



Kariong United Football Club

Junior Grading Policy

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Definitions

“Playing Ability” is a player’s overall ‘ability’ based on the assessment of their technical and tactical skills.

Non Competition is as defined by Central Coast Football normally U5 to U11.

Junior Competition is as defined by Central Coast Football normally U12 to M16 and W16.

Grading will be the initial Grading Days plus evaluation during trial games should it be deemed necessary, it may also include historical performances and feedback from previous coaches and grading committee members.

Background

The focus of Kariong United Football Club is to foster and promote the game of football, allowing players a safe, enjoyable learning experience in a team sport.

Kariong United Football Club prides itself on its traditions and history. The club’s reputation and success over the years has undoubtedly been underpinned by the strength of its junior teams.

For the club’s junior section to thrive and be a success, it is essential that the grading process continues to be fair and effective and that each player is selected into a team that suits the ‘playing ability’ of that player.

This document outlines the club’s policy on all matters relating to the grading of junior players and is designed to give all players, coaches and their parents/caregivers a clear understanding of this process; including any appeals that may arise as a result.



The club will grade junior players according to the selection criteria detailed later in this document and will endeavour to give all players the opportunity to develop their skills, reach their potential and maximize their enjoyment of the game.

Grading

Kariong United Football Club welcomes players from all Districts and Clubs and will not discriminate against any player wishing to move from another club. Each player will be assessed as to their individual ability.

Kariong United Football Club will not accept team nominations (or nominations of 'small groups') from any other clubs for any age division higher than Under 7's, regardless of reputation or ability. All players will be graded on an individual basis without exception. This is to be fair to all players including returning players to the Club.

In line with Central Coast Football, all players from 'Under 8' and older will be graded. The selection criteria used for grading is detailed under 'Selection Criteria' later in this document.

**In line with Central Coast Football, players who are 'U5, U6 & U7 will NOT be graded; instead, players will be placed in balanced teams and where requested if possible, player friendships will be taken into account. No consideration will be given to player's skill level. In the event that there are not enough places within a certain team, preference will be given to those who played in the same team in the previous year.*

An unregistered player cannot be Graded.

Players can and may be selected to play in an older age group. This will only be done if the 'Grading Committee' deems it appropriate in order that the 'numbers' are balanced out across two age groups (eg. Player numbers are surplus in the younger age grade and the older age grade is in need of players to form a team. Any player that does move up an age group will need to be graded and assessed in full by the Grading Committee. There are four exceptions to this which also allow for a player to move up an age group:

- i) A player may also move up an age group AND to any grade deemed appropriate, if the Grading Committee identifies a player as highly talented and their development would benefit from playing in an older age group.
- ii) A female player is identified by the Grading Committee as being more likely to benefit from playing in an older 'female only' team rather than a mixed team at her own age group. **Note – Girls from Under 15 and older are only eligible to play in the 'Girls Competitions' played on Sundays.*
- iii) A player may also move up an age group to any Grade determined by the Grading Committee to fill a specialist position (eg Goalkeeper) in the higher grade team provided that the Grading Committee determines that the player is capable of playing in the higher age group and grade.
- iv) A player may move up an age group if the Grading Committee determines that it is in the best interest of the Club and the Team to do so



In the event that a player is unable to attend the grading sessions, a communication must be sent, along with the reasons for absence, to the relevant age group co-ordinator. Under these circumstances, the Grading Committee will grade the player based on the coach's feedback from the previous season. If the player is new to the club then the player will be graded in the lowest grade and performances will be assessed as the season progresses. New players who are absent from the grading sessions may though submit a reference to the club, which attests to the player's ability and previous playing experience. This may then be taken into account by the Grading Committee.

All teams will consist of a maximum number of players as specified in the Central Coast Football Rules.

Following the grading sessions teams will be selected and posted on the Kariong United Football Club website.

Members of the Grading Committee may attend trial matches in order to continue to further assess a player's ability and suitability to a certain grade.

Once the season has commenced, the Grading Committee have the option to move a player up a grade if it is felt that his/her performances merit such a move and ONLY if a place is 'available' in the higher grade team.

The Grading Committee will allocate an equal number of players to each team within an age division. Where there are an uneven number of players within a division, the Grading Committee will allocate the extra player to the lowest graded team. This will allow an easier movement of players up a grade rather than down a grade if additional players do register.



Selection Criteria

The 'Grading Committee' will grade all junior players (Under 8 -16) using the selection criteria listed below:

- i) 'Playing Ability' -the Grading Committee will take into account a player's technical and tactical skills as well as their fitness levels
- ii) 'Potential' -the Grading Committee will compare a player's potential to develop and improve their 'Playing Ability' further, with that of other players.
- iii) 'Attitude' -the Grading Committee will take into account the attitude and character of players and assess and compare with other players.
- iv) 'Team Balance' -the Grading Committee will where possible take into account the need to have 'balance' within each team which ensures an appropriate mix of defenders, midfielders and attacking players are selected into each team as well as the selection of a goalkeeper.
Previous years Coaches input and potential Coaches input will also be
- v) considered

Appeals Process

In the event that a player, coach or the player's parent/caregiver, feels that a player has been graded incorrectly, an appeal may be lodged. This appeal must be sent in writing within 24 hours of the team announcement to the relevant age group co-ordinator. The appeal will then be lodged with the Grading Committee and a decision will be passed on to the parents/caregiver via the relevant age group co-ordinator within 24 hours. This decision is 'FINAL'. If the parent/caregiver is not satisfied with the decision then a refund of the registration fee may be sought through the relevant age group co-ordinator

Appeals, grading disputes or requests can be addressed to:

Kariong United Football Club. Secretary.: Email: secretary@kariongunited.com.au