



HURLSTONE PARK
WANDERERS FC

Grading Policy

This document covers the Club's policies and outlines operating procedures for the grading of junior and youth teams.

This document is for internal purposes only and is not intended for publication.

Hurlstone Park Wanderers
Football Club

Last Updated 2017



OBJECTIVE

Hurlstone Park Wanderers is a community club that promotes playing football in an inclusive manner, with respect for opponents, officials, and for the love of the game.

Hurlstone Park Wanderers (HPW or the 'Club') undertakes grading to form teams for junior teams and for the teams playing in the Bill Brackenbury Cup and Grace Martin Trophy competitions.

The aim of grading is to provide the opportunity for players to play in a team that is most suited to their ability. Grading at HPW is not aimed only at building the most competitive Division one teams, but also on maintaining viable and competitive teams in all divisions. The Club values all of its teams and players. Football is a team sport, and therefore the club recognises the importance of building a team ethos, as well as ensuring that the teams are best equipped for their division.

The emphasis is on building, promoting and maintaining participation from U6 to adulthood. The grading process aims to form teams with players of comparable skills. The club acknowledges that teams also form through school and friendship groups, and this is to be encouraged and maintained.

The grading policy has been developed recognising that currently in grassroots football, the depth of competition varies across age groups and between boys and girls, and therefore the approach to grading depends on the number of players and teams at HPW and across the CDSFA. For example, typically HPW only has 1-2 teams in each girls' age group, and our experience is that that friendship groups are important, and the process of grading needs to be cognisant of the impact on teams.

The Hurlstone Park grading policy can be found at the link below:

<http://hurlstoneparkwanderers.com.au/players/grading/>

This document covers the Club's policies and outlines the operating framework for the grading of:

- Junior teams (U9 to U12 Mixed),
- Youth teams (U13 to U16 Boys), and
- Girls teams

Grading for the Bill Brackenbury Cup and the Grace Martin Trophy teams will depend on the number of players wishing to play in these teams, and will be conducted by the coaches of these teams.

In relation to U6-U8 teams (small-sided football), this competition is treated differently from all other grades as players are organised into houses rather than teams and play internally. All games take place at Ewen Park on Saturday morning. The benefit of this is that the children play with and against children of similar development and ability. Grading is not conducted for these ages.



GRADING POLICY – U9-U12 MIXED, U13-U16 BOYS

CLUB APPROACH

U9

- Independent assessors over two weekends in February to grade the top 3 teams.
- Independent assessors to provide player assessments to HPW Grading Sub-Committee representative at the conclusion of each grading session.
- All players from within and outside the club are welcome to participate in the grading.
- All players should attend both sessions. Players unable to attend any grading session WILL NOT be considered for the graded teams.
- Outcome of independent assessments are provided to the Age Co-ordinator. Age Co-ordinator and coaches look to finalise the graded teams.
- Age Co-ordinator to contact all players (graded and ungraded) to advise which team a player has been placed in.
- If there are positions in a graded team that could not be finalised, for example three players contesting one spot, then consideration should be given to utilising training nights or trial matches to finalise that graded team. The Club is not required to submit teams until early March, so there is potentially one to two weeks of training to finalise all positions.
- HPW Grading Sub-Committee representative(s) can be involved in any dispute resolution (refer *Dispute Resolution*, page 12).

U10 and U11

To follow all points covered in U9 with key differences noted below:

- Players in graded teams from last season are not guaranteed a position in the same graded team next season, although incumbency will be a factor when Age Co-ordinators and coaches finalise the teams.
- All players should attend both sessions. Players unable to attend any grading session will generally not be considered for the graded teams. Where a known graded player has a legitimate reason for being unable to attend, they will be considered for inclusion in a graded team by the Age Co-ordinator.
- If several players from previous season graded team are to be considered for move down to a lower division team, it will be at the discretion of the Age Co-ordinator, in consultation with coaches, and, if required, HPW Grading Sub-Committee representative(s).

U12

To follow all points covered in U10 with key difference noted below

- Only the top two teams will be graded.



U13 and above

To follow all points covered in U10 with key difference noted below

- Only the top team will be graded.
- Returning players from the top team last season who want to play in the top team again must be registered by the first grading day.

Players playing up

Players need to attend grading(s) for the age group(s) they would like to play in that season. This means that if they wish to play in the age group they qualify for based on their actual age (qualified age group), they should turn up for grading for only that age group. Likewise, if they wish to play up in an older age group (subject to the maximum allowed by CDSFA rules), they should turn up for grading for only that age group.

If a player wishes to keep their options open, then they should attend grading sessions for both age groups. He/she will need to advise the age co-ordinators of both age group of his/her intention to do so prior to the first grading session.

The player needs to make a decision as to which age group they prefer to play in that season and let the age coordinators know immediately following the second grading session.

Decisions about allocating a player to an older age group will take account of the CDSFA playing up rules which do not allow playing up more than 2 years.

In some cases it may be necessary to combine players across two age groups to form a team.

The final decision on which age group/team they get placed in will be made by the age co-ordinator(s)

The Grading Sub-Committee can be brought in to adjudicate on issues.

