# Junior Grading Policy

## 1  Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to give insight into the junior grading system of Belwest Foxes Soccer Club Inc. (Belwest), the process involved, and the method used to assess the players involved.

## 2  Definitions

For the purposes of this policy a *player* is a person who—according to the Capital Football Competition Rules—is registered as a player on Play Football as a Belwest player for the purposes of competing in the Capital Football winter competition in a given year.

## 3  Objective

The objective of gradings at Belwest is to ensure that all players are placed in the right environment for the skill level that the player is currently at. This does not determine the player's future only determines that particular stage of their football life. By being placed in the right environment this will help with the development process as they are playing with players of similar skill and in a competition that the player is suited to.

The benefits of gradings are:

- Players are able to develop at their own pace in the right environment.
- Provides enjoyment as players are training and playing against players with similar skill.
- Helps Belwest best determine where to place teams for the upcoming season.

## 4  Grading process and attendance

All players must be registered with Belwest through Play Football in order to participate in the grading process.

All players registered to play in an Under 10 team or older are strongly encouraged to participate in their age group's grading process—so that the objectives of the grading process can be met.

Players who do not attend grading sessions will generally be placed in a lower division for their age group. However, circumstances may arise where players are unable to attend grading sessions due to sickness, or being away, etc. in these instances, the player must contact the Technical Director (technicaldirector@belwestsoccer.com) prior to gradings to inform them that they will not be able to attend. The Technical Director, together with the

Grading Committee, will make arrangements for the player to have an independent review if they deem it necessary.

If an independent review of player has taken place, the Belwest Committee will make the final decision as to the appropriate team that the player should be placed in, giving consideration for existing team player numbers.

Players will be graded in line with Football Federation Australia (FFA) National Curriculum. The grading system is outlined below.

# 5 Grading system

The Belwest grading system is based on and in line with the current FFA National Curriculum. The skills assessment will cover the four core skills from the FFA Curriculum, including:

- First Touch
- 1v1
- Running with the ball
- Striking the ball

The skills assessment will also evaluate:

- Game play/Awareness

The game play component will consist of mini games. The player will be assessed on awareness/positioning/attitude and overall game play.

# 6 Player assessment

Player assessment will be carried out with players being scored points against the various above criteria. The scores will be summed and a total score calculated. Players will be placed into teams based on these scores.

The scoring criteria are based on a 1-5 point system with 5 being excellent.

# 7 How the grading process works

1. Grading session dates, times and locations are published on the Belwest website. The number of grading sessions will generally involve three sessions and a call back game if deemed necessary.
2. Players are to be at the grading sessions at least 20 minutes prior to the start of the session so they can be assigned their grading number and player group.
3. Players will participate in the grading session and be assessed against the grading criteria.
4. Following conclusion of the grading sessions, all the assessment data will be collated. This information will be used to place players into the appropriate team.
5. The Grading Committee will reach agreement on the division the team should be placed in based on the collective data and abilities of the team.
6. The Grading Committee will forward their recommendations to the Belwest Committee for final decision.
7. Each player will be advised by email of the outcome of team selections.

8. Players will receive an email from their coach/manager welcoming them to the team and providing information about team training schedules and other relevant information.

# 8 Friendship groups

Capital Football recommends that all registered clubs undertake grading from Under 10s to ensure teams have players who are at similar levels in ability so that they can play against other club teams with players of similar ability.

Belwest understands that this age group can be a difficult transition for some players and families; it requires a shift in thinking as both are used to playing in their friendship based teams from Under 7 to Under 9.

While Belwest and the Grading Committee actively aim to place players in teams with others they know, sometimes large differences in abilities do not make this possible.

If there are players who have preference to play with their friends, Belwest will endeavour to accommodate this where possible—this could result in the players being put into a lower division.

# 9 Disputes

Belwest will do its upmost to address and resolve parent and player concerns promptly.

In the event of a dispute with the final grading decision:

- The player and/or parent/carer may email the Registrar (rego@belwestsoccer.com) within 10 days of team announcement and outline their grievance with relevant information/evidence supporting their claim(s).

- This is to be no more than 100 words.

- If the Registrar is unable to resolve the dispute, the dispute will be passed to the Technical Director/Grading Committee for further processing.

- Belwest will endeavour to resolve all disputes within 7 days of receiving the email. The decision will be final and no subsequent appeals will be considered.