



CSFC Grading Policy

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The Grading Policy of CSFC essentially is to be used to provide the Grading Committee (as confirmed by the CSFC General Committee) with clear processes and procedures outlined to ensure that CSFC Grading is conducted with the utmost integrity, professionalism and transparency.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this document is to formulate the processes by which Cronulla Seagulls Football Club (hereby referred to as CSFC) will conduct its grading sessions on an annual basis. The aim of grading is to make sure registrants play at their skill level, and teams are entered in the right divisions. Players will develop their football skills and gain more enjoyment from the game if they are playing with others of similar ability. Playing in a team or a division that is above OR below the player’s own skill level often leads to frustration and discouragement. Grading will assist in making sure your child plays at the right level to maximise enjoyment, encourage their football development and get the most out of the game.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Grading Committee has been formed to promote well organised football within the CSFC. Its purpose is to provide an appropriate structure for our junior/youth teams that accommodates any level of play, commensurate with the players individual ability, potential and interest. Our philosophy is to build a positive environment that fosters improved self-confidence, self-esteem and a healthy lifestyle, allowing our juniors/youth to participate, enjoy, and excel at all levels. This is achieved by grouping players of similar ability, regardless of gender, nationality, or religion.

WHO IS GRADED?

All players from U6 to U16 should attend grading.

U6	No individual grading for players in these age groups, as often friendship teams are formed for the younger players. All players are required to attend grading so that the team can be placed in an appropriate grade for the upcoming season.
U7 – U11	Individual grading is undertaken for players that would like to trial for top grade teams in these age groups. Friendship teams are also required to attend grading so that the team can be placed in an appropriate grade for the upcoming season.
U12 – U16	Compulsory grading for all players, Players interested in trying out for top-grade teams in these age groups undergo individual grading. Additionally, friendship teams may not be possible due to grading process to ensure their placement in a suitable grade for the upcoming season.

U10 to U11 are transitional years in the comp, known as ‘**non-competitive**’ age groups. While there are no points it is suggested that players look to form new friendships with players of a similar ability to maximise enjoyment, encourage their football development and to get the most out of the game. As a club we will also honor friendship teams in non-competitive grades in these age groups.



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From U12 teams are deemed **'competitive'**, so grading is compulsory to make sure players and teams are placed in the right division.

In general terms, senior teams (U21s, All Age and Over 35/45) are not put through a grading policy, as the Management Committee will oversee general placement of senior's teams in relation to previous year's performance, and overall request from players in each team. This process is, as always then at the discretion of the Association as the final Division into which each team will be placed.

Overall, CSFC has some clear objectives in relation to the grading of our junior teams, which are as follows:

Players:

Provide a clear, well defined process to ensure that all players are to be placed in a team that will:

- Best represent their individual level of skill and ability,
- Ensure teams formed are comprised of similarly skilled players,
- Maximise opportunities to develop and improve their skills,
- Maximise their enjoyment and love of the game, and
- To provide clear and well managed pathways through age groups and divisions.

Club:

- Ensure that players are placed in teams in a fair and equitable manner by independent persons,
- Enable the club to properly assess and nominate team grades (i.e. divisions) for the upcoming season.
- Ensure that there will be a Grading Committee made up of a Grading Chairman and several football community members selected by our Committee whom are experienced and suitably qualified and experienced to grade each age group.

All players must be registered in Play Football prior to attending a grading session. This rule is set down by FNSW and CSFC strictly adheres to this policy.

THE GRADING COMMITTEE

To ensure an unbiased selection of players, an independent Grading Committee is appointed by the Club's Executive Committee. This Grading Committee will consist of skilled and experienced Club coaches and/or senior players. Previous season's coaches are asked to complete a Players Assessment Form to assist the Grading Committee.

THE GRADING PROCEDURE

For the younger age groups, grading usually takes place in February, before team nominations are due and after registrations have opened. Prior to Grading, the relevant Age Group Coordinators will advise players of dates, times, location etc. This information will also be posted on the CSFC website and Facebook noticeboard.



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For insurance reasons, only registered players can participate in the grading sessions.

On Grading day, players will be given numbers a coloured bib and placed in groups. Please note, these groups do not reflect certain teams and can be based on alphabetical listing, order in which registration was received or previous season's team.

