



Rouse Hill Rams Soccer Club

Grading Process Policy

Updated: February 2018

This policy describes the process by which Rouse Hill Rams Soccer Club (the Club) conducts 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 (the 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 the methodology we apply when placing 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 aptitude and ability
- To have an equal opportunity to participate
- To have an equal opportunity to contribute to the team's performance
- We encourage all players from Under 8 and above to attend the grading process

Club:

- To 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 informed assessment of skills and ability.
- To enable the club to properly assess and nominate team placings/divisions for the upcoming season based on these assessments.

Special Requests

Players with a preference to play with friends, where it is possible to accommodate this request, both players will be placed in a team that matches the grading of the lower graded player.

Please consider your requests wisely as no exceptions will be made in respect to this rule.

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 in writing from either the coach or spokesperson that has been part of that team previously and they should provide supporting evidence demonstrating that they have obtained permission



Rouse Hill Rams Soccer Club

Grading Process Policy

Updated: February 2018

from the all players parents to make this request on their behalf. These requests should be emailed to contact.soccer@rousehillrams.com.au.

If a request to stay together as a team does not have the minimum number of players required to play in that age group (including substitutes) then the request will be denied.

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.

Request to stay together as a team does not guarantee last season's divisional placement nor does it guarantee placement in the higher divisions.

The higher divisions will be made up of the strongest players who demonstrate the skills and aptitude to play at this level. This will be determined by our detailed analysis, observations and scores of each player during the entire grading process.

Team requests will only be entertained from under 8's thru to under 11's. After this age we are starting to prepare players to enter the competitive phase of football and all players will be graded individually thereafter.

Grading Committee

The Grading Committee will be comprised from:

- Club Coaches
- 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

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 and may be consulted by the Club Coaches responsible for grading, 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 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



Rouse Hill Rams Soccer Club

Grading Process Policy

Updated: February 2018

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.

Session One	Session Two
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Assessment conducted during various soccer drills and exercises. Each skill station will have a minimum of 2 observers who will score individual players on that station alone.When moving onto the next station players again will be assessed by another set of coaches. Each station has its own ratings sheet and no coach or observer is privy to the previous stations scores.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Assessment of player's ability and awareness in team format (game play).

Players will be placed into preliminary groups and will take part in a game format where interchanges of players and groups will take place to assess the divisional placement of that player or group of players.

All players who wish to be graded for divisions 1 & 2 must attend both sessions.

We welcome and invite coaches to be present and assist with the grading of all players on the day, however, to ensure an impartial and unbiased assessment of the players and their abilities, we ask that coaches exclude themselves from the grading process when their age group players that they coach are being graded.

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 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 Club Coaches will consider the team/division that the player 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.

Notification of teams

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**.

Appeals - 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.

Whilst we endeavour to do our best to meet requests we cannot guarantee that this will be possible in all cases.



Rouse Hill Rams Soccer Club

Grading Process Policy

Updated: February 2018

Hills Football Association Divisional Placements

Please note once the grading process is complete and the players are placed in their teams and allocated the appropriate division, Rouse Hills Rams Soccer Club will submit these details to the Hills Football Association.

On the rare occasion the HFA may at their discretion either promote or relegate a team to a division other than what we have submitted. HFA will do this only where the number of teams in that division are not adequate to run equitable competition.

This policy shall be reviewed annually and amended by the Grading Committee as required.

Last review date 10/2/2018.