



Hamilton Wanderers Junior Grading and Team Selection Policy

Grading

The aim of the grading process is to place players in a team with players of a similar skill level and then teams in the correct league which matches their overall level. This process allows players to play and develop to the best of their ability.

Objective:

The fundamentals of the grading policy are designed to ensure that :

- All players have the maximum opportunity to play in a competitive environment, appropriate to their skill and ability.
- Players learn from their peers and develop an appreciation and love of the game.
- Players, coaches and parents alike, have FUN, enjoy the season, and return to the club year after year.

5th and 6th Grades

First Kicks Football

These grades focus on the introduction to football and providing a learning environment which is both fun and exciting for kids. The aim is to grow the “love of football” from a players first introduction to the game and provide the skills required through small sided games rather than organised competition.

It is essential to the benefit of all players that a mix of players of varying skill and ability are placed in the same team, to learn from each other and develop an appreciation of the game.

There is no grading for these grades, the club is mindful of players wanting to play with their friends and this is accommodated where possible.

7th and 8th Grades

Fun Football

This competition is treated differently from older grades as there are no points awarded for results and a competition table is not maintained. The purpose is to continue the introduction to the game while moving to a more football orientated environment.

It is essential for the benefit of all players, the club and the competition, that a mix of players of varying levels of skill and ability are placed in the same team, to learn from each other and develop an appreciation of the game.

There is no grading for these grades, the club is mindful of players wanting to play with their friends and this is accommodated where possible.

However, once the children reach the Mini Football stage (9th grade and higher) players have the choice of continuing to play socially or being graded where they are placed in a team based on their skill level, not on where their friends are or which team they played with previously.

9th, 10th 11th and Open Grades

Mini Football

Once children reach the Mini Football stage (9th grade and higher) players have two options to team selection, they can either choose to play socially or be graded into teams based on ability.

Social Teams

For those players that just want to get out on the field and play, or perhaps those playing for the first time we offer the option of playing in a social team. these teams will still play within the Waikato competition but will be graded to the bottom of the grade.

Those choosing to play socially will be placed in a team with their friends or others wanting to play socially, with any requests for people wanting to play together needing to be made by both players and at the time of registration.

If numbers within the grade do not permit a full social team, players will be added to the lowest graded team from grading.

Graded teams

Those players wanting to play more competitively have the option of attending a grading day where players are placed in a team based on their skill level, not on where their friends are or which team they played with previously.

Grading is held for each age group and will be run over two sessions, if required. These sessions will be advertised in advance.

All Players are expected to attend grading and will be evaluated in an open selection grading process.

Players are evaluated on four components that make up a football player;

1. Technique
2. Fitness and Athletic Ability
3. Tactics
4. Attitude

Grading is based on small sided games, played on a reduced size field relevant to the age group being assessed. Skill drills may be used to assess a child's ability level or for specialised positions.

Team Selection

For grades 5 - 8

Any requests for wanting to play with friends must be made at registration and **made by both players**. The club will make every attempt to accommodate these requests but cannot guarantee that every request will be met.

Once teams have been made these decisions are final and we will not move players around except in “extraordinary” circumstances.

For grades 9-Open

Social Teams

Social teams will be filled on registration, any requests for wanting to play with friends must be made at registration and **made by both players**. The club will make every attempt to accommodate these requests but cannot guarantee that every request will be met.

Once teams have been made these decisions are final and we will not move players around except in “extraordinary” circumstances.

Social teams still play within the Waikato competition but will be graded to the bottom of the grade. If numbers within the grade do not permit a full social team, players will be added to the lowest graded team from grading.

Graded Teams

Team selection is based on player ability and numbers in the grade. Parents please note that teams are not selected on friendship groups and no “special requests” will be entered into the team selection process.

Once teams have been made these decisions are final and we will not move players around except in “extraordinary” circumstances.