



## 2008/2009 Grading Policy Juniors

- Thornleigh Baseball Club has the responsibility of forming all teams they enter in the Ryde-Hornsby Baseball League competition. The following guidelines are provided to help parents understand how teams are determined and when players are permitted to play out of their age group. However, the committee has the final say on which players are listed with each team.
- Prior to determining teams, all players are listed in groups based on their birth age. Where parents of girls have requested that their daughter play down a year, their daughters will be listed with the players one year younger than them.
- Players who have played out of age in the previous season have no guaranteed right to play in the same team in the current season.
- Teams are initially drawn up based on all players playing in their true age, except girls whose parents have requested that they play down.
- Parents may request that their child plays out of their age group. This request will be considered by the registrar but may not be able to be fulfilled due to a number of reasons including player numbers.
- Boys cannot play down an age group, nor can girls play down two years, without the approval of the Ryde-Hornsby Baseball League. The League has a documented procedure to determine if players should be allowed to play down in age. Should parents wish their child to play down in age, then they should speak to the Registrar to obtain details of the League's procedure.
- A whole team has between 8 to 10 players for 7's and 9 to 12 players for all other age groups. The preferred number in a team is 9 for 7's and 10 - 11 for all other age groups.
- True age players registered by the cut-off date set by the committee cannot be displaced from a team by a player wishing to play out of his/her age group.
- For 7's to 9's teams, teams will be drawn up to include requests for friends playing in the same team. It is noted that this is not always possible due to team numbers.
- For teams 10's and up, teams will be graded when there is more than one team. Where this occurs, the make up of each team is determined by a trial process.
- Where the numbers of registrations are adequate to make up whole teams based on true age players, then there is no need for players to play out of age. However, parents may request that their child plays out of their age group. The committee may consider parents' request that their children play out of their age based on the following criteria:
- If the request results in there being a shortage of numbers (ie, less than 10) in the players true age team, then the committee will not grant the request.
- If the committee considers that it is acceptable for a player to play out of age where a request is made, all players in the true age team will be advised of there being a chance to play in a higher age group. If more players express interest in playing out of age then there are places in the higher team, then preference will be given to players based on the following:
  1. Players having played in the older team in the previous season
  2. The player having a sibling in the team
  3. A trial process organised by the club committee.
- Where there are insufficient player numbers to form one or more whole teams in an age group, then the committee will look at the possibility of having players play out of age to form whole teams.
- The committee will inform parents of age groups where players are to be asked to play up a grade. Should more players request placement in the higher age group than places are available, then preference will be given to players based on:
  1. Players having played in the higher age group in the previous season
  2. Girls registered as playing down requesting to play in their true age
  3. The player having a sibling in the team
  4. A trial process organised by the club committee.