



BARDEN RIDGEBACKS FOOTBALL CLUB

JUNIOR GRADING POLICY

VERSION: 2009 B

Table of Contents

1.....	General .3
2.....	Application .3
3.....	Considerations .4
4.....	Grading Eligibility .4
5.....	Team & Player Grading Policy .5
6.....	Grading Philosophy .6
7.....	Age Group Grading .7
8.....	Grading Coordinator / Committee .8
9.....	Grading Committee .8
10.....	Grading Committee Responsibilities .9
Grading Objectives.....	9
Basis (in order of importance).....	9
Under/Over Registrations	10
Confidentiality	10
Conflicts of Interest.....	11
Initial Team Groupings	11
Final Grading of Teams	11
Disputes.....	11
Player Welfare.....	11
No Contest	11
11.....	Appeals against Grades Allocated by SSFA12

Barden Ridgebacks Football Club

Junior Grading Policy

1. General

This policy details the clubs team and player grading policy. It is intended that this policy will be utilised by the grading committee, players, club committee and parents. At all times the clubs philosophy on grading will be based on ensuring that each and every player both enjoys the game and develops their skills and abilities. Ridgebacks overall philosophy of participation and grading players and teams to the skill level required to participate competitively will also be observed.

It is understood that as the numbers of players continue to rise and that the drivers for participation change with such an increase that these guidelines will continue to be adapted to suit. As such this policy will be reviewed at the end of each football season. In the event there is no review, the previous year's policy will apply.

2. Application

This policy covers all junior grades and teams playing in Saturday and Sunday competitions.

3. Considerations

The following provides general considerations that will be utilised in the Ridgebacks grading process;

- Barden Ridgebacks is a Club fielding teams in amateur competition.
 - The Club is run by volunteers.
 - Player and team grading is performed by a volunteer team independent from the Club's Committee.
 - Grading is useful in facilitating placement of:
 - (i) players in teams relative to age, skill and ability; and
 - (ii) Generally competitive teams in SSFA Divisions.
- They do not however offer any guarantee of these outcomes.
- Grading is an inexact process and even if conducted most conscientiously, thoroughly and objectively, player/parent expectations of grading outcomes need to be balanced with:
 - (i) the Club's express family oriented, fair play and respect for the game objectives;
 - (ii) performance of individual players at grading plus weather and field conditions during grading;
 - (iii) player engagement and attitude at grading
 - (iv) the general level of skill and ability of players within the Club and the relevant SSFA age Division;
 - (v) the grading approaches of other affiliated clubs and of SSFA;
 - (vi) the number of Barden Ridgebacks players and teams in the relevant age group;
 - (vii) the total number of players and teams in the relevant SSFA age Division;
 - (viii) the varying physical, attitudinal and skill development of individual players in current and previous seasons, or with Barden Ridgebacks or the relevant SSFA age Division;
 - (ix) History not always being a good indicator of current or future performance or potential

4. Grading Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in grading players must adhere to the following;

- Only players who have registered to play with Barden Ridgebacks Football Club for the coming season are permitted to participate in grading.
- Players must wear shin pads and boots (or other suitable covered sports footwear)

5. Team & Player Grading Policy

Age	Team Grading Approach	Player Grading Approach	Grading Objectives / Rationale
6	Gentle	Gentle	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o . o Form teams with players of generally similar skill/ability and engagement. o Organise distinct age groupings of players. o Accommodate requests to play with friends where possible. o Fun, first year of football <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Learning and enjoyment always preferred over winning o Mitigate age group anomalies in future years
7-8	Firm	Gentle	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Register generally competitive teams o Preserve well graded teams from previous years o Recognise depth of basic skill competence o Remedy obvious grading anomalies of teams (and individual players) from prior years. o Actively encourage players to move to teams of generally similar skill/ability and engagement o Requests to play with friends accommodated in line with player skills/abilities and engagement. <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Team nucleus bond recognised o Learning and enjoyment remains primary o Competitiveness positively reinforces learning o All players provided better opportunity to excel/develop
9-10	Hard	Firm	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Register competitive teams o Preserve well graded teams from previous years o Remedy obvious grading anomalies of teams (and individual players) from prior years. o Recognise emerging talent Move players to teams of generally similar skill/ability and engagement <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Learning and enjoyment remains primary o Competitiveness positively reinforces learning o All players provided better opportunity to excel/develop o Ready teams/players for full field competition
11-18	Hard	Hard	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Register competitive teams in divisions reasonably representing team potential (including intra season development) o Preserve well graded teams from previous years o Remedy obvious grading anomalies of teams and individual players from prior years. o Recognise emerging talent (especially due to full size field) o Move players to teams of generally similar skill/ability and engagement <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o First year of competition o Team grading levels more clearly delineated o Learning and enjoyment remains primary o Competitiveness positively reinforces learning <p>All players provided better opportunity to excel/develop</p>

