LISMORE THISTLES FOOTBALL CLUB INC.

team selection/GRADING policy   
junior grades

# Our commitment

Lismore Thistles Soccer Club’s Junior Grading Policy was introduced to allow for players to be graded into the correct team based on their age, ability and skill level. The grading of players is done primarily to benefit the players and to ensure that Lismore Thistles teams are competitive in the division they are selected in by Football Far North Coast.

* Grades 6 to Grade 11 are not graded as they are a non-competitive, meaning that there are no point-score championships or Finals held, the games are run under the Small Sided Football Format as stipulated by FFA.
* Grades 12 to Grade 16 will be graded on ability, if there are more than one club team existing in that age group. The club will appoint a panel of three (3) 2 coaches and club official to grade the players and there will be no exceptions to this rule.

Our club acknowledges that positive experiences in junior competition will contribute to children developing a lifelong love of sport and we believe that junior sport should be safe, enjoyable and inclusive and maximise individual participation.

# What we will do

* Emphasise to coaches and parents that junior sport is about participation, not competition.
* FFA has modified rules and equipment (non-competitive grades) to include children of all abilities and encourage their participation.
* Try to match junior players with others of their own ability (e.g. if there are enough players, have two teams in an age division – 1st and 2nd).
* Provide junior players with a broad range of experiences (e.g. participating in different positions).
* Provide equal playing time for all juniors, regardless of their ability.
* Consider boys and girls under 12 years of age playing on the same team, particularly if a team could not otherwise be fielded.
* Ensure that all team members play in the finals (competitive grades).

# What we ask you to do

## Coaches

* Focus on promoting participation, not winning and losing.
* Ensure all team members have the chance to play, rotate through positions and receive equal playing time.
* If you coach your own children, treat them like all other team members (e.g. rotations, playing time or participation).

## Parents

* Help out the coach where possible at training and games.
* Focus on your child’s effort and performance, not the score.
* Encourage your child and other team members.
* Respect the selection decisions of the coach.
* Parents and players are asked to understand that Club and team considerations are paramount, and that it is not always possible to accommodate individual requests for friends or siblings to be in the same team when grading.

Policy No: 8

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