



WVSC Player Grading Policy - Under 10's to Under 18's

1. Introduction

This document outlines the grading policy and overarching trials process for the Woden Valley Soccer Club (WVSC). It aims to give all players and parents an understanding of:

- which age groups undertake grading,
- what role trials play in determining a player's grading, and
- the expectations of players once graded regarding their final assignment to teams.

Please note that "grading" is not the same as trials. Trials inform a significant part of the grading process but are not the only factor. A general overview of the WVSC trials process is explained in Section 7 below. Additional information about the grading and trials process is contained in the "WVSC Grading and Trials FAQ's" document.

2. Background

WVSC aims to cater for players of all skill levels, under the Capital Football competition framework and the current inclusion status (or otherwise) of the Club regarding Capital Premier League and the National Premier Leagues. The intent of the grading process is:

1. To identify which players want to play with their friendship group in their own team and not participate in grading,
2. To place players in teams that are best suited to their ability.

The grading policy aims to provide player outcomes consistent with the Club's motto of "Reach Your Potential."

3. Which Players are Graded?

Grading is undertaken for all players in the Under 10 to Under 18 age groups. This encompasses Miniros (Under 10 and Under 11), Junior Leagues (Under 12 to Under 18), SAP League and Premier League if WVSC is participating in those competitions.

No grading or trials process is undertaken or required for Peewees (Under 6 and below) or Miniros teams (Under 7 to Under 9).

Players who wish to be graded in the "top teams" for each age group (typically Divisions 1 and 2) must attend trials. Players not wanting to trial are automatically graded and placed into lower divisions or social teams in their age group (typically Division 3 and below). Players who do not wish to trial can therefore look to form social teams and play together with friends, where numbers allow.

4. Timing and Notification of Trials for Grading

Trials are held after the end of the preceding Season, but before the start of the new Season. In most cases the Club will look to hold trials in October/November after the end of the season for Division 1 teams, or in February before the start of the new season for Division 2 teams. However, for some age Groups Division 2 trials may be run at the same time as the Division 1 trials in October/November.

Players wishing to trial for WVSC Division 1 and 2 teams can find trial dates and times advertised on the Club's website and Facebook page, as well as in the Club's newsletter.

5. Principles of Grading

The Club's Technical Director oversees the grading process at WVSC and has final sign-off on team lists. If this position is vacant the relevant Vice President will undertake this role.

WVSC will grade and select players for teams using some or all of the following components:

- Technical ability (assessed through trials) – the major determinant in the process;
- Historical on-field performance and behaviour;
- Player attitude, including compliance with WVSC's Code of Conduct;
- Coachability, and
- Input from previous season's coaches where required and available. This could include feedback from coaches at a player's prior Club.

Technical ability is not the only component players need to succeed at the higher levels; players must also have demonstrated and be able to maintain the Club's values - including playing within the spirit of the game, and showing respect to their team-mates, their coaches, the opposition and the match officials.

6. Assessors

Assessors for the trials process can include:

- The WVSC Technical Director
- Coaches from both within and outside the cohort
- Coaching Coordinator
- Vice President(s)
- Committee Members, and if required
- Suitably qualified parents

There must be a minimum of two assessors for each age group at trial; however, WVSC will try to have four assessors present at any given trial. Assessors will be asked to notify the relevant Vice President of any conflict of interest in writing before the finalisation of interim teams (see Section 9 below).

7. Trials Process – General Overview

The trials process is the major component of the grading cycle.

Generally, there are two to three trials for each age group and players wishing to be considered for Division 1 or Division 2 teams must attend at least one trial, but preferably all trials. Failure to attend all trials will mean assessors will have less opportunity to view players skills, which may put them at a disadvantage when seeking to make the squads for the top teams at WVSC.

Once trials are complete, the relevant Vice President will determine a preliminary ranking of players, based on technical ability observed during the trials. The Vice President will then consider other factors listed above in Section 5. This can include seeking feedback from previous year's Coaches or seeking input from the Coach for the upcoming season (if the Coach has been appointed and attended the trials). Assessment from Coaches would include an assessment of skill (where the Coach from the previous season), as well as assessments of reliability, coachability and work ethic.

