

# Ipswich Football Club Player Grading



## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a fair and transparent process for grading players at Ipswich Football Club. This policy ensures that players are allocated to teams that match their skill levels, promoting competitive balance and player development.

## Scope

This policy applies to all players undergoing grading for Ipswich Football Club teams, including Calves/MiniRoos and Juniors, across all age groups and competition levels.

## Grading Principles

**Fairness:** Ensure that all players are assessed objectively and equitably.

**Transparency:** Provide clear criteria and procedures for the grading process.

**Development:** Place players in teams that will best support their development and competitive experience.

**Safety:** Consider players' safety and wellbeing in the grading process.

## Grading Criteria

**Skill Level:** Technical abilities such as passing, dribbling, shooting, and defending.

**Game Understanding:** Tactical awareness, decision-making, and positional play.

**Physical Attributes:** Speed, agility, endurance, and strength.

**Attitude and Effort:** Work ethic, commitment to training, and teamwork.

## Grading Process

Throughout the season, scouts in plain clothes will observe training sessions and matches to assess players in different situations. At the end of the season, all players will be evaluated using data collected from scouts, coaches, and the Technical Director. Based on these assessments, some players may be retained, while others may be invited to attend additional trials.

## Community Teams

**Friend Requests:** All efforts will be made to accommodate requests for players to be in the same team as their friends. However, to ensure even team numbers and fair play, players may be moved as needed.

**New Players:** Players new to the club will be allocated to the same team as their friends if they noted "Special Requests" on the Player Registration form. New girls will be placed in teams with at least one other girl, where possible.

**Team Assistance:** Players may be asked to assist other teams within the same age group or to play up an age group if there are player shortages and their current team numbers allow.

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## Academy Teams

Academy teams will play in the FQA, Kangaroo and or MJL Leagues.

**Grading Requirement:** Players aspiring to join Academy Teams must participate in the trial process. This grading assesses their technique, game awareness, athletic ability, and potential for development.

## Selection Process

The final decision regarding player selection is not made solely by the coach. Instead, it involves a collaborative process that includes input from multiple key individuals:

1. **Coach:** The coach provides valuable insights based on their direct observations of the player's performance during training and matches. Their input reflects the player's day-to-day progress and fit within the team's tactical approach.
2. **Scouts:** Scouts contribute by offering evaluations from various training sessions and matches. Their assessments help provide a broader perspective on the player's consistency, adaptability, and performance in different contexts.
3. **Technical Directors:** The Technical Directors oversee the overall development and strategic direction of the academy. Their role includes ensuring that player selections align with the academy's long-term goals and developmental pathways.
4. **Other Academy Coaches:** Input from other academy coaches helps to incorporate perspectives from different training environments and team dynamics. This collaborative approach ensures that the selection process considers a range of viewpoints and experiences.
5. **Senior Head Coaches:** Senior Head Coaches provide a higher-level perspective on the player's potential and suitability for advanced levels of play. Their experience and broader understanding of the game contribute to a comprehensive evaluation.

This combined input ensures that player selections are made based on a well-rounded assessment of the player's abilities, potential, and fit within the academy's programs. The decision-making process aims to be thorough and fair, considering multiple perspectives to achieve the best outcomes for both players and the academy.

## Team Allocation

### Team Placement

**Team Levels:** Players will be allocated to teams based on their grading results, ensuring teams are balanced in terms of skill levels.

**Development Focus:** Younger age groups and lower levels will focus more on development and participation rather than strict competitive balance.

### Adjustments:

**Ongoing Assessments:** Player performance will be continually assessed throughout the season, and adjustments to team placement may be made if necessary.

**Player Movement:** Players may be moved between teams to ensure competitive balance and support their development.

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## Review and Compliance

**Annual Review:** This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains effective and aligned with the club's objectives.

**Feedback:** Input from coaches, players, and parents will be considered during the review process.

## Compliance

**Adherence:** All coaches, players, and parents are expected to adhere to this policy to ensure a fair and effective grading process.

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