



Player Grading and Team Formation Policy

(1 Jan 2021)

Policy Objective

Roselea Football Club (RFC) is a family-oriented sports club. We believe in promoting participation in our game, equal opportunity for all players, development of football and team skills, opportunity to achieve personal aspirations, and *above all*, equal enjoyment of the game.

The **Player Grading and Team Formation Policy** aims to promote these objectives and is not solely about winning, although competitive success is recognised as a valid motivator for individual players and teams to varying degrees.

PLAYER GRADING VS TEAM FORMATION

PLAYER GRADING

The Club believes that placing players in a team appropriate to their individual skill and experience level, and playing in a team against teams of similar ability and experience, play a significant role in achieving the above objectives.

Player grading is the process by which the club will seek to determine the current football skill level for an individual player. That determined skill level will be one of several significant inputs to team formation. All players registering in teams between u8s and u18s must be willing to attend and participate in player grading as required by the club.

Player grading will commence at u8s due to this age group being the first year of playing 7 A-Side football. While still non-competitive this age group starts to give players positional understanding and the development of more advanced game skills,

The collective player grading information for any team will also provide strong input for the club's decisions on grade nominations submitted for our teams.

TEAM FORMATION

Formation of teams is then a secondary process, subsequent to Player Grading. The club will endeavour to form teams for all players that fulfil players aspirations at both competitive levels and social levels

In forming our teams the Grading & Technical Committee will take into consideration

- Outcomes of the club's Player Grading process
- Overall experience and skill levels of players
- Positional inclinations of players as that influences team balance
- Requests to "play with friends" or in "identified teams"
- Total numbers of player registrations in an age group

Oversight of Roselea FC Gradings

The oversight of the Roselea FC Player Gradings and Team Formation will rest with the club's Grading and Technical Committee to comprise...

Club's Technical Director or Director of Coaching (Chair)

Club President (Alternate Chair)

All Football Vice Presidents

Age Coordinators (as required)

A quorum for the Grading and Technical Committee Decisions will be 3.

This Committee will, in respect of player gradings and team's formation ...

- Commission grading panels, as required for age groups, comprising persons with requisite coaching accreditation and / or experience to be able to impartially and fairly grade and select players for appropriate teams.
- Determine the number of teams, and player numbers for teams, in each age group based on registration numbers.
- Determine the divisions that teams shall nominate for in each age group.
- Determine the number of players and reserves in a team. The committee will use the player registration number to determine the most appropriate number of players in each of the age group teams.
- Determine the acceptance of registrations, and team placement, for players registering after the Club's "registration determination date"

The Grading Panel for each particular age group should NOT include any persons who...

- a) have been appointed, or are likely to nominate, to coach in the age group under grading selection
- b) have children playing in the age group under grading selection

Registration Determination Date

The club will set a "Registration Determination Date" at 3 full days prior to the first grading session each year.

Players registering after the Registration Determination Date may attend Grading Sessions but will only be placed in teams where the Grading & Technical Committee determine there are insufficient players of the required standard who were duly registered prior to the Registration Determination date.

Players registering after the Grading Sessions will only be placed in team that, after grading are still below the player number determined by the Technical and Grading Committee

No player selected in a team at Grading sessions will be displaced from that team by virtue of a player who registers after the Grading Sessions.

Final Registration Date for the season is as set by the local Association (usually 30 June)

Grading gives players the opportunity to:

- be in (and play against) teams with other players of similar attitude, ability and competitive aspiration
- have an equal opportunity to participate, and
- have an equal opportunity to contribute to the team's performance.

These conditions provide the best circumstances for development of football and team skills and enjoyment through participation and achievement.

The Club recognises that individual players have different motivations for playing football, ranging from highly competitive to social recreation. Through appropriate grading and player placement the Club aims to cater for all players and believes that everyone can benefit from the grading process.

The grading process will also identify the overall standard of each complete team in order to inform the club's decision around team nomination levels.

Playing With Friends

Experience has shown the majority of children will quickly make new friends when put into a team of the appropriate skill level — so playing with friends is not a club priority.

However, RFC understands that it is important for some children to play with their friends. The club will therefore attempt to accommodate "play with friends" requests subject to the following considerations.

“Play with Friends” requests will affect team formation but will not alter an individual player's grading.

Where a player request to “play will friends” will be formed into a team at the level of the lowest skilled player in the requested friends group. (e.g. if your child is graded in the ‘A’ team and his/her friend is in the ‘C’ team, if the request is granted both children will play in the ‘C’ team).

Nominations to play with friends must be received including email consent of parents of **all** friends wanting consideration to play together, via email to the relevant Vice President. The club will then attempt to place your child with the friend.

