



GUFC Policy Guidance – Grading & Team Selection Guidelines

Purpose

This document outlines the procedures for grading of players and selection of teams for GUFC. It is intended for use by parents, players and GUFC officials.

Any queries should be directed to the GUFC Club Coach at coaching@gungahlinunitedfc.org.au.

In framing the policy, GUFC is mindful of the need to meet responsibilities to:

- the immediate needs of its current players at all levels;
- the future needs of the GUFC in meeting its strategic goals;
- further the development and promotion of soccer in the wider community;
- prepare players with higher aspirations for their transition to senior soccer, including representative honours; and
- provide a framework of organised sport to cater for the needs of players who wish to participate on a more social level.

It is emphasised that it is not the aim of GUFC to force players to play in particular teams or divisions. However, playing at Division 1 & 2 level requires not only enhanced skills but also greater commitment.

Scope

These guidelines apply to grading and team selections for Under 10 and older age groups.

These guidelines shall constitute the policy for grading and team selection and should be considered binding by all players, parents and officials.

Grading

Grading is the primary selection exercise for Red/Division 1 and White/Division 2 teams. Players who do not attend grading will generally not be considered for these divisions, and will be placed in a lower division. *If you cannot attend grading you must notify the club PRIOR to the commencement of grading.* Players who do not satisfy these criteria must seek permission in writing from the GUFC Committee, and be willing to submit to supplementary grading at a time suitable to GUFC Coaching Panel officials to be considered for Division 1 or 2 team selections.



Players who do not wish to be considered for a Division 1 or 2 (red or white) teams need not attend grading.

No player will be allowed to grade unless they are correctly registered with Gungahlin United Football Club UNLESS grading exercises outside of normal registration periods are approved by the GUFC Committee and Capital Football. The dates and times for grading are determined by the Coaching Panel and will be advised on the club website and various other channels.

Grading will mainly consist of small sided games. This is so grading assessors can see players involved in all aspects of the game and see all of the players in game like situations. Assessors may also decide to set some specific skill drills if they think it necessary.

Players should be reminded that assessors will consider not only skill, but also such factors as attitude, physical size, fitness and potential for improvement.

If any player indicates a specific preference for the position of goalkeeper they will be invited to participate in the games and will be looked at separately as a goalkeeping group.

Note: Being graded in a particular division or team one year does not automatically entitle that player to remain at that level for the rest of their playing career.

Coaching Assessments

At the end of each season, coaches in the under 9 and older age groups will be asked to complete and hand in a player/team evaluation to the Club Coach. This evaluation may then be used as a supporting tool for team selectors when considering players for team selection.

All information provided by coaches will be kept by the club and will only be available to appropriate GUFC personnel.

Playing In a Higher Age Group

To play in a higher age group than the age you are turning in the playing year you must seek permission from the GUFC and meet guidelines in the 'GUFC - Playing In a Higher Age Group' policy. For details see the appropriate policy.

Players grading in an older age group will be considered against the same assessment criteria as players from within the age group being graded.



Assessors and Team Selection

Grading assessors and the team selection panel will be chosen by the Club Coach with regard to, but not being limited to, the following requirements:

- need for independence of assessors;
- need for a certain level of expertise;
- the panel shall comprise minimally of each Coaching Panel age group coordinator and the Club Coach;
- other final selectors will be drawn from the Club Coaching Panel or elsewhere as determined by the Club Coach;
- selectors shall not participate in the decision making about the placement of a player for which they have a direct conflict of interest (eg. child/relative);
- team selections shall be by panel majority or no objection; and
- the Club Coach shall hold both the casting vote and veto on all selection decisions.

After grading the Club Coach will convene a meeting of the selection panel which will determine a ranking of players for all teams. The Registrar/s will also be invited to these meetings to assist with administrative matters. Grading assessments will be the primary tool for this purpose, supported by coaching assessments where necessary. Coaches may also be consulted during this process. Once complete, this data shall be sent to the Registrar without release to third parties.

Changes to the decided team assignments cannot be made for Division 1 or 2 teams without the express approval of the Club Coach. Approval for Division 3 teams and below rests with the Registrar, following consultation with the relevant age group coordinator. Post initial team selection, the Registrar is responsible for team administration including notification and distribution of team lists.

