

TEAM SELECTION AND GRADING POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

The Good Shepherd Lightning Netball Club is committed to creating a club environment that promotes a culture of inclusion and participation for all players and their families. Our objective is to ensure grading and team selection is a fair, transparent and effective process aimed at ensuring the best interests of both players and their families, and the Club.

The Club aims to select teams that have a balanced group of players of similar ability levels across all playing positions. This approach is taken to maximise every player's level of enjoyment, participation and opportunities for development.

OPEN TEAMS

Open teams are not graded. Team selection is coordinated by the team coaches/captains based primarily on friendship groups.

9&U 11&U 13&U 15&U AND 17&U TEAMS

Players in 9 & Under through to 17 & Under play in a competitive, graded competition and therefore, players in these age groups are graded by the Club. This enables us to place players in appropriate teams in readiness for competition.

The committee appoints independent graders to conduct grading on behalf of the club.

The format for grading is a series of short games, in which players take the court in their nominated preferred positions. Experienced umpires are used to officiate the games. Players are entitled to receive 2 grading games, and may receive more if necessary, to ensure all players are trialled in their preferred positions, or if additional court time is required to assess skill.

Team are selected by the independent graders based on:

- Assessment of the overall skill of each player within an age group taking into account a range of factors including:
 - Footwork
 - Ball Handling Skills
 - Attacking and Defending Skills
 - Speed and Agility
 - Perception and Cognition Skills
- Team balance across all playing positions
- The number of registrations within each age group

Where required player feedback provided by coaches may also be considered along with any other factors the Club considers relevant at the time to achieve the aim of selecting teams with a balanced group of players with similar ability across all playing positions.

Please note that just because players have been in a certain team in a previous year, this does not mean that they will remain in the same team or with the same players the next year. All players are graded afresh each year and teams selected accordingly. No preference is given to Representative players.

The logo for the GSLN Lightning Netball Club is a dark blue pennant shape pointing to the left. It features the letters 'GS' in white on the left, 'LIGHTNING' in white in the center, and 'NETBALL CLUB' in white on the right. A thick yellow horizontal bar runs across the middle of the pennant. Three yellow curved lines, resembling lightning bolts, sweep across the pennant from the top left towards the bottom right.

GS LIGHTNING NETBALL CLUB

TEAM NUMBERS

The club aims to select teams with a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 9 players where possible given the number of registrations within each age group. Team and player registration is subject to the availability of players, coaches and umpires. If numbers are insufficient to form teams then registration fees will be refunded.

PLAYERS WANTING TO “PLAY UP” AN AGE GROUP

Players who nominate to “play up” an age group are required to attend grading in that age group. When selecting teams, the Selection Committee will take into consideration a player’s preference to play in a higher age group, however, will also have regard to a range of other factors, including:

- The overall skills of the player within the age group
- Team balance across all playing positions
- The number of registrations within each age group
- The interests of all GSLNC players

NOTIFICATION OF TEAMS

Once the grading process has concluded and teams have been selected for the start of the new season, the Club will notify players individually, and will post team lists via GSLNC Facebook Group.

TEAM SELECTION ENQUIRIES

All selection decisions are final. All enquiries regarding player selection should be made in writing to The Secretary (gslnetball@gmail.com) within seven days of notification of teams. Any enquiries will be reviewed by the Committee at the next committee meeting following receipt of the enquiry.

REFUNDS

Registration Fees are non-refundable other than at the discretion of the committee and will not normally be approved if the reason is due to team selection and grading decisions. Requests for refunds (minus Netball Victoria Membership fees) should be addressed to the committee for consideration.

LATE REGISTRATION

Any registrations after the published closing date/time will be placed on a standby list and will only be accepted if space is available in a suitable team.

MID YEAR CHANGES

Teams selected at the beginning of Winter Season will normally remain the same for both Winter and Spring seasons. Any registrations during a season or new players for Spring season will only be accepted if space is available in a suitable team.