

JORDAN SPRINGS NETBALL CLUB



GRADING POLICY

Grading Guidelines for Junior Players

Jordan Springs Netball Club (The Club) is committed to ensuring that the grading process is conducted in a fair, transparent and effective manner. Our aim is to form balanced and competitive teams that create a positive and enjoyable experience for players, coaches, and the wider club.

The Jordan Springs Netball Club Grading Policy will ensure that:

1. Every player is treated as an individual club member for grading purposes, regardless of their previous team or playing grade.
2. All players are given a fair and equal opportunity to be assessed during the grading process.

What is grading and why do we do it?

Netball is a graded sport from ages 9 to 17, offering players the opportunity to participate at both club and representative levels. Therefore, the grading process is a critical component of our club operations. We are committed to creating teams where players are grouped with others of similar skill levels and all positions are thoughtfully filled to encourage fair play, team spirit, and a supportive environment for everyone.

Given the impact of new player registrations and the varying rates at which players develop from season to season, it is essential that grading occurs annually.

Please note the following:

Not all age groups will be required to participate in on-court grading sessions each year. This decision rests with the Club Executive Committee.

All players must be fully registered with the club prior to participating in any on-court grading sessions.

Who will be conducting the grading?

On-court grading will be conducted by a grading committee who will remain impartial and unbiased throughout the process. To further support fairness and transparency, the club may invite independent graders—both from within the club community and from external sources—to assist with the process including player assessments and potential team formations.

The club is committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity and fairness in grading, ensuring that no favouritism or bias influences grading results.

NetSetGO Competition (Ages 6, 7, and 8)

Players aged 6 to 8 years participating in the modified, non-competitive NetSetGO competition are not individually graded. The focus at this level is on fun, skill development, and introducing children to the game in a supportive and inclusive environment.

Friendship requests may be considered where possible, taking into account team numbers and the need for balance across the age group.

If you would like to request specific team placement for your child, please submit your request in writing to the Registrar at jsnc.registrar@gmail.com before registrations close. Be sure to briefly outline your reason(s). The Executive Committee will review and consider each request; however, please note that we cannot guarantee all requests can be accommodated.

Juniors (Ages 9 to 17 Years)

For players aged 9 to 17 years, the Grading Committee carefully considers a range of factors when forming teams to ensure fairness, team balance and player development.

The following criteria may be taken into account:

- Performance observed during practical/on-court grading
- Player fitness and agility
- Ball handling and technical skills
- Balance and coordination
- Overall on-court performance
- Teamwork and communication
- Attitude and sportsmanship
- Previous coach's report

In some cases, additional consideration may be given to ensuring a balanced mix of players across all court positions: defence, centre court, and goal-shooting roles to promote well-rounded team structures.

The Grading Process

To ensure the club remains a supportive and balanced environment that promotes both enjoyment and player development, teams are formed based on a combination of age, ability, and skill. This approach allows us to create teams where all players can grow, contribute, and thrive. For this reason, all players participate in a grading process, which remains our preferred method for team placement.

Players will be placed into teams of mixed ability for the purpose of on-court grading games.

Players will trial in the positions they nominated at the time of registration; however, they may also be asked to trial in other positions as needed—either to complete a team for grading or to allow graders to observe their versatility.

If a player is asked to trial in a different position, they will still be given the opportunity to play in their nominated position(s) during the grading process.

Players may request to trial in a higher age group; however, approval to trial does not guarantee placement in that age group. Players will also be required to trial in their correct age group to ensure a complete assessment.

Late registrations will be assessed via a paper grading process and placed into teams based on availability.

Once teams are formed a team allocation summary will be submitted to the Executive Committee for final approval.

Special Requests

As netball is a graded and competitive sport from the age of 9, all players are graded based on their individual ability, team balance, and positional needs. While we understand that some families may have specific requests regarding team placement, our primary focus is on forming balanced, competitive teams where all players can thrive.

Special requests MAY be considered on a case-by-case basis. These must be submitted in writing to the Registrar at jsnc.registrar@gmail.com at the time of registration, clearly stating the reason for the request. Consideration will be given only when players are of similar ability, and if team composition allows. There is no guarantee such requests can be accommodated.

Special considerations example: Medical conditions or injuries – for players needing to manage physical limitations or returning from injury.

Players Playing in Correct Age Groups

The club will endeavour to place all players aged 9 and above in their correct age group.

In some cases, the Executive Committee may place a player in an older age group to support team balance or the player's individual growth.

Failure to Attend Grading Session

If a player is unable to attend the grading session due to illness, injury, employment or other valid reason, the player or their parent/guardian must notify the Registrar prior to the grading session by emailing jsnc.registrar@gmail.com at least 48 hours prior to the grading day.

In such cases, the player's team placement will be determined through paper grading, which includes consideration of playing history and where applicable, evaluations from previous coaches.

While paper grading is an option, all players are strongly encouraged to attend the on-court grading sessions, as paper grading may limit opportunities and can sometimes result in less favorable team placements.

Announcement of Teams

Teams will be announced online within 10 business days after the completion of the entire grading process, not from the date of individual grading sessions.

Coaches will be allocated to teams within 30 days after grading. Once coaches are assigned, players will be contacted directly by their coach shortly thereafter.

Training session days and times will be communicated to players and parents at this time.

A 'Meet Your Team' day may also be scheduled, offering players and families the opportunity to connect with their team and coach before the season begins.

Appeals Process

Grounds for appeal

Appeals may only be made on the basis that the grading process was unfair, biased, or not conducted according to the Club's grading policy.

Lodging an appeal

Any player or parent/guardian who wishes to appeal a grading decision must submit their appeal in writing to the Club Secretary within 48 hours of the team announcement.

Appeals should be sent via email to jsnetball@gmail.com and must clearly state the grounds for the appeal and include any supporting information.

Acknowledgement of appeal

The Club Secretary will acknowledge receipt of the appeal within 2 business days.

Review Process

The appeal will be reviewed by members of the Executive Committee who were not directly involved in the original grading decisions to ensure impartiality.

The Executive Committee may consult graders, coaches, or other relevant parties as part of their review.

Outcome Notification

The player or parent/guardian will be notified in writing of the Executive Committee's decision within 7 business days of the appeal being acknowledged by the Club.

The Executive Committee's decision is final.

If appeal is upheld

If the appeal is upheld, the Club will take appropriate action to address the issue, which may include reassessment of the player's grading or team placement.

If appeal is not upheld

If the appeal is not upheld, the original grading decision will stand. The player is encouraged to embrace their team placement and continue to develop their skills.

If, following the completion of the appeals process, a player chooses to de-register or transfer to another club, all outstanding payments for uniforms and registration must be paid in full. The player will not be considered financially clear with the Club, and any transfers to another club will not be approved, until all outstanding amounts have been settled. The Club portion of the registration fee will be refunded, less a 10% administration fee. The PDNA and NNSW portions of the fee will only be refunded to the player once the club has received the refunds from those respective organisations.