



Portarlington Demons Football Netball Club Inc.

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Portarlington Recreation Reserve,
Sproat St Portarlington Victoria Australia

Junior Football Grading Guidelines

SCOPE:

This document provides an overview of considerations for the grading and appointment of all junior age groups to ensure a standardised and transparent approach.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITIES:

It is the responsibility of coaches to make recommendations on player team allocation based on skills, development opportunities and player age.

It is the responsibility of the Junior Coordinators to ensure compliance with the guidelines as described.

It is the responsibility of the Junior Football Director to oversee the Junior Grading Guidelines and escalate any issues to the PDFNC Committee as needed

OVERVIEW:

Through continued development of the club's junior program, we now have a healthy spread of players across all our age groups, with different skills and development requirements on display. To ensure that the club provides clear pathways for all players in a clear and consistent manner this document sets out guidelines for the placement of players in age groups and discusses managing instances where players request to play out of their assigned age groups in each season.

JUNIOR GUIDELINES - NON-COMPETITIVE/COMPETITIVE AGE GROUPS

Correct Team Based on Year of Birth	Next Age Group Up	Second Age Group Up
		



Eligible



Potentially eligible provide written permission provided by parent/guardian and agreed by the Junior Director.



Not Eligible

TEAM MAKEUP

In the event where age groups have multiple teams these will be categorized as RED and BLUE, with RED denoting the top age players in that age group and BLUE denoting bottom age players, whilst also considering schools attended, existing friendships, individual player strengths, weaknesses and skill set, and team balance. Consideration shall also be given to other family members who may be players, coaches, or officials.

The exception to the above strategy will be Under 9s, where players have just completed Auskick. As a result of the wide gap in skills in this early age group the club has determined, in order to ensure skill development and enjoyment of its participants, multiple teams of U9 will be mixed together irrespective of age

FILLING TEAMS

In instances where players are required to fill vacant positions within teams in their own age group, it is recommended that this is to be done on a rotational basis, with different players each week.

PLAYING UP

In the event where a team is requiring players from the below age group to fill vacant positions, it is also recommended that players rotate to fill these vacant positions on a weekly basis rather than play consecutive games. This will be managed by the Club Junior Coordinator/s in conjunction with Team Managers and Coaches for relevant teams.

It is important to note that in the above instance of players filling vacant positions in the age group above that care is taken to monitor games played - if excessive games are played in the higher age group that player may not be eligible to return to his correct team for finals.

In all instances where there is a request for a player to play in a higher age group the following considerations should be discussed

- Skill level of the player in question - are they capable of playing
- Playing numbers of both team
- No detrimental impact on the team they are coming from (confirmed by coach/team manager)
- No detrimental impact on the team they are going to play for (confirmed by coach/team manager)
- Player Consent
- Parent Consent
- Director Approval

In the event where a competitive aged player is deemed the need for development in a higher age group the club reserves the right to override the guidelines providing it is not detrimental to their current allocated team, it has been identified by the team coach/es, permission has been granted by the parent/guardian and the individual player and approval has been given by the Junior Football Director.

If an Under 17/18/19 player wishes to play in the Reserves or Seniors consideration will be given along above guidelines but would also require approval from the club Senior Coach, Football Director, Junior Football Director and President. A consideration of this approval may also include limited game time in the higher age group as well as maximum number of games played per season.

All grading decisions made are based upon best practical outcomes for all teams/players in each season and are not assumed to be in place permanently; with all team allocations considered at the commencement of each season.

The Junior Football Director will provide the ultimate decision on any request for a player to register outside the specified age groups indicated. If the parent/guardian believes the decision is not satisfactory and would wish to have the matter escalated, then the appeal can be escalated via the Junior Football Director to the PDFNC Committee. The matter will be reviewed by the Committee and the player will be notified in writing as soon as practical. The Committee's decision will be final, and no further correspondence will be entered into.

PLAYING UP - CHECKLIST AND CONSIDERATIONS

	YES	NO
Have playing numbers in both sides been considered?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the player consent?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do the players parents consent?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the coach from the team player is coming from consent?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the coach from the team player is going to consent?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the Junior Director consent?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

When providing consent consideration must be given to the following criteria:

- Skill level of the player - are they capable of playing in the age group
- Playing numbers of both teams should be considered
- No detrimental impact to either teams (players missing out)
- Potential development opportunities