

SUSF Social Netball Grading Policy

1.1 The intent of this clause is to:

- (a) provide each team with an appropriate level of competition on the day of the week which that team chooses to play;
- (b) stop teams from “stacking” their roster and to have better players spread throughout the divisions;
- (c) provide divisions that balance competitiveness between teams with providing a fun experience for players that matches their expectations and desires for social sport.

1.2 Each competition will have a defined grading period, usually 3 - 4 weeks.

1.3 During the grading period the competitiveness of each team will be assessed, having regard to:

- (a) winning/losing margin (average and in each game);
- (b) observation of their games;
- (c) their performance in context of the whole division (e.g. a team may not be competitive against the top two teams but are competitive against the rest of the teams in the division).

1.4 Indicatively a margin of 10 points or more will be regarded as not being competitive.

1.5 By the end of the grading period, SUSF Social Netball may change the division that a team plays in to better match their level of skill and desire to the division. SUSF Social Netball may discuss any move with teams and provide them with an opportunity to raise relevant matters (e.g. Players that are absent due to injury).

1.6 Ultimately the decision whether to move a team or not is at the discretion of SUSF Social Netball and does not require the consent of teams concerned. Other factors that will be considered are:

- (a) whether or not there is a team to move into the division if another team is moved out;
- (b) the number of teams in a division and whether or not a bye would be created by the team moving;
- (c) a team’s performance in a division over a number of seasons;
- (d) the inherent fact that there will be teams that make finals and teams that don’t in every division;
- (e) the overriding principle that teams should only be moved where to leave them would be detrimental to the overall enjoyment of all teams;
- (f) the number of games left in the season;
- (g) whether or not players in the team are already playing in another division on that day;
- (h) what is important is the team’s actual performance and not merely the individuals who make up the team. A skilled player may wish to play in a “lower grade” to play with friends or family members. If they do that, without being a dominant player on the team, it may be appropriate for them to continue in the division.