

Marist Canberra Football Club Grading Policy



Overview

The Marist Canberra Football Club (MCFC) enters teams in various age groups and divisions of Capital Football's MiniRoos and Junior League competitions. At the beginning of the season, the MCFC will undertake a grading process to assess each player's skills and potential. Based on this assessment, players will be allocated to teams that include boys of a similar level of ability and potential.

Desired outcomes

- To ensure there is a fair, objective and consistent method for assessing a player's skills, ability and potential for development in the game.
- To ensure a player is allocated to a team that gives them the best opportunity to fully participate, develop and enjoy football.
- To ensure that the MCFC is able to field competitive teams at all levels, that are good ambassadors for Marist College Canberra.

Responsibility

- The grading process is the responsibility of the MCFC Committee, led by the President and Master in Charge of Football.
- A grading sub-committee may be formed to assist with the management and conduct of the grading process.
- Experienced coaches will provide assistance in assessing players during the grading sessions.

General principles

1. Eligibility and age groups

- 1.1 To play for the MCFC and participate in the grading process, a player must be a current student of Marist College Canberra, and registered with the MCFC.
- 1.2 A player must register, grade and play in accordance with the following age groups:

School year	MCFC age group
Year 4	Under 10
Year 5	Under 11
Year 6	Under 12
Year 7	Under 13
Year 8	Under 14
Year 9	Under 15
Year 10	Under 16
Years 11 & 12	Under 18 (including First XI and Second XI teams)

- 1.3 As the MCFC enters competitive teams in all age groups, a request to play in an older age group cannot be accommodated.
- 1.4 From time to time the number of players registered in each age group may result in difficulty forming viable teams. In this situation, the MCFC may direct some boys to play in a different age group. The Master in Charge of Football can be consulted if there are any concerns during this process.

2. Grading sessions

- 2.1 Grading is conducted annually, over two weekends in mid to late February.
- 2.2 Each age group will have a minimum of two sessions. Dates and times will be advertised on the MCFC website and Facebook page.
- 2.3 If a grading session is cancelled due to weather, every attempt will be made to schedule a replacement date and time.
- 2.4 From time to time the MCFC may schedule an additional grading session at the conclusion of the original program.

3. Grading process

- 3.1 During a grading session a player will participate in a number of drills and/or a trial match to assess their skills in accordance with the FFA National Curriculum.
- 3.2 A player's performance will be observed by a number of graders, who each assign a score against the skills criteria.
- 3.3 A player's scores will then be averaged and all players ranked and placed into teams. In forming teams, the MCFC may also take into account other factors including performance in prior seasons, input from previous coaches, goalkeeping ability and spread of numbers across teams.
- 3.4 Teams will be announced via email and the MCFC website, usually by mid-March.

4. Inability to attend a grading session

- 4.1 The scheduled grading sessions are the best opportunity for a player to be assessed, so every effort should be made to attend at the allocated times.
- 4.2 If a player cannot attend a grading session the MCFC must be advised *in advance* by emailing maristfootball@maristfootball.com.au. Where possible the MCFC will arrange for the player to attend a replacement grading session e.g. nearest age group.
- 4.3 If a player is unable to attend a grading session due to illness, injury or attendance at a Marist College summer sports commitment, the MCFC is able to take into account their prior performance and experience in order to determine team placement.

5. Election to not participate in grading

- 5.1 A player may choose not to participate in the grading process and instead be automatically placed in the lowest division team within their age group.

6. Consideration for a division 1 or 2 team

6.1 To be considered for a:

- Division 1 team - a player *must* attend a minimum of two grading sessions (additional requirements for First XI – refer section 7).
- Division 2 team – a player is *strongly encouraged* to attend a minimum of two grading sessions. It is highly unlikely that a player will be placed into a division 2 team if they have only attended one session.

The only exception to this requirement is included in section 4.3.

6.2 The MCFC requires a strong commitment from a player who wishes to participate in a division 1 team. A division 1 player must ensure their involvement in any other sports or activities will not impact their commitment throughout the season. If a division 1 coach deems that there is an ongoing impact on the team, it may be necessary to move the player into a lower division.

7. Under 18 grading (including First XI and Second XI)

7.1 To be considered for the First XI team, a player must be a student in Year 11 or 12.

7.2 Under 18 grading will consist of a minimum of four sessions including trial matches. A player must attend these sessions to the best of his ability. Despite this, participation in a Marist College summer sport activity must take precedence when there is a clash of times.

7.3 If a player is unable to attend any of the Under 18 grading sessions, or if there are any circumstances that may affect a player's performance (e.g. injury), the Master in Charge of Football and First XI Coach must be advised via email prior to the session.

7.4 If a player is unable to attend an Under 18 grading sessions due to injury, illness, or a Marist summer sport commitment, the MCFC is able to take into account prior performance and experience in order to determine the composition of the First XI and Second XI team.

7.5 Attendance at the Under 18 grading sessions does not guarantee a position in either the First XI or Second XI team.

8. Special requests

8.1 Unfortunately, a request to be placed in a team with a particular friend/s or coach cannot be accommodated.

8.2 A request to be placed in a team lower than a player's graded ability (e.g. for pastoral care reasons) will be considered by the MCFC on a case by case basis.

9. National Premier League (NPL) or Capital Premier League (CPL) players

9.1 Students of Marist College Canberra who have received an exemption to play in a NPL or CPL team do *not* participate in the MCFC grading process.

9.2 If an NPL or CPL player chooses to join the MCFC after the grading process, they are not guaranteed a placement in a division 1 team.

10. Disputes

- 10.1 Any question or grievance with respect to grading or team allocation must be made in writing and emailed to president@maristfootball.com.au within three days of the team announcements.
- 10.2 The MCFC will examine the request and review the grading results. A reply, including details of ranking and constructive feedback, will be provided within five days.
- 10.3 The MCFC President and the Master in Charge of Football, will make the final decision regarding grading and team allocation.

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