



# DAPTO PHOENIX FOOTBALL CLUB

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## Grading, Grouping & Team Formation Policy

The Dapto Phoenix Football Club utilises the following Grading/Grouping Policy for the purposes of ensuring, smooth allocation and integration of all registered players, into appropriate teams at skill levels appropriate with individual player abilities.

### Background

#### Transitional Non-Competitive Groupings (U8 - U11)

At these ages the aim of the Club is to develop player skills in a non-competitive environment. As a result, each age has no defined divisions but instead are designated by colour. The Club and Association are conscious that player development can be impacted by the skill level of those that they play with and against.

To maximise player development and to minimise changes to teams in future years when teams are graded, players are assessed on grading day and put into teams where the skill levels of the players are similar. The Club will endeavour to keep players in teams where friendships have been established however this cannot be guaranteed as it is dependent upon the number of players registered in each age group and the division. While not graded in a way that is visible to parents and players, the association will place teams of similar skill in the same division.

The draw for these age groups is released in intervals, so that FSC can move teams between the different groupings if they see a lot of one-sided results. This is why scores are recorded for matches from U8 to U11 and reported to FSC each week.

#### Grouping Objectives

The fundamental objectives of the grouping process are as follows (not in any order):

- To fill teams with players at similar skill levels for their individual ability and natural bias;
- To group players in a fair and impartial process by means of trialling of player skill, fitness, overall ability and application of the game;
- Give every player fair playing time; and
- Promote club growth and player development.

#### Criteria

The following criteria will be used in grouping players into teams:

1. A player's skill level, fitness and mental awareness for the game;
2. Past experience;
3. Players who they have previously played with.

#### Competitive Grading (Ages 12 and Up)

Players are graded into divisions with one being the highest skill level. Depending on the accuracy of grading in the non-competitive age groups, teams may remain relatively unchanged.

#### Objectives

The fundamental objectives of the grading process are as follows (not in any order):

- To fill teams with players at similar skill levels in positions appropriate for their individual ability and natural bias;
- To grade players into an appropriate division for competitive football;
- To grade players in a fair and impartial process by means of thorough trialling of player skill, fitness, overall ability and mental application of the game;
- Promote club loyalty and competitive participation throughout the process;
- Give every player fair playing time; and
- Promote club growth and player development.

### Grading Criteria

The following criteria will be used in grading players into teams:

4. A player's skill level, fitness and mental awareness for the game;
5. Past experience;
6. Players who they have previously played with; and

### Process

The grading/grouping process outlined below will be followed during grading/grouping days for all age groups:

1. Upon arrival at the ground each player will need to sign in with the designated grading committee member.
2. The committee member will check the player off the registration list and then give that player a number for grading purposes;
3. The players will then be split into groups to do drills and play games that will assist the graders in the process of forming teams;
4. During this process there will be between 2 and 4 graders present at all times dependent upon player numbers.
5. If the age group to be graded involves one of the grading committee's children then that member will not assess the grading of their own child.
6. For under 12's and up the division one coach from the previous year may be invited to assist the committee.
7. Upon completion of grading/grouping, the grading committee will submit its results and recommendations to the executive committee for final approval.

### Rules

1. On grading/grouping days parents must remain away from the designated grading area until grading is complete;
2. Communication must be with the designated committee member on the day, or if post-grading with the club president. Please do not approach the graders.
3. If player numbers within an age group are either under or over the number required to form a team, the committee, in consultation with parents, will:
  - Attempt to recruit additional players;
  - Place additional players into a lower graded team;
  - Give the player the option to register with another club.
4. Players must be registered and grade within their correct age group. Playing up will only be allowed if doing so does not unbalance another age group and is purely at the club's discretion.
5. If a player is trialling for a higher age group and has equal skill level with a player in the correct age group, then precedence will be given to the player in the correct age group;
6. Players who have not registered will not be allowed to participate in grading and will not be placed into a team.

7. Players who come late or do not attend grading without advising the club will be allocated to a team where numbers permit, and skill level is appropriate at the discretion of the club;
8. At the end of the previous year, each coach assesses the players in his team and give feedback to the club on the players' skill and improvement throughout the year. This feedback will be utilised by the grading committee in allocating players to teams in the current year.
9. Placing players into teams is at the sole discretion of the club board, on the advice of the grading committee.

### **Appeals**

Should you have any questions or queries regarding the grading process, policy or results please forward your information request via email to the Club Secretary, clearly marked to the attention of the Grading Committee.

### **A friendly reminder...**

Our club is run by volunteers. They give their time at no cost to the club to help in its running. The club requests that you respect the grading committee's decisions and do not abuse the members of our grading committee. The board will do what it can to accommodate individual requests, however it may not always be possible or practical to do so. The board understands that mistakes are sometimes made, and in that instance, we are more than happy to answer any questions or alleviate any concerns you may have as long as it is done in an appropriate manner and with respect.

### **Contact**

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