Leeming Netball Club

Leeming Netball Club Inc.
PO Box 65 Bull Creek
WA 6149

Leeming Netball Club

GRADING POLICY AND PROCEDURE

*AUTHENTIC*PROGRESSIVE*UNIFIED*PASSIONATE*DISTINCTION*

Vision:
To be the Club of choice recognized for connecting, embracing and uniting our community through netball
Purpose:
A Club united by netball offering opportunities, choices and pathways to enhance wellbeing

JANUARY 1, 2023

LAST REVIEWED
Leeming Netball Club 2023

1. Purpose

Leeming Netball Club (LNC) is committed to ensuring team grading is conducted fairly and effectively and in the best interest of the Club and players.

2. Policy Application

This policy applies to all LNC players.

This policy applies to behaviour and practices occurring during the course of LNC business, activities, competitions and events.

3. Definitions

LNC means Leeming Netball Club representing committee and its fee paid members and life members

FNA means Fremantle Netball Association

Netball WA means the Association referred to in Rule 1 of the Netball WA Constitution

Individual Member means an individual member of the Club and as otherwise defined in Rule 11 of the LNC Constitution.

Life Member means an individual upon whom life membership of the Club has been conferred under Rule 7 of the LNC Constitution.

Financial Hardship means that a person or organisation is experiencing difficulty in meeting their financial obligations. They have the intention but not the financial capacity to pay debts owed to the Club.

Senior Player means a registered club player over 18 years of age as defined in Rule 4 of the LNC Constitution. Senior players will play in the senior divisions (19s and Under, Seniors).

Junior Player means a registered club player under the age of 18 years of age as defined in Rule 4 of the LNC Constitution. Junior players generally play in junior divisions (NetSetGo - 17s and Under), however as they progress in age/skills they may play in Senior divisions.

Round One means the end of the first 5 games of the FNA season.

4. LNC Responsibilities

LNC will:

- Take all reasonable steps necessary to ensure that everyone in the club knows:
  - what the policy is
  - the requirements for compliance
- Include a copy of the Policy in Policy and Procedures Manual
- Include a copy of the policy on the LNC website
- Notify participants, coaches and officials in all LNC activities and / or events that they will be required to comply with this policy
- Review and update this policy every 12 months.

5. Club Policy Rules

5.1 Background

The aim of grading is to form teams that have a balanced group of players of similar ability and levels across all playing positions. Grading will also be influenced by the number and ages of players registered with the Club each year, eg; 16 registered players in a particular age group will form two (2) teams of 8 players each, whereas 18 registered players would mean two (2) teams of 9 players each.

5.2 Purpose of grading

Netball is a graded, competitive sport from the age of 11 (Junior E grade) with the opportunity to represent Fremantle Netball Association (FNA) from this age.

To ensure the best chance of success for all teams and the greatest level of enjoyment and development of our players, it is necessary to grade players into teams with players of similar ability.

Stronger players always enjoy the challenge of a harder faster competition and may not develop to the potential if graded to a lower team. Similarly, players who are placed in teams above their ability may also not develop to their potential when being constantly overshadowed by the more talented players around them.

Players and parents should also be aware that success for a team one year does not always ensure they will remain together the following year. Due to new registrations and differing development rates of all players from season to season, player movement in and out of such teams is likely to occur.

Players and parents are urged to be objective and reasonable in their expectations, and to encourage their children to be happy in their chosen sport no matter what team they are ultimately placed in.

5.3 Playing with friends
Requests from both players need to be in writing at registration time stating the reasons. Please be aware, however, that such requests will only be considered by the Grading Committee for

- NetSetGo teams; and

- Grades E onwards provided both players are of a similar ability, as determined by the Grading Committee.

See 'Purpose of Grading' above for reasons.

5.4 Players playing out of their age group
The expectation of the Club is that all players play within teams of their own age group. However, on occasion, there may be exceptions to this rule.

During grading, should the Grading Committee identify a player of exceptional talent for whom a team of similar ability does not exist within their own age group, 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 ages. 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 which they will be placed.

5.5 Age of each playing group
5.5.1 Modified Rules (NetSetGo)
Players aged 8-10 years, play in a modified rules competition that do not play finals.

Net Set Go grades are not generally graded. Requests to play with friends will be accommodated where possible, depending on the overall number of registrations. Any requests must be made on registration.

