**GHAI GRADING POLICY**

In the interest and for the purpose of fairness GHAI is committed to ensuring that teams are divided into grades to allow all teams to be competitive.

**Competitive –Definition** – Being as good or better than others of a comparable standard.

Whilst we are aware that it may take some time for clubs to sort teams at the beginning of the season, and changes are inevitable, an issue has been raised that has caused concern.

**Clubs** are responsible for placing their members into teams prior to grading taking place.

It is the **Grading sub Committee** who are responsible for placing teams in grades based on this information.

When clubs add players or change teams that have already been graded, it can undermine the task undertaken by the Grading committee.

The following is written in our GHAI Constitution under clubs 4.16 (g) and (h)

(g) The club shall lodge the list with a person designated by the Board before the commencement of competition or by such later date as the Board shall approve. A list may be amended from time to time provided that any addition of a new player to the list must be submitted to the Administration Officer prior to the player participating in any competition.

(h) Persons not included in the club list are not eligible to participate in a competition conducted by the Association, until such time as they are approved by a person designated by the Board

For the purposes of this policy the GHAI Board are designating the Grading sub Committee to approve such late additions and changes for senior competitions and to the Junior Committee for Junior competitions.

**What does this mean for clubs?**

1. Clubs will need to submit their team list on their grading form by a date set by the Grading sub Committee to admin@graftonhockey.net.au
2. Any changes to this must also be submitted to the Grading sub Committee using the same email address.
3. Changes MUST be approved by the Grading committee in writing prior to any new player taking the field
4. The grading committee may through consultation with the club ask for that player to be re graded if in their opinion it changes the level of competitiveness for the team concerned.
5. The Competition Registrar is responsible for applying any penalties should clubs / teams not comply with this. It is the club’s responsibility to ensure that written permission has been granted before a player takes the field.

**Top 11**

1. Clubs are to submit a list of their top 11 players by the completion of the 3rd week of competition.

This is to be the 11 players of the highest standard for that team.

2. The GHAI Board supports the Grading sub Committee having the power to challenge this through consultation with the club concerned, if they feel that that there are players who should not be permitted to play in a lower grade.

We understand that it is difficult to sort teams, particularly at the beginning of the season; however, we are also aware of the issues that incorrect grading can create a feeling of unfairness amongst other teams and clubs.

**Goalkeepers and field player permissions**

These also need to be submitted to the Grading committee for Permission in accordance with our Rules of play and MUST be granted permission

1. Goalkeepers including those named in the top 11 may request in writing and be granted permission, by the grading committee in conjunction with the Competition Registrar, to play in a lower graded team as a field player with one team only.
2. Field players including those named in the top 11 may request in writing and be granted permission, by the grading committee in conjunction with the Competition Registrar, to play in a lower graded team as a goalkeeper. This shall be the only team they are permitted to play as a goalkeeper and they will not be permitted to play on the filed for this team.