



“A Club Like No Other”

Grading and Allocation Information

Under 6 to 11 Players

At Penno FC, we strive to give each player the best football experience. We understand that all players are different in terms of their skill level and motivation for playing, and that a player's enjoyment for the game is enhanced when they play in a team of like-minded players.

We use the process of grading and allocation days to assess the skill level of each player, and this is ultimately used to assist with the team allocation within the Gladesville Hornsby Football Association (GHFA). The team allocation depends on the age group of the players, with “soft” grading being introduced progressively between U8 and U11.

This information has been prepared to help inform coaches, managers, parents and players about the team allocation and “soft” grading process, and the differences between age groups.

Age Groups

Under 6 - 7 (non - competition)

U6 and U7 are not graded

Our best endeavours are used to put your child in a team with school friends and children who live nearby. If you would like your child to play in a certain team with friends, please include this when registering or by contacting the Age Manager, and we will, where possible, try to accommodate your request - bearing in mind the need to balance team numbers.

Although there is no official grading at U6 and U7 levels, teams are ranked following the allocation days and according to its assessed ability with the aim of placing each team into a playing group of similarly ranked teams within the GHFA.

In some cases, Penno may have multiple teams with the same ranking, and this may result in Penno teams playing in the same division (i.e. they will play each other during the season).

Information on ranking is provided by GHFA at:

http://www.ghfa.com.au/images/documents/administration/GHFA_Under_6_to_8_Ranking_System.pdf

Under 8 (non - competition)

Similar to U6 and U7, the majority of U8 players are not graded. The exception to this is referred to as the Blue Division, which is a division within U8 for a group of players that demonstrate ability during the “soft” grading process.

A Blue Division is formed from the strongest teams in U8 within the GHFA, it is not expected that Penno will nominate a team for this division every year.

In assessing the skill level of players that have nominated, the Grading Panel may recommend that a team is either suitable or not suitable for the Blue Division. In this case, the Age Manager will discuss with the parents and players, the option of having the team formed on the basis of the results of grading, and then ranked as normal (it would be expected that the soft graded team would be ranked 1 or 2).

As with U6 and U7, all U8 teams are ranked according to the team's assessed ability and placed in a group of similarly ranked teams within the GHFA. Information on ranking is provided by GHFA at:

http://www.ghfa.com.au/images/documents/administration/GHFA_Under_6_to_8_Ranking_System.pdf



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The Age Manager will at all times use his / her best endeavours to allocate teams based on the preference to play with similarly skilled players and the Grading Panel’s feedback, whilst at the same time balancing the wishes of parents and players to play with friends.

Under 9-11 (non- competition)

All U9 to U11 **are graded** via a process of “soft” grading. Soft grading is used to ensure that every player is allocated into a team and division that suits their level of play. It has many advantages in ensuring the player is kept actively involved and interested in the game of football for the entire season. It is aimed at balancing the assessment of the player’s skill level against any preferences to play within a particular team.

There will often be a number of teams in each of the U9 to U11 age groups, with players of varying skill level and experience. The primary aim of soft grading will be to differentiate the higher skilled (and usually more competitively motivated) players from players that may be less experienced (in some cases, playing for the first time) or motivated to play for more social reasons. This assessment will then be used for team allocation. If possible, other factors, such as player and parent preferences, may also be considered, but no guarantee can be given that such preferences can be accommodated.

Parents and players that wish to have a team preference will need to inform the Age Manager at (or prior to) the first allocation day.

The Age Manager will, at all times use his / her best endeavours to balance these factors when determining a team allocation.

Under 12 and up (competition football)

First Year of Competitive Football

All players in competition football (U11 and up) are graded. Teams will be allocated based on the assessment of skill level.



Team Grading and Allocation Day Guidelines Under 6 to 11 Players

The following sections provide important information on grading and allocation at Penno FC.

Attendance

Team allocations are performed on the assigned allocation days as detailed on the Penno website. It is important that players attend all sessions for this process to work effectively. Please visit the website regularly to double-check session details (date & time).

If a player is unable to attend for any reason (including registering after allocation has been performed), assessment of skill level and allocation of teams will be performed on the basis of information from the previous year's coach(es) and at the discretion of the relevant Age Manager(s) and the Penno Committee.

Roles

The following sets out the roles and responsibilities of persons involved in the allocation process:

- *Age Manager:* Responsible for communicating with parents, and coordinating the soft grading and team allocation of players. The Age Manager will have limited involvement in the grading process, with their main task to collate and communicate information between the Grading Panel, coaches and managers, and players and parents.
- *Grading Panel:* The panel is selected by the Penno Committee, and is responsible for assessing the skill level of players and making recommendations on the allocation of teams. The panel (where possible) will be independent, and not involve coaches, managers, players or parents for a specific age group. The process used is defined in “The Grading Process” below.
- *Players/Parents:* Responsible for attending all sessions of team allocation, and for U6 to 11 advising the Age Manager of any team preferences (but noting that such preferences may or may not be possible to achieve).
- *Penno Committee:* Has ultimate discretion regarding the designation of teams, allocation of players to teams, and the nomination of the rank/division for each team.

The Grading Process

The general format used for grading and team allocation will be based upon:

- Small Sided Games
- Larger Sided Games
- Player Evaluation from previous season(s) (if required)

Grading will be conducted over one (1) session, however additional session(s) may be required. Should this be the case, the Age Manager will be responsible for informing those involved.

Team allocations will be finalised at the conclusion of the final grading session.



The grading process will be consistent across all age groups. The Grading Panel and Age Managers will be briefed prior to the commencement of grading to ensure a consistent approach is achieved across the Club. On the day, a Grading Coordinator will oversee the grading panel to ensure consistency.

Player assessment for U9 to U11 will have a skills focus. The following criteria will be used as the basis for skills evaluation:

- First Touch
 - Ball control
- Striking the Ball
 - Passing
 - Shooting
- Running with the Ball
- 1 v 1
 - On the ball skills

Attitude and positioning when the player is not in possession of the ball will also be taken into account.

Grading for U12+ will include the above criteria, with positions and defensive attributes also taken into consideration.

Goalkeepers for U9 to U11 will be graded according to the same skills criteria as the rest of the players. They will be expected to contribute on the field as well during the season.

Goalkeepers for U12+ will be assessed irrespective of their ability on the field.

Disputes

Any parents or players who have a concern with the allocation and grading process should speak to the relevant Age Manager in the first instance. Any unresolved issues or disputes may be referred to the Penno FC Committee.

Final Decisions

The Penno FC Committee reserves the right to make a final decision with regard to grading and team allocation.