



Melbourne East Netball Association

Registration No: A0011747L

ABN 54 201 268 575

Programs Grading Policy

Correspondence to: PO Box 613, Heathmont 3135

Email: admin@menanetball.com.au

Phone 0411 691 888

Policy Date: January 2026
Policy Name: Programs Grading Policy
Committee Responsible: Programs Coordinator and Programs Grading Panel

Grading Philosophy

The aim of the grading process is to provide each team a fun and appropriate level of competition each week. Grading games are played to determine the evenness of competition in each division and/or section. **MENA** will grade teams into divisions and/or sections according to their standard of play as fairly as possible. The Grading committee shall be responsible for grading teams as per the **GRADING POLICY**.

RATIONALE:

The grading by the Programs Grading Panel must follow the procedures and guidelines described in the Programs 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 divisions and/or sections 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 divisions and/or sections 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 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.

Grading Panel

The Grading Panel will be appointed by the Programs Coordinator and will:

- Comprise a minimum of three (3) people
- Be a representation of Competition and Umpiring staff.
- Conduct all grading maintaining strict confidentiality.

Review:

The Grading Panel reserves the right to **regrade** any team after the allocated grading period.

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 Panel.



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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 divisions and/or sections
- d) Promotion/demotion between divisions and/or sections e.g. Bottom two teams drop down.

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 Program Coordinator:

RETENTION OF TEAM IDENTITY (ORIGINAL TEAM):

A team which has retained at least **4 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 division and/or section. 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 Divisions and/or Sections:

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 Grading games.

Grading Matches

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

Every MENA team in each section will play in four to five weeks of grading games.

During the grading period the competitiveness of each team will be assessed, having regard to:

- a) Winning/losing margin (average in each game);
- b) Observation of their games
- c) Their performance in context of the whole division and/or section (e.g. a team may not be competitive against the top two teams but are competitive against the rest of the teams in the division and/or section)

By the end of the grading period, the MENA may change the division and/or section that a team plays in to better match their level of skill and desire to the division and/or section.

Ultimately the decision whether to move a team or not is at the discretion of MENA and does not require the consent of teams concerned. Other factors that will be considered are:

- a) Whether or not there is a team to move into the division and/or section if another team is moved out.
- b) The number of teams in a division and/or section and whether or not a bye would be created by the team moving;
- c) The inherent fact that there will be teams that make finals and teams that don't in every division and/or section;
- d) The overriding principle that teams should only be moved where to leave them would be detrimental to the overall enjoyment of all teams;
- e) The number of games left in the season;



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- f) What is important is the team's actual performance and not merely the individuals who make up the team. A skilled player may with play in a "lower grade" to play with friends or family. If they do that, without being the dominant player on the team, it may be appropriate for the to continue in the division and/or section.

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 scenario's 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 Team Manager) during the initial grading process, prior to the end of the 4-week grading period.

The decision of the Grading Panel is final.

Regrading:

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

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 team manager for distribution.

Guidelines:

- **MENA** requires at least **6 – 8** teams in each section where possible.
- If a team **does not** fully complete comments or requests on Team Grading Feedback form, 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 team managers will be considered prior to the **final regrading**, as per the Grading TimeLine.
- All teams are required to register their teams through the Netball Connect App and submit the Team Grading Feedback form via email to programs@menanetball.com , (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 considered when regrading.



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Terms of Reference:

- Grading Panel positions will be roll over annually unless a position is vacated, in this case the Program Coordinator will appoint a person who is either Competition or Umpire Staff.