Questions concerning grading, team selection or coaching should be initially directed to the Club Coach by email to coaching@gungahlinunitedfc.org.au, who will answer the question but who may request the relevant Coaching Panel age coordinator to provide input. Administrative questions such as team lists should be directed to the Registrar.

Girls Playing in Open (Mixed) Competitions

As a general rule, girls will be permitted to play in Open competition teams up to and including the U11 age group. In allocating girls to Open competition teams, the Coaching Panel will consider:

- a) a request as part of the registration process up to and including the U9 age group; or
- b) the ability shown by the player as part of the grading process (U10 and U11).



Girls eligible for the U12 to U16 age groups, as a general rule, will be considered for Girls competitions only.

Handling of Requests for U12 to U16 Girls

The Club Coach will make the decision about the appropriateness of an individual girl grading with boys. After the grading, the Club Coach in conjunction with the Coaching Panel will make the decision about the appropriateness of an individual girl playing in an Open competition for that season.

In making the above decisions the Club Coach and Panel will take into account a number of factors, including but not limited to:

- a) whether the player possesses skills and ability to a high standard;
- b) recommendations of assessors at grading / trials and previous coaches;
- c) the potential effect on the development of the player; and
- d) the physical ability of player to play in the Open competition in question.

Players will be assigned to teams based on the above criteria and team lists will be placed on the website at a time to be advertised by the club.

Questions regarding team placement should be directed to the Club Coach. No automatic right to review is provided through this process.

Club Allocation of Players to Higher Age Groups

***Note:** All decisions to put players in a higher age group are subject to the agreement of the player and their parents. However non-agreement does not guarantee that there will be a place for the player in their own age group if teams are not viable.*

The following constitute conditions whereby GUFC may require players to play in an age group above the normal age group based on their age. It should be noted that this section does not cover players *requesting* to play in a higher age group. This is covered by a separate policy.

The GUFC Committee may grant fee concessions for extra cost incurred due to these conditions. This is discretionary and must be approved each year.

No Vacancies

Circumstances may exist where there are vacancies in higher age groups, but none in the player's actual age group. Such decisions may also be made by the club to ensure the viability of some teams. The Club Coach in conjunction with the Club Registrar may allow players in this situation to play up in the age group above; this will involve an assessment of the most appropriate Division of that higher age group for the player to participate in.



Competitive Division 1

Where there are insufficient skilled players to form a competitive first division team in two adjacent age groups, the Club Coach may allow the skilled players in both age groups be combined to form a team in the higher age group. The team will be placed in the highest division that the Club Coach deems appropriate. Any decisions made under this discretion are subject to review by the GUFC Committee.

Insufficient Players

Where there are insufficient players to form a team in an age group, the Club Coach may recommend / allow players in more than one age group be combined to form a team in the higher age group. The team will be placed in the highest division that the Club Coach deems appropriate. A player cannot play more than two age groups higher than their natural age group.

Development Reasons

The Club Coach may allow / recommend an entire team of players to play up an age group. This will only occur when in the opinion of the Club Coach, the team in question demonstrated a high standard of skill and ability in their previous year(s) and further development would be gained by playing up an age group or where the competition in the current year in their correct age group may significantly hamper that team's development (e.g. expected weak opposition or changing competition guidelines). Any decisions made under this discretion are subject to review by the GUFC Committee.

Coaches

At the start of every year volunteers offer themselves up as coaches for our teams. In most cases there is only one volunteer for each team (usually a parent) and that person is warmly accepted by the club. This is especially so for RooBall teams and most second or third division teams in the junior leagues.

In some cases more than one person is interested in coaching a team. In these cases, the Club Coach will determine most appropriate coach for the team. In making this determination, the Club Coach will consider the well being and development of the players, previous conduct as a parent/coach, experience, any coaching qualifications, and, other factors deemed necessary. If necessary, additional information may also be sought from the coaches or from other parties who have knowledge of their skills and abilities (registrars etc).

Capital Football has recommended that over time mandatory qualifications be introduced for all coaches of First Division teams. A minimum of the Junior Coaching Licence will eventually be required and in some cases a Youth Coaching Licence. In selecting coaches (particularly for First or Second



Division teams), additional weight may be given to candidates with appropriate coaching qualifications.

Once a decision has been made, the Club Coach will advise the Registrars and rest of the Committee of the coaches selected. Decisions made by the Club Coach with regard to coaches are final.

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