

DOCUMENT OBJECTIVE

The main objective of this document is to formulate the processes by which Cronulla Seagulls Football Club (hereby referred to as CSFC) will conduct its grading sessions on a yearly basis. This document should be accessible to members of CSFS and the general football community on our website.

CSFC GRADING POLICY

The Grading Policy of CSFC essentially is to be used to provide the Grading Committee (as confirmed by the CSFC General Committee) with clear process and procedure outlines to ensure that CSFC Grading is conducted with the utmost integrity, professionalism and transparency.

In general terms, senior teams (All Age and Over 35/45) are not put through a grading policy, as the Management Committee will oversee general placement of senior's teams in relation to previous year's performance, and overall request from players in each team. This process is, as always then at the discretion of the Association as the exact final Division each team will be placed.

Overall, CSFC has some clear objectives in relation to the grading of our junior teams, which are as follows:

Players:

Provide a clear, well defined process to ensure that all players are to be placed in a team that will:

- Best represent their individual level of skill and ability,
- Ensure teams formed are comprised of similarly skilled players,
- Maximise opportunities to develop and improve their skills,
- Maximise their enjoyment and love of the game, and
- To provide clear and well managed pathways through age groups and divisions.

Club:

- Ensure that players are placed in teams in a fair and equitable manner by independent persons,
- Enable the club to properly assess and nominate team placing's (i.e. divisions) for the upcoming season.
- Ensure that there will be a Grading Committee made up of a Grading Chairman and several members of our Committee whom are experienced and suitably qualified and experienced to grade each age group.

All players must be registered in Play Football prior to attending a grading session. This rule is set down by FNSW and CSFC strictly adheres to this policy.



CSFC Grading Policy

TEAM SELECTION & GRADING CRITERIA

The basis of initial selection will be the combination of the above skill rating and the following:

- Merit - The application of both individual and team skills in the game of football in grading trials the Grading Committee will be primarily assessing the following criteria and aspects of players:
 1. Ball Control / Dribbling
 2. Passing
 3. Shooting
 4. Heading (From U11's on)
 5. Tackling
 6. One on One
 7. First Touch
 8. Speed and endurance
 9. Teamwork and
 10. Strength.
- Grading reports submitted by team coaches at the end of the prior season.
- Where a player has been selected in a representative academy/SAP team consideration of the rules and bylaws of the appropriate Regions e.g. SSFA requirements for player placements should be acknowledged.

The objective of the initial selection of teams is to group players with similar ability together.

CSFC will do their best to follow the guidelines set out by the SSFA in relation to capping team numbers. However, consideration will be given where a team requests a variation to these numbers or if the Club deems it appropriate for a variation.

In age groups where there are two or more teams the higher graded team would generally and where appropriate, have fewer players in the team with the opportunity to promote players at a later date, (eg: the team graded 13B may have 14 players and the team graded 13D may have 16 players). This will also allow opportunity for the higher graded team to “borrow up” from the lower graded team, where under SSFA rules, teams are not allowed to borrow players from a team graded higher than themselves.

If the age group is still open for registration the teams already selected can only have new players added to them by having new, or late registering, players coming in to the lower graded team and players, with the appropriate skill and ability &/or rated the highest during grading are to be transferred to the higher graded team at the Registrars discretion.

Players up to and including the age of 16 cannot register to play in an age group more than 2 years older than the age they turn in the year of registration.

The Club appreciates and supports the fact that some players play primarily for social reasons and wish to form teams on this basis. As a result, we make a commitment to attempt to meet requests to play with friends (excluding A and B grade sides) and will make every effort to allow



CSFC Grading Policy

wish list teams based upon submitted lists of players in a timely manner (at least 2 weeks prior to SSFA Grading deadline).

For A and B grade sides from U07's to U18's, teams will be selected based upon the matching of players' abilities, although extenuating circumstances of course will be considered. Where players request to play together in a small group as opposed to an entire team, they will be graded in the team based on the grade of the lowest graded of the two players.

