



FOREST NETBALL

Team spirit is our game.

GRADING GUIDELINES FOR PLAYERS AND PARENTS

Netball grading supports each player to excel in a team that best reflects their ability, skill level and attitude, boost opportunity for development, team connection and overall, a preferred netball experience. Open grading allows all players an equal opportunity to ensure grading of players and teams are conducted fairly, based on each player, number of players registered in each age-group, and best interests of all players to their full potential and the Club.

Forest Netball grading is a physical trial managed by experienced volunteer netball selectors. It allows the selectors the opportunity to assess skill development and potential compared to other players within the same age group. Selectors also use the previous years' coaches report when making their decision. Players are then ranked in order of ability and placed into relevant teams as the numbers dictate.

Grading is conducted each year from ages 10yrs to Cadets (16 – 18yrs) of all new and re-registering players. The aim of grading is to set teams which have a balanced group of players, both in ability and playing positions.

The Manly Warringah Netball Association is responsible for the placement of teams submitted by the Club into the divisions within each age group. This is done based on the past results of the team and the players within the team.

On the day

- Please arrive 10 mins prior to respective grading session
- Bring a water bottle.
- Remove all jewellery including earrings.
- Trim fingernails.
- Tie hair back.
- Wear runners and suitable sports clothing.
- Come with lots of energy and enthusiasm and show the selectors your potential.

Compulsory attendance

Attendance at Grading Day sessions is essential for the fairest assessment of the player's ability in comparison to all others in the same age group. Our junior players have two grading sessions, and both **are compulsory**. This is to ensure the grading sessions for the younger age groups are provided sufficient opportunity for assessing each player. This may vary year on year (subject to registrations).

Not attending grading results in the player being paper graded i.e. selectors past knowledge of the player and the player's history is used for the determination. Players will be notified of grading sessions and times by the end of January, before grading in February.



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Grading process

Netball is a team sport where every player has a distinct role depending on their playing position. A balanced team will have sufficient players to cover each of the three specialist court areas (shooting, midcourt and defence). In placing players in teams, graders will rate players and select them to play in one or both positions that they have nominated as their preference in a team.

Nominating a player's positions, please consider:

- Positions they have the most playing experience. Grading is not the time to “try” a new position, as a player will be more likely to shine in their abilities in a position, they are experienced and comfortable playing.
- Select positions they consider they play their best. If a player is hoping to be selected in the highest team possible, then the position where they have been most successful in previous teams is more likely to assist them to demonstrate their strengths. Potentially reach out to their previous coach to discuss.
- Nominate the position(s) a player prefers playing most and enjoys. The player will be chosen to play in a particular court area, and likely to spend a large part of the season in their nominated position(s), so it's important it's a position they will enjoy their netball.

There is little point in nominating a position that a parent or coach considers a player to be best at, or nominating a position with a view to being selected in a “higher team” if the player will spend an unhappy season there.

The players are watched by a minimum of two, usually three, highly experienced selectors who are from within the club or sourced externally if insufficient Forest selectors are available. Preparation for grading days are prepared in advance including trial team lists of court sessions to ensure all participants get a fair opportunity to play across their two nominated positions. Players trial in two nominated positions on their registration form and/or coaches report. It is therefore important that nominated playing positions are correct and that parents registering on their child's behalf discuss their preferred playing positions before making a nomination.

Players may also be asked to play other positions that are not their preference during grading matches for a variety of reasons, including:

- The need to fill vacancies (“no shows” or where there is a shortage of players in a particular position)
- To restore the balance of a trial game where one team is stronger than another (meaning that players are not getting an opportunity with the ball)
- To make player comparisons
- To view player combinations



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as requested by the selectors. Players will take the court at least twice during each Grading Session. The number of teams graded is dependent on the number of registered players in each group.

Graders will observe each player's specific skills including:

- Individual movement skills (including fitness, speed, agility)
- Ball skills, attacking and defending skills
- Shooting skills (where relevant)
- Court craft, strategic knowledge and positional play
- Teamwork and ability to form combination with other players
- Involvement in the game
- Concentration and consistency of performance
- Positive attitude and sporting behaviour
- Coachability and potential for future development and improvement

Etiquette for Grading

Players should not attend grading if they are ill or injured. Parents are asked to inform the FNA Grading Convenor on fncgrading@gmail.com of any inability to attend for these reasons, as far in advance as reasonably possible.

Players are asked to arrive at least 10 minutes in advance of the scheduled time for the commencement of their physical grading session for registration.

Parents should not remain at grading to watch and are requested to drop and collect from the entrance of the NBISC to ensure safety of the players through the carpark.

Unlike other sporting codes, Forest grading takes place indoors for the comfort of the players (as well as all volunteers involved), to provide a guaranteed date(s) and times for the best opportunity for the players to shine. As Netball court arenas have limited space between courts in which players, umpires, helpers coordinating players, and the players off-court to transition onto a court, it is not safe or feasible to also accommodate parents, friends and spectators.

Additionally, throughout physical trial games, the selectors assess skill development and potential in comparison to other players. For fairness and consistency, these evolving comparisons and assessments are conducted in confidence.

MWNA

MWNA does not allow for any player to play in a younger age group. There are exceptions when players may be selected to play up age groups for the season. Playing up exceptions are based on year-on-year considerations including but not limited to registration balance of players, experience, and skill level. Any exceptions are independent of previous season's exceptions and must ensure the younger player is suitable for the older age playing



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standard. If a player is seeking an exception, this should be communicated to the Grading Convener at least two days prior to grading.

NetSetGo

NetSetGo players (8 and 9 years) are not graded. They are placed into teams with a friend. The club may decide to mix these teams in the second year of NetSetGo. Encouraging the girls to play with a mix of different players, outside the grading system, helps to develop and prepare them for 10 years when they are graded into teams on ability.

Teams can change

Parents and players need to be aware that players may not be in the same team from year to year. This is to allow for each player's differing skill progression. By registering with Forest Netball and participating in grading, players and parents accept that the process has been fair to all players and that the final decision of placement rests with the selectors. Players will only be moved from the graded team in the event of numbers in higher teams changing.

Team announcements

Teams are announced via email or for NetSetGo at a 'Meet the Coaches' session at Margaret Cliff Netball Courts, Melwood Ave, Forestville. Dates are announced on the website.

Appeals

FNA conducts a comprehensive grading process to ensure equal opportunity and fairness for all. Parents and players are asked to be objective and reasonable in their expectations, to accept the outcome of the process, and to give their commitment and best effort to the team in which they are ultimately selected.

Any disputes of grading placements must be submitted in writing to the Club Secretary at forestnetballsecretary@gmail.com within 24 hours of being advised of your team stating all reasons for the dispute. Appeals are heard by our Independent Grading Appeals Panel who review the reports prepared by both coaches and selectors in conjunction with the appeal. You will be notified whether the appeal is "upheld" or "dismissed" usually within 48 hours, before teams are submitted to MWNA. Appeal decisions are final.

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