

FRANKSTON

BASKETBALL

Domestic Competition Grading Policy

1. Overview

In accordance with the Domestic Competition By-Laws, FDBA reserves the right to grade team entries to ensure fair competition. Competitions must be graded into separate divisions/sections if 15 or more teams are entered. Competitions may be graded if less than 15 teams are entered. Graded divisions/sections may be played as separate fixtures or as a single fixture with separate finals for each division/section at the discretion of the FDBA match committee.

All junior and senior team entries are subject to a separate grading processes at the commencement of each domestic competition season.

2. Senior Teams

Each season senior teams are required to register as an existing or new team. Teams will be subject to a grading review dependent on this classification and will be allocated an initial starting division.

2.1 Existing Teams

Existing teams are required to nominate a grading preference on the registration form.

The match committee will consider the following when determining initial division allocation for existing teams:

- a) Previous regular season results – ladder position, win/draw/loss ratio and percentage
- b) Finals series results
- c) Registration form grading nomination
- d) Player changes

Existing teams will be contacted by the FDBA and may be classified as new teams under the following circumstances:

- a) Teams returning following an absence of 3 or more consecutive seasons
- b) Teams that have indicated significant player changes
- c) Teams registering for a different competition – ie a team previously playing in a gender restricted competition registering as a mixed team or vice versa

2.2 New Teams

New teams are required to nominate a division preference on the registration form.

The match committee will consider the following when determining initial division allocation for new teams:

- a) Pre-grading results
- b) Grading assessments
- c) Individual player statistics & experience

2.3 Grading Phases

The senior season will be structured into the following grading phases:

- a) Pre-Grading – 2 round phase prior to round 1 of the regular season. New teams are required to compete in pre-grading subject to date/time of their team entry and suitable team match-ups. Pre-grading matches are optional for existing teams and subject to suitable team match-ups. No premiership points are awarded for these matches.
- b) Grading Phase – Rounds 1 – 4 of the regular season fixture. Teams are awarded premiership points and may be re-graded at any time until the commencement of round 5. Teams that are re-graded carry across premiership points with percentage reset to 0.

FDBA reserves the right to re-grade teams outside of the specified grading phase in exceptional circumstance including, but not limited to:

- a) Significant loss of players
- b) Addition of players who have played in a higher level of competition
- c) Sustained dominant or uncompetitive results
- d) Inconsistent results post round 4 compared to the grading phase

3. Junior Teams

Each season domestic clubs are required to submit team entries as existing or new teams. Teams will be subject to a grading review dependent on this classification and will be allocated an initial starting division.

3.1 Existing Teams

Existing teams are those that a domestic club considers to be of comparative strength to their previous season.

The match committee will consider the following factors when determining initial division allocation for existing teams:

- a) Previous season results – ladder position, win/draw/loss ratio and percentage
- b) Finals series results
- c) Grading nomination
- d) Player changes
- e) Player age/physical development
- f) Team potential development

3.2 New Teams

New teams are those that are comprised of a combination of players that cannot be considered an existing team.

The match committee will consider the following factors when determining initial division allocation for new teams:

- a) Grading nomination
- b) Individual player statistics & experience
- c) Player age/physical development
- d) Team potential development

3.3 Junior Competition Committee (JCC)

Each season FDBA will call for nominations for the JCC from affiliated domestic clubs. The committee's primary role is to oversee the grading of all junior domestic competitions.

Committee members shall be appointed as a grading secretary or grading assistant. The committee is chaired by a member of the FDDB match committee and all members are required to declare any conflicts of interest on the nomination form. The committee must consist of at least 9 members.

A member of the JCC shall be designated to keep minutes of the resolutions and proceedings of each JCC meeting. If a motion is raised each member of the committee is entitled to one vote. In the case of a tied vote the chair shall cast a deciding vote.

The JCC shall meet a minimum of 3 times during each competition season:

- a) Prior to round 1 – initial grading pool allocation
- b) Post Grading Phase 1
- c) Post Grading Phase 2

Additional meetings may be scheduled at the discretion of the chair.

3.3.1 Grading Secretary

Grading secretaries are allocated to oversee a specific age group and submit grading recommendations to the committee following the completion of each grading phase.

3.3.2 Grading Assistant

Grading assistants support the grading secretaries and may be allocated to a single age group or multiple age groups. The responsibilities of each grading assistant are determined at the first JCC meeting each season. A grading secretary may also be appointed as a grading assistant for another age group.

3.4 Grading Phases

The junior season will be structured into the following grading phases:

- a) Grading Phase 1 – Rounds 1 & 2. Changes are made for round 3, premiership points do not contribute to the regular season ladder.
- b) Grading Phase 2 – Rounds 3 & 4. Changes are made for round 5, premiership points do not contribute to the regular season ladder.
- c) Confirmation Phase – Rounds 5 & 6. Changes are made for round 7. Premiership points contribute to the regular season ladder. Teams that are re-graded carry across premiership points with percentage reset to 0.

FDDB reserves the right to re-grade teams outside of the specified grading phases in exceptional circumstance including, but not limited to:

- a) Significant loss of players
 - b) Addition of players who have played in a higher level of competition
 - c) Sustained dominant or uncompetitive results
 - d) Inconsistent results post round 4 compared to grading phases 1 and 2
- a) Player welfare

3.5 Junior Representative Player Restrictions

Any junior teams with representative level (VJBL) players will be required to comply with a points system based on the level/grade of competition each player competes. This points system will apply to all players irrespective of their representative association. There is no restriction on the number of junior blues players per team provided each team complies with the specified points limit.

3.6 Unfair Grading Determination

If the JCC determines by majority vote that a team or teams are believed to have a skill level exceeding the majority of teams in the age groups highest graded division, the following options will be presented to the teams club:

- a) The team is divided and players are merged with players from lower graded teams in the relative age group
- b) One or more players are moved to a team in a higher age group
- c) The entire team is moved to a higher age group

If the club committee does not agree on a preferred option within the specified time limit then option (c) will be applied.

Any player who has changed teams as a result of this rule may only participate with the original team following approval from the match committee.