

Policy on Player Registrations and Team Grading

Key Principles & Objectives

Thornleigh Soccer Club places an emphasis on participation and enjoyment, which it considers more important than winning. With this in mind, the club will attempt to accommodate as many players as possible wishing to play soccer with the club.

It is a fundamental principle of the Thornleigh Soccer Club that individual players will be brought together into teams that are appropriate for each player's age and skill level. The Thornleigh Soccer Club committee will determine which is the most appropriate team for each player to play in rather than individual teams determining which players will play in their team.

Team Sizes

The minimum team size will be that number defined by the rules of the GHFA as the minimum necessary to field a team in an age group or division.

The following number of players is deemed appropriate for each age group and defines the ideal minimum and preferred maximum number of players that will be put into any team :

Under 6 & Under 7	7 to 9 players
Under 8	10 to 12 players
Under 9 to Under 18	12 to 14 players
All Age	12 to 14 players
Premier League Squad	26 to 30 players
Over 35	14 to 18 players

Where there is more than one team in any particular age group, each team will be made up of the same number of players, where possible. If the total number of players in a particular age group makes it necessary to have one more player in one or more teams, the extra player(s) will be placed in the lower grade team(s). This provides more flexibility if players are required to play in a higher grade during the season (as higher grade players cannot play in a lower grade).

The Club Committee can however exercise discretion to vary the maximum number where appropriate reasons exist for a higher number to be accepted into a team.

Team Grading

Players in all age groups from Under 6 to Under 18 are required to attend the nominated grading day(s). On the grading day(s) players will be split up into teams on the following basis:

Under 6 & Under 7

Players will be placed in teams with their friends within their age group. No consideration will be given to a player's skill level.

If there are too many players wishing to play in the same team in Under 7's, preference will be given to those players who played together in the same team in the previous year.

Players who do not attend Grading Day will be put into whichever team has room to accommodate them.

Under 8 to Under 18

Players will be graded on their individual abilities. A grading committee made up of at least two people who will grade players in each age group. The grading committee may be different for each age group. All people on the grading committee will be independent of the particular age group being graded. The grading committee will grade players on their performance at grading day(s) and they may also seek advice from people who have recently coached the players being graded. Where the grading committee deems two or more players to be of equal ability and it is necessary to split these players between teams, preference will be given on the following basis:

- firstly players attending grading days and
- secondly, players who played in the higher grade in the previous year.

Premier League

Players will be graded on their individual abilities. Selection of players will be entirely at the discretion of the Premier League coach(es).

All Age and Over 35

As a general rule, players that played in the previous year with a Thornleigh All Age Over 35 team will be placed in the same team. However, the final team selection and team grading will be determined by the Thornleigh Soccer Club committee. The Senior Vice President will coordinate this process and all enquiries from players seeking to join Thornleigh Soccer Club must be referred to him/her. This is to ensure that all registered players are placed into a team. Players or teams in these age groups may approach the Senior Vice President to change teams/players from the previous year. The Senior Vice President will then seek guidance from the committee on whether the requested changes will be sanctioned. The matters that will be considered in determining which teams players will be placed in are:

- the team that the relevant player(s) were in last year
- the team that the relevant player(s) request to be placed in
- any personality conflicts or disharmony that have occurred in previous years
- the division of the team and the abilities of the relevant player(s)

Players wishing to play in a lower grade

Players may request to play in a grade lower than the grade determined by the grading committee. This request should be made to the grading committee prior to the first grading session. If too many players seek to play in a lower graded team and there is a disproportionate number of players in the lower graded team, the grading committee will promote the next strongest player(s) to the higher graded team. At this stage the Thornleigh Soccer Club committee (after consultation with the coaches and managers of the teams involved) will have to determine if such a move is serious enough to downgrade the nominated grading with the GHFA or that having a disproportionate mix would be more beneficial to the players in all teams within the grade. Players will only be placed into higher graded teams on ability.

Players wishing to play in higher age groups

Players wishing to play in an age group that is above their proper age group will only be permitted to do so if:

- they notify the club on their registration form that they wish to play in an older age group and
- they have the necessary skills and physical attributes and
- it assists the club in forming teams with an appropriate number of players in each age group.

If the club requires players to play in a higher age group, volunteers will be sought. If there are too many volunteers, preference will be given firstly, to players who have previously

played in the higher age group, secondly, based on an individual player's skill level, physical appropriateness and year at school.

Late Registrations

Registrations submitted after the last advertised registration day, will only be accepted if it does not cause the number of players registered in that age group to exceed the targeted number of players (as set out above).

Too many players in one age group

If the number of players that are registered in any particular age group causes a team size to exceed the targeted number of players for that age group, all efforts will be made to move players up to the age group above or up from the age group below so that all team sizes fall within the targeted team sizes. Where it is still not possible to create teams for that age group within the targeted team size, registrations will be declined in the following order:

Firstly: Registrations received after the last advertised registration date, then

Secondly: Players with registration fees that have not been paid by final grading day (and at the discretion of the Committee in the event of financial hardship), then

Thirdly: Based on the number of successive years that each player has played with the Thornleigh Soccer Club. Players who have played with the club the shortest time will have their registration declined first, then

Fourthly: Based on previous attendance at training sessions and grading days and participation in the club's activities (such as training teams, skills clinics etc), then

Fifthly: Based on the family's involvement in activities such as coaching, managing and committee positions. Players from families who have had no previous involvement in such activities will be the first to have their registrations declined.

Insufficient players in one age group

Where there are insufficient player numbers within an age group to make up a team or teams with the appropriate number of players (as set out above under "Team Sizes"), the club will make every effort to attract surplus players from neighbouring clubs so team numbers will be sufficient for players to play within their age group. Failing this, players will be offered the opportunity to play in a team in the age group above that which they should play, so long as the numbers do not go over the Club team number policy. However, if this is not possible all fees paid will be refunded prior to the first game of the season.