This additional information is incorporated when finalising the player rankings, which will be used to make recommendations about players, interim teams and suitable Divisions which goes to the Technical Director for sign-off. If the Technical Director position is vacant the relevant Vice President will be the final decision-maker regarding team make up.

The results of all assessments are confidential.

8. Eligibility to Trial

WVSC recommends that players trial and play in their own age group. For example, a player turning 12 years old in 2025 would attend the Under 12 trials held in October/November of 2024. However, in some instances players may choose to “play up” in a higher age group level. More information on this topic can be found in the “WVSC Grading and Trials FAQ’s” document.

Capital Football Junior League Rules state that players may trial and play in an age group up to two (2) chronological years above their actual age group. Girls playing in Open (Mixed) teams may trial for a team in an age group that is one (1) chronological year below their actual age group.

If a player is interested in playing in a higher age level, they should attend both sets of trial sessions for the different age groups (i.e for their own age level and the age group level they are considering “playing up” in). This ensures they are accurately assessed against both cohorts of players.

9. Interim vs Final Squads

Interim squads for Under 10 through to Under 18 Division 1 teams will usually be formed within three weeks after trials are completed, and WVSC aims to inform players no later than mid-December. Division 2 interim squads may also be formed at this time if trials were run for them in October/November.

Trial outcomes plus any consideration of the other factors mentioned above in Section 5 “Principles of Grading” will see players offered a position in the relevant interim squad. Please note that while these squads are interim, players offered positions in these squads at this stage are effectively considered final, i.e they cannot lose their place based on form. The only reasons that a player may be removed from an interim squad would be due to disciplinary reasons, which could include poor attitude, non-attendance at training, repeated failure to adhere to Coach’s instructions, breaches of the WVSC Code of Conduct etc. The final decision to remove a player based on these reasons would be at the discretion of the relevant Vice President.

When naming interim squads, WVSC may choose to leave 1-3 spots vacant. These vacancies will be filled over the coming months, taking into consideration the same components outlined in Section 5.

After any vacancies are filled, the relevant Vice President will be in contact with team Coaches and/or Managers to confirm players and therefore finalise squads. This will be done no later than 15 March 2024, when all squads for Division 1 and 2 will be finalised.

10. Squad Sizes

Ideal final squad sizes are below. Note that in some cases, the Club may choose to extend a squad by another 1-2 players. This would be done in consultation with the relevant Coach/Manager, but only after considering factors such as reasonable playing time, planned absences, teams’ wishes etc.

Age Group	Players on Field	Interim Squad Size	Final Squad Size
Under 10	9	9-12	12
Under 11	9	9-12	12
Under 12	9	9-12	12
Under 13	9	9-12	12
Under 14	11	12-15	15
Under 15	11	12-15	15
Under 16	11	12-15	15
Under 17	11	12-15	15
Under 18	11	12-15	15

11. Player Grading Review Request Process

If a player or parent is unhappy about a player's final placement, they have an avenue to appeal via a "Player Grading Review Request" form (a copy is attached to the back of this Policy at Appendix A). This can be obtained from the relevant Vice President, or via the Club Administrator at admin@wvsc.org.au. This form is to be completed and sent back to the Club Administrator who will forward it to the Technical Director for review. If the position of Technical Director is vacant the decision will reside with the relevant Vice President. If the Vice President role is also vacant the appeal will be considered by the Club Committee.

All appeals will be treated confidentially.

Last Updated: 10am, 17 September 2024



Player Grading Review Request - Under 10's to Under 18's

Parent / Carer Name: _____

Parent / Carer Phone No: _____

Email: _____

Date of Submission: _____

Player's Name: _____

Player's Date of Birth: _____

Grade and Age Group in which the player has been placed: _____

Grade in which you believe the player should be placed: _____

Reason(s) you believe the player should be moved (up or down): If you require more space additional text can be submitted via email in conjunction with this form

Office Use Only Below:

Date Received by Technical Director/Vice President/Club Committee*: _____

Decision by Technical Director of Coaching/Vice President/Club Committee: _____

Date parent(s) / carer(s) notified:

Technical Director/Vice President/Club Committee Signature:

Final Outcome Noted by President:

*Appeals are decided in the first instance solely by the Technical Director. If that position is vacant it will be decided by the relevant Vice President. If both of these positions are vacant, the appeal will be decided by the W.V.S.C. Committee. All appeals will be treated confidentially.