



ABERFELDIE NETBALL CLUB – JUNIOR TEAM SELECTION & GRADING POLICY

Aberfeldie Netball Club has always been a proud, family-orientated club that has built a strong and rich history of success in netball.

For many years we have provided the opportunity for everyone to participate in the game of netball by providing equal opportunities to the community through our effective management, support and development of the game.

We will continue to build on this foundation that has been established over the past 40+ years and ensure the longevity of our club for many more years to come.

1. Our Philosophy

To provide an opportunity for all children to participate in the sport of netball.

Our commitment is to promote, encourage and foster unity in our community netball club that allows its members to play netball and develop their netball skills in a fun, safe and fair environment, with the necessary equipment, facilities and personnel.

Our future is one that embraces diversity, inclusion and equality.

Aberfeldie Netball Club encourages and welcomes all children in the community to participate in the sport of netball.

We strive to create an environment where children feel they belong, play with familiar friends and meet new friends. A safe environment to have fun!

2. Aims and objectives

The aim of the selection policy is to ensure that team grading is conducted fairly and effectively and in the best interest of the players and Club.

The objective of the grading policy is to:

- Create teams of similar skill and ability
- Allow teams to play in a suitable competitive environment
- Allow Aberfeldie Netball Club to be represented in multiple sections of the EDNA competition
- Allow opportunities for players to be eligible to play in a Representative competition

3. When will Grading take place?

We will notify the Community in a variety of ways of a GRADING DAY date.

Grading will be conducted by an Independent Selection Panel who are experts in coaching, developing and assessing all levels of Netball.

Any administrative assistance required will be provided by the President and Secretary of the Aberfeldie Netball Club Committee.

All individuals will have a valid Working with Children Check (WWC)

What if I cannot attend Grading Day?

We will be asking all coaches for a detailed report on their team's progress each season. We will use this feedback, consideration for grade/s previously played, and positions available.

4. Grading Criteria

4.1 During the assessment process the following will be taken into consideration:

- Footwork
- Speed and agility
- Ball handling skills
- Attacking skills
- Defending skills
- Fitness
- Versatility
- Perception and cognition skills
- Concentration and focus in a game
- Sportsmanship and attitude

4.2 Grading Process

- Every child is treated as an individual member irrespective of previous team, grade or club
- Every child has an equal opportunity
- Feedback from coaches will be considered during the grading process

Players will have the opportunity to trial in their preferred position and they may be asked to play in position that is not their preferred position.

This will help the assessment process.

For a number of reasons, it may not be necessary for players to play an equal number of quarters during the session.

Parents, players and non-coaches are not to approach assessors at any time during the assessment process in an attempt to influence grading and team formation.

New players will be invited to attend Club training sessions for their age group so they can be assessed on their experience and skill level if they cannot attend grading day.

Under 9's / Net Set Go

Players in Net Set Go are not skills assessed.

SET teams – usually players 7-8yos, grouped by age

GO teams – usually players 9yos, grouped by age and ability.

Coach feedback forms will assist in team formation.

Any U9 players who will be moving up to the U11 age group in the following year, will be reviewed towards the end of the current Spring Season (during game time) and are encouraged to attend Grading Day.
This will be according to the U11 grading criteria.

11 & Under

Players will be graded via the process described in this grading policy as well as:

- skills assessment
- age
- team balance (team positions)
- friendships (see Friendship policy)

13 & Under / 15 & Under

Players in this age group will be graded via the grading process described in this grading policy as well as:

- skill set
- age
- team balance (team positions)

After teams are selected they cannot be altered without good reason.
Alterations may only be done by the Aberfeldie Netball Club Executive Committee.

17 & Under / Open

Players in this age group will be selected based on coach feedback, team balance, age (this applies to 17&Under teams vs Open teams) and will be selected by the Executive Committee

Some players in this space want to play in the Open division, some want to play in Under 17's.

As a Club, we may select a team and apply for Under 17's, the final EDNA grade/division is decided by EDNA due to team numbers across the competition.