5.5.2 Juniors E Grade and above
Junior players are 11 to 15 years of age. This is a competitive age group, which is graded and the teams are eligible to play finals.

5.5.3 17s and Under
17s and Under players are aged 16 to 17.

Due to different levels of strength, development and attitude, players moving from Junior A Grade to the senior ranks are required to play 17s and Under.

The year(s) in 17s and Under is seen as a transition pathway to senior grades both socially and in regards to netball skills and development. Some elements of senior club participation commence in this grade, for example the awarding of Fairest and Best players based on a voting system and the coaches award.

5.5.4 19s and Under
19s and Under players are aged 18 and 19.

Based on the strength and ability of players who are eligible to play in 19s and Under, and the number of players registered for 19s and Under and Seniors, the Grading Committee will make a decision on whether the LNC will field a team is this age group.

If desired, players who are eligible to play 19s and Under can request to skip 19s and Under and move to a senior grade.

5.5.5 Seniors
All players over 19 years must be allocated into a senior team.

Players aged 13 are eligible to play in senior divisions, depending on skill levels and LNC team balance requirements.

5.6 Process
The LNC has a 2-part grading process

1. Player Assessment Forms – consideration will be given to the Player Assessment Form from the previous year. This assessment considers team play, teamwork, participation and skills;

2. Grading Sessions - All Players must attend at least 1 out of 2-3 grading sessions. Attending as many grading sessions as possible assists the Grading Committee to form a good understanding of a players' abilities.

5.7 Unable to participate in Grading
5.7.1 Due to Injury
If a player is unable to attend grading due to serious injury, their registration form will be accepted, and the player will be graded based upon the Player Assessment Form and previous playing knowledge. In the event of a new player, grading will be based on previous playing knowledge by any appropriate person and/or placed in a team based on registration numbers for their relevant age group.

Please note: the Registrar should be notified as soon as possible if a player is unable to participate in grading.

5.7.2 Any other reason
If a player cannot grade for any other reason than injury, grading will be based on Player Assessment Form, previous knowledge of player and/or placed in a team based on registration numbers.

Please note: the Registrar should be notified as soon as possible if a player is unable to participate in grading.

5.8 The Grading Committee
All grading is undertaken on behalf of the Club by a Grading Committee. The Grading Committee consists of the Grading Coordinator and other members as appointed by the Coordinator and approved by the LNC Committee. From time to time the Grading Committee may also invite Independent Graders to assist with the grading process.

Where a conflict of interest exists (ie: the grading session involves the child of a Grading Committee member) that member of the panel shall acknowledge their conflict at team selection discussions.

5.9 Grading criteria
In assessing the overall skills of a player within an age group, the Grading Committee will take into account:

- Attendance of at least 1 Grading Session;
- Footwork;
- Speed and Agility;
- Ball Handling Skills;
- Attacking Skills;
- Defending Skills;
- Perception/ Cognition Skills; and
- Sportsmanship and Attitude.

<u>Please note:</u>
LNC aims to retain the core of a team from one year to the next. For a player to be replaced in a team – they must prove, during grading, that they are better than a current player in that position.

It is important that players/parents nominate which positions they would like to play on their registration forms as these are the positions they will be graded in and allocated a team on.

5.10 Social teams or transfer or an entire team
LNC currently accepts social teams or the transfer of an entire team, please note these teams are expected to

1. Provide their own Coach
2. Adhere to all LNC policies and procedures
3. Participate in all Club functions/activities
4. Accept any extra players if it is required to balance the overall numbers in a specific grade

5.11 Disputes
If a player or parent/guardian (in the case of a player under 18 years) feels she has been unjustly treated in the grading process, her concerns and any supporting information should be put in writing to the Club Secretary.

The Grading Committee will then reconsider the grading decision. The Committee may utilise other information to assist in deliberation including coaching reports from the previous season.

The Coach and Team Manager Coordinator will inform the player of the Grading Committee's decision as soon as possible. If the player is still dissatisfied, the matter will be submitted to the Club Committee for resolution, whose decision will be deemed final.

5.12 Confidentiality and Reporting
The LNC Committee, responsible for implementing this policy, will keep confidential the names and details of all members and their payments unless disclosure is necessary for insurance purposes, required by FNA or Netball WA, or as part of the disciplinary or corrective process in the event of a breach of policy. As part of the usual financial reporting all received and outstanding fees will be completed by the Treasurer and provided to the President for review at each committee meeting.