JW12	Hard	Firm	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Register competitive teams o Recognise emerging talent o Move players to teams of generally similar skill/ability and engagement <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Learning and enjoyment remains primary o Competitiveness positively reinforces learning o All players provided better opportunity to excel/develop
JW13-JW16	Hard	Hard	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Register competitive teams in divisions reasonably representing team potential (including intra season development) o Preserve well graded teams from previous years o Remedy obvious grading anomalies of teams and individual players from prior years. o Recognise emerging talent (especially due to full size field) o Move players to teams of generally similar skill/ability and engagement <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Team grading levels more clearly delineated o Learning and enjoyment remains primary o Competitiveness positively reinforces learning <p>All players provided better opportunity to excel/develop</p>
JW18A	Hard	Hard	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Register competitive team in A division o Remedy obvious grading anomalies of teams and individual players from prior years. o Recognise emerging talent o Move players to teams of generally similar skill/ability and engagement <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Team grading levels more clearly delineated o Learning and enjoyment remains primary o Competitiveness positively reinforces learning <p>All players provided better opportunity to excel/develop</p>
JW18B-E	Hard	Firm	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Register competitive teams o Preserve well graded teams from previous years o Remedy obvious grading anomalies of teams (and individual players) from prior years. o Recognise emerging talent o Move players to teams of generally similar skill/ability and engagement <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Learning and enjoyment remains primary o Competitiveness positively reinforces learning o All players provided better opportunity to excel/develop

6. Grading Philosophy

The Club considers that players are appropriately graded if; they have the potential to:

- o enjoy their football;
- o develop their skill and ability;
- o play with team members of similar skill and ability;
- o play against opponents of similar skill and ability;
- o perform competitively in their relative age/division.

7. Age Group Grading

Ordinarily players will be graded in their own age group and will adhere to the associated rules and regulations set down by the SSFA. However, to observe the clubs participation, development and enjoyment objectives stated within this policy, players, with the consent of their parents may be considered for the next age group above their own age group dependant on the rules set out here;.

The following rules govern the movement of players through the grading process;

- o As a general rule, players will be graded in their own age group.
- o Where a player has been in the same age group since joining the club and this age group is one year above their own age group they (parents) are entitled decide if their child remains in the age group as it flows through the years. Once a player decides to change to their own age group they must remain in that age group until the completion of the junior ranks.
- o The Club may request that a player or players move to a division above their own age group to resolve any imbalance in playing numbers within their own age group or within the age group above their own age group.
- o The committee will review each application for grading in a higher grade on a case by case basis.

8. Grading Coordinator / Committee

The Committee of Barden Ridgebacks Football Club shall appoint a Committee Grading Coordinator.

The Grading Coordinator shall:

- o coordinate team and player grading activities;
- o select and appoint suitable members of the Grading Committee and have indorsed by the clubs committee
- o ensure objective application by the Grading Committee of the Club's grading approach, policies and objectives
- o resolve interpretations by the Grading Committee of the Club's grading approach, policies and objectives; and
- o Adjudicate disputes of the Grading Committee, in respect of grading of Club teams and players.

In the absence of any alternative appointment by the Committee, the Grading Coordinator(s) shall be a Committee member(s) appointed by the President.

9. Grading Committee

The Grading Coordinator(s) shall select members of the Club to be casual members of the Grading Committee.

Members of the Grading Committee shall be selected on the basis of suitable depth of:

1. Relevant playing experience; and/or
2. Coaching experience; and//or
3. Recognised coaching qualification (i.e. Australian Soccer Association soccer coaching accreditation to at least Junior Licence level), To ensure objective application of the Club's grading policies, approach and objectives.

10. Grading Committee Responsibilities

The Grading Committee's sole responsibility will be to objectively determine the grading of players and teams in accordance with the Club's grading approach, policies and objectives.

Grading Objectives

- Process objectivity (fairness, anti-discrimination, equal opportunity)
- Uphold Club objectives (fair play, respect for the game)

Basis (in order of importance)

- Basic skill assessment on grading day - ball skills and positional play
- Game participation on grading day
- Previous season/s evaluations (where available)
- Player's prior year grading and team performance
- Consultation with either coaches or managers from previous seasons

If after considering all bases of grading, two or more players are of equal skill, ability and potential and were registered within the registration period, the additional and predominating basis when selecting the last player(s) to be included in –

- A higher graded team (where there will be multiple Club teams in the relevant age Division); or
- A team - where the Club will field only one team in the relevant age Division, and
- Club loyalty (i.e. - the length and continuity of the player's membership with the Club and continuity) shall be used by the Grading Committee

Under/Over Registrations

It may occur that the number of players registering to play with the Club in an age Division may result in there being either too few or too many players in each registered team for that age Division.

