



## Colo SFC Skills Assessment (8-11) & Grading Policy (12-17)

### 1. Introduction

Colo Soccer Football Club (SFC) was founded and operates successfully as a family-based club providing a sporting, recreational and social environment for those interested to learn, participate, develop and enjoy the team sport of soccer.

This Skills Assessment & Grading Policy is designed to ensure that players are placed in the most appropriate teams based on their ability, development needs, and potential. The aim is to foster a positive and supportive environment for all players, ensuring they are challenged appropriately while encouraging a love for the game and fair play.

It is a Nepean Football Association (NFA) requirement for teams in Under 12 and above, however Colo SFC recommends that players in the Under 8-11 age range complete a skills assessment prior to the commencement of each season.

Colo SFC recommends this approach as it groups players of equal ability to ensure skills are developed at the correct pace, making training and games more enjoyable. It is also a safer option for players, lessening the potential for injury.

### 2. Age Groups and Team Structures

#### **U8-U11 Non-Competition Teams**

These teams are for players aged 8 to 11 (Boys, Girls & Mixed), focusing on skill development, enjoyment, and teamwork, with no formal competition-based results. A skills assessment for these age groups will occur in the New Year. The aim of this skills assessment is to achieve balanced teams, assisting in the development process and supporting players and coaches.

NFA currently allocate teams to pools of similar ability for the U8-11 age groups. Teams can be moved up or down throughout the season based on the results of their games. Players may be moved between teams in the Under 8-11 age groups throughout the season, if required.

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## **U12 and above Competition Teams**

Players in these age groups are graded and placed in competitive teams and divisions with an emphasis on performance, skill level, and team balance. Colo SFC are striving to have Division 1 teams across all age groups in both male and female competitions and therefore will hold trials for Division 1 teams for each age group prior to Christmas.

Grading for other divisions will occur in **February** at which all other players are expected to be graded for their respective teams.

### **3. Colo SFC Philosophy**

#### **3.1 Inclusivity and Development**

The primary focus for U8-U11 teams is skill development, building confidence, positional awareness across multiple roles and enjoyment of the game. Players will be encouraged to develop at their own pace. For U12 & above, the grading process is designed to create competitive, balanced teams and to ensure each player is placed in a team appropriate to their skill level.

#### **3.2 Transparency and Fairness**

All grading will be conducted fairly, with equal opportunity for players to demonstrate their abilities. Colo SFC is committed to an inclusive environment, and final decisions will be made with player development in mind.

#### **3.3 Player Assistance**

Players wishing to maintain a more social presence and preference to play together for personal reasons are asked to put the request in writing to Colo SFC club registrar at [admin@colosoccer.com.au](mailto:admin@colosoccer.com.au). The club committee, however, reserves the right to make final decisions regarding team formation.

### **4. U8 to U11 (Non-Competition) Skills Assessment Guidelines**

For U8-U11, the primary purpose of skills assessment is to ensure that players are in a team environment that best suits their developmental needs. Teams will be created to ensure a balance of skill and ability.

#### **4.1 Pre-Season Skill Assessment Sessions**

A series of skills and game-based sessions will be held before the start of the season. These sessions are designed to assess players' basic technical skills (e.g., dribbling, passing, shooting), their ability to work as part of a team, and their overall enthusiasm for the game.

A Colo SFC appointed group, including Coaching Coordinators, club officials and coaches, will collaborate to establish the most appropriate teams for all players. Players will not be ranked, but

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rather grouped into teams based on similar skill levels, ensuring balanced teams that will maximize player development.

## **5. U12 and Above (Competition Teams) Grading Guidelines**

For players aged 12 and older, grading becomes more competitive. The purpose is to ensure players are placed in teams that are appropriately challenging, both in terms of skill level and physical ability, in line with the competitive structures at local, regional, and state levels.

These focus points are considered deeply with our Division 1 teams. Trials will be conducted **after the conclusion of the season**, prior to Christmas for those wishing to be considered for Division 1. A **separate grading process in February** will be conducted for all teams in lower divisions.

A Colo SFC appointed group, including Coaching Coordinators, club officials and coaches, will collaborate to establish the most appropriate teams for all players based on a scoring process. The following factors are also considered during the grading process: previous year's performance; experience and skill level of players within the team; insight and information from previous coaches.

### **5.1 Division 1 Considerations**

Colo SFC considers it a privilege to be selected in a Division 1 team and as such, being selected also includes responsibilities of players (and their parents/carers). Players trialling for Division 1 teams are asked to consider the following items:

**5.1a** All division 1 players will have an expectation that they are available to train 2 days a week as part of the commitment to the development of the team.

**5.1b** Division 1 teams may be required to travel to other participating districts within NSW to represent the local association in state competitions (Nepean Cup, State Cup, Australian Cup, Champions of Champions etc). If teams qualify for these competitions, players are expected to be available for an extended season (additional night games during the season and additional games after the season).

### **5.2 Key Principles**

**Fair and Transparent Grading:** Every player will be given an equal chance to demonstrate their abilities. The grading process will be transparent, and decisions will be based on observable skills, teamwork, and effort during the sessions.

**Balance of Teams:** Every effort will be made to ensure teams are balanced, competitive, and fair, without overloading any one team with more advanced players.

**Development Focus:** While the grading will determine the competitive teams, the focus remains on player development. Players will be encouraged to continue to develop and improve throughout the season, regardless of the team they are placed in.

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### 5.3 Team Placement:

Players will be assigned to teams based on their abilities as assessed in the grading sessions. The goal is to ensure balanced teams for competitive play while providing each player with an appropriate level of challenge. Teams will generally be organized into Div 1, 2, 3 etc. based on the players' skill level and the team's competitive needs.

After grading, players will receive feedback on the decision made via the website [www.colosoccer.com.au](http://www.colosoccer.com.au) and [Facebook](#). Players who have been selected for the respective teams will be referenced by their trialling number and announced on the Colo SFC website and Facebook.

Where vacancies occur in a graded team after grading, the opportunity to fill that vacancy should be sought within the club before proceeding with transfers from another club. The club registrar will be notified of any such vacancies.

New players to the club who register after grading has been completed, will be placed in a lower division and assessed by the Grading Committee during the next available training session or trail match.

### 6. Player Movement Between Teams (U12 and Above)

**Ongoing Evaluation:** Throughout the season, player performance and development will continue to be assessed by coaches & coaching coordinators in accordance to [Nepean Association Guidelines](#).

**Disputes:** Players and parents may request a reassessment if they believe a player is not in the appropriate team for their development, but these requests must be made in consultation with the coaching staff.

### 7. Conclusion

Colo SFC Skill Assessment & Grading Policy aims to ensure fairness, inclusivity, and player development at all levels. The club is committed to providing a positive and challenging environment for all players, whether they are in non-competitive teams (U8-U11) or competitive teams (U12+). By adhering to this policy, we can ensure that every player is given the best opportunity to grow as a footballer and enjoy the game.



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