



Player Grading & Team Selection Policy 2022

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to outline the procedures for the grading of players, age groups of Under 10 to Under 18, to determine the selection of team squads for the Belnorth Football Club for the upcoming season.

The grading process allows Belnorth to:

- group players with similar skills together
- ensure players are placed in teams in a fair, equitable and transparent manner
- assess and nominate team placing's (i.e. divisions) to Capital Football for the upcoming season.

This policy constitutes the rules surrounding the grading process and team selections for Under 10 to Under 18 age groups and is to be considered binding by all players, parents and officials.

Any queries should be directed to admin@belnorth.org.

Objectives

As recommended by Capital Football, players in the Under 10 to Under 18 year age groups registered for a club are encouraged to participate in a grading process.

The aim of this process is to group players with similar skills together to enable a fair competition to take place throughout the season.

The grading process is critical to ensure that each player is placed in a team where they will have opportunities to enhance their football skills in a competitive environment according to their development needs.

Grading Participation

Players who do not wish to be considered for the highest division teams (divisions 1, 2 or colour equivalents) are not required to attend grading sessions.

All players must be registered to play for Belnorth before they attend the grading process for both Open and Girls Competitions.

Players who do not attend grading sessions will be placed in a team in the lowest division for their age group. Exceptions to this are players who are attending trials for a higher level of competition that are not available to players at Belnorth, e.g. Belconnen United NPL teams or equivalent.

Players must attend all grading sessions. The dates, times and locations for grading will be advised on the [Belnorth website](#) and social media.

Players who are unable to attend grading sessions must notify Belnorth via email at admin@belnorth.org prior to the scheduled grading session.

Players who register after the first three games of the season will initially be placed in the lowest division for their age group.

To ensure a fair and equitable approach to grading. Friendship teams will not be graded into Division 1 and 2. Acknowledging that friendship teams are made up of players with varying abilities, placing an entire team into a higher grade has the strong potential to result in players outside the team missing out on playing at a higher level, even though their skills may surpass some members of a friendship team.

If an entire team from a previous year wishes to stay together, the coach and or manager may make this request via email: admin@belnorth.org.

Grading Process

The Technical Director will conduct grading with their technical team. It will be a two-stage process consisting of an assessment of skills and gameplay.

Players assessment includes:

- core skills in line with the current FFA Curriculum
- gameplay in trial matches

Grading will also take into account player attitude, behaviour and future potential.

The number of grading sessions varies based on the number of players within an age group.

We ask that parents do not coach their children from the sidelines during grading. That means no encouragement, criticism or instructions.

Player Assessment

A player assessment will be carried out, with players being scored points against the above criteria. Players will be placed into teams and competitions based on these scores.

Team Selection

Teams will be finalised in late March.

Team selections are made at the start of the season and may vary during the year. Players may be moved up or down during the season. For example, a player displaying skills at a consistently higher level than the originally allocated division may be moved up to a higher division while a player who is struggling or regularly missing games or training sessions may be moved to a lower division. These changes to teams will not be made without consultation with the Belnorth Committee and the respective team coaches.

The coach/manager will email their new team, welcoming players and providing information about training schedules and any other relevant information. Team lists will not be published online.

Questions concerning grading, team selection or coaching will be directed by email to admin@belnorth.org

Competing player commitments

Where a player is not able to meet their match day and training requirements due to other commitments may be moved to a lower grade by the club.

Grading In a Higher Age Group

Belnorth may consider requests for players to be placed in a higher age group based on the circumstance and skills of the individual player. These circumstances will be assessed against broader considerations such as the impacts on team and division allocations in both gaining and losing age groups.

Assessment of these players will be made using the same criteria for players from within the age group they wish to play in.

Belnorth will require Capital Football approval if the player is playing two years above their age.

Players who are placed into a higher age group at their request will be required to pay the registration fees of the higher age group.

Girls grading into Open Competitions

Girls are eligible to play in all Open Competition teams.

In placing girls in Open Competition teams, the Belnorth Coaching Coordination Unit will consider the ability shown by the player during the grading process.

Individual girls grading with boys is permitted; however, a number of factors will be taken into account which includes, but is not limited to:

- the skills and ability of the player;
- recommendations of previous coaches; and
- the potential effect on the development of the player.

Girls are also eligible to play one Open age group down.

Disputes

In the event of a dispute with the final grading decision, the player and parent/guardian may write to the relevant registrar within ten days of team announcement, outlining their grievance with relevant information/evidence supporting their claim(s). This is to be no more than 100 words.

The Belnorth committee, with advice from the Technical team, will assess all disputes and will provide a decision to the player and parent/carer within seven days of receiving the letter.

Belnorth will do its best to address and resolve parent and player concerns promptly.

This decision will be final, and no subsequent appeals will be considered.