



GRADING POLICY

St. George & Sutherland Shire Giants Baseball Club Inc

November 2020
Secretarygiantsbaseball@gmail.com

Grading Committee

Each year the Grading Committee is selected by the Club Executive. The Grading Committee includes:

- President
- Head Coach
- Vice President Junior Baseball (in respect of Tee-ball and Machine Pitch)
- Vice President Baseball (in respect of Little League through to Senior League)
- Vice President Minor League Baseball (in respect of Minor League Baseball)

The Grading Committee will usually also include some of the most experienced coaches within the club.

It is important to note that all members of the Grading Committee volunteer many hours of their time to assist with an arduous and thankless task.

The Grading Process

Giants Baseball Club grades all teams where there is more than one team in an age group. However, the process for grading differs as players progress through their playing careers.

Tee-ball Grading

Official grading days are not normally held for the tee-ball competition as this is generally an introductory level of baseball and a time when playing with friends can be important. In deciding on the team composition, the Grading Committee will take a number of factors into consideration including, but not limited to:

- The age of the players
- Previous playing experience (if any)

A “Try Tee-ball” or “Tee-all Gala” Day is often but not always held to assist with this process.

Where possible requests to play with friends or relatives is accommodated. However, the priority for the Grading Committee is the safety of all players and fairness to the teams as a whole. It may not always be possible to accommodate requests. Where a request is not possible, the Grading Committee or Club Executive we will endeavour to discuss the reasons and possible outcomes with you.

Machine Pitch, Little League through to Senior League Grading

Players who would like to play Machine Pitch are encouraged to attend the designated Grading Day(s), particularly if they have interest in playing in Division 1.

At the Grading Day each player is recorded on a Grading sheet and are assessed as they complete the drills. Following the Grading Day the Grading Committee meets to decide on team allocations.

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In deciding on the team composition, the Grading Committee will take a number of factors into consideration including, but not limited to:

- The safety and welfare of all players (this consideration is to be given primacy over all other considerations);
- The present capability and development potential of the player (including their ability to receive and act on instructions);
- Where applicable, the previous playing experience and performance of the player. This may include, at the panel's discretion, consultation with previous coaches or other persons who may have relevant information regarding the children being graded;
- The availability of other players in the same age group and items 1-3 (above) in relation to those other players;
- The need to appropriately balance teams, particularly insofar as the distribution of players with pitching or catching capability or potential is concerned. In some cases this may mean distribution of equivalently capable players to two or more teams graded at the same level, in other cases it may mean distributing players of different capabilities to differently graded teams;
- Age constraints to which Giants Baseball Club must adhere and compliance with the Association's Dispensation Policy.
- Requests to play with a particular friend, family member or coach. Only where these can be accommodated, without compromising the intent of the initial skills assessment or grading processes including factors 1-6 (as described above), efforts will be made to do so.

Whilst Giants Baseball Club does appreciate that, over time, bonds are formed with team mates and with particular coaches, the reality is that as children proceed through different age groups and are subject to initial skills assessment and then grading, changes in these arrangements are often inevitable. The common experience is that children generally adapt well to these changes and make new associations if encouraged to do so.

Minor League Grading

Giants Baseball Club appreciates that once players have reached the Minor League competition, they are often juggling a number of commitments. Accordingly, teams in the Minor League tend to have larger numbers to allow for clashes and increased unavailability.

Often the teams in Minor League will have been built over a number of seasons and seek to play together. Wherever possible requests to play with friends and relatives will be accommodated. New players, unless joining with a specific request to play with an existing player, will be assessed

in terms of athleticism and skill and allocated to an appropriately graded team. At all times the safety of all players is of paramount concern and will inform the decisions of team composition.

Minor League team lists are subject to a player experience matrix which is submitted to the Association. This matrix is used by the Association to determine the appropriate grade for the team as a whole. Where a particular player is deemed to be playing in a grade significantly below or potentially above their skill level, the Association will apply restrictions to that player such as exclusion from the battery, limitations on pitching, or limitations on positions within the diamond. These restrictions are assigned for player protection and must be abided by at all times.

At this point in time Giants Baseball Club does not have a 1st or 2nd Grade team. As the registrations in Minor League continue to increase and existing players continue to develop, should this become a viable option, a Grading Day in line with that undertaken for Little League through to Senior League will be introduced.

Teams in the Same Grade

Where Giants Baseball Club has two or more teams in the same grade, all efforts will be made to ensure that these teams are as balanced as possible. To this end, the Grading Committee will consider:

- Skill and aptitude of the players;
- Representative experience and limitations; and
- Positional experience.

In assessing the skill of the players, it is important to differentiate age from skill. Top Age viz a viz Bottom Age in and of itself will not be a consideration.

Requests to play with a particular friend, family member or coach will only be accommodated where doing so can be achieved without compromising the integrity of the overall team balance.

Special Requests

Special requests should be made in the designated area on the **online registration form**. For completeness an email outlining the reasons for the request should be sent to secretarygiantsbaseball@gmail.com **prior to Grading Day** to enable such requests to be considered during the Grading Process.

Concerns Regarding Grading

If you have any concerns or questions regarding the grading exercise, please send an e-mail to secretarygiantsbaseball@gmail.com . However, please bear in mind that significant time and effort goes into the grading process with consideration of a number of factors. It may not always be possible to accommodate your request.