

# KIAMA CENTRAL NETBALL CLUB

## **Kiama Central Netball Club Inc. Grading Policy**

This policy applies to all members, volunteers, staff and visitors of Kiama Central Netball Club (KCNC) including but not limited to, players, umpires, team officials, volunteers, parents/guardians and spectators. The responsibility of implementing this Grading Policy rests with the Kiama Central Netball Club Executive Committee.

This Policy is in accordance with the Kiama Netball Association By-Laws. All Clubs are required to grade players from the junior division through to the Senior division in order of standard and skill to ensure that all players are placed into teams and grade according to their ability. All club teams must be graded and numbered in order of standard. For example, Junior Team 1, Junior Team 2, Junior Team 3.

### **Our Aim**

The Kiama Central Netball Club Inc. is committed to ensuring team grading is conducted fairly and effectively which enables the club to properly assess and form player and team placements for the current season.

The Grading policy provides a clear and transparent process for all players to be placed in a team that will:

- a) best represent their level of skill and ability
- b) maximise opportunities to develop and improve their skills
- c) maximise their enjoyment and love of the game

### **Grading**

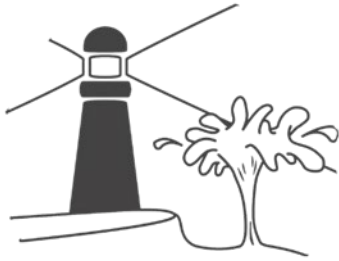
Netball is a graded, competitive sport from the Junior years age group upwards with representative opportunities for players turning 11 years and older in the playing year. To ensure the best chance of success for all our teams and the greatest level of enjoyment and development for our players, it is necessary to grade players into teams with players of similar abilities and skills.

Grading is a process of establishing the composition of our teams to compete in the Kiama Netball Association (KNA) competition.

The aim of grading is to form teams that have a balanced group of players of similar ability across all playing positions. Grading will also be influenced by the number and ages of players registered with the Club each year.

Players and parents should be aware that grading and team results in one year does not always ensure they will remain same the following year. Due to the nature of change, new registrations, and differing development rates of all players from season to season, player movement in or out of such teams may still occur.

Players and parents are urged to be objective and reasonable in their expectations and are encouraged to accept their team and make new friends. When the season starts players settle in & enjoy playing netball.



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## **Formation of Teams**

To form teams, the Grading Panel will conduct a 'Practical Grading'. Grading will happen only when there is more than one (1) team in an age group registered. If a Practical Grading is conducted, the Grading Panel will take into consideration the number of players registered with the Club within the age groups prior to determining the final placement of each player. Where necessary, the Coaches Evaluation and any Independent Player Assessments will also be considered. All decisions of the Club are final.

## **Player Divisions**

Player divisions are based on the current KNA Policy and may be subject to change at their discretion, and at any time.

Current divisions are FunNet (5-6yrs), Modies (7-9yrs), 10yrs, Juniors (11-12yrs), Inters (13-14yrs), Cadets (15-17yrs), Seniors (18+yrs)

## **Players Playing out of their Age Group**

During grading should the Grading Panel identify a player with a different skill level, date of birth or year level in schooling 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 the other players in the team in which they will be placed.

## **Grading of Each Age Group**

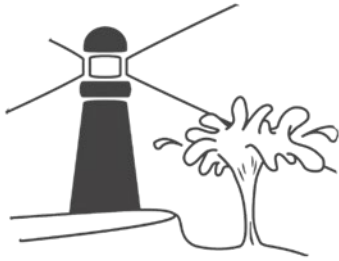
(players age is on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec in the year of play to determine their age group for that season)

### 7, 8, and 9 years - Modified

Teams in these age groups will not be graded as they will be playing in modified, non-competitive competition. Requests to play with friends will be accommodated where possible, depending on the overall number of registrations in each age group. Requests relating to team placement of players must be made on the registration form in the space provided or via email sent to the club, prior to the club grading days. The Club encourages all players to join as individuals, so players and parents get to meet new friends – this process also makes it more comfortable when they enter a graded playing age group.

### 10 years

This age group will not be graded, as this is a non-competitive competition and the players first opportunity at full rules. If the club has more than one team in this age group, the grading panel will assess all relevant information to form fair and balanced teams as much as is possible. The grading panel will use players age, year at school, playing history (if any) previous coaches feedback and player requests to assist them in this process.



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## 11 – 17 years old

All players must attend any 'Practical Grading' as advised by the club. The number of practical grading sessions required for each age group will be determined on an annual basis.

## Seniors

Grading will be conducted for the Senior A (Division 1) team/s. If players wish to be considered for this team they **MUST** attend the practical grading session. Grading for all other senior teams will only be held if it is deemed required for that year.

## **The Grading Panel**

All gradings are undertaken on behalf of the Club by our Grading Panel. The Grading Panel will consist of a minimum of 3 Graders. This will ensure that the process is fair and effective. The members of this Grading Panel will be appointed by the Kiama Central Netball Club Executive Committee before each year's grading commences. The club may invite independent graders from within and beyond the club & association to assist with the grading of all age groups if required.

The Grading Panel will access coach evaluation forms from the previous season, this will have player evaluations from each coach to provide information to assist in the grading process. The panel will consider individual assessments, and paper grading notes, which consists of the players previous playing history and results from previous years, along with play observed during the practical grading session.

