



Box Hill Rangers AFC

Grading Policy

Updated 2025-01-25

Purpose

The purpose of this Grading Policy is to outline the guidelines and principles that are considered when forming teams that will be entered into the Hills Football competitions.

It is our policy to ensure that players are placed in teams that best match their skill levels, development needs, and aspirations. Our goal is to foster player growth, ensure a fair and competitive environment, and create balanced teams that promote enjoyment and development for all participants.

As a community football club, success comes in many different forms. We value both on-field competitive success, as well as the social experience of playing with friends. We prioritise creating an enjoyable, positive environment for all players to enjoy the game, as well as fostering development as individuals and teams. We believe that this foundation will lead to achieving success for all our teams both on and off the field.

Scope

This policy applies to all players registering for the club's competitive and non-competitive teams.

Grading Overview

Grading takes place at the start of each season and is based on an assessment of players' skills, abilities, and potential. The grading process will ensure that players are placed in the most suitable team for their current ability, while also considering their development opportunities for the upcoming season.

When finalising teams, consideration is given to the balance of the squad. This means achieving a balance of attack, defence and midfield players. Consideration of a player's preferred position is taken, however, sometimes players may be chosen for a team based on their strength as a player but asked to play outside of their preferred position (this often has a development upside for that player).

The grading committee and coaches are responsible for making the decisions necessary for delivering the most appropriate outcomes for all players and teams. These decisions are complex, made with careful consideration, and may not always be easy. Please respect their judgement.

Grading Process & Criteria

Grading sessions will be held over one or more days and will involve activities such as small-sided games, skill drills and fitness tests. Each player will be assessed on the following criteria:

- **Technical ability:** The player's ability to control the ball, pass accurately, and execute basic skills (eg. dribbling, shooting).

- Tactical awareness: Understanding the game's structure, positioning, and decision-making under pressure.
- Physical ability: Includes endurance, speed, agility, and strength, while also considering the player's age and development stage.
- Attitude and sportsmanship: How the player interacts and cooperates with teammates, respects coaches and adheres to club values.

Playing Up

Only in exceptional circumstances will the club consider playing a player (or team) up an age group. This will only be considered when it is felt to be in the best interests of the player (or team) – usually because they are an exceptional talent. Playing up for social reasons is not regarded as a basis for playing outside an age group.

An exception to this is when the club may ask a player to play up an age group to increase the number of players in that age group and allow the creation of another team or balancing of numbers.

Social and Friendship Teams

The focus for social and friendship teams is on enjoyment of the sport, as well as development of a player's skills and team cohesion. Where skill levels of players are deemed to be similar, players will be placed in teams who have previously played together. Where specific friendship requests are received prior to grading, those players will be kept together where possible to form a full team or part of a team.

We will do our best to fulfil every friendship request, however team sizes, player numbers and other situations may prevent this in some cases.

Appeals Process

If a player or parent feels the grading result does not reflect a player's abilities, they can submit an appeal in writing to the grading committee, (via coaching@rangersafc.com.au). The appeal must be made within 7 days of receiving the grading result. The grading committee will review the appeal and may offer the player an additional assessment, if necessary, at their discretion.

Commitment to Inclusion

Our Grading Policy is designed to be fair, inclusive and consistent. We believe that a transparent and structured grading process is essential for fostering individual, team and club growth.

As a community club, our overall objective is for every player to be placed in a team where they can thrive, learn and enjoy the game. We strive to create a welcoming and supportive environment for players of all backgrounds and abilities.