



The Holy Cross Rhinos Junior Rugby League Football Club ('Rhinos') has developed and adopted these Team Selection/Grading guidelines ('the policy') to provide a transparent framework to assist with the grading of players registered to play in competitive age groups (Under 9's and above) within the Balmain District Junior Rugby League ('BDJRL'). The policy will be adhered to where sufficient player registrations in competitive age groups allow for more than one team in that age group to participate in the BDJRL.

The aim of the policy is to assess the current level of ability, skill and application of each player to identify the appropriate division for them to participate in. Special circumstances may be considered where appropriate. The policy will ensure compliance with the BDJRL Competition and Local Rules and the NSWRL Policies & Procedures Manual.

"We promote and foster sportsmanship, teamwork, respect and Rugby League skills in a fun and safe environment for all in the community"

Team Selection/Grading Guidelines

Team selection and grading of players will be guided by the following principles:

1. Group players according to their age, height, skill and physical maturity whenever possible;
2. Acknowledge that players develop and mature at different rates;
3. Players who are unavailable for trials will be placed in an appropriate team; and
4. Special circumstances may be considered where appropriate.

Players will be grouped with players of similar ability

In order to ensure players enjoy Rugby League in a fun and safe environment, the Rhinos will adhere to the policy where sufficient player registrations in competitive age groups allow for more than one team in that age group to participate in the BDJRL.

The Rhinos support this approach as playing and training with people of equal ability ensures skills are developed at the child's own speed. Playing and training within the division appropriate for the players current skill-level and development will reduce the risk of injury and increase their overall enjoyment and performance.

HCRJRLFC also endorses this approach for the following reasons

A player of lower-skill in a team of higher-skill may:

- feel inadequate at their inability to match their team-mates.
- struggle to get a touch on the ball
- get equal playing time.
- spend more time on the side-line than more skilled team-mates
- lose interest.

A player of higher-skill in a team of lower-skill may:

- feel frustrated by the inability of team-mates to 'keep up' with their expectations.
- ease off and not play to their full ability.
- lose conditioning and interest.

Grading Process

The grading process will operate as follows:

- a) Assessment of the individual players will occur during pre-season training and pre-season trial matches. The assessment will also take into consideration the players performance and application during the previous season (where applicable).
- b) Players will be assessed by two Rhinos committee members and the proposed Coaches for the respective age group ('the Grading Committee'). In general, the proposed Coaches will not be formally appointed until the completion of the grading process. This is to remove any conflict of interest issues in the event, as is common in junior sport, that a Coach is the parent/guardian of a player under assessment.
- c) The Grading Committee will observe players during pre-season training and pre-season trial matches to identify the current level of ability, skill and application of each player. The Grading Committee will meet at appropriate times throughout the grading process to evaluate the players and form preliminary teams.
- d) Once the assessment and evaluation has been completed and any special circumstances considered; teams will be finalised and the Coaches will be formally appointed for each team. In the event of disputed selection/s within the Grading Committee, the Club President or their appointed delegate will be required to resolve the dispute/s.

Grading Assessment

The Rhinos recognise that skill levels will vary with age group. Skills that are looked at include:

- Aerobic Endurance
- Application/effort
- Catching at speed
- Catching: Hand position and moving onto the ball

- Competitiveness
- Field position and awareness
- Methods of Evasion
- Passing: Speed and accuracy
- Speed
- Tackling: Confidence, technique, safety

Non availability for trials

A player who is unavailable for trials or who does not feel confident participating in the trail games will not be excluded from a team placement

Players who do not attend trail games will be allocated to a team based on their performance in the previous season (where applicable), expectations of their ongoing development, and the availability of places in existing teams.

Appeals/Complaints

Any appeals or complaints from the parent/guardian/player must be made in writing (via email) as soon as possible during the grading process and within 48 hours of the final team selection to the Development Officer, email: development@rhinofooty.com. Any appeal/complaint received will be assessed and managed by the Development Officer in consultation with the Club President or their appointed delegate.