

North Epping Rangers Football Grading and Team Allocation Policy

Grading of players is an important part of ensuring all players enjoy their football during the season. It is of great benefit to their overall development, in both their football skills and a social sense, to be playing with and against players of similar ability.

North Epping Rangers aims to provide an independent and professional grading format for our players. The grading method used shall be at the discretion of the Grading Committee. The members of the Grading Committee shall be determined by the Football Section Committee.

Grading shall be performed where there is more than one team in any age group, or where there are more than the maximum number of players for the number of teams allocated, or where it is necessary to determine the ability of a single team with a view to the level of competition suitable to them.

Non-competitive football age groups may be graded at the discretion of the Football Section Committee. Whilst the focus in these age groups is participation and discovery, playing with players of similar skills can assist greatly in the development of these players.

Grading days are generally considered to be compulsory. Failure of all players to attend grading days will make it difficult for the players to be graded correctly. Players that cannot attend grading days will be placed in a team based on the available information, and at the discretion of the Football Section Committee. It is not assured that a player previously playing in a higher grade team will automatically be placed in a higher grade team for subsequent seasons.

Some teams may choose to organize their own players. This may be acceptable provided all players registered in that age group are in agreement, and that the team allocation has been sanctioned by the Football Section Committee. Any additional players within that age group may require to be graded for the other team/s.

Players that would prefer to play with friends than be formally graded may be catered for in a team that is suitable to all the members of the friendship group. Lower graded players will generally not be placed in a higher grade team for a friendship match, and therefore some players may be required to play in a team that is of a lower standard than their own ability.

Where possible, graders will not be allocated to the age groups of their own children or siblings. The graders will not be coaching any players during the session, but simply assessing each player's ability.

Players will be graded in age groups based on the player's date of birth. Players may be invited to grade in a higher age group by the Football Section Committee. Requests by players to grade in a higher age group may be considered by the Football Section Committee where this is practical based on the player numbers in each age group.

The Grading Committee will determine during the grading process any player that chooses to make themselves available as a specialist goalkeeper. This will generally only be considered in the age groups of U13 and above, but these players will be assessed based on their ability as goalkeepers, as well as field players.

Team Allocation

Results and observations from the grading days, as well as reports and comments from previous coaches, may all be taken into account during the team allocation process. Previous coaches may be consulted during the team allocation process in regard to a particular player should it be considered necessary.

Generally in older age groups, team allocations will be made based on a balance of forwards, mid-fielders and defenders. In the younger age groups it is recommended that all players be rotated through all positions, and teams will therefore be allocated based on the general ability of each player.

Players that nominated as specialist goalkeepers during the grading process may be considered for team allocation based on their ability as goalkeepers, and not as field players. Should a goalkeeper position not be available to a particular player then that player will be allocated to a team based on a combination of goalkeeper and field play abilities. Should a player nominate, and be selected, as a specialist goalkeeper, then it is expected that they spend a substantial amount of time in the goalkeeper position for that team.

Following team allocation, each team list will be distributed to all the members of that team.

Should a player or parent request a change of team, other than for a perceived grading discrepancy (see Team Allocation Disputes below), the player can only be moved by agreement of the Football Section Committee, and only where space permits or where another player is willing to swap teams.

Team Allocation Disputes

Should a player or parent be dissatisfied with their or their child's team allocation, they may bring the grievance in writing before the Football Section Committee within 72 hours of the distribution of the team list.

Should the grievance not be resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant, the matter may be escalated for review by the North Epping Rangers Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall have the final say on all grading disputes and grievances.

Confidentiality

All Grading Committee notes and comments, and all coach's reports and assessment sheets are the confidential property of North Epping Rangers, and will not be made available for review by any persons other than those on the Grading Committee or the North Epping Rangers Executive Committee.