



Player Grading & Team Selection Policy 2024

Purpose

This document outlines the procedures for grading 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 (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.

This process aims to group players with similar skills to enable fair competition throughout the season.

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

Grading Participation

It is recommended that all players attend grading. Those who wish to be considered for higher divisions or an older age group must attend grading sessions.

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

Grading does not guarantee placement in a higher division team, and all graded players will be placed into a team best suited to their skill level.

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 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.

Goalkeepers are to attend both their age group and goalkeeping sessions.

Players who cannot attend grading sessions must notify Belnorth via email at grading@belnorth.org before the scheduled grading session.

To ensure a fair and equitable approach, there will be a preference for friendship teams to be placed in lower grades. Friendship teams are made up of players with varying abilities. Putting an entire team into a higher grade can 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 request this via email: admin@belnorth.org.

Grading Process

It will be a two-stage process of assessing skills and gameplay.

Player assessment includes:

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

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

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

We ask parents not to 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 scoring points against the above criteria. Players will be placed into teams and competitions based on these scores.

Team Selection

Teams will be finalised in early 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 consistently higher than the originally allocated division may be moved up to a higher one.

In contrast, a player struggling and regularly missing games or training sessions may be moved to a lower division. These team changes will be made in consultation with the Belnorth Committee, the technical team, players' parents/guardians and the respective team coaches.

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

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

Grading In a Higher Age Group

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

These players will be assessed using the same criteria for players from the age group they wish to play in.

Belnorth will require Capital Football approval if players play two years above their age.

Players 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, their ability is assessed during grading.

Individual girls grading with boys is permitted; however, several factors will be taken into account, which include, but are 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 100 words at maximum.

The Belnorth committee, with advice from the grading team, will assess all disputes and 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.