



Woden Valley Soccer Club Player Grading and Trials Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Introduction

This document provides answers to the most commonly asked questions around the Woden Valley Soccer Club (WVSC) Grading and Trials process. It should be read in conjunction with the “WVSC Player Grading Policy – Under 10’s to Under 18’s” document.

What age groups are involved in the grading process?

Grading is for all players in the Under 10 to Under 18 age groups. This includes

- Miniroos (under 10 and under 11),
- Junior Leagues (under 12 to under 18),
- SAP Leagues and
- Premier League (Capital Premier League Youth, Opens National Premier League Youth and Girls National Premier League Youth) if the Club participates in those competitions.

How does WVSC grade a player?

Players are graded based on technical ability, historical performance, behaviour, player attitude, coachability, and input from previous coaches. The primary factor in grading outcome is performance at trials.

Do all players need to attend trials?

Players in the under 10 through to under 18 age groups aiming to be graded in the top teams (Premier League, SAP League and Divisions 1 and 2) must attend trials. Those not wishing to trial will be placed in lower divisions and social teams (Division 3 and below).

What is the difference between Divisions 1, 2 and 3?

Premier League, SAP League and Division 1 are the most competitive competitions. Teams are composed of the most skilled and committed players and focus is largely on player performance, development and outcomes. Players are expected to attend training at least twice a week and be available for Saturday games throughout the season. Players should be receptive to taking constructive feedback and trying changes. Friendship preferences cannot be accommodated.

Division 2 is generally less competitive. Most teams will train once a week. There may be opportunities for some players to fill in for Division 1 teams where needed.

Division 3 is for those looking to focus less on performance and more on fun. Players can expect more relaxed coaching and a more casual approach to games. This is suited for players who wish to be on teams with schoolmates or friendship groups, or those new to the sport.

How are trials announced and when do they take place?

Trial dates and times are announced on the Club's website, Facebook page, and newsletter. Trials for Premier League, SAP League and Division 1 teams are typically held in October/November and for Division 2 teams in February or sometimes concurrently with Division 1 trials.

What happens if a player cannot attend a trial session?

Players are strongly encouraged to attend all trial sessions to ensure an accurate assessment. If a player cannot attend, they should inform the Club as soon as possible to discuss potential options or considerations, including obtaining an assessment of the players' ability from a former coach.

It should be noted that trials form the major component of grading. Players who do not trial will be at a significant disadvantage over their peers when interim squads are being selected.

How is player feedback from previous coaches used in grading?

Feedback from previous coaches is considered when players are closely ranked on technical ability during trials or if a player cannot attend trials. This feedback includes assessments of skills, reliability, coachability, alignment with the Club's values and work ethic.

What are the expectations for player behaviour during the grading process?

Players are expected to adhere to the Club's Code of Conduct, demonstrate respect for teammates, coaches, and officials, and uphold the spirit of the game. Poor behaviour will make it difficult for players to be selected for Division 1 or Division 2 squads.

Which age group should a player trial for?

A player should trial for the age group they will be turning in the next Season. For example, a player that played in Under 11s in 2024, and is looking to play in Under 12s in 2025, would attend all trial sessions for Under 12s occurring in October/November of 2024 (or February 2025 if held then).

In some instances, a player may wish (or be asked) to 'play up' an age group level (more on this below). If this is the case, the player should attend both sets of trial sessions for the different age groups (i.e for their own age group level and the age group level they are considering "playing up" in). This ensures they are accurately assessed against both groups of players.

Please note that the Girls trials are for those players who are looking to be graded and play in the Girls competition. If a player is a girl yet is looking to play in the Open (Mixed) competition, they should attend the Open trials. Similarly, the Open trials are for those players looking to be graded and play in the Open (mixed) competition. 'Open' trials are not open to players wishing to play in the Girls competition.

If a player is unsure as to whether they want to play in a Girls team or open team, they should consider attending both trials, and/or discuss their options with the relevant Club Vice President.

Additional Information:

It may have become clear in the previous season that some players would benefit from playing in a higher age group. Signs of this could be significant domination over their peers technically, or an overall sense that playing in their actual age group does not provide enough challenges. Please note that for the younger age groups, a player's physical domination of others in the age group would not be seen as a good reason for playing in a higher age group in itself – playing up will mean the player will miss season(s) of technical training that they will require in the longer term, particularly when their physical dominance becomes less advantageous or even evaporates as other players catch up physically. Conversely, younger players playing up also need to be aware that the physical demands (stamina, speed, strength, size) may be harder to match with the players in the higher age group.

