
FAR NORTH COAST HOCKEY INCORPORATED



Rules and By Laws: Reviewed March 2021

By Law Number 2

Title: Grading Committee

Object:

To provide a review group to manage the competitive level of all teams participating in the junior, men and women's competitions. The group will manage all matters associated with competition grading, team membership and all issues arising from team and player nominations in the first instance.

Reports to:

The Board of Management by providing a written report at each monthly meeting where the chairperson of the Grading Committee will attend and speak to that written report. The Grading Committee may be directed by the President of the Board of Management to attend any general meeting or special meeting to deal with matters relating to grading.

Committee Membership:

There will be six (6) members of the Grading Committee:

1. Three (3) members from different clubs will be responsible for managing the women's grading and junior girls all (3) members must be consulted on any grading matter.
2. Three (3) members from different clubs will be responsible for managing the men's grading and junior boys all (3) members must be consulted on any grading matter.

Organisational Structure:

At the first Grading Committee meeting of any season the two groups will meet in a manner of their choosing and can do so independently of the other group. Each group will elect a Chairperson. And that person will be responsible for providing outcomes to the FNC Secretary, observing all required timelines.

Frequency of Meetings:

The Grading Committee's independent groups will meet as required in any season to achieve all Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) but at a minimum of once per month.

Key Performance Indicators:

1. Review all team lists and determine make up of all competitions in men, women and juniors.
2. Grade all players for the Competition rounds in a team within a grade that matches their skill levels. Note: The Grading Committee may exercise discretion around overage junior players based on size, skill level and experience.
3. Consider written requests for re-grading as directed by the Secretary of the Board of Management.
4. Review **skill level, field awareness** and size of under 15 years of age players wishing to compete in senior matches. Note: Junior players under the age of 15 wishing to play seniors will need approval by the Grading Committee whom shall stipulate the senior grades in which they can participate.

5. The Grading Committee's response will be sent in writing to the Board of Management Secretary who will forward it onto the relevant club secretary making the request.

Operational Rules to be considered when achieving the KPI's in 1-4:

1. Any player playing in a grade lower than that in which they are graded will be in breach of the rules and penalties will apply as per rule 3.5 (1) b. of the Far North Coast Hockey Inc. Competition Rules.
2. Re - grading requests will be considered for the next round of fixtures only if the written request by the Club Secretary is to hand prior to midnight the Monday before the next Competition Round.
3. If a request is received prior to midnight on the Monday, then the Grading Committee must communicate and resolve the request by the morning of the first competition match of the week for a senior game and by the evening before the first junior competition match of the week, allowing any club to act upon the Grading Committee's resolution in an appropriate time frame.
4. If an under 13, or under 15 player is approved by the Grading Committee to play in a senior competition or single senior match, a waiver will need to be signed by the Parent or Guardian.
5. The Grading Committee must always consider a "Duty of Care" when dealing with all matters associated with players playing in matches where their risk of injury is increased due to their size and or skill levels

Appeals Process:

Any Club can appeal the resolve of the Grading Committee on any matter as detailed:

1. The Club Secretary shall provide a written response to the Board of Management Secretary within 48 hours of being advised on the outcome of any re-grading request.
2. The Executive Committee will meet and discuss the contents on any appeals letter and will require the respective Grading Committee's chairperson of the gender in question, and a representative of the club lodging the appeal to attend the appeals meeting.
3. This meeting must take place within 48 hours of having received the appeals letter.
4. The Executive Committee will determine a finding at the called meeting and advise both the Grading Committee and the Club of their findings.
5. Either party can take their concern to the Board if not satisfied with the outcomes in accordance with rule 14.5 of the Competition Rules

Outcome:

Those competitions at all levels are run with well-balanced and competitive sides and the best interests and wellbeing of the players and the game are achieved.