



Narrabeen Junior Rugby – Grading and Selection Guidelines

Aim: *To grade players and teams (where required) at the start of the season in a fair and timely manner.*

Prior to the Grading Day(s)

1. At the beginning of the season past and present coaches will be asked if they would like to be involved in the grading and selection process. A Selection Committee is to be formed and an Administrator and Supervisor are chosen. The Administrator is responsible for the schedule of the grading process, the running of the Grading Day(s) and communicating with parents. The Supervisor is responsible for the running of meetings between the selectors and will have the final say if disagreements occur. There will also be a representative from the Tigers Committee appointed.
2. Prior to the Grading Days the previous seasons coaches should try and co-ordinate at least two (2) pre-season training sessions. All of the players that have registered are to be included, including any new players, and each age group must train together as a squad.
3. During these pre-season training sessions the coaches will run drills and exercises to gauge a players skill set, knowledge and attitude. After the training they will decide on tentative teams and allocate playing positions – a preferred position and an alternate position for each player. These teams will be based on the coaches' prior knowledge of a player (where applicable) and the skills and abilities they demonstrate during pre-season training. These teams are to be a mix-up of the teams from the previous season and must also incorporate any new players. This will ensure that every player gets a fair chance and that all playing positions are covered.
4. The team lists must then be given to the Administrator so that lists can be collated and players can be allocated a playing jersey and number.

First Grading Day

1. Players are to arrive no later than **30 mins prior** to their allotted time.
2. Players will be required to come to the registration table to be given their numbered playing jersey and or vest. This jersey/vest must be worn by them for the duration of the grading game(s) – it **must not** be swapped with another player. If the jersey does not fit, they are to advise the Administrator who will arrange for a replacement. In most cases we will be using a set of Narrabeen jerseys (Yellow) and a set of Warringah jerseys (Green). If we have 3 teams that need grading – then an extra set of jerseys will be sourced.
3. Players will then run through a 10-15 min warm-up session with the coaches – this will be watched by the selectors.
4. Grading games will then be played. A game will consist of three or four x 15min quarters depending on the weather at the time. A timetable of the games will be made available closer to the day and once team numbers are known.
5. Games will be refereed by a qualified referee.
6. During the games the coaches will manage the substitutions from the sidelines and ensure each player gets a fair amount of game-time and the opportunity to play in their preferred (and possibly alternate) positions.
7. During the games there will be a minimum of 4 selectors on the field watching the players. They will use a Selectors Sheet and mark it accordingly. They may make comments and consult with each other to ensure that each player has been assessed. ***They are not to be approached by parents at any time.***
8. A selector cannot grade a team in which their own child is playing.

9. The grading games will be an anonymous process. Each player will be allocated a jersey/vest with a number on it and the selectors will only use that number as a reference – they will not know the child’s name or their playing history. At the time of the grading game – they will be assessing a player on his/her abilities on the day. Further consultation after the game with coaches will provide a platform to discuss any discrepancies.
10. After the first Grading Day the selectors and coaches will meet ASAP to discuss the proceedings and finalise ‘tentative teams.’ Only a core team will be determined for the top team (or top two teams if there are 3 teams being graded). No substitutes will be decided upon to allow for some player movement between the teams.
11. If a coach and a selector disagree about the ability and/or position of a player; then the ***final decision will be made by the selectors, and ultimately the Selector Supervisor.***
12. All discussions and decisions must be kept confidential until a final decision about teams has been made. ***The Administrator is the only person allowed to inform parents/players of their team allocation.***

Second Grading Day

1. Players are to arrive no later than **30 mins prior** to their allotted time.
2. Players will be required to come to the registration table to be given their numbered playing jersey/vest and assigned to the previously agreed ‘tentative teams’. This jersey/vest must be worn by them for the duration of the grading game(s) – ***it cannot be swapped with another player.*** We will mostly be using a set of Narrabeen jerseys (Yellow) and a set of Warringah jerseys (Green). As with previously, if we have 3 teams that need grading – then an extra set of jerseys will be sourced.
3. Players will then run through a 10-15 min warm-up session with the coaches – this will be watched by the selectors.
4. During the second Grading Day the ‘tentative teams’ that were decided upon at the meeting between selectors and coaches will play off against each other. Game times will be dependent upon the number of teams.
5. The coaches will again run the substitutions from the sideline and ensure that all players get equal playing time and that all positions are covered.
6. During the games there will be a minimum of 4 selectors on the field watching the players. They will use the Selectors Sheet and mark it accordingly. They may consult with each other to ensure that each player has been assessed.
7. After the second Grading Day the selectors and coaches will meet again to discuss the proceedings and finalise the teams. They will notify the Administrator of the teams and coaches will be allocated. The Administrator will then report back to the Committee and notify the parents.
8. After the teams have been decided they should still try and train together as an age group in the first instance and then also separately as a team so that each player is positioned where they need to be according to their skills and ability and to ensure that all teams are balanced. These teams will then play in trial matches with equally graded local teams prior to the start of the season.
9. **It should be noted that players must make a concerted effort to attend the first Grading Day. If a player is unable to make the first Grading Day they will be automatically be put in the lower grade team until their skills and abilities are assessed.**
10. There is scope for players to move up and down within the teams and parents and players must understand that this is to be expected and is in the best interest of the player.
11. The Tigers Committee representative will report back to the Committee with any issues.