

Rouse Hill Rams Soccer Club Grading Process Policy

The main objective of this policy is to formulate a process by which Rouse Hill Rams Soccer Club (the Club) can conduct its grading sessions on an annual basis. This document is available to be viewed by members of the Club and the public.

Rouse Hill Rams Soccer Club is a family oriented, grassroots soccer club and we believe in promoting participation in our game, equal opportunities for all players, development of football and team skills, and above everything else, fun and enjoyment of the game.

We take pride in the fact that we provide a pathway for talented juniors to further develop their skills at State and National levels through our affiliation with FNSW.

We recognise that players and their parents have a variety of motives for playing football and as such possess different levels of aptitude and interest in the game dependent on their background, experiences, skill level, playing ability and age.

As such, and with the belief that players will develop their skills and gain more enjoyment from the game if they are playing and training with others of similar ability, our grading policy is an attempt to place players in a division and team that is appropriate to their skill level and interest in the game.

Objectives:

Players:

- To be in (and play against) teams with other players of similar attitude and ability
- To have an equal opportunity to participate
- To have an equal opportunity to contribute to the team's performance

Club:

- Ensure that players are placed in teams in a fair and equitable manner with advice from impartial persons who conduct individual assessments during grading which are correlated and tallied to provide an accurate assessment of skills and ability.
- Enable the club to properly assess and nominate team placings/divisions for the upcoming season based on these assessments.

Special Requests

Whilst the Club encourages all players to take part in the grading/player placement process, it is not compulsory. Only players wishing to play in higher divisions need attend. (Divisions 1 and 2)

Players will have the opportunity to play with friends in non-graded teams whenever this is possible in conjunction with the grading process.

All new players joining the club are invited to attend grading whether as an individual or as a team in order that their ability can be assessed and their placement can be appropriately determined.

Grading can be undertaken as an individual or as a team. It is assumed that unless the Club is notified before grading commences, an individual attending grading will be placed in an appropriate team according to his or her own individual ability.

If a team wishes to play together, the Club must be advised before grading commences. Requests to play together must be received from EACH individual player – no player or parent can make a request on behalf of another player.

All members of teams who wish to play together must accept that due to changes in squad size as the players get older, other players may be added in to the team. This decision lies with the grading committee alone.

If a request has been made for two or more players to play together, those players will be placed in a team that matches the player with the least level of ability. Please consider your requests wisely as no exceptions will be made in respect to this rule.

Grading Committee

The Grading Committee is comprised of:

- members of the Club's Committee who have had preferably 12 months experience on the Committee and/or have been experienced coaches within the Club.
- age coordinators from the previous and current years where possible

All members of the Grading Committee must be approved by the Club Committee.

When grading age groups from Under 8's up, coaches from the previous season may be asked for their opinion on the players prior to the grading session. These coaches will have a good knowledge of the players and can provide further clarification for the Grading Committee after the grading session if required.

The Club Coaches will undertake an ongoing assessment process throughout the season, watching players and talking to other Grading Committee members, coaches, managers. The knowledge that they gain during this process will assist them in offering valid opinions on player ability beyond grading day alone if and when required.

The Grading Committee will make all final recommendations on team selections to the Club Committee for approval. These recommendations are formed after analysing all recorded information at the grading session, coach feedback (if applicable), special requests and what may have been provided at the completion of the previous season by coaches/managers.

Please Note:

Age Groups

Under 6-7 There is no individual player grading and no need to attend a grading session

Under 8 All players should attend grading

Under 9 thru to U21 Only players wishing to play in the highest divisions are invited to attend a grading session

Division 1 or 2 teams are invited to attend the grading sessions, as are **all new players** to the Club

Grading Process

Players will be assessed by the Grading Committee according to the FNSW/FFA Curriculum appropriate for the age group and will be observed by a number of assessors over two separate sessions.

1st Session=assessment conducted during various soccer drills and excersises.

2nd Session=assessment of player's ability and awareness in team format (game play)

We require all players who wish to be graded for divisions 1 & 2 (whether individual or as a team) attend both sessions.

Please note that during the grading session, parents are prohibited from either instructing or approaching their child, and from standing around the areas where the grading sessions are being conducted.

Players Not Able To Attend

Where a player wishes to be graded but is unable to attend the grading day, they will need to inform the Club beforehand in writing via email to contact.soccer@rousehillrams.com.au The Grading Committee will consider the team/division they played in last season and the confidential assessment made by that player's coach in the previous season before a decision is made on their placement.

New players

New players are strongly advised to grade over both sessions. Those joining the Club who decide not to grade will be placed according to the information from their division and placing over the last couple of seasons, substantiated where possible using the My Football Club website database and any documentation supplied.

Notification

Players will be advised of their team allocation on **Muster Day**. No changes will be made and no conversations will be entered into regarding team allocations on **Muster Day**.

Concerns About Grading Decisions

All grading appeals must be put in writing to the Club (contact.soccer@rousehillrams.com.au) within 48 hours of the team announcements and will be assessed by the Grading Committee, whose decision is final and no further correspondence will be entered into thereafter.

This policy shall be reviewed annually by the Grading Committee.