a player withdraws from a team after grading there will be **NO REFUND** of registration fees paid. Should there be exceptional circumstances, an appeal can be made in writing to the Vice President joeysvice2023@gmail.com .



Grading Disputes

If a player or parent/guardian of a player are dissatisfied, the following dispute resolution process is to be adopted:

(a) Raising the complaint requesting review of grading decision. The player or parent/guardian should write to the Vice President (via the Vice President joeysvice2023@gmail.com) advising of their concerns including any supporting information. **This is to occur within 48 hours of the grading decisions being released via email.**

(b) Grading decision reviewed by Grading Convenor. The Vice President will refer the correspondence to the Grading Convenor who will review the grading decision with reference to all available grading information. The Grading Convenor may discuss any correspondence with the selectors or the Executive Committee. The outcome of the review will be forwarded to the Vice President who will provide written notice of the review to the player or parent/guardian. This is to occur within 7 days of receiving the complaint. No further correspondence will be entered into with the Grading Convenor.

(c) Executive Committee Review. If the player or parent/guardian of the player is still dissatisfied with the grading process then the matter will be referred to the Executive Committee and to be resolved as it sees fit.

If the player or parent/guardian is concerned that they have been discriminated against, they should contact the Member Protection Officer in writing.

Joeys is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all volunteers including our Grading Convenor, Committee Members, Selectors and Coaches. Any form of abuse or harassment of volunteers as a result of disputed grading decisions is unacceptable. Any such behavior by players or parent/guardians will result in the immediate termination of the Review Process and could lead to further disciplinary action as outlined in the Club's Constitution.

Joeys Reserves the Right

Joeys reserves the right to:

- practically grade any team or individual no matter which age group
- alter its grading policy and processes as determined by the Executive Committee.
- allocate an individual player into a block team.

Sutherland Shire Netball Association (SSNA) Grading

Once Joeys teams are formed through the grading process they are submitted to SSNA. In addition to Joeys Grading, SSNA will nominate age groups for association practical grading. In 2025 it is likely only 10s and 16/17s teams will need to attend SSNA practical grading. SSNA carries out grading across all teams in accordance with the association grading policy.



Grading Explanations

Individual Practical Grading (Joeys – Club Level Grading)

A player selects two positions to be played on court to display their netball ability to a grading panel. The age panel selectors will grade on individual netball skills and positional abilities. Panel selector assessment is presented to the Grading Convenor to be considered in the team decision making process.

Team Practical Grading (SSNA – Association Level Grading)

Once a team is formed they play against other teams to decide the ability level of the team and which competitive grade they should be placed in. This grading is carried out by SSNA. In 2024 all junior age groups (10s, 11s, 12s, 13s, 14s, 15s, 16/17s) may be required to practically grade with SSNA prior to the season commencing.

Paper Grading (SSNA – Senior Teams)

Assess teams or individual players based upon previous coaches reports, graded playing experience, past season results and statistics. This grading is carried out by SSNA to determine the division teams will play in.