



## GRADING POLICY

Eltham Panthers Junior Netball Club provides players with the opportunity to learn about netball and participate and play in a competitive team environment. To ensure that all players can achieve their full potential, a grading process will be undertaken prior to the commencement of the new netball year when there are two or more teams in one age group.

### **What is Grading?**

Grading is a process whereby players are placed into teams based on their ability/skill level, attitude and commitment. Grading is a productive way to group children of similar abilities and to help achieve the best outcome for each individual.

The aim of the grading process is to ensure all players are placed in a team that will:

- a) Best represent their level of skill and ability;
- b) Maximise opportunities to develop and improve their skills; and
- c) Maximise their enjoyment and love of the game.

### **Why Grade?**

Each year, new players join the Eltham Panthers Junior Netball Club family. Also, existing players may move from one age group to another. It is important to understand that as a result, there will be differing levels of experience and rates of development of players from season to season.

*Grading allows both new and existing players to be placed in a team that will optimise their playing experience and learning and development potential.*

### **Grading Committee**

The Grading Committee consists of the Eltham Panthers Junior Netball Club President, Vice President and an independent selector.



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### **Grading Process**

Grading occurs for ages U11 and above when there are two or more teams in one age group and will take place prior to the season commencing. Under 9's do not trial. Playing at representative level does not guarantee a player a position in a first/top team.

Whilst it is not compulsory for players to attend grading, players who choose not or are unable to, will be placed in a team based on their past experience, coach evaluation & capacity.

Players will be able to indicate their preferred court position (when they register) and will be given the opportunity to trial in that position. During the grading process, a player may be asked to play in a non-preferred position. If there are not enough players to fill all teams in a particular age group, the Grading Committee can invite top age players from a younger age group to trial.

It is important to understand that the grading process also aims to ensure that a team consists of players that cover the spread of court positions (i.e. mid-court, shooting and defence). A player will be identified as capable of playing in defence, goals or mid-court. The Grading Committee will take into consideration new players that have yet to establish a preferred court position.

It is important for the Grading Committee to see the players in a variety of settings and every effort is made to ensure the players are not over-whelmed by the grading process.

Players will trial within their own age group, however if a top age player from the age group below is deemed capable of playing above their age group, and it's considered by the grading committee to be beneficial to the development of the player, that player will also be able to trial for the above aged group.

The eventual team placement will be dictated by not only how they trial, but team numbers and the number of players registered in the age group they're trialling for. Preference must be given to the players that are first eligible by age.



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## Coaches Evaluation

Prior to the grading process, previous season coaches will provide feedback regarding player skill levels (passing, footwork, etc), and their level of commitment and attitude (both on game day and training).

## Grading Day

During the grading session, the following will be taken into account:

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

*It is important to understand that the aim of grading is to match players with similar skill levels so they can maximize their development.*

Questions about grading day can be directed to the Eltham Panthers Junior Netball club president or the club's Head Coach **prior to the commencement** of grading. Grading day is very busy for the Grading Committee and they will be unable to discuss individual players on the day.

## Final Team Selection

At the completion of the grading process, the Grading Committee will place players into teams taking into consideration how they trialled, their level of experience, coaches feedback and any other relevant factors. When forming teams, the aim is to achieve balance within each team. Consideration will also be given to the Grade the teams are likely to be placed.

We encourage parents and players to be reasonable in their expectations and encourage positive feedback so that players will be happy in the teams in which they are ultimately placed.



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### **Announcement of Teams**

Team Coaches will be advised of team selections in the first instance. Players will be advised as to their team selection via email.

### **Disputes**

If a family considers that their child has been unfairly treated in the grading process, they must submit their concern in writing via email to the Eltham Panthers Junior Netball Club. No grading issues will be discussed over the phone or in person. Members of the Grading Committee will reconvene to consider the complaint and will advise the family of their decision at their earliest convenience.

### **Confidentiality**

All grading assessment sheets, coach's reports and selectors' discussions are strictly confidential. Parents and guardians must not approach selectors or members of the grading committee for information.