All “play with friends” requests must be completed prior to grading completion.

No absolute guarantee can be given for all “play with friend” requests. Final determination of teams depends on a range of factors including suitable player numbers being allocated across all teams. RFC reserves the absolute right to determine all final team selections.

Player Grading Process

Playing Out Of Age Group

Under Age players may register to play, or may participate in grading, in their correct age group or one age group higher.

Under Age players may only register to play, or may participate in grading more than 2 age groups higher than their correct age IF they have received prior approval from the Grading and Technical Committee. Such approval must be requested in writing (including email but excluding text message) prior to the first grading session. Such request must state the full reasons for such a request.

Application of Player Grading: The grading policy applies to all age groups from under 8's up. (Player grading is first implemented when players move from 4 A-Side to 7 A-Side football)

For U6s – u7s No specific player grading will occur, however the VP Minis and the Age Coordinator will be responsible for the placement of players in appropriate teams and will consider factor such as...

- past experience (where applicable)
- player numbers in teams
- “Playing with Friends” requests
- other reasonable requests from parents.

From u7s to U18s

Grading will occur for all players in u9s to u18s

In those teams where factors such as friendships other criteria are more determinant in team selection, the player grading process will still be used to determine the competitive level of the **team as a whole**. This will be required in order to nominate the team for appropriate competitive level.

Senior Football

The club reserves the right to conduct selection trials for teams to be entered in Division 1 competitions of U21 or All Age grades or Premier / Super League competition.

Grading Process:

An Initial Grading / Team Formation Session will be called for all players from U6’s to U18’s in Mixed and Girls teams.

For Teams to be nominated for Div 1 or “Blue” classification (Non-Competitive) a second grading session will be held. Players shortlisted for Div 1 selection will be invited to attend the second session.

If a player is unable to attend an initial grading session, they are required to inform the club by email prior to that session. Players not attending such initial sessions will be graded according to the knowledge of the player’s standard from previous year’s participation.

If a player wishes to be graded into a Division (or Blue) team and is unable to attend the initial grading session they will need to request an invitation to attend the second “Division 1” grading session. That invitation will be given at the full discretion of the grading committee based on best knowledge of the player prior seasons performance.

IF a player, seeking Division 1 Grading, is unable to attend the second Division 1 Grading Session they will be considered on the strength of their initial grading session.

IF a player, seeking Division 1 Grading, is unable to attend either grading session they will be ineligible for consideration of selection to the Division 1 team, unless the Grading & Technical Committee deems that places in that team remain unfilled after both grading sessions have been completed.

Player Gradings

The Selection Panel nominated for each age group will rate the players presenting for grading and

- a) Nominate players to be invited for the second Division 1 Grading Session
- b) Nominate all other players into draft team groupings

The decisions of the Selection Panel will be based on

- a) Observation of performance at Grading Sessions

- b) Consideration of player reports when submitted by coaches from prior season as required by the club.

Final Selection of Division 1 Teams

The Grading Committee shall appoint a Grading Panel for Division 1 Sessions. This may be the same, or different panel to that which graded the original session.

The Coach of the relevant Div 1, if appointed, shall be given the opportunity to review the “draft” team and provide input to the Technical & Grading Committee before confirmation. The Div 1 coach will NOT have a vote on any selection decisions.

Players invited to Div 1 Grading Sessions, but not selected **must** be offered a place in the next highest graded team the club has in that age group.

Notification of Team Selections

Div 1 Selections

The Vice President of each age group will be responsible for advising all players invited to Div 1 selections of their selection or otherwise. Including offering those not selected, a place in the second highest team.

ALL nominees for Division 1 must be advised BEFORE team lists are released to other coaches and managers.

ALL other Divisions

The Vice President of each age group will be responsible for advising Team Coaches / Managers of players selected in their teams. Team Managers shall be responsible for advising players of those team selections.

Vice-Presidents shall be responsible for advising **all** players IF a team manager/ coach has not being confirmed.

Grading of Late Registrations

The grading or team nomination for any player registering AFTER “Registration Determination Date” will be the responsibility of the relevant Vice President.

Such players may be graded in any team that has current vacancies, INCLUDING Division 1 teams if the Vice President believes there is sufficient evidence to warrant such grading. Such evidence may include a “in-team” assessment prior to finalising a grading.

NO player already graded into a team, shall be displaced by a late registering player.

Grading Disputes and Grievances

Any dispute arising from Player Gradings and Team Formation must be referred to the Grading & Technical Committee for resolution. Such disputes should be notified in writing (email or letter) to the Club’s Administrative Officer.

Any grievance against the actions of the Grading and Technical Committee shall be referred, in writing, to the Club President for resolution through the Club Executive Committee.

