



Player Grading and Team Formation Policy

(January 2023)

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.

The Club believes that:

- 1) placing players in a team appropriate to their individual skill and experience level; and
- 2) playing in a team against teams of similar ability and experience ...

...play a significant role in achieving the above objectives.

Application of Player Grading

The grading policy applies to all age groups from u10s up. (Player grading is first implemented when players move from 7 a-side to 9 a-side football)

For u6s/u7s and u8s/u9s

No specific player grading will occur, however the Director Football, MiniRoos; Director Football, Female and the relevant Age Coordinator will be responsible for the placement of players into appropriate teams, considering factors such as:

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

From u10s to U18s

Grading will occur for all players in u10s to u18s

Senior Football

The club reserves the right to conduct selection trials if required for teams to be entered in Division 1 (or the club’s highest level) competitions of u21 or All Age grades, or Premier / Super League competitions.

Team Formation Vs Player Grading

Players u6s to u9s

U6/7s

In these age groups teams play 4 a-Side modified football with no goalkeepers. The focus is on individual basic skills and developing a sense of “on-field position” as an individual player.

U8/9s

Teams shift to 7 a-side with goalkeepers, however the focus continues on player skill development with a gradual start to teach teams greater understanding of positional football and playing with goalkeepers.

In all u6-u9 age groups the club will form teams based on:

- Friendship groups;
- Team groups continuing from previous seasons;
- New individual players to the club being placed in teams suitable for their level of skill and football experience.

The shift to 7 a-side teams in u8s will give the club an opportunity to start steering players towards appropriate team levels without have any direct individual player grading.

At all times the club will seek to place all teams into an appropriate level of “competition” having regard to the *overall* ability and capability *across the team*. (This will include nominating teams for “Blue” or “1st” Divisions where it is deemed that the team would be competitive at that level.

Players u10s to u18s

Player grading is the process by which the club will seek to determine the current football skill level for each individual player. That determined skill level will be *one of several* significant inputs to team formation.

Individual player grading will commence at u10s. While still playing as ‘non-competitive’, this age group starts to give players positional understanding and the development of more advanced game skills, and commences two seasons of preparation for “competitive football” (from u12s).

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

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.

Individual Players – Participation in Grading or Team Formation Activities

All players registering in u6s to u9s must be willing to attend “Team Formation” sessions as required by the club to determine the appropriate level of nomination for that team

All players registering in u10s to u18s must be willing to attend and participate in player grading as required by the club.

Team Formation

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

When forming our teams from u10s and above the Grading and 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 Director of Player and Coach Development (Chair);
- Club President (Alternate Chair);
- All Directors Football;
- 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 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 players in each age group;
- Determine the number of teams in each age group based on registration numbers;
- 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 to be placed in each team in an age group;
- Determine the divisions that teams shall nominate for in each age group;
- Determine the acceptance of registrations, and team placement, for players registering after the Club's "registration determination date" or "player grading day".

The Grading Panel for each 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; or
- b) have children playing in the age group under grading selection

Appointed or nominated coaches for the "Division 1" (or otherwise "top" team in an age group) may participate in Team Formation discussions for that age group but may not have a vote if required by the Grading Panel.

Any disputes arising out of player grading or team formation shall be referred to the full Grading and Technical Committee for resolution.

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 and 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 teams which, 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 Player Registration Date for the season is as set by the local Association (usually 30 June)

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.

Playing with friends is not the main club priority from u10s and above. 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" will be the central focus for team formation in u6 -u9 Age Groups;
- "Play with Friends" requests will help inform team formations for u10s and above, but will not alter an individual player's grading;
- Where a player requests to "play with friends", they 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.

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. Any such request must state the full reasons for such a request.

Grading Process

An initial Grading / Team Formation Session will be called for all players from u6s to u18s in Mixed and Girls teams.

For teams to be nominated for a Division 1 team (or top division offered by the club) a second grading session may be held, if required. Players shortlisted for Division 1 selection will be invited to attend the second session if required.

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 years' participation.

If a player wishes to be graded into a Division 1 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, if such a session is held. That invitation will be given at the full discretion of the Grading Committee based on best knowledge of the player's prior seasons performance.

If a player seeking Division 1 grading is unable to attend any second Division 1 Grading Session called, they will be considered on the strength of their initial grading session and any previous direct knowledge of the players ability and experience.

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 and Technical Committee deems that places in that team remain unfilled after both grading sessions have been completed.

Division 1 Player Selections

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

- a) Nominate players to be considered for Division 1 team selection;
- b) Nominate players to be invited for a second Division 1 Grading Session if required;
- c) 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 any additional Division 1 grading sessions. This may be the same, or a different panel to that which graded the original session.

The Coach of the relevant Division 1 team, if appointed, is allowed to attend any grading sessions and to provide input to any team formation discussion before the Technical and Grading Committee confirms the team. The Division 1 coach will NOT have a vote on any grading or selection decisions.

Players invited to Division 1 grading sessions, but not selected, **must** be offered a place in the next highest graded team the club has in that age group or the Division 1 team in a younger age group if the player is age eligible.

Notification of Team Selections

Division 1 Selections

The Director, Football of each age group will be responsible for advising all players invited to Division 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 been 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 an "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 and 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.