

Camden Falcons Football Club

'Playing to Develop' versus 'Playing to Win'

At Camden Falcons Football Club, we encourage all players to participate in a sporting environment that fosters enjoyment, learning skills, comradery, discipline and both physical and mental wellbeing. The 'process' of individual player/team growth and development and also player enjoyment of the 'beautiful game' will always be the focus for the club.

Reasons for Grading

Falcons have a reputation for being a friendly club but the club still aims to compete strongly on the field. The key to this is to ensure all players in the club can play in the most appropriate environment to reach **their** potential and to ensure teams are placed in competitions where they are able to compete.

Recent studies by Football Federation Australia show;

- *25% of players are dissatisfied with the grading process of players at their club*
- *#1 reason for being dissatisfied with the grading process is that there is no actual process*
- *33% of teenage males that are likely to stop playing football identify 'uneven grading of me as an individual' as a major reason*

Grading Principle

"A team for everyone and everyone in the appropriate team"

The Club believes that grading is a key requirement to maintain player enjoyment. Players playing at a level above or below their ability are less likely to enjoy the game and may also contribute to a lower level of enjoyment amongst their teammates. Where possible, there should be no players of significantly higher or lower ability in a team as this can lead to isolation of both types of players and restrict player development. Grading is essential from U/12 through to U/18 as the opposition will have graded in preparation for MDSFA competitions.

Grading Process

All ages and abilities are welcome at Camden Falcons. Prior to the start of each season the club will hold a series of registration and grading sessions for each age group (depending on how many players are registered) from U12's and up. The dates of these sessions will be advertised in advance. Please note, there are a limited number of places available in each team and these will be allocated to those who register on time. In all cases, we will try to accommodate and grade players. However, if players register late, it may not be possible to do so.

Grading is important for player development, team competitiveness and the reputation of the club. The aim of the grading process is to match players with players of a similar skill level and then place teams in the correct division. This increases their enjoyment of the game as they play with "like minded" players who want to reach their full potential.

The age level grading sessions will be run by a nominated club grading committee who will take the overall responsibility of selecting the teams for that age level, based on player ability and numbers registered. Teams will not be selected on friendship groups or by 'having a word with the coach'.

Appointed graders (which may include members of the grading committee) will have suitable coaching credentials and will be disqualified from grading where there is a conflict of interest e.g. relatives. Please respect our grading committee, appointed graders and their decisions. They volunteer their time and experience and base selection on clearly pre-defined selection criteria. Scores will be averaged across graders to reduce any bias and selections and training information will be communicated to all players via email within two weeks of the final grading session.

Players should note that each year existing players leave and new players join the club so players could expect to be playing with different team mates each season. This is positive from a social perspective as new friendships are formed and also avoids the formation of "clubs within the club" which can have a detrimental effect on the fabric of the club. We want all our players to 'be the best they can be', enjoy their football and gain all the physical and social benefits of playing "the world game". We look forward to seeing you at the grading sessions.

Questions, Feedback & Complaints

Questions or feedback regarding grading should be directed to the Grading Committee by email at grading@camdenfalcons.com.au. All constructive feedback regarding this process is welcome and will be collated and reviewed before the next season.

If there are exceptional circumstances surrounding your child's participation in grading, please email the grading committee for discussion prior to grading. Each case will be reviewed on merit and escalated to the executive committee where required.

If you are unable to resolve your grading issue with the Grading Committee and wish to lodge a complaint, please do so in writing or by email to the club President at president@camdenfalcons.com.au. Any complaint will be thoroughly investigated and considered by the club Executive Committee.

Grading Policy Addendum

Rules for Division One teams only (Male u12- Male u18)

This addendum to the Camden Falcons Football Club Grading Policy aims to create an “opt in to play Division One” situation. This avoids the scenario where players are graded into Division One but do not want to play at that level.

Coaches apply in November to coach a Division One team. Players must **trial** for Division One squads in November and players from one age group below are also invited to trial.

Advertised full squad trials are **run by the grading committee and club representatives with coaching applicants present to provide their input**. This is to prevent players who are or are not at the required level from being selected or cut (for reasons other than ability)

A successful application does not guarantee the coach’s child a place in the Division One team. Coaches may choose to withdraw their application for this reason. The club encourages coaches without children in the team to apply.

Yet to be appointed coaches will have input however final selection is made by the club. Coaching appointments will follow the announcement of the squad.

The successful coach must agree to run training sessions in the off season to justify early selection.

A position or two in the squad may be left vacant to allow for late trials for new players. Coaches must agree to take players in February if justified.

Trials are mandatory unless a reasonable excuse is provided. If a player misses trials there **may** be an opportunity to trial with the squad **if** a position is available. Again, this will be overseen by club representatives.

Positions will be discussed in the trialing process. Players will be asked to provide two preferred positions.

Division One squads are exempt from Grading in February but there may be an opportunity to trial for a vacant position if the squad is not full.

If the squad is not filled, further advertising will take place to invite more players to trial.