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.

What happens if there is a conflict of interest with an assessor?

Assessors must disclose any conflicts of interest to the relevant Vice President in writing before finalising interim teams. A conflict of interest could arise where an assessor has their own child (or relative) trialling for a team for which they are undertaking player assessment.

When will players be informed of their grading results?

Interim squads are usually formed within three weeks after trials (often sooner). Players are typically informed of their selection in a squad by mid-December. There might be some delay in announcing squads due to waiting for players to accept the offer of a position. Please note, some changes to interim squads may happen from time to time, if players do not accept positions and vacancies occur.

Can a player ask to have a grading decision reconsidered?

Yes, players or parents can complete a "Player Grading Review Request" form and submit it to the Club Administrator for review by the Technical Director, Vice President for the age group and/or Premier League Coordinator, or if those positions are vacant, the Club Committee. This form can be requested from the Club Administrator at admin@wvsc.org.au.

What is the role of the Technical Director in the grading process?

The Technical Director oversees the grading process, provides final sign-off on team selections, and reviews appeals. If this position is vacant when trials are being held, the relevant Vice President assumes these responsibilities.

How are squad sizes determined?

The club prefers squads of 12 players for Under 10 – Under 13 teams, 15 players for Under 14 – Under 18 Junior League teams and 16 players for Premier League teams. However, in special circumstances, squads may be extended by 1 or 2 players. Final squad size is determined by the Technical Director or relevant Vice President.

What factors are considered when leaving spots vacant in interim squads?

Vacancies may be left in interim squads where the assessors determine there are not enough players of the required standard to fill all positions. Vacancies in interim squads allow flexibility for potential latecomers, as well as provide opportunities for players to improve their skillset between the announcement of interim squads and final squads. This could include Coaches allowing players not originally selected in the interim squad to train with the squad to improve their skills. Filling these vacancies will be dependent on the same factors when determining player suitability for interim squads, which includes the players' technical ability, coachability, and alignment with the club's values.

How does the Club ensure fairness in the grading process?

The grading process involves multiple assessors, who are usually coaches and parents with significant football experience. A minimum of two assessors are present for each age group, with a preference for four assessors to ensure balanced assessments and coverage, given some trials involve large numbers of players.

Are players' assessment results shared with parents?

For privacy reasons, assessment results are confidential. However, the Club upon request may be able to share feedback from assessors where possible.

Can players move between divisions after the season starts?

Once players are placed in their squads, they generally remain in that squad for the entire Season. Changes are rare and typically only occur where:

- a vacancy arises in a squad playing in a higher division team
- the player requests to play in a lower division; or
- poor player behaviour, which could include, but is not limited to, non-attendance at training, failing to follow Coaches directions, disruptive and or abusive behaviour, and/or failure to show respect to teammates, coaching staff, Club Committee members, opponents and officials.

Capital Football Decisions Regarding Movement of Entire Teams

For most Divisions, Capital Football will review the results of all teams within that Division after the first 4-6 weeks of the competition. Capital Football may then transfer entire teams to a different Division (either higher or lower), with the intention of evening out the competitions across all Divisions. So, for example, if a Division 2 team was dominating their competition over the first 4-6 weeks, that team may be moved up to Division 1. Similarly, if a team in Division 1 was suffering heavy defeats they may be moved down to Division 2. The final decision to make these transfers rests with Capital Football, and the Club is required to abide by these decisions.

How many training sessions will there be per week?

Premier League, SAP League and Division 1 teams are expected to train at least twice a week in an organised team training session environment. Players are also encouraged to take advantage of any additional ad hoc sessions that may take place (i.e Technical Director initiated sessions, fitness training, specialist training for goalkeepers, and skill sessions run for the entire age group/cohort etc). Additional personal training on the players time is highly encouraged and recommended.

Division 2 teams are expected to train at least once a week in an organised team training session environment. Players are also encouraged to take advantage of any additional ad hoc sessions that may take place (i.e Technical Director initiated sessions, sessions run for the entire age group/cohort etc). Additional personal training on the players time is optional.

Division 3 teams and below are not required to train at all. However, it is strongly recommended and encouraged that teams train at least once a week in an organised team training session environment.

Will all players in a team get the same amount of playing time?

Players who have been graded in the same team are considered to be at the same level technically and are also considered competent to play in the Division that the team has been assigned to. As such, the Club requires that all players be given equal playing time wherever possible. At times this may be difficult to achieve within an individual game (absences, in-game injuries etc), but the Club expects that over the course of the Season this would be the case.

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