Domestic Competition Grading Policy

Overview

In accordance with the Domestic Competition By-Laws, the PDBA reserves the right to grade team entries to ensure fair competition.

Competitions are required to have a minimum of 4 teams. Competitions must be graded into separate divisions/sections if 16 or more teams are entered. Competitions may be graded if less than 16 teams are entered.

Graded divisions/sections may be played as separate fixtures or as a single fixture with separate finals for each division/section at the discretion of PDBA Competition Management.

All junior and senior team entries are subject to a separate grading process at the commencement of each domestic competition season.

Senior Competition

Each season senior teams are required to register as an existing or new team. Teams will be subject to a grading review dependent on this classification and will be allocated an initial starting division.

Existing Teams

Existing teams are required to nominate a grading preference on the registration form.

Competition Management will consider the following when determining initial division allocation for existing teams:

a. Previous regular season results – ladder position, win/draw/loss ratio and percentage
b. Finals series results
c. Registration form grading nomination
d. Player changes

Existing teams may be classified as new teams under the following circumstances:

a. Teams returning following an absence of 3 or more consecutive seasons
b. Teams that have indicated significant player changes
c. Teams registering for a different competition – i.e. a team previously playing in a gender restricted competition registering as a mixed team or vice versa

New Teams

New teams are required to nominate a division preference on the registration form.

The match committee will consider the following when determining initial division allocation for new teams:

a. Grading assessments
b. Individual player statistics & experience
c. Registration form grading nomination

Grading Phases

The season will be structured into the following grading phases:

a. Grading Phase – Rounds 1 – 4 of the regular season fixture.
    - Teams are not awarded premiership points, and no results go towards the competition ladder.
    - Teams may be re-graded at any time until the commencement of round 5.
    - Teams that are re-graded do not carry across premiership points or percentage
b. Re-grading Phase – Rounds 5 & 6 of the regular season fixture.
    - Teams are awarded premiership points and results contribute to the regular season ladder.
    - Teams may be re-graded after Round 6.
    - Teams that are re-graded do not carry across premiership points or percentage

The PDBA reserves the right to re-grade teams outside of the specified grading phase in exceptional circumstance including, but not limited to:

a. Significant loss of players
b. Addition of players who have played in a higher level of competition
c. Sustained dominant or uncompetitive results
d. Inconsistent results post round 4 compared to the grading phase

Junior Competition

Each season domestic clubs are required to submit team entries as existing or new teams. Teams will be subject to a grading review dependent on this classification and will be allocated an initial starting division.

Existing Teams

Existing teams are those that a domestic club considers to be of comparative strength to their previous season.

Competition Management will consider the following factors when determining initial division allocation for existing teams:

a. Previous season results – ladder position, win/draw/loss ratio and percentage
b. Finals series results
c. Grading nomination
d. Player changes
e. Player age/physical development
f. Team potential/scope for improvement

New Teams

New teams are those that are comprised of a combination of players that cannot be considered an existing team.

Competition Management will consider the following factors when determining initial division allocation for new teams:

a. Grading nomination
b. Individual player statistics & experience
c. Player age/physical development
d. Team potential development

Grade Secretaries

All Domestic Clubs entering teams into the Junior Domestic Competitions that meet the below criteria will be required to supply a Grade Secretary to assist Competition Management in the Grading Phase.

Criteria (1 Grade Secretary):

- Club enters 5 or more teams into the competition.

Criteria (2 Grade Secretaries):

- Club enters 35 or more teams into the competition.

The nominated Grade Secretaries will then be allocated to a specific competition (IE. U10 Mixed) and asked to grade teams in that competition accordingly over the rounds 1-4 grading phase.

- Where more than 1 Grade Secretary has been allocated to a specific competition, individual grades within that competition will be allocated to each Grade Secretary (IE. U10 Mixed A & B Grade to GS1, U10 Mixed B and C Grade to GS2).

At the completion of the grading phase, Grade Secretaries will be required to submit their final Grade Placement Recommendations to the Competition Manager.

The Competitions Manager will then host a meeting with Grade Secretaries and Domestic Clubs to determine Grade Placements for the commencement of Round 5.

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The PDBA reserves the right to re-grade teams outside of the specified grading phases in exceptional circumstance including, but not limited to:

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2. Addition of players who have played in a higher level of competition
3. Sustained dominant or uncompetitive results
4. Inconsistent results post round 4 compared to grading phase
5. Player welfare

Junior Representative Player Restrictions

Any junior teams with representative level (VJBL) players will be required to comply with a points system based on the level/grade of competition each player competes. This points system will apply to all players irrespective of their representative association. There is no restriction on the number of representative players per team provided each team complies with the specified points limit.

Unfair Grading Determination

If Competition Management, in collaboration with allocated Grade Secretaries, determine that a team or teams are believed to have a skill level exceeding the majority of teams in the age groups highest graded division, the following options will be presented to the team's club:

a. The team is divided, and players are merged with players from lower graded teams in the relative age group
b. One or more players are moved to a team in a higher age group
c. The entire team is moved to a higher age group

If the club committee does not agree on a preferred option within the specified time limit, then option (c) will be applied.

Any player who has changed teams as a result of this rule may only participate with the original team following approval from Competition Management.