



**MINTIES**  
NETBALL CLUB

# Grading Policy



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Grading is the process of establishing the composition of Minties Netball Club (MNC) teams to compete in the Bayside & District Netball Association (BDNA) competition. It is a requirement of BDNA that all clubs grade their players/teams.

### Grading Formation Committee (GFC)

The GFC is made up of MNC Executive members, coaching staff, and independent netball graders to ensure a fair and diligent process of team formation. A GFC member will not participate in the selection process that involves their own child.

### Aims and Objectives

At MNC we aim to provide a positive and inclusive environment for all members to participate in the game of netball. The Grading process is a way of ensuring every player is provided the opportunity to play netball to the best of their ability in an encouraging and supportive environment.

The aim of this policy is to establish teams that:

- Consist of players of a similar standard of skills and abilities
- Are competitive within the BDNA competition
- Enables individuals and teams to develop skills

This policy will ensure that for grading purposes:

- Every child is treated as an individual club member, irrespective of previous team or grade
- Every child has an equal opportunity to be placed in a team, which best suits, their skills, abilities and attributes.

### Grading of each age group

#### Under 9's (entry level – Grade 3)

No grading for this age group as it is seen as a non-competitive learning environment allowing players to use training and game day as a platform for building foundation level netball skills.

Teams are typically formed based on school/friendship groups.

#### Bottom age under 11 (Grade 4)

No grading for this age group as it is seen as a non-competitive learning environment allowing players to use training and game day as a platform for building foundation level netball skills.

Teams are typically formed based on school/friendship groups.

#### Top age under 11 (Grade 5)

Players in this age group will be graded via the process described in this policy. Teams will be formed by the GFC. Where possible we aim to keep friendship groups together.

#### U13 and U15 (Grade 6-9 at school)

Play by competition rules, accrue competition points and play a final series. Players in the U13 age group will be graded via the process described in this policy. Players in the U15 age group may not be required to participate in grading if they form part of a solid team base through top age U11 and U13's.



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### U18 and Open

Players moving into U18 and above may not be required to participate in grading.

Players in this age group will typically be placed in teams based on: previous season's team, individual requests and team availability for new members.

### Grading process

For current members, the GFC commences grading early during August by observing players at training, on game day and through engagement with coaches to provide team and player feedback during this period.

MNC conduct age specific grading sessions early February at the commencement of season. This is to ensure that the abilities of players, and any new players that join the Club, are appropriately assessed as close to the start of the competition season as possible.

The grading takes place over a number of training and game play sessions during February. This is to ensure all players have the opportunity to participate in grading game time as it is recognised that not all players may be available to make a singular grading day if just one day of assessment was scheduled. Additional grading session may be scheduled at the discretion of the GFC

If a player is unable to attend scheduled grading day and there is no further scheduled grading session, then placement into a team for this player maybe based upon:

- Coach's Evaluation (for existing players)
- Observation by GFC during training/games during the season (for existing players)

Grading may include a number of activities including a variety of netball training drills and will always include a session of actual on-court play.

Players presenting for practical grading shall be formed into teams for the purposes of this on-court game to be observed by the GFC.

Players may trial in one or two positions that they have nominated for. This does not guarantee when placed in a team that they shall play in these positions.

Players may also be asked to trial in other positions, either to make up a team, or because the GFC would like to see how they perform in those positions.

Where players are asked to fill other positions during grading, they will still have an opportunity to play in one of their nominated position/s during the selection process.

For a number of reasons, it may not be necessary for all players to play an identical number of quarters during the grading game session.

GFC will observe and assess players on fitness, skills, performance, teamwork and attitude.



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### Grading Criteria

In assessing the overall skills of a player within an age group, the GFC will take into account:

- Footwork
- Speed and agility
- Ball handling skills
- Attacking skills
- Defending skills
- Perception/cognition skills
- Sportsmanship and attitude

Teams are typically made up of 3 goalers, 3 mid court players and 3 defenders. There can be exceptions to this based on the number of team members within each team – usually between 8-10 players.

### Grading Outcomes

The outcome of the grading session is that each player will be graded as being of either A, B, C, D or E standard. A player will be identified as capable of playing in defense, goals or mid-court.

Players will be placed in teams on the basis of:

- Grading
- Coach's evaluation of each player
- Consideration for friendship groups
- Sportsmanship and attitude Generally:
- A & B Grade – usually players in 2nd year and top of age group
- C – can be a mixture of both age groups
- D, E & F Grade – usually players in 1st year and bottom of age group

Ideally nine (9) players will be selected per team however, due to numbers registered some teams may have eight (8) (minimum allowed by BDNA for registration of a team) or a maximum of ten (10) players.

There will be no changes after teams have been finalised unless at the discretion of the GFC and if it is deemed necessary.

Following the formation of teams, the GFC will determine an appropriate grade under which to submit a team for registration with BDNA. However, these are only recommended grades for BDNA nomination purposes. Ultimately, BDNA will determine the final grading of a team.

Within the club there will be no transfer of players between teams once registration with BDNA has occurred except where an exception circumstance may apply and deemed necessary by the MNC Executive Committee.

As MNC is a large club therefore there may be more than one team playing within a grade within the BDNA competition.



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### Coach's Evaluation

At the end of the season, each coach will complete the club's standard assessment template for their team. If required, supporting input may be taken from the team manager. These assessments will remain confidential and be viewed only by the GFC.

Coaches will be involved in a consultation process with the GFC at an informal or formal level.

### Players Playing Out Of Their Age Group

The general policy of MNC is, all players play within teams of their own age group (U11, U13, U15, U17 or Open). Age is calculated as of 31st December of the playing season.

However, on occasion, there may be exceptions to this rule:

- During grading, should the graders identify a player of exceptional talent for whom a team of similar ability does not exist within their own age group, then that player may be offered the opportunity to play in a higher age group.
- In addition, should the Club have insufficient player registrations in adjacent age groups to form full teams, players may be requested to play up an age group in order to form a team of composite age.

In such instances, the players asked to play up an age group will be selected based on them being of similar ability to other players in the team in which they will be placed.

- A player may request to be graded in an older age group in order to play with players in the same year level at school. Such a request may be denied if the player is not of the same ability, MNC has insufficient player registrations in that player's correct age group to form a full team without that player, or too many players in the older age group.

### Announcement of Teams

On completion of the grading process the teams will be communicated via email prior to the commencement of the seasons, typically in late February.

### Team Placement Appeals

Where an MNC member is dissatisfied with their placement into a team they may appeal the decision.

Any appeal must be made via email to the MNC Membership Secretary. The appeal will be reviewed by the GFC and an additional Executive member to determine the final outcome. The member lodging the appeal will be notified of the outcome within 14 days of the appeal being lodged.

### Late Registrations

Late registrations will only be accepted by the Membership Secretary.

Late registrations may be required to attend a training session prior to being placed in a team to ensure the skills and abilities of the player are suitably matched to the team.



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### Training Partners

In circumstances where a new player wishes to join MNC and all team positions are filled the player may be offered the opportunity to participate as a training partner.

Training partners participate in weekly training to develop their netball skills and create community connection to the MNC.

Training partners are able to play on game day if their team or a team above their graded team has less than 7 players.

Training partner will be guaranteed a permanent placement in a team the following year. For the purposes of registration training partners will pay VNA insurance fees only.