



Grading Policy

This policy has been developed by Marist Canberra Football Club (the **Club**) to ensure a fair and consistent grading system for all players. The Club aims to give all players the opportunity to enjoy football at the level of their ability. The Club also aims to field competitive teams that are good ambassadors for the College at all levels. The Club registers teams in various ages and grades of Capital Football competitions to cater for all players.

Players are graded into teams based on their level of skill, development in the game, teamwork and the requirements of team compilation and balance. The Club has a Grading Sub-Committee that uses the following policies to allocate players to teams.

Grading is open to all Marist students enrolled at the college, however please note that:

- 1) Players must be registered or intending to register with Marist Canberra Football Club to attend grading and be current Marist students.
- 2) Formal club grading will be run over two weeks in late February and early March with each age group having two grading sessions. These two sessions will be advertised on the club website and are the only opportunity for boys to be graded into teams. If one or more sessions are cancelled by the club due to weather a replacement session time and date will be advertised on the website.
- 3) Each player will be given a number and put into a group. Groups are picked randomly, and group sizes are determined by numbers in that age group.
- 4) Each group is assessed by a panel of several graders. The players in each group have their fitness and skill levels assessed by a series of warm up exercises and their on-field abilities assessed by a series of grid games. The graders are given an assessment sheet containing only the players' grading numbers and the assessment exercises. The players' names are not used by the graders.
- 5) The panel of graders for a particular age group reports to the Grading Sub-Committee of the Club. After the initial two weeks of grading, the Grading Sub-Committee may consider other inputs to finalise teams. These include; liaison with the previous coach, review of the players' profiles from the previous season, and performance in pre-season squads or other football commitments undertaken.
- 6) Players wishing to try out for a 1st division team **MUST** attend both grading sessions (except in (a) below). Please note that failure to attend both grading sessions will mean that a player will only be considered for a 2nd or 3rd division team. A player must attend at least one grading session to be considered for a 2nd division team, however it is highly recommended they attend both grading sessions. This gives graders the best chance to assess their potential.
 - a) A player's parents must notify the club in writing prior to the grading session/s if they are unable to attend grading, providing reasons why they are unable to attend. The club may make allowances or other arrangement in cases where a boy is sick/injured or meeting a Marist summer sports commitment. This often involves them being required to attend the grading of another age group to be considered for division 1.

- 7) On occasions the club may run supplementary grading sessions. These will be advertised as *supplementary sessions*. Attending this/these sessions does not overcome the requirements of (6) above.
- 8) Players wishing to play in 3rd division teams may, but are not required to attend grading, and may request to play in a team with their friends.
- 9) Players must nominate in an age group they wish to play prior to grading - noting the Club encourages boys to play with their class year group at school.
 - a) Players may only nominate to play in a team one year higher than their actual age group. In special circumstances consideration may be given to a player to play up two years above their age group but this request must be made to the Club in writing at least a week prior to the start of the grading trials - this approval is not automatic and is also subject to agreement by Capital Football.
 - b) Players should note that they will only be considered in teams outside their age group at the discretion of the Club. The club will give priority to the need to fill teams in their age group or year group first.
- 10) Team lists will be placed on the school noticeboard and/or the club website. Teams are not final until the third round of the season has been played. This allows the Grading Sub-Committee to ensure all players have been appropriately graded and make any necessary changes.
- 11) It is strongly recommended that boys wishing to play in the Premier League for another club still attend both grading sessions as a contingency in case they are not selected for a Premier League team or decide to leave Premier League prior to the season commencing. This will allow Marist FC to offer these boys a place in a Marist FC team/division that most accurately reflects their skills, but only up until the announcement of teams. Please note that only those players that have confirmed their intention by registering with Marist Football Club will be considered and placed in a team.
- 12) Once teams are announced any boys wishing to return to or register for Marist FC, whether they have attended grading or not, can only be placed in a division 2 or 3 team based on the availability of positions.
- 13) If a player decides not to take-up a position in a Marist FC team his position will be forfeited and it will be given to the next suitable and available boy.
- 14) Any player who withdraws from the club and their appointed team and then wishes to return to play with the club, does so on the understanding that they may be placed in a Division 3 team, subject to a team position being available and agreement by the coach. Any previous placement in a particular Division has been forfeited by withdrawal from the club. The Grading Sub-Committee will authorise the final placement and may consider any special circumstances submitted by the player in making their decision.

- 15) Grievances with respect to grading must be put in writing within seven days of the teams being announced and addressed to the President of Marist Canberra Football Club.

- 16) Candidates for 1st division teams must recognise that a place in these teams is earned by displaying and maintaining the highest levels of individual skills, teamwork and team commitment in their age group. The Club requires full commitment by players wishing to play in 1st division. This commitment requires that players and parents carefully consider their involvement in other sports during the season and whether they can continue to meet the high commitment of division 1 and that of another sport. It is not in the interests of a player nor their team mates if they are unable to attend training or are late, tired or injured on game days because of their involvement in other sports. The club, on the recommendation of the coach reserves the right to revisit a player's suitability for selection in a division 1 team under such circumstances and may consider moving the player to a lower division.

- 17) Players must attend ALL training sessions for the duration of each session; with the exception of illness; injury or special circumstances as agreed with the coach. Attending training sessions for another sport is not an acceptable reason for non-attendance. The Club will work diligently with the coaches.

- 18) The Club is fully supported by the College and we ask all parents to give us as much help and support as possible. We wish all players trying out for Marist Canberra Football Club our very best wishes and hope they are successful in their grading.