



## **EDFL JUNIOR GRADING POLICY**

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### Introduction

This policy contains guiding principles for the grading of teams within the Essendon District Football League to ensure teams are correctly graded based on both past and present performance. Additionally the policy endeavours to bring about consistency in methodology, independent review and ensure teams have the best opportunity to play competitive football. The General Manager has the authority to at any time act contrary to this policy where he or she believes that a team has, despite compliance with this policy, been incorrectly graded.

### Guiding Principles

1. Grading shall be in the absolute discretion of the General Manager, and so far as is practicable shall be in accordance with this policy.
2. The initial grading of teams shall be on the basis of this Policy. Consideration shall be given to results of the previous two seasons with greater credence given to the season two years prior, where practicable. Information provided by clubs shall also be taken into consideration.
3. Where a Club has more than one team in the one age group they should, where possible, start in separate Divisions. However, re-grading may result in both teams playing in the same division.
4. Byes shall be avoided where possible. If not possible, byes will be placed in the lowest Division of the age group.
5. It is preferred that each Division in a particular age group shall, if possible, contain 8 teams. If less than 6 teams are in any Division consideration shall be given to combing Divisions.
6. A new club/team should start the season in the Division determined most appropriate by the General Manager.
7. The first four rounds to be drawn and promulgated. The General Manager shall monitor the results after each round. At the conclusion of round four, teams shall, where necessary in the opinion of the General Manager, be regraded. The fixture shall then be redrawn to take effect from round five.



### Pre Season Grading

- Grading of U/9 and U/11 Teams will be based on Club submissions and, where applicable, each team's previous years' performances.
- All teams that finish on top of the ladder in their Division at the end of the Home and Away season, but do not play off in the Grand Final, will be considered for grading into a higher Division.
- Teams that have played off in a Grand Final shall be automatically graded into a higher Division where possible.
- Teams that finish in the bottom two positions on the ladder shall be automatically relegated to a lower Division where possible.
- Member Clubs should submit in writing with their pre-season team entries an indication of the Division in which they expect individual teams to be placed together with reasons for that expectation.
- All Club submissions will be considered by the General Manager who shall grade teams so far as is practicable in accordance with this Policy.

### Regrading

- The first four rounds of the season are grading rounds where results in each Division shall be reviewed and assessed by the General Manager to determine if any regrading of teams is required.
- Based on their performance in the first four rounds, any team winning games by a considerable margin may be regraded to a higher Division.
- Based on their performance in the first four rounds, any team losing games by a considerable margin may be regraded to a lower Division.
- All regrading of teams, where practicable, will be finalised following round four and will take effect from round five. Further regrading following round five shall only occur in exceptional circumstances.
- Any requests by a Member Club for the regrading of a team shall be made in writing to the General Manager, setting out the reasons for the change.
- Four premiership points are awarded for a win in the course of the grading rounds.
- Any team which is regraded during the course of the season will retain its points but lose its percentage to the date of regrading.
- Teams in the Division from which a regraded team has been removed, will retain both their points and percentage, irrespective of whether the re-graded team had played all teams or only some teams within the Division prior to regrading.