Cancellation of grading sessions

While the club strongly believes in the carrying out gradings every season, we are mindful of the fact that there might be occasions where inclement weather or a lack of numbers may prevent the scheduled sessions from going ahead. Were that to occur, the club will strive to organise a replacement session (or sessions). However, in extreme circumstances, even that may not be possible. In those situations the formation of the top teams for each age group will at the discretion of the Age Co-ordinators and coaches for each age group.

Goalkeepers

Hurlstone Park will not specifically grade keepers in the U9 to U11 age groups at the grading sessions. This is a young age for a player to decide that they would like to focus on being a goalkeeper and goalkeeping duties should be shared throughout the season.



Hurlstone Park will specifically grade for goalkeepers for the U12 and up age groups during the grading sessions. This is the Game Training Phase of player development and players should be sure about their choice to become goalkeepers. To that end, only one goalkeeper is required per grade.

If a player wishes to grade specifically as a goalkeeper, they should advise their age co-ordinator prior to the first grading session.



GRADING POLICY – U8-U16 GIRLS

CLUB APPROACH

Stage 1: U8-10 Girls. Encouraging & maximising girls' participation in SSF

HPW enters teams in the CDSFA Girls' competition from U8. Girls in the U8 age group can choose to play in the internal Saturday (mixed) teams, or in the girls only inter-club competition. Similarly, girls in the U9 and U10 age groups can choose to play in the mixed competition (see the mixed grading policy) or the girls competition. We facilitate options for girls playing football – including SSF at all ages for girls, and encouraging girls to choose between mixed and girls' football based on their own and their family preferences.

Because the emphasis is on building teams through friendship groups, and because this is often the first experience of football for U8-U10 girls, HPW does not grade the teams in these age groups. The Age Co-ordinator will consider team placement for each player based on experience, friendship groups, coach availability and parent preferences. We aim to have at least two teams in each age group.

Stage 2: U11-U12 Girls

- Two grading sessions will be held at clearly advertised dates.
- Players wishing to join a graded team should attend both grading sessions.
- Independent assessors to provide player assessments to HPW Grading Sub-Committee representative at the conclusion of each grading session.
- All players from within and outside the club are welcome to participate in the grading.
- All players should attend both sessions. Players unable to attend any grading session will generally not be considered for the graded teams. Where an U12 player who was in the top team in the U11 has a legitimate reason for being unable to attend, they will be considered for inclusion in a graded team by the Age Co-ordinator.
- Outcome of independent assessments are provided to the Age Co-ordinator. Age Co-ordinator and coaches look to finalise the graded teams.
- Age Co-ordinator to contact all players (graded and ungraded) to advise which team a player has been placed in.
- If there are positions in a graded team that could not be finalised, for example three players contesting one spot, then consideration should be given to utilising training nights or trial matches to finalise that graded team. The Club is not required to submit teams until early March, so there is potentially one to two weeks of training to finalise all positions.

HPW Grading Sub-Committee representative(s) can be involved in any dispute resolution (refer *Dispute Resolution*, page 12).

Stage 3: U13 and above

Grading will be conducted for teams in the U13 Girls-U16 Girls age groups if there are sufficient players wishing to play in the top team to require grading. Typically, players who were graded in a



particular team in the U12 grading will be assumed to remain in that team unless the player indicates a preference to move to another team, or does not register.

If there are fewer than 16 returning players to the top team, or if there are more than 16 players wishing to play in the highest graded team, a grading process will be advertised, inviting any players from inside and outside the Club to trial for these places.

- Coaches and HPW Grading Sub-Committee representative(s) involved in the grading process for the vacant positions over two weekends in February.
- Only the top team will be graded.
- Returning players who want to play again in Division 1 must be registered by the first grading day.
- All players should attend both sessions. Players unable to attend any grading session will generally not be considered for the top team. Where a known graded player fails to turn up but with a legitimate reason, they will be considered for inclusion in a graded team by the Age Co-ordinator.
- All players from within and outside the club are welcome to participate in the grading.

Players playing up

Players need to attend grading(s) for the age group(s) they would like to play in that season. This means that if they wish to play in the age group they qualify for based on their actual age (qualified age group), they should turn up for grading for only that age group. Likewise, if they wish to play up in an older age group (subject to the maximum allowed by CDSFA rules), they should turn up for grading for only that age group.

If a player wishes to keep their options open, then they should attend grading sessions for both age groups. He/she will need to advise the age co-ordinators of both age group of his/her intention to do so prior to the first grading session.

The player needs to make a decision as to which age group they prefer to play in that season and let the age coordinators know immediately following the second grading session.

Decisions about allocating a player to an older age group will take account of the CDSFA playing up rules which do not allow playing up more than two years.

In some cases it may be necessary to combine players across two age groups to form a team.

The final decision on which age group/team they get placed in will be made by the Age Co-ordinator(s)

Cancellation of grading sessions

There might be occasions where inclement weather or a lack of numbers may prevent the scheduled sessions from going ahead. Were that to occur, the club will strive to organise a replacement session (or sessions). However, in extreme circumstances, even that may not be possible. In those situations the formation of the top teams for each age group will at the discretion of the Age Co-ordinators and coaches for each age group.