



BELSOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

GRADING POLICY AND PLAYER SELECTION GUIDELINES

This policy has been established by the Belsouth Football Club (Belsouth) to support the development of all players by enabling them to compete against others of similar ability. The grading of teams and players according to ability is designed to place players into teams where they are participating in games commensurate with both their football skill and physical development. Belsouth emphasises a fair and equitable grading process for players.

Essentially the objectives of the Belsouth grading process are to place every player in a team that will:

- Best represent their level of football skill and ability
- Maximise opportunities to develop and improve their football skills, game awareness and player decision making, and
- Provide maximum enjoyment, fun and a love of the game.

A Grading Committee of 3 to 5 persons will be established by the Belsouth Executive Committee and will be responsible for managing the full selection process, including determining whether conflicts of interest apply to persons involved in the grading process and any appeals that arise. A Grading Coordinator will also be appointed to coordinate grading assessors and manage the assessment of players. Age Coordinators may assist with aspects of the grading process.

Grading is undertaken for U10 to U18 boys and girls. Belsouth coaches from the previous year are asked to provide player assessments that will be used as a reference by the Grading Committee. These player assessments will provide a summary of individual players skill level and attitude at training and during matches.

As a general rule:

- Gradings will cover all teams, however allowance may be made for teams to be established below Division 1 where sufficient numbers of players express a desire to play together – these players will need to be graded at a level commensurate with the Division they are competing
- Players may try out for a higher age group subject to Grading Committee approval
- If a player is trialling for a higher age group and has equal skill level with a player in the correct age group, then precedence will be given to the player in the correct age group, and
- Only registered players are entitled to participate in the grading process.

GRADING STRATEGY IN EACH AGE GROUP

Under 10 to Under 12 Age Groups

In these age groups, the emphasis is placed on participation and enjoyment. Additional goals are the acquisition of football skills and playing in a team environment. Where there are two or more sides in the same age group the sides will be allocated to a division appropriate to the collective skill level of the players. The Grading Committee will assist team coaches in selecting the appropriate division(s).

Under 13 to Under 16 Age Groups

Belsouth will provide all players from Under 13 to Under 16 the opportunity to develop their football skills and play in the highest level appropriate for the player. Greater emphasis is placed upon individual and team performances.

The Grading Committee will assist in placing the team in the most appropriate division. There may be two or more sides formed in the same age group division. Whilst one team may have a more advanced list of players the Club will endeavour to ensure that both teams will be as competitive as possible in their respective divisions.

Under 18+

The decision to undertake Under 18 gradings will depend on the number of registrations and player interest in gradings. The under 18 grading process may follow a different process to that outlined in this policy.

The Grading Committee will assist in placing the team in the most appropriate division. There may be two or more sides formed in the same age group division, and this will be undertaken in consultation with players and the Coach.

GRADING PROCESS AND FORMAT

Gradings are organised and administered by members of the Grading Committee.

The Grading Committee may invite returning coaches to assist with the selection process or arrange the services of independent coaches. Assessors cannot grade the age group they expect to coach during the upcoming season, unless approved by the Grading Committee. Selectors strictly cannot grade an age group that contains their child.

Ideally, grading sessions will be conducted by Assessors who have a minimum of 12 months coaching experience and, where possible, they will have the appropriate level of Football Federation Australia (FFA) community course accreditation for the respective age groups they have been tasked with grading.

This preferred level of accreditation is outlined in the table below.

Age Group	Coaching Accreditation of Assessors
U9-U12 years	FFA Skill Training Certificate
U13-U16 years	FFA Game Training Certificate or Senior Football Certificate
U18+ years	FFA Senior Football Certificate

Note: The grading of players will be based on grading sessions and individual player evaluation sheets compiled and submitted to the club by coaches at the end of the previous season.

Grading sessions will assess:

- Core skills
- Athleticism and fitness
- Tactical awareness (game play)
- Temperament, attitude and coach-ability.

Other criteria may be used as required.

Depending on the number of player registrations, the initial grading of each age group will occur over two days, followed by a four-week movement period.

Day 1: Core Skills Assessment

Every player will be given a registration number and then assigned to different groups on the day.

After this, each group will be directed to one of a number of 'Core Skill Stations' and once there, asked to perform the required activity to the best of their ability. Core skills include 1 v 1 (attack and defence), first touch (both feet), running with the ball and striking the ball (both feet).

Scores will be recorded for each player before the groups then move onto the next station where their assessment continues.

After completing all of the stations, the grading will conclude with all Assessors meeting to review and compare the player scores and discuss which teams they should be placed in for the second day.

Day 2: Team Assessment

Players shall be placed in teams according to their Day 1 ranking and required to play against each other in a game setting. These games will preferably be small-sided however may be larger-sided games, depending on player numbers and the age of the players being graded.

Scores will be recorded for each player with particular attention given to how each player interacts and performs as part of a team.

At the conclusion of the grading, the Assessors will meet to review and compare their player scores to compile a total graded ranking for each player.

Thereafter, teams will be created for each group and a decision made by the Grading Committee as to what division each team should be placed in for the season.

Under no circumstances will any player or parent be advised whether or not a player has made a graded team until the teams have been finalised by the Grading Committee.

A player who is unable to attend the scheduled grading sessions, or registers late due to unavoidable circumstances, may apply to the Grading Committee to be assessed at a later date. If team numbers allow, the Grading Committee may arrange to have the player assessed at a training session or trial game, and determine if the player is suitable in comparison to the players that were unsuccessful during the grading sessions.

Goal Keepers

Depending on interest, a grading session will be arranged for players that want to be graded and developed as Goal Keepers. Goal Keeper development will be arranged throughout the season for interested players.

TEAM APPOINTMENT

All players will be advised via email of the outcome of final team selections. They will also be contacted by their Manager or Coach welcoming them to the team and providing information about team training schedules and other relevant information.

Team Numbers

Team numbers across the age groups apply as follows:

Under 10 and 11 – A minimum of 9 players and a maximum of 12 players will be selected for the graded team

Under 12 to 16 – A minimum of 11 players and a maximum of 15 players will be selected for the graded team

Under 18 – A minimum of 11 players and a maximum of 15 players will be selected for the graded team

Movement Period

Movement of players between sides will be allowable in the same age group up to the first four rounds of each season, or to the cut-off date for player lists set by Capital Football, whichever comes first. This will ensure each player has the opportunity to play at the most appropriate level within the competition.

Initially, Division 1 (and possibly Division 2) teams will be structured to allow for the borrowing of players, late registrations and any possible re-grades. The club does not allow players to be re-graded down (without their consent) but players can be moved up. For this reason, higher graded teams may start with fewer players in the first four weeks of the season.

Skills, attitude and coach-ability will be considered during the movement period. Coaches will also consider commitment and behaviour when determining whether the player has been graded effectively.

Final Team Selection

After the movement period all teams are finalised and no further changes can take place. Belsouth appreciates that there may be extenuating circumstances, and that some players may wish to be in a particular side. These requests should be made in writing to the Grading Committee two weeks (14 days) prior to end of the movement period. Late requests will not be considered.

Players are selected into a team, not a position, the only exception being the Goal Keeper.

Grading Non-Attendance

Players who are not assessed on either or both grading days will be assigned to a team and a division to be decided by members of the Grading Committee.

APPEALS PROCESS

Should there be any disagreement with the final grading selections of any team, the parent/carer of the player must contact the Grading Committee via e-mail outlining their grievance and providing evidence in support of their appeal.

Members of the Grading Committee will then re-assess and discuss the claim and provide a decision.

The Committee's decision is final and no subsequent appeals will be considered.

CONFIDENTIALITY

In the interest of protecting the role of our coaches, selectors and players, all assessment information pertaining to the grading process will be kept confidential at all times.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Those involved in the grading evaluation process will be required to declare any conflict of interest prior to the process commencing.

GRADING SCHEDULE

Description		Timing
1	Individual player evaluation sheets are provided to coaches.	August (previous season)
2	Individual player evaluation sheets compiled and submitted to the club by Age Coordinators.	September (previous season)
3	A Grading Committee of 3 to 5 persons will be established by the Belsouth Executive Committee.	September (previous season)
4	The Grading Coordinator invites returning coaches to assist with the selection process and/or Belsouth arranges the services of independent coaches.	September to December (previous season)
5	Grading session dates, times and locations are communicated and promoted,	Three times in January
6	Grading Day 1 - Core Skills Assessment.	Week 2, school term 1
7	Grading Day 2 - Team Assessment.	Week 3, school term 1
8	Finalise initial team selections - Following conclusion of the grading sessions, and taking all available information into consideration, the Grading Committee will reach agreement on the relative abilities of each player and place them into teams in respective divisions.	Week 4-5, school term 1
9	Coaches and players informed of team selections by Age Coordinators, providing details of the Appeal Process.	Week 4-5, school term 1
10	Movement period and assessment of appeals.	Up to week 4 of football season or possibly earlier
11	Appeals and special requests – Any disagreement with grading selections or special requests must be made in writing to the Grading Committee two weeks prior to the end of the movement period, outlining the grievance or request, and providing supporting evidence.	Two weeks prior to end of movement period
12	Final team selection.	Up to week 4 of football season or possibly earlier