5. Friendship Requests

Aberfeldie Netball Club acknowledges that players enjoy playing with friends therefore we envisage that most players might be placed with 1 friend of similar ability.

However, this is not always possible and the Aberfeldie Netball Club recognises that playing outside these friendship groups is a good opportunity to meet new friends.

Players have the opportunity to make one (1) Friendship request that must be requested mutually. Please keep in mind that if there is a skill difference between players, they will be placed in a team suited to the less skilled player.

Friend requests must be made via email to president@aberfeldienetball.com.au
This must be submitted by Grading Day.

6. Players playing out of age Groups

As a Club, we have generally allowed players to “play up” without consideration for their skill, ability or appropriate grade / division. This decision can be positive &/or negative for a players development.

Netball Victoria makes the following recommendations:

It is a general policy of the club that all players should play within their age group.

There are however some circumstances when a player may be selected for a higher age group. These are:

- Extra players are required in a higher age group to meet minimum team numbers
- A player's DOB is close to qualifying for the higher age group, they possess the necessary skills and experience to play in the higher age group, and there are other supporting reasons
- (e.g. the player has a history of playing with peers who will be moving to the higher age group).
- A player is performing at the same skill level as an older age bracket team and is the right fit for the older age bracket team. This decision is at the discretion of the Executive Committee and must be supported by the parent/guardian. The player and parent/guardian have the right to refuse, in which case they will remain in their natural age group.
- In some circumstances the club may choose not to fill teams by moving players up.
- For example, if there are no suitable players to move up or it will not be beneficial for players and teams to do so. In this situation, the club may try to source players externally.

7. Team Formation

Teams will ideally consist of 9 players, a coach and team manager.

When assessing players and forming teams, mid-court, attack and defence positions will be taken into consideration to ensure a fair spread of positions, as well as:

- grading performance
- coaches' feedback forms
- court position (preferred and non-preferred)
- friendships
- sportsmanship and attitude
- age

The outcome of the grading day is to develop teams that will be of standard for different sections of the Essendon District Netball Association competition. However, there is no guarantee that EDNA will accept our team grading.

Parental support and communication with coaches is required to ensure a smooth transition of players into new teams by encouraging children to make new friends.

When forming teams, the aim is to achieve strength and balance in a team.

Team selectors aim for balance across all teams and take into account the potential impact of individual changes across multiple teams.

8. Concerns

We understand that grading can be an anxious time for our players, so please be assured that we will do our very best to keep the environment as relaxed and equitable as possible. We want our players to feel confident in our commitment to support them, encourage them to improve and enjoy the game of netball.

Whilst it is hoped that players and parents appreciate the difficulty of the grading and team allocation process and accept the final decision made by the team selection committee, an appeal may be made.

If a player is not happy with the decision of the Independent Selection Panel's recommendations and the Team Selection Committee, **based on their playing skills**, they may appeal, requesting a review of the Grading decision.

Appeals based on a particular player being placed into a team with friends, will not be considered as the grading committee has worked hard to balance the teams and believes that playing outside these friendship groups is a good opportunity to meet new friends.

If a family considers that their child has been treated unfairly during the assessment process and team allocation:

Appeals will be accepted via email President@aberfeldienetball.com.au only.

The email must be sent to the ANC Executive Committee within 2 days of the announcement of the preliminary teams.

All emails will be responded to after the appeal has been investigated.

Members of the Executive Committee & Independent Selection Panel will convene to consider any concerns and will advise the player of their response. No appeal will be discussed over the phone.

The Response from the committee will be the FINAL decision.

9. Cancellation/Non acceptance of selection

Should you choose not to accept your selection a cancellation fee of \$55 will be applied to your registration refund.

IMPORTANT: COMPLETION OF REGISTRATION INDICATES ACCEPTANCE OF THESE TERMS AND CONDITIONS BY THE REGISTERED PLAYER AND THEIR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Please be proud of the team and give it your all when you are at training and playing a game. We endeavour to place every player in a team. Our wish is for players of all abilities to love the game of netball, make many friendships along the way, and have fun!