



JUNIOR GRADING POLICY

2026

For WFNL Club Distribution

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide clubs with information regarding the WFNL grading procedures and help clubs determine the best way to select teams for each of the relevant age groups.

OBJECTIVES

- a) To provide fair and equitable competitions – with teams fielded in competitions that are as evenly matched as possible
- b) Players are provided with the best opportunity to develop and display their skills

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- a) Unless there are extenuating circumstances, all competitions will have no less than eight (8) and no more than ten (10) teams.
- b) Byes will be avoided whenever possible. However, priority will be given to having teams in the most competitive competitions.
- c) The grading process may result in two teams from the same club playing in the same division.
- d) The WFNL will not re-grade teams after Round 4 unless the WFNL believes that a team has underperformed during the grading period.
- e) Results shall be monitored after each round.
- f) After round four, teams will be graded into divisions. The fixture will then be drawn to take effect from round 5.
- g) Member clubs will nominate their teams for the season and may recommend a division for each nominated team, outlining any changes in circumstances that may impact grading. The primary tool for determining grading outcomes will be an extensive analysis of the previous two seasons' results. The WFNL will also consider player movement.
- h) No premiership points or percentages will be carried into Round 5
- i) The first four round matches will be included in the calculations for individual player's finals qualifications for the team that they have played for that team.
- j) Best & Fairest voting will always remain with the player for the team that they have played in.

Publication Date: February 2026





JUNIOR GRADING POLICY

2026

For WFNL Club Distribution

CLUB TEAM SELECTION GUIDELINES

The following is relevant when a club has multiple teams in an age group.

U8 – U10

It is suggested that clubs select teams to allow players to play with friendship/school groups for these age groups. Clubs may choose to mix the groups while moving through these age groups to ensure players/parents are prepared for older age groups where they will be placed in teams based on ability.

U12 +

It is suggested that clubs move to hard grading from U12s. This means teams are picked purely based on playing ability, and not age or friendship/school groups.





JUNIOR GRADING POLICY

2026

For WFNL Club Distribution

PRE-SEASON GRADING NOMINATIONS

U8 – U10

Clubs will be asked to nominate teams into Beginner and Experienced grades. The WFNL will then place teams in competition.

Suggested consideration points for clubs (based on the majority of players in the team):

U8-U9

Beginner: First year playing club football, second year of club football but struggled to be competitive in the previous season

Experienced: Second-year playing club football and/or above average ability for first-year player

U10

Beginner: New players to the game, struggled to be competitive in previous season/s. The team is made up of a combination of U8s, U9s and U10s, low amount of registrations (may not have a bench each week)

Experienced: Have played one or more seasons of club football and have been competitive.

U12 – U16

Clubs will nominate their teams for the season and may recommend a division for each nominated team, outlining any changes in circumstances compared to two seasons prior that may impact grading.

