



## **CASTLE HILL RSL ROCKETS SOCCER CLUB GRADING POLICY**

### **OBJECTIVE:**

The fundamentals of the grading policy are designed to ensure that :

- All players have the maximum opportunity to play in a competitive environment, appropriate to their skill and ability.
- Players learn from their peers and develop an appreciation and love of the game.
- Players, coaches and parents alike, have FUN, enjoy the season, and return to the club year after year.

### **POLICY:**

#### **AGES 8 to 17 INCLUSIVE**

There are a number of distinct elements of the grading process, namely;

#### **SEASON END**

The grading process begins at the completion of each season. All coaches will be required to complete a team analysis. This confidential assessment is to be used to evaluate the individual skills and abilities of all players within their team.

Key elements of the assessment are:

- Confirm if the coach intends to return to the Rockets and coach again in the following season.
- Confirm if each player intends to return to the Rockets for the following season.
- Assess the player's performance throughout the year, against a range of pre-defined criteria.
- Identify a maximum of 7 players whom the coach considers to be the nucleus or core of the team. Where possible, core players will be placed in the same team in the following season. However this cannot be at the expense of a player from a lower grade or a new player who is of greater ability. .
- Identify whether the grade the player is currently participating in, is appropriate for his or her level of skill and ability, or if they would benefit from playing in a different grade.



Confidentiality is to be recognised at all times, you should not discuss the assessment of any individual player with anyone else, but that player and or their parents.

All completed assessments are to be forwarded to the Junior Vice President and the Club Coach for use in the grading process the following year. A central database is to be compiled of the completed assessments for each age group, this is to be used to commence the grading process at the start of the following year.

### **SEASON START**

At the start of the new season, all players must participate in the grading process.

The grading committee shall be determined by the grading coordinator, and approved by the Rockets committee. The grading coordinator will invite returning coaches to assist.

Coaches *cannot* grade the age group they expect to coach during the season.

The grading process shall commence as soon as:

- The Management Committee has completed registrations and the likely number of teams in each age group has been determined.
- As soon as the Rockets have access to the grounds.
- No new player to the club is to be guaranteed a position in any specific team, until the entire grading process has been completed.
- All players must be graded and play in the age group in which they fall.

The only exception is:

- If the age group has a surplus number of players beyond the coach's requirements, and
- The age group above can accommodate those players.
- If in the previous season, a player was granted permission to play up an age group, that player may elect to do the same the following season.

Exceptions are at the discretion of the grading committee, in consultation with the players and their parents.

### **GRADING PROCESS**

Grading is compulsory for all players.

Grading is held by age group, over two sessions.

If a player does not attend grading, they will be graded based on their previous year performance (returning players only).

If a new player does not attend grading, they will automatically be graded into the lowest division.



Grading is based on small sided games, played on a reduced size field relevant to the age group being assessed. Speed drills may be used for older age groups.

All NEW players to the Rockets are given an initial assessment before joining the small sided games. New players are to be grouped together and taken through an initial grading process focussing on ball control. See appendix 1 for a list of Grading Criteria.

Each player being graded is then to be individually assessed in accordance with the Grading Criteria, and placed into a team, according to the likely best fit between the players skill and abilities, and the requirements of the team.

At the conclusion of the grading process, the Grading Committee shall meet to review and discuss the formation and allocation of individual players to each team. Where practicable, any member of the grading committee or coach shall not undertake an active role in the grading of their child, rather external assistance should be sought, to assist in the grading of their child.

Grading dates and times will be given out during the registration process, and via advertisements in the local paper..

**In summary, all players must be graded to ensure that they are placed in a team consistent with their demonstrated level of skill and ability, to ensure that we maximise the fun and enjoyment of playing the game of soccer for every player.**

### **AGES 6 to 7 INCLUSIVE**

This competition is treated differently from all other grades as there are no points awarded for results and a competition table is not maintained. The purpose is to introduce the children to the game without the added pressure of semi finals and finals. As a result the grading process is somewhat amended.

It is essential for the benefit of all players, the club and the competition, that a mix of players of varying levels of skill and ability are placed in the same team, to learn from each other and develop an appreciation of the game.

However, the club is mindful of players wanting to play with their friends and this is accommodated where possible.

Once the children reach the Junior League 8 to 17 inclusive, all previous grading policies are changed to reflect those outlined above. That is children are placed in teams based on their skill level, not on where their friends are or which team they played with in Roo Ball.



## APPENDIX 1 – GRADING CRITERIA

Grading is based on a player's performance during a small sided game, and on their performance in the previous season (returning players only).

On grading day, graders assess the player on the following criteria, and assign the player a grading level of A, B or C (A=Advanced, B=Intermediate, C=Beginner).

Graders look for the following attributes:

- Ball control: dribbling, trapping, passing, shooting, shielding
- Speed, fitness & coordination
- Defending and tackling ability
- Positional sense

Note:

- Goalkeepers are assessed separately
- New players are given an initial ball control assessment before joining the general grading process