

Strathfield Football Club



Grading Policy Statement

Strathfield Football Club is a family oriented competitive sporting club. We believe in promoting participation in our game, equal opportunity for all players, development of football and team skills, and above all, enjoyment of the game.

The Club believes that placing players in a grade appropriate to their skill level plays a significant role in achieving these objectives. The grading policy aims to promote these objectives, and is not about winning.

Grading gives players the opportunity to:

- develop **all** players, both their individual skills and enjoyment of the game,
- be in (and play against) teams with other players of similar attitude and ability,
- have an equal opportunity to participate, and
- have an equal opportunity to contribute to the team's performance.

These conditions provide the best circumstances for development of football and team skills and enjoyment through participation and achievement.

We recognise that individual players have different motivations for playing football ranging from highly competitive to social recreation. Through appropriate grading and player placement the Club aims to cater for all players and believes that everyone can benefit from the grading process.

While grading is not compulsory, the Club encourages all players to take part in the grading/player placement process. Players will have the opportunity to play with friends in non-graded teams whenever this is possible in conjunction with the grading process.

Grading Policy

Application: The grading policy applies to all age groups from under 8s up. Grading is implemented when players move from the Small Sided Fields to the Mini and Half fields.

Grading is to be introduced early because it has been demonstrated that it is necessary for the skills development of players (both highly developed and less developed).

Grading will occur at a time, date and manner as determined by the Committee of Strathfield FC in accordance with other policies determined by the Club and CDSFA (Canterbury and District Soccer Football Association).

U6/U7: No specific grading is proposed. The Club registrar will be responsible for the placement of players in teams and will take into account past experience (where applicable) and other requests entered on the Registration form.

Grading policy: All teams in each age group 8 and up will be graded. This is required in order for the Club to determine the appropriate level to recommend placement of teams in the CDSFA Competition.

While it is not necessary for players to participate in the Grading process it is **required** by the Club if the player is to be placed in the highest graded team/s that the club registers in the CDSFA competition for that age group in a particular year. This policy will only be varied by the Coaching Director in consultation with the Strathfield FC President under special circumstances. Any request must be made in writing through the Club Secretary prior to the closing date of team finalisation within the Club and subject to the availability of a position being available within the nominated team.

If the Club only receives enough registrations for one team then the grading of that team is subject to the number of players that has registered in an age group each year and their playing history with the Club and any previous participation in the CDSFA Competition.

Implementation: The grading process will be conducted by the Strathfield Football Club Coaching Director and his/her nominees. The Coaching Director will endeavour to have at least one other grading panelist who is independent of the age group.

Consultation with coaches will be at the **discretion** of the Coaching Director. The Club registrar will assist in managing the grading process and all parent inquiries are to be addressed to the registrar.

The decision of the Coaching Director is final. Should the Registrar be unable to resolve a dispute regarding the grading process the decision of the Strathfield Football Club President after consultation with the Coaching Director will be final.

Policy discussed and prepared by the Strathfield Football Club and adopted by the Strathfield Football Club Committee on 7 November 2011