



Melbourne East Netball Association

Registration No: A0011747L

ABN 54 201 268 575

Grading Policy

Correspondence to: PO Box 613, Heathmont 3135

Email: admin@menanetball.com.au

Phone 0411 691 888

Policy Date: March 2021
Policy Name: Grading Policy
Committee Responsible: Executive Committee and MENA – Grading Committee

Grading Philosophy

The aim of the grading process is to provide a competitive match play environment for all **MENA** netball teams. Grading games are played to determine the evenness of competition in each section. **MENA** will grade teams into divisions/sections according to their standard of play and age group as fairly as possible. The Grading committee shall be responsible for grading teams as per the **GRADING POLICY**.

RATIONALE:

The grading by the Grading Sub-committee must follow the procedures and guidelines described in the Grading Policy. Using these guidelines, MENA aims that players in all teams will participate in competition at **MENA** that is fair and equitable.

GOALS:

The provision of a framework which teams can be grouped into appropriate sections/divisions to enable them to participate in MENA's competitions.

1. To deliver competitions catering for all age, skill and ability levels, within the resources availability of the Association which provides the following features:

- Encourages and promotes continuing involvement in netball
- An opportunity for teams to excel
- Supports the fun and participative elements of sports
- Supports on-going skills development of individuals and teams alike.

2. To strive to establish individual competition sections/divisions which provide the following features:

- A similar matching of skills
- A reasonable and competitive competition
- Enable individuals and teams to develop skills

3. Adoption of a flexible grading process to support the provision of competitions comprising of sections/divisions which match the ever-changing needs of the Association.

4. To comply with the various rules and by-laws of the Association and other peak governing bodies associated with netball and the delivery of sport in general.



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- An evenly based netball competition based on age, experience and skills
- Teams that have a balanced group of players of similar ability levels across all playing positions
- Even numbers of teams per section where possible.

Review:

The Grading Committee reserves the right to **regrade Net Set Go 9 & Under** teams at any time.

No further correspondence will be considered once regrading is complete.

Related policies:

Health & Safety Policy

Policy Review Date:

The policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by June in close liaison with the Grading Sub-committee.



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The Grading Process:

Step 1:

Initial Rank Ordering of Teams

Based on the previous season's performance, all teams will be ranked in comparative order and allocated an initial appropriate section/division in the new season's competition.

Basis for rank ordering will be a combination of the following:

- a) Win/loss ratio and goals for/against ratio in competition
- b) Final series performance
- c) Eligibility of players to participate within key sections/divisions
- d) Promotion/demotion between sections/divisions e.g. Bottom two teams drop down.
- e) Within age group, grading teams according to age and years of experience within the group i.e. top age team in higher sections

Step 2:

Nomination for New Season's Teams:

Full details of teams wishing to participate in new season's competition to be provided by the Association's secretary/registrar:

RETENTION OF TEAM IDENTITY (ORIGINAL TEAM):

A team which has retained at least **5 players** from the previous season will be recognised as retaining its identity. A requirement should exist for a team to clearly make the statement that it is retaining its identity on the registration form.

REQUEST FOR SECTION/DIVISION:

Each nominating team will be given the opportunity to apply for a specific section/division. In the case of a **"newly formed"** team, this request must be supported by evidence of previous season's played and/or performance. Provision will be made on the registration form to cater for this request.

Step 3:

Preliminary allocation of Sections/Divisions:

"Initial" rank ordering of all "original" teams will then be reassessed.

"New" teams will then be allocated a section/division based on "best fit" subject to availability of space in their requested sections/divisions.

Consideration given to impact of player movement across teams.



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Step 4:

Final allocation of Sections/Divisions:

Final review of preliminary allocation includes review of team composition, age and skill level to determine final competition for submission structure to Association for ratification.

Ongoing review of team's performance during competition throughout the Grading games.

Grading Matches

Grading games will be held in the first weeks of each season, in order to test a team's performance and review.

Every MENA team in each section will play in three weeks of grading games. The number of games to be played will be as per the Competition Rules.

If a team forfeits, the opposing team will be awarded points for these games. If a team has a "bye", points will be given. In both these scenarios the team who claims the points receives a score. Number of games and points awarded are as per competition rules.

Any correspondence will need to be in writing and received (from club President/Secretary) during the initial grading process and/or **as per the Grading TimeLine**.

The decision of the Grading committee is final.

Regrading:

Results, game day match reviews by committee and written issues/concerns (received via email from club Presidents/Secretaries) will be reviewed, discussed and considered by the grading committee.

Any fixturing changes will be made in the week after grading games are completed. Teams affected by these changes will be notified by **MENA** and fixtures will be generated with a copy emailed to the nominated club contact person for distribution.

NetSetGo **Under 9's** will also be included in the grading process.

Guidelines:

- **MENA** requires at least **6 – 8** teams in each section where possible.
- If a club **does not** fully complete comments or requests on club registration forms, further views **cannot** be considered in the initial (pre-season) grading process and thus **cannot** be reviewed until after the **grading** games have been completed. Written concerns



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received from club presidents/secretaries will be considered prior to the **final regrading**, as per the Grading TimeLine.

- All clubs are required to submit their teams in electronic format, (not paper).
- Teams who play their section grand final (both teams) will most likely progress to a higher section the following season.
- Ladder position at both the completion of each season and at the end of the grand final will be taken into account when regrading.
- Section sizes matched to ensure a single Age/Section is not split over two time slots where possible
- Higher sections to play later timeslots than lower sections where possible.

Terms of Reference:

- Sub-committee positions will be declared vacant annually at the AGM
- Chairperson will be appointed by Executive from the MENA Committee
- Sub-committee (incl Chairperson from MENA Committee) will be made up of a maximum of seven (7) members – minimum one (1), preferably two (2) MENA Committee and up to six (6) nominated by their club, must be a minimum of 3
- In the event of there being more nominations than positions available the Executive will make the appointments based on skill and knowledge.