



## 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](mailto:admin@menanetball.com.au)

Phone 0411 691 888

**Policy Date:** July 2024  
**Policy Name:** Grading Policy  
**Responsible:** Executive Board members, Club Competition Standing 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 Club Competition Grading committee shall be responsible for grading teams in the Club Competition 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.



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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.

- 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.

11 & Under, 13 & Under, 15 & Under, 17 & Under and OPEN: Re-grading may occur at any time within the first 2 - 4 weeks of any season. Where there is an obvious discrepancy a further 2 weeks post grading, the Grading Sub Committee may make the necessary changes.

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 entered and submitted to grading in Netball Connect by Clubs. Clubs will complete the Season's "Club Competition - Grading Team & Player Information" excel spreadsheet and forwarded to [admin@menanetball.com.au](mailto:admin@menanetball.com.au) as per the timeline set out in the Season Calendar. MENA Operations will forward this spreadsheet on to the Grading Committee:

#### **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 via the "Club Competition - Grading Team & Player Information". In the case of a "**newly formed**" team, this request must be supported by evidence of previous season's played and/or performance.

##### **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 will provide MENA Operations a spreadsheet of the teams by section ranked from higher to lower ranked teams. Fixtures will be created by MENA Operations.

#### **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 U11, U3, U15, U17, OPEN in each section will play in four rounds of grading games. Every MENA team in 9 & Under NetSetGo will play in five rounds of grading games. The number of games to be played will be as per the Competition Rules and will be available on the Seasons Calendar.

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.

Clubs will be provided an opportunity to supply grading feedback from via the Grading Feedback Template Form and forwarded to the [admin@menanetball.com.au](mailto:admin@menanetball.com.au) by the timelines set out in the Season Calendar. MENA Operations will forward this spreadsheet on to the Grading Committee.



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Any fixturing changes will be made in the week after grading games are completed. Fixtures will be generated and will be available on Netball Connect.

NetSetGo **Under 9's** will also be included in the grading process and timelines will be outlined as in the Season Calendar.

#### **Guidelines:**

- **MENA** requires at least **6 – 8** teams in each section where possible.
- If a club **does not** fully complete comments or requests on 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 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 first Club Competition Standing Committee( CCSC) meeting following the AGM
- Chairperson will be appointed by Board delegate from the MENA CCSC
- Sub-committee (incl Chairperson from MENA CCSC) will be made up of a maximum of seven (7) members – minimum one (1), preferably two (2) MENA CCSC 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 Board Executive will make the appointments based on skill and knowledge