



Portarlington Netball Netball Club Inc.

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JUNIOR NETBALL GRADING & ROTATIONAL GUIDELINES – SEASON 2024

OVERVIEW:

The Club has a healthy spread of junior Netball players across junior age groups, with different skills and development requirements on display. However, there are some age groups which may fall short in player numbers. 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 and movement of players in and between age groups.

SCOPE:

This document provides an overview of considerations for the grading and possible rotational requirements for junior Netball age groups to ensure a consistent and transparent approach.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITIES:

The Junior Netball Coordinator and the Junior Development Coach in conjunction with appointed Junior Coaches of each underage grade are to make recommendations on player team allocation based on the needs of the underage team. In particular, topping up teams which have player number shortages with players from next age group down.

When decisions are to be made to rotate players from the lower Junior Grades to higher Junior grades or Senior grades the Netball Director is also to be consulted.

The key decision criteria to be considered are:

- Willingness of player to move between grades
- Permission of player's parent/guardian to move between grades
- Age of player
- Impact it has on players current age group
- Development potential of player
- Skill level capability
- Player well being

It is the responsibility of the Netball Director, Senior Netball Coordinator, the Junior Netball Coordinator and the Junior Development Coach to ensure the decisions made conform with the above criteria and these guidelines.

GUIDELINES FOR GRADING:

Where the Club is fielding multiple teams within a designated age group, as established in AFL Barwon guidelines for that age group of Netball, and where these teams are deemed COMPETITIVE (i.e playing for premiership points) these teams will be categorized #ONE denoting the team playing in the higher Division within the age group, and #TWO the team playing in the lower Division.

The #ONE team will be predominantly made up of players in the older range of the age group and the #TWO team will be predominantly made up of players in the lower age range.

In assigning a player to a team, consideration should also be given to:

- schools attended
- existing family and friend relationships
- individual player strengths, weaknesses, skill set
- team balance
- involvement of other family members who may be players, coaches, or officials.

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 rotating in each week.

Where a team requires players from the age group below to fill vacant positions, in order to be able to field a team, it is recommended that players rotate to fill these vacant positions on a weekly basis rather than play consecutive games. NB: if games are played on different days, then a player may be allowed to play a game in each different age group.

After consultation with the Netball Director, all decisions regarding filling of teams and the rotation of players will be managed by the Junior Coordinator, Junior Development Coach in conjunction with Coaches and Team Managers (*if required*) for the respective teams.

Consideration of players filling vacant positions in any age group must be monitored to ensure that a player does not play more than the maximum games allowed in another team/age group, to ensure they are qualified for finals in their designated team/age group. Failure to monitor and manage this will mean that the player WILL NOT be eligible to return to their designated age group team for finals.

If a Junior players requests to be considered for a Senior grade, consideration will be given to the request in accordance with the above guidelines but will also require approval from the Club's Senior Coach, Netball Director, Junior Netball Coordinator and the Board. A consideration of this approval may also include limited game time.

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

If a player requests to play in a higher age group permanently, the Junior Netball Coordinator and the Junior Development Coach will consider what is best for PFNC and the individual player, in consultation with the Parent/Guardian and Netball Director.

If there is a dispute, then the matter will be referred to the PDFNC Board for review. The Board's decision will be final, and no further correspondence will be entered into.