



## **Toukley Gorokan Football Club Grading Policy**

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### **Why is grading required?**

Grading allows players to be grouped into teams of like ability and allocated into a suitable graded competition and ensures children are playing with and against players of similar or equal ability. This gives each child the chance to fully participate, enjoy the experience and develop to his/her full potential as a player. Past experience has shown that it is frustrating for any individual to play in a team which is clearly above or below their level of ability. Grading is designed to help all players of all abilities.

### **Grading Panel**

The Committee of Toukley Gorokan Football Club (TGFC) will appoint a Grading Panel (the Panel), which will consist of at least one independent member and will be overseen by the Club Football Manager. The objective of the Panel will be to allocate players to the most appropriate team.

All players must register in their correct age group. No player shall be permitted to play in a higher age group without the approval of the TGFC Committee. Matters that may fall outside this policy are to be submitted to the TGFC Committee in writing outlining the individual circumstances for its due consideration.

### **Small Sided Non-Competition Age Groups (U5-U11)**

U5's, U6's and U7's - CCF regulations outline that these age groups NOT be graded.

U8's will be grouped in teams of like ability. These age groups will be grouped on ability and attend grading days as/if required. Players will be graded by the Panel in conjunction with feedback received in reports, where held, from the previous seasons coach.

U9's - U11's will be grouped in teams of like ability and in accordance with CCF regulations will be known as A, B, C, D etc. and attend grading days as required. Players will be graded in accordance with the 'Grading Criteria and Process', as set out below and by the Panel in conjunction with feedback in reports, where held, from the previous seasons coach. Should a player be unavailable for grading the previous seasons coach's recommendations will be considered and applied accordingly.

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Previous season teams may be kept together if all players grade at a similar level. However, all players will be given the opportunity to grade up or down from the previous season.

Where players have preference to play together, these players will be placed in teams according to the ability of the lowest graded player. This would be discussed with the parents of all players involved in the request to play together.

### **Junior Competition Age Groups (U12-U18)**

TGFC requires that junior competition (U12-U18) age groups be graded on ability and should attend grading days and trial matches organised by the Club if/as required. Players will be graded in accordance with the 'Grading Criteria and Process', as set out below and by the Panel in conjunction with feedback in reports, where held, from the previous seasons coach. Should a player be unavailable for grading the previous seasons coach's recommendations will be considered and applied accordingly. A squad of 14 provisional players will be selected per team, depending on registered player numbers.

Where there is more than one team in an age group, all players in that age group will be invited to trial for the higher graded team. Grading will then occur as per the "Grading Criteria and Process".

Where players (in consultation with the parents/guardian) do not wish to trial for the higher graded team in any age group, the club will respect this decision. These players, and any players who have not been selected in the higher graded team, will then form a team and be graded into an appropriate lower division, as deemed by TGFC.

It should be noted that the decision to trial (or not to trial) for the higher graded team should fall with the player and their parent/guardian. Coaches should not attempt to influence a player in this decision.

The players, parents and coaches will be advised that they may be changed to another team during and/or after trial games have been completed. The selection of the final teams will be made by the TGFC Committee and posted on the website shortly after the grading process has been finalised.

Teams will be finalised as soon as possible prior to the start of the season.

### **Grading Criteria and Process**

The Panel will take into account the following elements when grading:

- **Technical Skills**
  - Dribbling – Ball control, agility, ability to beat defenders
  - Passing – Accuracy, vision, variety of passes



- Shooting/Finishing – Power, accuracy, composure in front of goal
- **Tactical Awareness**
  - Positioning – Awareness of space, movement off the ball
  - Decision-Making – When to pass, shoot, or hold the ball
- **Physical Attributes**
  - Speed & Agility – Acceleration, quick turns, endurance
  - Strength & Stamina – Ability to hold off opponents, maintain performance throughout the game
- **Defensive Contributions**
  - Tackling & Marking – Ability to win the ball, maintain defensive shape
  - Work Rate – Effort in pressing, tracking back, and recovering defensively
- **Sportsmanship & Teamwork**
  - Communication & Leadership – Encouraging teammates, organizing play
  - Attitude & Respect – Fair play, respect for referees and opponents
- **Coachability & Effort**
  - Willingness to learn, adapt, and improve
  - Hustle and determination on and off the ball

All items listed above will be determined by a points based system that the graders will work through when running drills and games. Graders will also have no name's recorded when grading and work on a bib colour and number system.

Junior coaches may be consulted on the composition of the team, or the ability of a player but will not have the final decision. The final decision regarding grading rests with the Grading Panel.

### **Unable to Attend or Opting Out of Grading**

Where players have played before and their abilities are well known we can offer well informed but cautious assessments with regard to grading. Where a player is new to the club, or whose abilities are not well known, the player will be allocated to the lowest graded team in the first instance.

If players elect to opt of grading entirely, the ungraded player will still be welcome to play at the club should teams and numbers permit, but ungraded players will be placed in the lowest available grade.

### **Excess Players**

Toukley Gorokan Football Club will make every effort to accommodate registered players in their respective age groups, however, in the event that a graded age group has excess registered players following the grading process, the excess players will be offered:

- i) the opportunity to play in an appropriate team or in a higher age group; or

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ii) a refund of registration fees, if they choose not to play for our club.

In the event we only have enough players to fill one team in a particular age group the intention remains to overview and grade the players to ensure the Team is entered into the appropriate 'divisional grade'.

### **Announcement of Grading**

Teams will be announced via MyCompApp. All registered players will be advised of "Meet & Greet" date following the consumption of grading and team allocations.

### **Grievance Process**

Registered players or parents have the right to seek feedback on the reasons for a grading decision that directly affects them. Concerns should be initially discussed with the appropriate Football Manager who will liaise with the player/parent and Club Football Manager to address the queries or concerns. The Club Football Manager is responsible for providing the reasons for a grading decision to the Executive Committee.

Where either player or parent is not satisfied with the grading decision, they may refer the matter to the Executive Committee for resolution. When a grading decision is referred to the Executive Committee for resolution, the selector and player and/or parent must provide a written statement outlining their reasons. The Executive Committee is empowered to resolve the grading decision based solely on the written statements of both parties, or it may elect to hold a meeting of the parties to assist in making its final resolution.

The decision of the Executive Committee is final in the grievance process.