The Grading Committee conducting the grading will look at a number of attributes including core and technical skills (e.g. first touch, striking the ball, 1v1, running with the ball), game skills (positioning, team work, reading the game, principles of play, vision, communication, awareness, tackling etc.) as well as attitude and personal attributes (drive, coachability, determination, leadership, sportsmanship etc..).

Players might be put through a varied set of drills as warm up, but most importantly the Grading Committee will look at the players' PDE (Perception, Decision making, Execution) in game situations, so the focus will be on small sided (4v4 or 5v5) and/or full size games (9v9, or 11v11). These practice matches will enable the Grading Committee to better evaluate their skills and game awareness etc.

Grading decisions will be made jointly by the full Grading Committee, and will take into account feedback and recommendations provided by the previous season's. Please note that team selection is not only based on being the best player on the day. Personal attributes, team balance, and player positions are also considered when teams are formed. Depending on field availability, more than one grading session may be required to ensure that everyone gets an equal opportunity to demonstrate their true talents, especially where there are more than 2 teams in one age group.

If a player is unable to attend, please contact the Grading Coordinator ASAP. The Committee will consider the team/division they played in last season and the player's Coach's confidential feedback/assessment.

Some points to remember:

Players must arrive 15 minutes prior to the start time to register for the session. All players **MUST** wear shin pads and boots, and bring water and sunscreen. Please check the CSFC website noticeboard for any last-minute changes.

Parents at trials: No coaching from the side-line is allowed during grading. Parents are encouraged to drop and collect (there are shops and nice cafes nearby). If they stay, we ask they stand well away from the players and Grading Committee. Please give us the opportunity to assess the players' abilities.

During the Grading, some players may be asked to sit out part of the session. This is because the Graders already established a clear understanding of those players' capabilities and they prefer fewer players on the pitch to get a better look at the skills of the remaining players.



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We absolutely try and accommodate 'playing with friends' requests, especially for the teams in lower divisions, but bear in mind that changes to the team are inevitable as teams change in size at U8's U10's and again at U12's.

We are committed to providing opportunities for players wishing to play at a higher and more competitive level as well as having a responsibility to the SSFA, to position our players and teams according to their ability to ensure a balanced and even competition.

CSFC aims to accommodate ALL players, but should registrations exceed recommended number of players to field x number of full teams, preference will be given to RETURNING players and players who do not have another competition to play in.

CSFC and its volunteers strive to do what is fair and right for the Club as a whole. The decision of the Grading Committee is final. De-registrations after the teams have been announced can greatly affect the teams and a lot of effort is required to re-adjust. Only a small portion of the registration fees may be refunded in this case.

SSFA RECOMMENDATION TO CAPPED TEAM NUMBERS.

Below is the Sutherland Shire Football Association recommendation in relation to capped team numbers for Competition Teams. Under 12 to 16s is 16 Players. Any variation to this cap will be made at the discretion of the Club's Registrar in conjunction with the Grading Chairman and Club Secretary.

Disputes

Any disputed grading's or questions on the grading process need to be directed to the Club's Secretary secretary@cronullaseagullsf.com at the earliest possible convenience, following the team's selection details being published on the website. As a guideline it is expected that any dispute would be lodged, in writing, within 48 hours of the team's listing being published.

All disputed grading's will be referred to the Grading Chairman and executive committee for consideration. They will;

- Review grading notes from the age group's grading session.
- Review the previous season's Coaches report, if the child played with CSFC.
- Discuss the player's performance and attitude with the coach of the previous season.

The Club's Secretary will be provided with the recommendation which may include player development advice. As a guideline the Club's Secretary will be in contact with the player, and / or their parents, within 72 hours of the lodgement of the dispute.

Any further protests about the decision reached by the Grading Chairman must be lodged, in writing addressed to the Club Secretary, within 24 hours. The Club Secretary will convene a meeting to discuss the matter with the Club's Executive Committee.

All grading assessment sheets and player evaluation reports are the Committee-in-Confidence property of CSFC.

All decisions about late registrations for any group are to be taken by the relevant Club's Registrar, not the Grading coordinator or the grading committee and put in writing to registrar@cronullaseagullsf.com