

Hornsby Heights Netball Club - 2026 Grading Policy

For the commencement of the 2026 Winter Netball Season the following Grading policy has been adopted.

- Grading Coordinator Elected
- Grading Coordinator recommends to HH Netball Executive a Grading Committee
- Grading Committee approved by Executive
- Grading Panels formulated to assess players in each age group
- Grading Committee approves teams

Grading Coordinator

The Grading Coordinator is elected each year at the Annual General Meeting and is a member of the Netball Committee Executive. The role of the Grading Coordinator is to;

- effectively oversee the grading process each year for the KNA Winter competition
- recommend to the Netball Executive Committee the Grading Committee
- convene the Grading Committee
- document and advise KNA of the proposed HH teams for the Winter competition
- review and coordinate with KNA the possible regrading of teams following the Round 5 review of teams.

Grading Committee

The Grading Coordinator shall recommend and seek approval from the Netball Executive, the appointment of a Grading Committee. The Grading Committee shall comprise;

- the HH Grading Coordinator (and Convenor of Grading meetings)
- the HH Netball President
- maximum of 7 persons designated as Grading Panel Leaders (ie representing the 7 age groups)
- the HH Netball Coaching Coordinator

The role of the Grading Committee is to oversee the Grading process each year, which includes approving the composition of the Grading Panels and of the grading process year to year.

From time to time the Grading Committee may meet to carry out the duties of grading. It is anticipated that most decisions will be consensus however there may be occasions where a vote is held to determine player placement or grading process. In cases of a tied vote the Grading Coordinator has the deciding vote. Where the taking of a vote involves a member of ones immediate family, that member must remove themselves from voting.

Grading Panel Leaders

Grading Panel Leaders are approved by the Netball Executive, are members of the Grading Committee and are convenors of the Grading Panels. Grading Panel Leaders must be associated in some way with the Hornsby Heights netball club either through parental/guardianship, player or any other relationship that can be demonstrated.

Grading Panels

Grading Panels are approved by and report to the Grading Committee, are convened by the Grading Panel leaders and shall comprise of a minimum of 2 to 3 persons. The Grading Panels undertake the actual physical grading of players each year and recommend to the Grading Committee the team composition in each age group (ie 9s, 10s, 11, 12s, Intermediates, Cadets).

In cases where players need to be moved up in grades for whatever reason, the Grading Panel Leaders of both age groups may need to meet to discuss and recommend placement to the Grading Committee.

Grading Panels may consist of anybody that the Grading Committee considers will perform the grading of players adequately. This may consist of people within or outside of the club. Anyone who has the experience and interest to be a grader from within the club is strongly encouraged to nominate themselves to the Grading Committee.

Aims and process – Junior Teams

The grading process for 2026 intends to build on the grading policy of years past and will incorporate 2025 court side grading, coaching reports and physical grading on grading day.

In 2026 the grading process will look to select the strongest possible teams to ensure competitiveness in the relevant divisions and to ensure like-minded/skilled players have the chance to develop and play together.

We will also look at teams that struggled to be competitive and the reasons why and look at ways to provide greater strength in that team or look for an alternate division.

2026 Grading Format

Skill based grading will be conducted for 9 Years through to 12 Years. (7 & 8 Years teams will be based on school / friendship groups where appropriate).

Mid/Low level Intermediates and Cadets teams have the opportunity to submit preformed, friendship based teams. Teams must consist of a minimum of 8 players and submitted, via

email, to the Grading Coordinator at the time of registration. If appropriate, additional players may be added to a pre-formed team to ensure that all registered players have the opportunity to play in the most suitable division.

Players wishing to play in the top-level team for the Intermediate and Cadet age group are required to trial at grading day for selection. Players who are unsuccessful in being placed in the top level team for the age group will then be placed in next the most suitable team.

Please note that all preformed Intermediate and Cadet teams are required to attend Grading Day. The Grading Panel need to assess each team's standard so that an informed recommendation as to the playing grade can be made to KNA.

Paper grading

The committee will utilise 'paper' grading initially to determine potential team make-up. This will be largely driven by 2025 court side grading notes, 2025 Coaches Feedback reports, 2025 teams and any other relevant factors known to the grading sub-committee.

2026 Physical Grading Day

The Grading committee intends to simplify the physical grading day's for each age-group. Most of the hard work will already have been done at the paper grading meeting. The purpose of the physical grading day trials is to verify/confirm the players skills based on what was said in their court side & coaches reports, look at combinations and if they work, assess new players to the club and identify any significant skill level changes.

On physical grading day - players will play a series of games small games. Selectors will agree that they have sufficiently seen each player in order to confirm an assessment of them.

The selectors will then convene, and the Grading Coordinator will collate all notes from each selector. The selectors will then draft the players into teams based on all factors learnt throughout the selection process.

Grade Team Placement

Following the final team listings the grading committee will submit proposed grades for each team to KNA. Ultimately it will be the KNA grading committee that will place the team in the grade they determine to be appropriate for the team. HH will not be able to enforce any grading decisions that the club may have made.

Senior Teams

Upon registration, all senior players will be asked to indicate on the registration form if they wish to be part of a pre-formed team or if they wish to be graded into a competitive team / appropriate team based on their individual standard.

Pre-Formed Teams

A preformed team with a minimum of 7 players can be submitted at the time of registration. These teams can be of any standard and the team manager can nominate at time of registration the preferred division that the team would like to be considered for (this decision will be evaluated by the HH Grading committee and ultimately decided upon by KNA).

From time to time, the HH Grading committee may add additional players to these teams to ensure that all club member, where possible, are allocated to the most appropriate team.

Graded Teams

If an individual member would like to be considered for a graded team they must indicate this at the time of registration. At the close of registration, a list of all players will be submitted to the grading committee who will form the teams based on an individual's previous playing history. No individual requests will be accepted during this process and teams will be formed based on ability and will be at the digression of the grading committee.

Physical grading will only take place if the grading committee determine it necessary and all players will be informed at the close of registration if they are required to attend.

Disputes

Any concerns/complaints regarding grading process or player team placement are to be addressed in writing to the HH Grading Coordinator – hhncgrading@gmail.com . The Grading committee will then be called on to provide feedback / justification for any decisions. The Grading Coordinator will maintain all selection documentation for later reference.

Deregistration

Players will not be eligible for a refund should they decide to deregister due to a team placement or after Grading Day.

Late Registration

Late registrations will only be accepted if there is a vacancy in an appropriate team and at the discretion of the Grading Coordinator and Club Registrar.