



# Player Grading Policy

## Under 10s to Under 18s (incl. SAP and NPL)

### 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 is contained in the “WVSC Grading and Trials FAQs” document.

### 2. Background

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

1. To identify which players want to play with their friendship group and not participate in grading,
2. To place players in teams which 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 Minirooms (Under 10 and Under 11), Junior Leagues (Under 12 to Under 18), SAP League (Under 12 to Under 13), 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 Minirooms teams (Under 7 to Under 9).

Players who wish to be graded into NPL, SAP, Academy, Division 1 or Division 2 teams, are generally required to attend trials. Players not wishing to trial are in most cases automatically graded and placed into Division 3 or social teams in their age group.

#### **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 for NPL, SAP and Division 1 teams in October/November after the end of the season, and trials for Division 2 teams will be held in February. However, for some age Groups, Division 2 trials may be run at the same time as the other trials in October/November.

Players wishing to trial will 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 (usually 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 (the ability of a player to follow coaches' instruction and their receptiveness to coaches' feedback to learn and improve) 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; a player's attitude, commitment and behaviour is also important. 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 should 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 and behaviours, which may put them at a disadvantage when seeking to make the squads for the top teams at WVSC.

Trial sessions are usually comprised of a skills component (small exercises or drills) and small sided games. Once trials are complete, the relevant Vice President, considering factors listed above in Section 5, will 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 2026 would attend the Under 12 trials held in October/November of 2025. 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 FAQs” 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

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; usually within three weeks after trials are completed. 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 mid-March, prior to season commencement (which is usually April).

## 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	15-16
Under 15	11	12-15	15-16
Under 16	11	12-15	15-16
Under 17	11	12-15	15-16
Under 18	11	12-15	15-16

## 11. Player Grading Review Request Process

If a player or parent has concerns 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](mailto: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:** 23 September 2025

## Appendix A



### 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

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#### Office Use Only Below:

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

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

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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.