## **Grading Criteria**

In assessing the overall skills of a player within an age group, the Grading Panel will take into account but not be limited to the following –

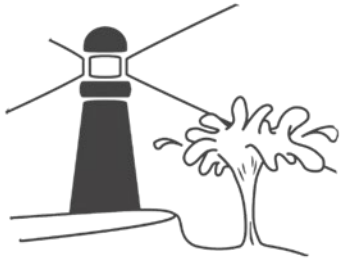
1. Footwork
2. Speed, Agility & Fitness
3. Ball Handling Skills
4. Attacking Skills
5. Defending Skills
6. Game awareness
7. Sportsmanship and Attitude

## **Grading Process**

Practical Grading may include several activities including various netball training drills but will always include sessions of on-court play.

Players presenting for Practical Grading shall be formed into teams for the purposes of these on-court games. Players shall trial in a minimum of 2 positions that they have nominated, but they may also be asked to trial in other positions, either to make up a team or because the Grading Panel 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 their nominated position/s during the selection process.



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For several reasons, it may not be necessary for all players to play an equal number of quarters during the game sessions. It is important that players taking part in the Practical Grading be fully aware that they should bring their best game and attitude to the grading, as this practical grading will be the majority of the information used to determine their team placement.

The following information will be used and considered where necessary.

If for any reason practical grading sessions are not able to be held or completed, paper grading will be conducted. In this instance, coach assessments, individual player assessments and previous year's results will be considered to form team placements.

## Coach's Evaluation

At the end of the season, the coach/es of each team will be asked to provide a written evaluation of each player in their team. This evaluation will cover areas such as skills, attendance at training and games, teamwork and attitude. All reports and evaluations will remain confidential and will be viewed only by the Coaching Coordinator, KCNC Executive Committee and the grading panel.

## Independent Player Assessments

During the season, Grading Panel members can attend various games and report their observations of players skill levels back to the Coaching Coordinator and Grading Panel.

## **Player Requests**

Requests from players need to be put in writing at the time of registration or via email prior to grading stating the reasons for the request. The Grading panel will consider all request during the grading process. Parents and players are encouraged to enjoy the experience of meeting new friends where team changes occur, and requests are unable to be met.

## **Failure to Attend Practical Grading**

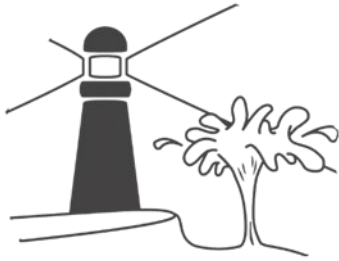
If a player is unable to attend a practical grading session, the player or parent/guardian must notify the Club Secretary in writing (via email) with as much notice as possible prior to the grading day. Placement into a team for this player will be based upon Paper Grading and where applicable, Coach's evaluations and Independent Player Assessments. All players are strongly encouraged to attend Practical Grading as Paper Grading may result in disappointment as positions will not be held for absent players without prior notice.

## **Grading Day**

Players are to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the session starting, to sign in and have their player number assigned, and photo taken. (Photos will not be made public, they will only be used by the grading panel during the grading process to identify players if required) When signing in you will need to confirm or notify the grading panel of your selected playing positions.

Players who are part of KNA representative teams or development teams must notify the grading panel of their current involvement.

New players to the club should notify the club of previous playing history when signing on for the session.



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The grading session will begin with a warm up session and the option of some player drills and will then move into match play. These will be timed umpired games where players will rotate playing positions and be observed by the grading panel. Players will participate in a minimum of 2 games in their nominated position.

## **Announcement of Teams**

Once the grading process has been concluded and the Grading Panel has formed teams, these teams will be announced via email. This will occur within two (2) weeks of the final Practical Grading session taking place.

## **Nomination of Teams to KNA**

Following the formation of teams, the Grading Panel will determine the appropriate grade under which to submit the team for registration with KNA (e.g. Age Division - A or B or C grade). These grades based on their assessment of the team during the grading process and with the team's best interests and abilities in mind, these are only recommended grades for KNA purposes.

KNA will determine the final grading of a team and will make this decision by assessing the merits and ability of teams from our Club versus those submitted by all other clubs who are part of the competition where necessary.

## **Coach & Manager Appointments**

All teams will have a coach and manager appointed where possible by the Club. Each coach (or their manager) will contact players/parents to organise training sessions. All coaches and managers are volunteers, and we thank them for their time with our teams.

## **Appeals and Disputes**

All grading results and assessments are confidential and are property of KCNC.

Any disputes or appeals regarding grading must be received in writing, to the secretary, via email within 48hrs of player notification and announcements. The appeal will be heard by the grading panel and KCNC Executive Committee and the outcome or response will be determined and communicated in writing within 48hrs. **The decision made will be final.**

## **Deregistration**

Players who chose to deregister after grading due to grading results will not be eligible for a refund of their KCNC fees. (Refunds may be issued on a case-by-case basis in extenuating circumstances as deemed by the grading panel and the Executive Committee e.g., medical reasons, which must be received in writing before the commencement round 1)

No players will receive a refund of registration fees once the season has commenced and they have taken to the court.

**\*PAYMENT OF YOUR REGISTRATION FEE IS ACCEPTANCE OF THE KCNC GRADING POLICY**