ADULT TEAM REQUESTS | UNDER 18 & ABOVE

Please email your full team lists to registrar@cronullaseagullsfc.com prior to February 1st and provide contact details [Mobile number & Email Address] for a Coach and/or Manager. If you do not yet have a Coach/Manager, please nominate a team organiser that we may contact should we have any queries regarding your team.

After players have been selected into teams, the Grading Chairman together with suitably qualified Committee Members, shall determine the grades to be requested from the SSFA for the coming season. In doing this, they will reference grading sheets from the previous year, previous year's results and any movement of players within the age group.

Players shall play in the team in which they are selected. In the event that a player wishes to transfer to another team within the Club they are to provide a written request, outlining the reasons for the transfer, and submit it to the Club's Secretary. The Club's Secretary will liaise with the Grading Chairman and any other relevant Committee Members to review and consider the request. Once a decision has been made, this will be communicated as soon as possible to the player or player's parents/carer.

All players shall be eligible for selection in their applicable age group as defined by the Rules and By-Laws as published by the SSFA.

Any request for consideration for an exception to the above 'age group' rule must be submitted, in writing, and addressed to the Club's Secretary, documenting reasons for the request and is to be accompanied by parental consent for players under the age of 18 years. The Club Secretary will discuss these requests with the Grading Chairman and Club Secretary and where the Club's consent is granted, shall report these requests to the SSFA for their final consent.

It must not be assumed that players that played in an older age group the previous year will be permitted to do so in the following year, It must be made clear to players wishing to play in an older age group that it be reviewed on a case by case basis and reviewed annually at each new registering year.

From time to time an age group may have an imbalance of player numbers. This may require players to play above their age group. If this situation arises, the following is to apply:

- Players may only be requested to play up; they cannot be forced to play up.
- The Grading Chairman and/or Club Secretary can refuse a player from playing up if they are of the opinion that it will be detrimental to the player's performance or well-being.



CSFC Grading Policy

- The Grading Chairman will select the most suitable applicants to play up an age for that season only.
- Players that play up an age group do so on the understanding that in the following year they will return to their appropriate age group. If they want to remain in the higher age group in subsequent years they will be required to re-apply at that time.

SSFA RECOMMENDATION TO CAPPED TEAM NUMBERS.

Below is the Sutherland Shire Football Association recommendation in relation to capped team numbers for Competition Teams.

UNDER 12 BOYS - UNDER 16 BOYS 16 PLAYERS

UNDER 12 GIRLS - UNDER 16 GIRLS 16 PLAYERS

Any variation to this cap will be made at the discretion of the Club's Registrar in conjunction with the Grading Chairman and Club Secretary.

Any disputed grading's or questions on the grading process need to be directed to the Club's Secretary (secretary@cronullaseagullsfc.com) at the earliest possible convenience, following the team's selection details being published on the website. As a guideline it is expected that any dispute would be lodged, in writing, within 24 – 48 hours of the team's listing being published.

DISPUTES

All disputed grading's will be referred to the Grading Chairman and Club Secretary for consideration. They will;

- Review grading notes from the age group's grading session.
- Review the previous season's Coaches report, if the child played with CSFC.
- Discuss the player's performance and attitude with the coach of the previous season.

The Club's Secretary will be provided with the recommendation which may include player development advice. As a guideline the Club's Secretary will be in contact with the player, and / or their parents, within 72 hours of the lodgement of the dispute.

Any further protests about the decision reached by the Grading Chairman must be lodged, in writing addressed to the Club Secretary, within 24 hours. The Club Secretary will convene a meeting to discuss the matter with the Club's Executive Committee.

All grading assessment sheets and player evaluation reports are the Committee-in-Confidence property of CSFC.

All decisions about late registrations for any group are to be taken by the relevant Club's Registrar, not the Grading coordinator or the grading committee.