



Grading Policy & Procedures

Grading of players is an important part of the club's junior development & involvement in the game. It enables us to allocate players in appropriate teams alongside other players of similar skills & ability. At Glenwood Redbacks we have varying stages of grading which allows kids from an early age to play & develop in a fun environment while also learning about the game. In the U5 to U12 age groups all games are non-competitive. Teams are ranked & placed into divisions identified with an animal name e.g. Koalas. From U12 & up teams are placed into divisions with the strongest being division 1. There are 5 stages of grading at Glenwood Redbacks.

STAGE 1 - U5 to U7 (MiniRoos – Ungraded): At this age the game is 100% about fun & enjoyment. There is no competition or grading of individual players. We have a muster day where teams are put together with the help of parents so that kids can play with their friends. Teams are then ranked & placed into an animal group that best represents the overall skills & experience of the team. We ask for volunteers from parents within each team to be a coach or manager. We require all teams to have at least 1 coach & 1 manager before teams can be finalised. There is no coaching experience required at this age. Coaches will be given support by attending a grass roots certificate course. More information about the role of the coach & manager for this age group can be obtained from the club. We rely totally on volunteers to run the club & your support will help the kids enjoy their soccer even more, so think about taking on 1 of these roles.

STAGE 2 – U8 (MiniRoos – Optional Grading): All teams play non-competitive small sided games but begin to learn about positional & structured play. We encourage the kids to play in all positions on the field so that they have an understanding of all positions which makes for more versatile players. Players have the option of trialling for a graded team (1st & 2nd division only) or being placed into a team at our muster day where teams are put together with the help of parents so that kids can play with their friends as per U5 to U7 age group. All coaches are expected to have a current skill training coaching certificate & the club coach will appoint coaches according to their experience & qualifications.

STAGE 3 – U9 to U12 (MiniRoos – Graded): In these age groups we begin grading all players into teams according to their ability & skill level. Games are still non-competitive in these age groups. We encourage the kids to play in all positions on the field so that they have an understanding of all positions which makes for more versatile players & gradually over these 4 years players will have been developed so that by the time they reach the next stage of grading we have a good understanding of our players for competition teams. All coaches are expected to have a current skill training coaching certificate & the club coach will appoint coaches according to their experience & qualifications.

STAGE 4 - U12 to U16 (Competition - Graded): All players are graded into teams based on a variety of different criteria including, but not limited to their skill level, ability, versatility, preferred position & attitude. All coaches are expected to have a current game training/senior level coaching certificate relevant to the age group they are coaching & the club coach will appoint coaches according to their experience & qualifications.

STAGE 5 – Senior (Competition): Our senior teams consist of men & women's teams that are graded as required & at the discretion of the club coach & grading committee. All coaches are expected to have a current senior coaching licence & the club coach will appoint coaches according to their experience & qualifications.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why are teams graded?

A. Grading is the only fair and equitable way of ensuring teams play with and against players of similar skills and ability. Grading ensures that your child's involvement in the game, their contribution to the team, as well as their soccer skills, is optimised. While children may not always be able to play with their best friends, experience has shown that they quickly form friendships and bonds with their new teammates.

Q. Do you grade for team positions?

A. With the exception of goalkeepers, players are not usually graded into positions (e.g. fullback, right midfield, striker etc). Rather they are graded into teams based on their overall performance at grading sessions. In the older age groups however it may be necessary to look for players to fill particular positions to balance the team.

Q. What happens if my child has to miss a grading session?

A. Time, weather and resources permitting, there are generally at least 2 grading sessions & are generally run over a few weeks and they are compulsory. If your child has a problem attending a grading session please contact the club.

Q. What happens if it is raining when we are supposed to be grading?

A. Unless Councils or clubs have closed the grounds because there is a danger to the players through the poor field condition, grading will proceed, raining or not. If a grading session needs to be cancelled we will notify players either by email or a message will be posted on the website or facebook. If time permits we will

reschedule grading to another time. Blacktown Councils wet weather number is 98396575.

Q. Who is on the grading committee?

A. The grading panel is made up of experienced club coaches and/or players and, where possible, experienced coaches/players from other clubs.

Q. How successful is the club's grading process?

A. Very successful. While grading involves a degree of subjectivity the following significantly lessens this:

1. The grading panel is headed by experienced, officially qualified and trained coaches.
2. Final decisions are based on consensus after input of all members of the grading panel.
3. The grading procedures follow "best-practice" principles and cover a broad range of soccer skills including individual ball skills, small sided team games & larger field games (e.g. 11 v 11). The club believes the performance of its graded teams over the years provides strong support for the current grading process and procedures.

Q. When & how will teams be announced?

A. We will have nominated days when each age group and their grades are announced. For graded teams it will generally be at the conclusion of their final grading session.

Q. What should I do if I have a concern with my child's team placement or the club's grading policy?

A. General issues, comments or enquiries regarding grading or the grading process should be directed to the Club Secretary. Requests for a re-grade or formal complaints must be in writing and addressed to: The Club Secretary, Glenwood Redbacks Soccer Club Inc, PO Box 36, Stanhope Gardens 2768. As grading requires a significant investment in time, the club is always looking for assistance from experienced persons around grading time. If you are a qualified coach or experienced player and are interested in joining the grading panel please contact the club.

Q. Who will be my child's coach & manager?

A. All Coaches and managers are parent volunteers from within the team. These coaches are encouraged to become accredited through coaching courses run by relevant authorities. These courses equip coaches with up-to-date training techniques and outline the required skills and techniques to conduct a training session.

Q. When does my child train?

A. The training times are organised by your coach, usually after consultation with the parents to find a time most suitable for everyone and field availability.

Q. Does your club embrace the child protection legislation?

A. Absolutely! All club officials, team coaches & managers must sign a "Working with Children" form and through the implementation of strategies that assist in preventing child abuse from occurring, our club takes a pro-active role in helping to foster a safe and positive environment for every child to participate. Copies of our Policy Statement or Procedures are available on request.

Q. What do the registration fees pay for?

A. The registration fees cover:

- Insurance.
- Registration fees to the Blacktown District Soccer Football Association.
- Affiliation fees to Football NSW.
- Affiliation fees to Football Federation of Australia.
- Ground hire to Council.
- Electricity for lighting of fields and amenities block.
- Maintenance and other fees relating to the grounds.
- Purchase of equipment such as balls, uniforms, trophies, pennants, etc.
- Continued improvements to our Park & the running of the Club.
- Ball for each junior player.

Fees alone do not cover our outgoings.

We have to rely heavily on fundraising, canteen sales and sponsorship to help cover our costs. Committee members, coaches and managers are, without exception, all voluntary and they receive no remuneration for their services.

Q. If I still have a question who do I call?

A. If unsure about anything, please contact the club secretary at glenwood@bdsfa.com. If they can't answer your question, they will be able to direct you to the person who can. You can also visit our website for committee contacts to assist you.