

Kyneton District Soccer Club

Grading Policy



Kyneton District Soccer Club (KDSC) are committed to uniting our community through the love of football, fostering inclusivity, teamwork, and respect on and off the field. Empowering our community through the love of football. KDSC envisions a vibrant and inclusive environment where every individual, regardless of age, gender, or background, can thrive. We aspire to foster a culture of excellence, teamwork, and fairness, nurturing both the physical and social well-being of our members.

Scope

This Policy applies to all competitive Senior and Junior registered players at KDSC, where there is more than one team in an age group/ section. The Grading process will be applied by the Senior / Junior Coaches, the Technical Director, and Committee Members.

Guiding principles

KDSC grading process will ensure that players are placed in teams that enable them to grow, build confidence, and have fun while competing at an appropriate level.

This policy is based on the following principles:

- a) Fair and enjoyable competition where we recognise that players develop best when competing with others of a similar skill level. This creates a more rewarding experience, where players are challenged but not overwhelmed.
- b) Improving skill development so players have more opportunities to practise and apply their skills effectively through well-structured training sessions.
- c) Increasing confidence and motivation by allowing players to contribute meaningfully through well-matched teams, boosting their confidence and motivation.
- d) Strengthening team dynamics by allowing players of similar ability levels to train and play together so teamwork improves, and friendships naturally develop.
- e) Growing membership by ensuring players are challenged and supported at the right level. It helps identify areas for improvement, encourages growth, and fosters a love for the game.

Grading process

The Grading Process only applies to KDSC's competitive teams where there are 2 or more teams in the same age group or the same Division.

1. **Assessment Sessions:** These sessions will be incorporated as part of the pre-season training to help grade players. They will be applied in an inclusive manner which can include skill-based drills, small-sided games, and match-play assessments.
2. **Evaluation Criteria:** Players will be assessed and graded on:

- 2.1. Technical skills (first-touch, dribbling/ ball-control, use of both feet, passing, shooting, defending, attacking)
 - 2.2. Game awareness and decision-making
 - 2.3. Physical attributes (speed, endurance, agility)
 - 2.4. Attitude, effort, teamwork and coachability
3. **Senior Team Placement:** After the assessment sessions, players will be allocated a team according to the evaluation process. The highest graded players will be in the greatest competitive team. Each subsequent team will be made up of players who are the second highest graded, and so on. In some competitions where the competition rules allow for some movement of players between weeks of the competition the coach/es will be able to choose the most competitive team on a weekly basis.

In competitions that allow players to play in more than one team in one week, this is only to be done with consideration of the impact on the individual/s and the teams. No one player shall be negatively impacted by the decision for another player to play two games.

4. **Junior / Youth Team Placement:** After the Assessment Sessions, players will be allocated a team according to the following process.
- 4.1. Each 'A' Division team will be made up of the highest graded players. Every subsequent Division will have teams made up of players who are the second highest graded, etc., to ensure a fair and appropriate level of competition.
 - 4.2. Where there are multiple KDSC teams in the one division (e.g., two KDSC teams in A Division), these teams can be graded with the intention of making both teams competitive so there is a balance of positions and experience of players between the teams. This grading will be at the discretion of the coaches and with the approval of the President, Technical Director, and another independent experienced coach.
 - 4.3. Where there are multiple KDSC teams in the lowest Division, these teams are to be created equal in skill and competition.
 - 4.4. Where there are multiple KDSC teams between the 'A' Division and the lowest Division (i.e., the 'B' Division, if KDSC has a team in the 'A' Division AND in the 'C' Division), these teams are to be created as in point 3.2.

I.e. when there are three divisions A, B and C - KDSC will enter one team in A and each lower division, when there are sufficient player numbers. When there are more KDSC teams than divisions, they must enter a team in each division, and coaches can make an assessment as to how many teams in each division from B division to the lowest division, applying 3.2 in the grading process.

5. **Junior Fixed Teams for the Season:** Once teams have been formed, players will remain in their assigned team for the duration of the season. This ensures consistency, team bonding, and a stable learning environment.
6. **Social Grading:** As a community club, we understand the desire to play with friends. While players may request to be placed with friends, they will still be graded based on the criteria outlined above. If a group of friends is allocated

together, they will play in a team that reflects the lowest grading within the group to ensure fairness and balanced competition.

All players are strongly encouraged to play in their own age group. Prior to any player being moved above their age for any significant period, KDSC will consider both the benefits to the individual in question, balanced with the impact on the player's current team, as well as the impact on the higher age team. From time to time coaches from the higher age teams may ask for temporary assistance from younger interested players if there are vacancies due to injury, illness etc. We want to ensure that each and every player has sufficient game time to support all players' development. The ultimate decision will rest with the President, Technical Director, and another independent experienced coach.

Roles and responsibilities

- **Coaches:** Support all players in their development, focus on skill-building, and create an encouraging team environment.
- **Parents:** Trust the grading process, support their child's development, and encourage positive participation regardless of team placement.
- **Players:** Embrace the opportunity to improve, commit to training, and display sportsmanship and teamwork.

KDSC Committee Approved:		
Review Date:		
Version No:		
KDSC President	Name:	Sign: