

# HHJRU 2021 Grading Policy & Process



## Our promise

We believe that junior sport should be safe, enjoyable, inclusive and maximise individual participation. Our club acknowledges that positive experiences in junior competition will contribute to children developing a lifelong love of sport.

The emphasis is on players playing in a division at which they should enjoy their rugby. Player safety is paramount in this process.

## Objectives

For players: To provide a clear process for all players to be placed in a team that will:

- Best represent their level of skill and ability
- Maximise opportunities to develop and improve their skills
- Maximise their enjoyment of the game
- Make great friendships
- Safety

For the club:

- Ensure that players are placed in teams in a fair and equitable manners by independent persons
- Enable the Club to properly assess and nominate team placing (i.e. divisions) for the upcoming season
- Develop skills at all levels of play and ability
- Help all players at their correct level of ability.

## Grading Committee

The grading committee members will be no less than 3 experienced coaches / selectors with no direct connection to the age group. The club Coaching Co-ordinator will appoint the selection panel. Coaches from the previous season are invited to assist with the grading process by submitting a performance report to the Age Group Co-ordinator at the end of the season.

The Grading Committee will make the final recommendations on team selections to the club Committee for approval via the AGC. The positions played by team members, once teams have been organised, is always at the discretion of the coach.

## Grading Dates and Times

Grading occurs before the season annually. It is the rules of the SJRU competition that any club entering multiple teams in the U10 and above competition must run a grading process and determine the players' ability and experience.

It begins in the previous year with observation of play, and is followed with detailed collaboration with the previous year's coaches, trials and a fluid approach to team allocation.

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- Registrations open: January
- Grading
- Teams announced
- Squad Training begins: Starts: First week of April
- Village Clubs Gala Day: Late March (April 24<sup>th</sup> 2021)
- SJRU Round 1: 02 May 2021

Exact grading dates and times will be advised via the club app, TeamApp.

### **Grading Attendance**

All players are required to be financial members of HHJRU (i.e. players are required to have their registrations paid in full) in order to be eligible for grading. Player registrations need to be finalised **before grading day**. Late registrations will only be accepted if player vacancies still exist in applicable age groups. In a player's absence from initial grading day/s, the player's previous playing experience, coaches' comments, player evaluation sheets and special requests will be assessed to determine the grading level of that player by the initial grading committee (not the appointed coach).

### **Coaches**

Parents are asked to volunteer their time and skill to the AGC or Coaching Co-ordinator through an expression of interest. Coaches and managers will be assigned to teams once the grading process is complete. Prior to grading announcement, the previous coach are invited to help run skills and drills session, and help prepare them for the trial match.

### **Grading Processes**

- As the players continue to develop in skill and physicality, playing positions are not as important at grading as a player's all round skill. Playing positions are still developing. Players should always be open to playing in new positions, and this is always at the discretion of the coach.
- Players who wish to play together will be placed in the team commensurate with the lesser skilled player.

### **Grading Criteria**

When assessing players the Grading Committee will be looking at some or all of the following criteria:

- Ball control
- Passing/Catching technique
- Footwork
- Defensive skill
- Speed and endurance
- Teamwork
- Athletic ability
- Positional play
- Potential to improve
- Decision making
- Movement

## **Player Notification**

Final say on the selection of the teams will be with the Coaching Co-ordinator after taking the input and recommendation of previous year coaches and grading committee. Parents of players will be notified of all team allocations in writing by the AGC.

## **Additional information**

Teams will be known as Blacks, Whites or Red. This is a historical tradition of the club.

There will remain some flexibility for certain players to play for higher or lower teams in the age group, subject to the competition rules (all players can play up a team and players nominated as transferable can play down a team unless they become representative players).

If there are enough players to form 2 teams, HHJRU is bound to select the best 12 players for the age group's highest graded team.

HHJRU is asked to nominate a team to a specific age graded competition based on clubs experience (Not based on coach's opinions, or how competitive teams were in minis competitions).

Any player who is playing competing sport from another code (i.e. Rugby League, Soccer) or have school commitments which are likely to frequently prevent the player from playing for HHJRU are to formally acknowledge that they will prioritise their commitment to HHJRU where and when conflicts occur within the season. If they are unable to make this commitment the player will be automatically assigned to the lowest division team within the age group.

## **Concerns and appeals**

Any concerns regarding grading must be received within 72 hours of team announcement. These concerns must be in email to the AGC.

## **Team composition**

Once grading has occurred and teams have been confirmed there will be no moving of players between teams without the approval of the HHJRU Committee.

## **Competition Divisions**

All care is taken by HHJRU in nominating the divisions that teams should play in. Please note SJRU have the final decision in the placement of teams in divisions. Recommendations for team divisions are made to SJRU but are not guaranteed.

## **Team selections**

Once you're in your team, HHJRU has adopted the Play by the Rules policy for regular team selections.

### *What we will do*

- Emphasise to coaches and parents that junior sport is about participation, not competition.

- Modify rules and equipment where possible to include children and young people of all abilities and encourage their participation.
- Try to match junior players with others of their own ability (e.g. if there are enough players, have two teams in an age division).
- Provide junior players with a broad range of experiences (e.g. participating in different positions).
- Provide equal playing time for all juniors, regardless of their ability.
- Ensure that all team members play in the finals.

*What we ask you to do*

#### *Coaches*

- Focus on promoting participation, not winning and losing.
- Ensure all team members have the chance to play, rotate through positions and receive equal playing time.
- If you coach your own children, treat them like all other team members (e.g. rotations, playing time or participation).

#### *Parents*

- Help out the coach when requested at training and games.
- Focus on your child's effort and performance, not the score.
- Encourage your child and other team members.
- Respect the selection decisions of the coach.

## **Damien Clayton**

Chairmen Juniors Committee



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