

Grading Policy

Pearcedale Baxter Junior Football Club ('PBJFC') is committed to providing a safe and enjoyable sporting environment for all children. PBJFC acknowledges that in addition to developing football skills, building self-esteem, encouraging fair play and teamwork are key parts of a child's sporting development. PBJFC

In line with the recommendation of AFL South East, PBJFC implements grading from the Under 13 age group, where numbers permit, with grading to be completed for each age group above Under 13, where previous season grading has been undertaken.

Scope

This policy applies to all Under 13 and above players registered with PBJFC.

This policy will be implemented commencing the 2026 season.

Re-Grading will not apply to teams who have not previously been graded (e.g. 2026 Under 15s and above).

Registration

PBJFC requires registration by 31 January for all players under 13 and above (except as agreed with PBJFC Executive), to allow the club to assess team numbers and allow the grading process to commence.

Players registered after 31 January, but before the conclusion of the grading process, will not be eligible for grading and will be placed in the lower graded team.

Players applying for registration after the conclusion of the grading period will be placed based on the needs of the graded teams, as determined by the PBJFC Executive.

Grading eligibility

Only players in their correct age group will be eligible for grading. Any players that have been approved to play up an age group will automatically be placed into the lower graded side.

Registered Player Numbers

Registered Player Numbers determine team numbers. The following is a guide for team numbers based on registered player's numbers, however, final team numbers/allocations may change at the discretion of the External Grader, Grading Sub-Committee and the PBJFC Executive.

33 or Less	One team of 28 players. Discussions will be held with the players and families who did not make the team of 28 to determine their playing future, noting PBJFC may not be able to offer them an alternate team.
34 to 40	Top Graded Team will have a minimum of 20 players, with the remaining players to make up the Lower Graded Team.
40 or More	Numbers will be evenly distributed between teams. Where there is an odd number the additional player will be allocated to the Top Graded Team.

We note that if players chose to leave the club following grading adjustments may be necessary, which could impact on the offering of both a Top and Lower Graded Team.

Where PBJFC is unable to offer a player a position as a result of registered player numbers, we will offer all necessary supports (including, where required, liaising with alternate clubs) to assist families and players in determining their next steps.

Grading Procedure

Grading will be conducted with an External Provider engaged by PBJFC at the commencement of the playing year. A grading sub-committee will be formed each year to work with the external provider and act as a liaison with club members.

Generally, Grading will take place over [how many sessions], however, may be subject to change based on external provider recommendations or specific needs of the players or club.

Grading Outcomes

The External Provider will determine the final team numbers and participants.

Allocation of divisions for each team will be determined by AFL South East in accordance with normal Grading Procedures at the commencement of the season.

Further Information

Questions or requests for further information about this Policy should be directed to the PBJFC Committee.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed and approved annually by the PBJFC Committee. The review will incorporate feedback from the PBJFC Community.

Last Review July 2025.

Next Review July 2026.

