



Essendon District Football League Junior Grading Policy

2024

Introduction

This policy contains guiding principles for the grading of U10 – U16 teams within the Essendon District Football League to ensure teams are best graded based on both past and present performance. It endeavors to bring about consistency and ensure teams have the best opportunity to play competitive football.

1. Guiding Principles

- a. Each Division of an age group shall contain a **minimum of 8 teams**.
- b. The number of teams in the lowest one or two Divisions in each age group will be determined based on the number of teams available.
- c. Byes shall be avoided where possible. If not possible, byes will be placed in the lowest Division of the age group.
- d. The grading process may result in two teams from the same club playing in the same division.
- e. Four premiership points are awarded for a win during the grading rounds.
- f. Results shall be monitored after each round.
- g. At the conclusion of round four, teams will be graded into divisions. The fixture will then be drawn to take effect from round 5.
- h. **There will be no regrading after round 5.**
- i. Grading shall be in the absolute discretion of the Chief Executive Officer, and so far, as is practicable will be in accordance with this policy.

2. Pre-Season Grading

- a. The initial grading of teams will be based on this Policy.
- b. Consideration may be given to results of the previous season.
- c. Information provided by clubs **MAY** also be taken into consideration and all applications for consideration must be received by **8pm Sunday after round 4**.
- d. All teams that have played off in a Grand Final the prior year **May** be graded into a higher Division.
- e. All teams that finish in the bottom two positions on the ladder the previous year **May** be relegated to a lower Division.
- f. 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.

3. Regrading Phase

- a. The first four rounds of the season are grading rounds.
- b. Teams will be moved between Divisions after round four.
- c. Any team winning games by a considerable margin **May** be regraded to a higher Division.
- d. Any team losing games by a considerable margin **May** be regraded to a lower Division.
- e. All regrading of teams will take effect after rounds two, three & four.
- f. Further regrading following round five will only occur where the EDFL believes that a team has underperformed during the grading period.
- g. In the regrading rounds the winning team will keep its 4 points but all teams will not have a percentage.
- h. Teams' percentages will commence from round 5.
- i. The first four round matches will be included in the calculations for individual player's finals qualifications for the team that they have played for that team.
- j. Best & Fairest voting will always remain with the player for the team that they have played in.
- k. Should the player play in multiple teams within an age group any best and fairest votes received remain with that team (e.g. if Team #2 play and then played in team #3 play, the player's votes would be calculated separately for each team).

Changes to Published Fixtures

Any club that is looking to change the timing, day, or location of a junior match once the fixture has been published, must complete the following process to have the change approved.

1. 14 days' notice is provided to EDFL Junior Operations Department through written agreement of both opposing clubs outlining the specific alteration required.

Applications for Regrading

Applications for regrading must be sent in **via email no later than 8pm Sunday after each regrading round**. Any submissions received after this deadline will be considered in the next round of regrading.

Any applications for regrading must be submitted via email by either the President, Secretary or Junior Coordinator, any other submissions will not be accepted.