

*TNA acknowledge the traditional custodians of the
land on which we play*

2024

Tuggeranong Netball Association Competition Grading Policy



TUGGERANONG
NETBALL
ASSOCIATION INC

TNA-COMP-08
Version: 1.0
14 Feb 2024

Revision History

Issue	Issue Date	Amendment detail
1.0	14 February 2024	Initial policy



Contents

Policy Overview and Purpose	4
Review of Policy	4
The TNA Grading Process.....	5
Nomination of Teams (by Club/School Representative)	5
Representative Players in Teams.....	6
Nomination in a Grade/Division	6
Grading / Team Ranking	6
Ranking Procedures	7
Allocation of Teams.....	7
Regrading	8
Review of Grading Decisions	8
Season Set	8
Appeals.....	9
Season Fixtures.....	9



Policy Overview and Purpose

The TNA Competition Grading Policy outlines the process and requirements for grading of teams in the TNA Winter Competition. The grading process undertaken by affiliated clubs must align to this grading policy.

The PlayHQ platform is used to support the grading process. Clubs and schools are required to nominate the preferred grade of each team they enter in the TNA Winter Competition. Additional information on the makeup of the team is required and collected through PlayHQ at the time of team registration.

Review of Policy

The TNA Vice President of Competition (VP Competition) together with the Vice President Administration (VP Administration) will undertake a review of this policy on an annual basis and consider:

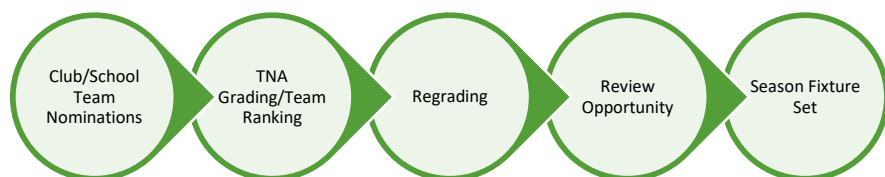
- Feedback from affiliated clubs/schools and entity teams, and
- Any updates made to the PlayHQ platform or Netball ACT rules and guidelines.

The TNA Grading Process

A comprehensive grading process, and ultimately TNA’s capacity to determine a suitable Grade/Division for individual teams and minimise disruption for the competition, is highly dependent on:

- effective grading processes in schools and clubs,
- complete team and player information provided by clubs/schools to TNA, and
- informed decisions based on a knowledge of the competition or careful consideration of the guidance provided through the TNA By-Laws.

The following diagram provides an overview of the expected grading steps. Each of these is expanded in the following sections.



Nomination of Teams (by Club/School Representative)

Clubs/schools are required to provide full details of teams nominating for the competition to TNA by the due date outlined by TNA each season.

Clubs/Schools are required to outline at the time of grading, in the PLAYHQ form if there are any special circumstance regarding the team and their composition that the TNA committee are required to know.

Requests to move down (comparative to the previous season) should firstly consider the natural age shift of players in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior Groups.

Requests to move down a Grade/Division should be supported by the previous season’s results.



Representative Players in Teams

Clubs/schools are required to outline all representative players within team on the PLAYHQ team to season submission.

Teams that comprise of 4 or more representative players **cannot** be placed in Division 4 in any Group.

Clubs/schools should grade players based on their ability.

Nomination in a Grade/Division

Each team is to be nominated by the club/school to a preferred Grade/Division within a Group. Clubs/schools have the primary responsibility for nominating a Grade/Division that supports the goals of this policy.

Club/school grading is recommended as a means of benchmarking teams and nominating a suitable Grade/Division, and to determine an appropriate team fit for new players.

Grading / Team Ranking

TNA will grade teams based on information available from the previous season and team nomination information provided by clubs/schools.

Teams will be ranked in comparative order and allocated an initial ranking in the new season's competition by TNA.

The basis for ranking will be a combination of the following:

- Club/school recommendations/nominations
- Previous season's performance - win/loss ratio and goals for/against percentage
- The natural age shift for teams progressing through the Junior and Intermediate Groups. This general principle does not apply equally to Senior teams.
- A comparative assessment of the best fit for new teams.



Ranking Procedures

TNA will rank teams according to Grade/Division nominated by clubs/schools.

TNA will consider comments on team entry sheets noting significant changes to a team's composition, change of team names, requests to shift up or down.

TNA will refer to the previous season's final ladder positions, including percentages. Finals results can be variable but are taken into consideration.

TNA will refer to the previous season's match results to identify teams with results inconsistent with the average performance of teams in a division and consider adjustments that might be necessary to improve a team's opportunities to experience wins and losses.

- For teams which have lost consistently in a season, consider grading them down so that they can experience some wins.
- For teams which have won consistently throughout a season, an opportunity to challenge will be explored.

TNA will identify teams with an established history to provide a benchmark against which to trial new teams in grading.

TNA will allocate new teams to a division based on 'best fit' and a comparison of like-age and experience teams.

TNA will allocate an initial rank for all teams in the category.

Allocation of Teams

TNA will construct Grades/Divisions consisting of 8 teams where possible.

TNA will allocate teams to the competition based on the overall ranking within the relevant Grade/Division for the season. This may mean that there is odd numbers of teams in a Grade/Division at times.

TNA will identify 'benchmark' teams with consistent competition history and team composition.

TNA will prepare the competition fixture using a typical round robin draw.

TNA will adjust the fixture if necessary, to accommodate individual team bye requests; to avoid a situation where teams play each other twice unnecessarily during the season; and to test majority new teams (without competition history) against benchmark teams.



Regrading

Clubs/schools have the opportunity to provide feedback and request adjustments to grades before the end of round 4.

TNA will evaluate the feedback and results from the first 4 round matches and adjust teams where appropriate.

TNA will then re-publish fixtures for round 5 onwards.

Review of Grading Decisions

Clubs/schools will be provided with the opportunity during the first 4 rounds of the season to seek a review of an initial grading decision.

Requests for review of grade placements must be supported by information from the club/school, allowing for an informed impartial decision based on the performance of teams in a Grade/Division.

Individual requests for a review of grading decisions based on the match time or venue for season rounds is not the primary consideration and cannot be accommodated.

TNA will consider all appeals (and make any adjustments necessary) before settling final composition of Grades/Divisions within all Groups beyond round 5.

TNA will provide a response to all clubs/schools that lodged requests for review which have not been agreed or are unable to be accommodated.

A form will be available for clubs/schools to provide feedback and/or lodge a request for a fixture adjustment. All requests should provide the minimum information sought on the form and be submitted to TNA by the appropriate club/school contact, not individual team officials.

Season Set

Except for teams participating in the non-competitive NetSetGO (NSG) Group, the Winter Competition will not be adjusted after the final fixtures are published (round 5).

Adjustments to draws after the commencement of competition rounds can negatively impact on the competition standing of other teams and cause considerable inconvenience.



Appeals

Teams that elect not to participate in any matches during the first 4 rounds will be ineligible to seek a review of grading decisions.

Requests to move grades after the fifth round of competition will not be considered.

Notwithstanding this, TNA maintain the discretion to review grading decisions based on ongoing match evaluation and adjust in accordance with the By-Laws.

Season Fixtures

Season fixtures are available via the PlayHQ platform.

Printed copies of fixtures are posted on TNA notice boards each Saturday.