The Grading Committee shall have discretion as to the number of players it will include in each registered Club team but in any event shall:

- o observe the minimum and maximum numbers of players permitted to be submitted on team grading sheets to SSJSFA; and
- o Consider the relevance of both the minimum and maximum numbers of players permitted on the field at any time in a game for that age Division and player interchange rules for that age Division.

Age Division(s)	No of Players Permitted on Team Grading Sheet		No of Players Permitted on The Field At Any Time		Unlimited Interchange
	Minimum(*)	Maximum(*)	Minimum(*)	Maximum(*)	
U6	4	6	4	4	Yes
U7-8	5	7	5	5	Yes
U9-10	7	10	7	7	Yes
U11-18	9	N/A	7	11	Yes
JW12-18	9	N/A	7	11	Yes

(*) SSFA Rules and By Laws 2008

If as a result the Grading Committee in its discretion determines that any registered player(s) is/are surplus to the number of players required for the available teams in the relevant age Division, the Grading Committee may consider regrading the player to:

- o Find an alternative age group
- o play for another Club team in that age Division; or
- o play for another Club team in an alternative suitable age Division;

Confidentiality

To protect Grading Committee anonymity and player confidentiality/privacy, once player and team grading is finalised, all written player assessments and notes must be destroyed. Grading is not to be discussed with anyone outside the Grading Committee. Nevertheless, the Grading Coordinator may be consulted for guidance on application of the Clubs policies or objectives or to resolve Grading Committee disputes.

Conflicts of Interest

Members of the Grading Committee must not grade their own children or teams they have previously officiated. Members of the Grading Committee should declare conflicts of interest and either switch to grade another group of players, or as necessary, withdraw fully from the relevant grading session.

Initial Team Groupings

At the commencement of each grading session, players will be organised into teams of players with similar skills and ability in accordance with the grading policy. These initial groupings will be determined prior to the grading session and will be based on, where possible:

- o Previous season grading;
- o Previous season player assessments (where available, by exception); and
- o Social considerations

The Grading Committee will attempt to pair each team with another team of similar skill/ability. Each team will be identified uniquely.

A member of the Grading Committee will be allocated to each team and shall stay with that team until the end of the grading session.

Final Grading of Teams

Due to the shortness of time available to update records in the Club's player registration software, print team's lists, prepare grading sheets and deliver relevant files to SSFA, all grading must be finalised and handed to the Registrar by the end of the second grading weekend.

Accordingly, the Grading Committee must make every effort to finalise grading as quickly as possible and the second grading weekend should be only used in exceptional circumstances. Except in exceptional circumstances finalised grading will not be open to player/parent dispute or appeal. Any parent/player enquiries or disputes should be referred to the Grading Coordinator.

Determining whether grading for a particular age has been finalised will be at the Executive Committee's final discretion.

Disputes

Any grading disputed within the Grading Committee is to be resolved by vote. The resolution of the Grading Committee shall be determined by a simple majority of a show of hands. Each member of the Grading Committee involved with the relevant grading session shall be entitled to a single vote. The Grading Coordinator(s) will exercise a casting vote where a vote by the Grading Committee is tied.

The Grading Committee may agree to reconvene to finalise gradings or hold further grading sessions on days other than the scheduled grading days. The Grading Committee shall inform the Grading Coordinator(s) and the relevant players and team officials of such alternative grading sessions.

Player Welfare

In risk to player safety identified prior to the commencement of grading i.e. playing surface defects, which puts players at risk of injury are to be remedied before grading may proceed. Players are to be actively encouraged to keep up fluids during and refresh sun protection during grading sessions.

No Contest

The Grading Committee may determine that no grading session is required for an age division where the number of registered players matches with the number of players required to form an entire team for that relevant age division. In such case, the Grading Committee shall inform the team official beforehand and shall determine the relevant grade to be submitted to SSFA.

11. Appeals against Grades Allocated by SSFA

Decisions to request the Club to appeal against the initial grading received from SSFA by any team shall be determined by the majority of the members of the relevant team (including the coach and manager). The decision to proceed with the appeal must also be agreed with the Executive Committee.

Requests to appeal the initial grading must be in writing and are to outline substantial factual grounds for alternative grading. Requests must be delivered to the Club Secretary by the relevant manager or coach in sufficient time before the nominated SSFA deadline.