

Grading Explained

Purpose

This 'behind the scenes' grading information has been provided to help parents understand the process and constraints faced by the graders, and to encourage all to respect their skill and experience in doing that job. JTC Netball Club has approximately 240 registered players, many of whom are playing for the school for the first time. This means that players spanning 6 scholastic years resulting in 26 teams this year. John XXIII College Netball Club is one of the most represented Clubs in finals each year, which is an indication of correctly grading and balancing our teams.

1. Over the 3 or 4 sessions of trials, the netball players are assessed as to their fitness, ability, preferred position and other attributes.
2. Missing a day of trial does not result in a player being penalized; rather it reduces the opportunities for the graders to assess the player. There are several trials precisely because it is expected that most players will not be able to attend all four sessions for valid reasons.
3. At the start of the new year, all players start on a level playing field and it is recognised that players would have evolved since last season, either in their ability or fitness having improved or conversely worsened, which implies movements up and down across all teams.
4. John XXIII College Netball Club uses four highly competent graders who undertake trials not only for our school but also for Perth Netball Association. We also use parents who we feel are suitably qualified. These parents do not grade their own children's year group.
5. The graders' objective is solely to include all nominated netball players in teams, in such a way as to create balanced, competitive teams across a variety of divisions.
6. Players are graded on the section of the court that they play in, namely "defence", "centre court", and "shooter", as well as their skill level, fitness level, ability to read the play and general cohesion within the team.
7. Grading attributes are recorded at trials and analysed later on removing any potential emotional/environment bias on the trial day.
8. There will be years when a child will be the least skilled player in a higher division, and can thus be regarded as being a bit "carried" by the stronger players in that team. In another year, the same child may become the strongest player in her team and therefore do more of the "carrying" of other players. This is the SPIRIT OF TEAMWORK.
9. As parents we of course want our children to do the best they can and be in the best team; the reality is that there is only room for a limited number of players in each team. Inserting one child in a team will imply removing another child to make room, potentially at the expense of the team. John XXIII College Netball Club is there for all of the children and cannot consider individual requests at the expense of other children.

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10. Graders have constraints that may not be apparent to most parents: some years there may be 60% shooters in a scholastic year and very few centre court players – teams that year will have very good shooters having to play in a lower division, no matter how good they are, simply due to the facts that there cannot be a team with five shooters.
11. Often there are minimal difference between two teams and after the PerthNetball Association grades the teams in divisions, we sometimes find two of our teams in the same divisions; it therefore happens that the only difference between Team 1, 2 or 3 is semantic.
12. Coaches awards each year go to one player, but it should be revealed that every time about four or five players are strong contenders and equally worthy but only one can get the recognition – the same goes for choosing the last player to fill in a team; many are contenders but sadly only one can get the nod. It is a hard decision to make as it inevitably results in being pleasing for one player and unfortunate for the other equally worthy candidates. However players must accept and respect the final decision made and abide by it.

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