



## **Kissing Point Softball Club Grading Guidelines**

### **Registration Form**

Players are to be encouraged to fill out as much information as possible on grading, including desired grade, position to play, players to be with, etc. If they have “No Preference” then this should be indicated. Only ONE preference is to be stated.

It is to be explained to all players at registration that if a preference is not clearly stated on their form then they will be considered for any team. Every effort will be made to accommodate their preference, but this may not always be possible.

For new players, the Grading Convenor will endeavour to review player history with each new player.

**New players must be graded.** Existing players cannot be placed into a higher grade than previously played unless they have been graded.

**Players need to have paid registrations before they can be graded into a team.**

### **Grading Process**

The club has a Grading Convenor. The Grading Convenor will form a Grading Committee of them and other coaches or officials they feel can help them with the Grading process. All coaches complete and submit a grading form based on players in their team. These will be used to help the Grading Committee determine player's abilities and allocation into teams.

The initial grading is to take into account the player's preference, plus adhere to the Grading Policy below.

It is vitally important that no-one is advised of teams until they are formally announced at Team Announcement night. However, graders may approach players and officials for clarification prior to that.

All teams are passed by the KPSC Executive Committee meeting prior to announcement. Particular care should be taken to ensure justification of team players if the current year's coaches are involved as graders. The committee needs to be able to answer any criticism of team selections.

It is NOT the responsibility of the Executive Committee to pick the teams. They are to ensure that the grading policy is being adhered to, and where changes are required then approve these. They are also to provide guidance where needed by the Grading Convenor, to help them set the teams.

### ***Late registrations***

Any players new to KPSC who are registering late must be seen by graders prior to inclusion in a team, unless the Executive Committee is happy that their standard is known. They will only then be considered for placement in a team.

Returning players who register after teams have been approved by the Executive Committee, cannot be placed in a team, which results in ANY player (new or returning) being moved into other teams, without the approval of the Executive Committee.

Any late registration must be passed by grading committee to check impact of player on all teams.

### **Grading Policy**

It should be noted that any grading policy serves to provide guidelines for the Graders and Committee.

There may be times when some discretion is required when applying the policy. The Kissing Point philosophy has always been to maintain the club emphasis and as such to try and keep as many of its members happy as possible. You will never be able to please everyone, but we don't want to lose sight of the fact that KPSC is a local community club.

When teams are presented to the Executive Committee for ratification, it is important that the level of adherence of each team to the Grading Policy is stated. This is in order that the Executive Committee can determine whether any movement away from our policy is required and is agreed.

### ***General Guidelines***

The aim of grading is to select teams that are competitive for their grade and will provide an enjoyable season for the players. It is not the aim of grading to select teams that will be overly dominant in their grade - if that is the case then regrading to a higher grade at North Shore is recommended. It is assumed that at the top grades (A grade and Div 1) the players want to play at the highest level possible. Therefore the primary grading factor is ability.

The overall club picture must always be taken into account and to also ensure all teams have key positions covered i.e. pitcher/catcher.

Ideally there will be 10 to 12 players or more per team. An exception to this may be where we know a number of girls are going to be missing for representative commitments and some allowance may need to be made for this.

If multiple teams in any grade NSDSA require that we rank them so this must be taken into account when selecting the teams. A grade and Div 1 would be selected on ability and a 'best' team and an 'apprentice' team is selected, however the executive committee does have the power to change this policy if appropriate. Elsewhere KPSC policy is to grade teams evenly where possible.

Where a decision needs to be made between multiple players, then priority is given to players who are first registered KP, and/or players who have been with the club for over 5 years.

The following outlines the grading guidelines agreed by the Executive Committee for each of the different grades where KPSC may enter teams at North Shore. This is a living

document and these guidelines may change over time with the agreement of the Executive Committee.

### ***A Grade and Division 1***

These are the elite grades of North Shore and one of the strongest A grade and Division 1 competitions in the country. Prestige is attached with winning this grade and having competitive teams.

KPSC's philosophy on A Grade Division 1 is to WIN this grade by picking its strongest teams. These 2 grades are selected purely on ability and team construction for maximum performance.

If KPSC has numbers to form two or more teams then the guidelines provided to the Grading Committee are as follows:

- Must pick its NUMBER ONE team
- Subsequent teams must be evenly graded
- All teams must have established battery
- All teams HAVE TO BE considered to be competitive in the grade
- The NUMBER ONE team must initially be picked from players who are expected to be available more than 50% of the season
- If social requirements are to be met then this will mean players dropping down from the NUMBER ONE team, rather than players moving UP to the NUMBER ONE team
- The NUMBER ONE team does not represent the best players, but the best combination of players

### ***A1 AND A2***

A1 and A2 grades are competitive grades. Over the last few seasons they have developed into 2 grades of similar standard, but with A1 consisting mainly of younger (U16s) players and A2 the more mature player.

### ***B\*, C\*, LADIES, DIV 2, DIV 3, MODBALL 1 AND TEEBALL 1***

These grades are selected on ability but a heavy weighting is given to player preferences and age/social factors. The weighting applied to age/social factors increases as you move down the grades but ability still plays a large part for these grades. Where possible, within ability levels, players should be placed with their friends/in the teams requested on the grading form but if there is a clash between ability and friends, graders must take into account player choice on their priority - ability or social (from grading form).

Where multiple teams in a grade then these should be graded as evenly as possible within the social factors permitted. In Div 2, batteries need to be evened out where possible. Ladies grade must meet the age requirements.

### ***MODBALL 2, TEEBALL 2 AND TEEBALL 3***

These grades are purely graded socially. Age of players need to be considered. New players do not have to have been graded, but this is preferable.

If you have any questions concerning grading then please contact our Dione Taylor on 0402 108 821 or email [kpscpresident@gmail.com](mailto:kpscpresident@gmail.com)

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