

2025 GRADING PROCESS

There are a couple of new members on the grading committee this year, which is great! We will explain the grading process to them before commencing. We ask all committee members to participate as an association representative and not grading through the eyes of their club.

The most time-consuming part of the grading process is identifying teams who are trying to deceive the committee by nominating teams in lower divisions when realistically should be graded into a higher division. This delays the whole grading process.

We ask all clubs to be reasonable with which division they submit teams. The grading committee needs help from all clubs in the following way:

- a. If your team performed well last year, nominate them up a Division.
- b. If your team came mid table, this doesn't justify dropping down a Division.
- c. If adding notes to team nominations, please take the emotion out of it and simply provide the facts (dot points would work).

The grading committee has access to data on where each team finished last season, what age group/division they played, how many players are returning & the history of new players to the team. The committee also has access to all last year's ladders with all teams points for, against & goal difference.

Please ensure all teams nominated for grading meet the Player Registration Restrictions. Clubs have been very vocal about adherence to this restriction and the grading committee will enforce these rules. There will be exceptions available for clubs. E.g. Two teams from different clubs that won't meet minimum numbers combining into one team.

Teams nominated that don't meet the Player Registration Restrictions or Minimum required registration numbers (U12 – 10 players, U13 up – 11 players, Squads – 20 players) will be removed from the grading process.

Clubs withholding players from team submission for grading needs to be eliminated. The Association has seen this happen in the past few years where there are numerous players added to teams post final grading released. This creates an unbalanced competition and unfair to the rest of the teams in that division. E.g. Should a team be graded in DIVISION 2 through the grading process, then players who played 1st division last year have found to be added to the team after grading has been completed. The extra players may not be allowed to register in that team, or the grading committee may also consider moving the team up a division.

This aspect can significantly delay clubs getting final grading decisions and ultimately the draw out within a reasonable timeline. The more transparent the clubs are the smoother the process will be for everyone.

The movement of players between teams will continue to be monitored post season kick off to ensure rules are being adhered to.

Some clubs may end up with multiple teams graded in the same division. We understand this is not ideal for clubs/teams as it may limit borrowing abilities. However, the grading committee grades teams based on which division would best suit the individual team.

Please be reminded, first grading is not final grading. When the INITIAL grading outcomes are published to the clubs these aren't finalised. Subject to the appeal process, teams may be moved up or down a division if appeals are granted. If the clubs can follow the points above hopefully, we can eliminate too many moves.

Finally, can clubs please ensure all coaches and managers are aware of the below rule before promising players places in teams.

- Player Registration Restrictions
- Player Grading & Quotas
- Player Borrowing Rules

The MWFA administration, Board and Committees will consider the above rules and ensure their compliance. Unfortunately, as parents/players/coaches/managers aren't aware of how these rules are administered, they are not pleased with some of the decision made by the MWFA resulting in unpleasant emails/phone calls to our staff and volunteers.