

CCFC Mini Roos and Youth Team Formation including Grading Information

Curl Curl FC is a community-based football club whose aim is to provide an environment for football (soccer) players in the local area based primarily on our CORE (*Community, Opportunity, Respect and Enjoyment*) values as detailed on our website home page. We also are happy to place players out of area should their local area not have a suitable football club team for them.

This document provides summary information on how our club “forms” teams in each age group taking account of requirements from our governing Association “Manly Warringah Football Association” (MWFA) and our own club philosophy on how to best achieve the most challenging and fun experience for our players considering their age in conjunction with our CORE values.

This document includes a summary of how assessments and grading affect each age group. However, see link Grading Information 2025 for more info on grading by age group.

Please Note CCFC Team Formation, other than where assessments/grading identify appropriate team players, our Club Age Coordinators are responsible for forming and confirming teams. We encourage our returning players to find new friends to join the Club however players, coaches and managers should NOT confirm a spot in a team to a new player, new friends should be asked to either contact the Age Coordinator to discuss any potential for a spot in the team or include details in the “play with requests”. Age Coordinators may not be in a position to confirm “spots available in teams” until later in the registration period when a clearer picture of expected number of teams and returning players are finalised.

MINI ROOS

Mini Roost are U6 to U11 players (note players can register from U5 based on calendar year.

MWFA runs two main competitions for these age groups being:

- **Mixed U6 to U11** - Boys and Girls can register in these age groups who currently play games on a Saturday morning
- **Women W7 to W11** - Only Girls can register in these age groups who currently play games on a Sunday morning.

U6 and U7/W7

Teams play in a 4 v 4 game format with two games being played concurrently by the team against another team. There are usually between 9 and 12 players on a team pending age of players and other factors.

Generally, these teams are formed around “play with requests”. When registering a player through “[play football.com.au](https://playfootball.com.au)” there is a question which allows entry of a few players names whom the player would like to play with if possible. The Age Coordinators have access to all requests in their age group and use this information to help them form the teams in these age groups. Please note this is like a huge jigsaw and experience shows it is best practice to hold off finalising teams until most registrations are received, which will likely be around Mid-March.

At CCFC the final responsibility for “forming teams” in these age groups belongs to the Clubs Age Coordinator. All players will receive a “**Confirmation of Team**” email from the CCFC Age Coordinator prior to the start of training/games.

AVOIDING Player Exclusion Situations:

Sometimes we receive requests from parents at small schools in the area to accept a team of say 10-12 players they have formed from that school. This can lead to several undesirable situations for our players experience and conflict with our Clubs CORE values; these include but are not limited to:

- There are more children at the school who are keen to play who are then “excluded” from the main school team
- There are not enough players to form a full team, and one or two “non-school” players would be required to fill the team, this can lead to those players feeling like “outsiders”.

Due to the potential for this “exclusion” or “outsider” experience we at CCFC are not supportive of forming whole teams from one small school. Any exceptions to this policy will require approval from our Club Executive Committee and will only ever be approved in exceptional circumstances where we can be certain we are not putting any child at risk of exclusion etc.

An important part of the Community Soccer Club team experience is to provide the opportunity to meet more new people to help broaden potential friendship groups other than school friends which is a great opportunity for individuals to widen their circle of friends etc.

U6/U7/W7 MWFA Approach to draw

- U6 Teams play in “zones” not divisions which are generally groups of teams from more local clubs in the MWFA e.g. for CCFC would be included other CCFC, Harbord, Dee Why, CC Strikers, Brookvale Club teams.
- U7 Teams play in Strong, Medium or Low division. Generally, we request feedback from prior years coach on how the teams' results went (when there is a mainly returning team). Generally, most teams placed medium or low division unless there is a “known” team of highly skilled little soccer players.

MIXED U8 - Teams play in a 7 v 7 format against another MWFA team which may be another CCFC team or another MWFA club team. The MWFA requires a “grade” for these teams being High, Medium or Low. During the season the teams' Manager reports their results to MWFA who then a couple of times per year regroup/grade the teams with the aim of providing a more suitable challenge to each team.

At CCFC we find that due to various factors including:

- high number of new players, non-returning players, girls moving to girls only comp
- many teams in the age group
- and the fact that we now aim for teams of 9 or 10 players per team to achieve 7 v 7 with a couple of subs

the situation may lend itself to running an assessment for the players to review their skill level and grouping them “roughly” in teams of similar skill level whilst also considering friend requests, aiming to ensure all players have at least 1 or 2 familiar faces in their new team. Our approach to team formation in U8 will be confirmed once we have a feel for all of the above factors and how they are impacting the U7 teams from prior season.

MIXED U9 - teams continue to play 7 v 7 format. In this age there will still be new players registering, players not returning. Where possible players will return to their team from prior year and spots will be filled with new registrations. The Club will run an optional U9 “High grade” assessment to form the team(s) that will be placed in the Highest MWFA division.

GIRLS W8-W9 - teams play 7 v 7 format. Returning players from W7 may play in their team however we often encounter lots of new female players at W8 therefore the relevant Age Coordinator looks at all the registrations and friend requests and works out how best to form teams ensuring everyone has a couple of requested friends where possible. This age group is currently not subject to any form of assessment or grading however this may be reviewed in the future with the growth in numbers in these age groups and therefore more likely a much wider range of skill levels.

MIXED U10/GIRLS W10 - teams move to a 9 v 9 format and this age is where the MWFA require that clubs must run grading sessions ,if they have more than one team in the age group, as by this age experience shows there is a very wide range of skills in an age group (and players get most satisfaction and enjoyment from the game when they are playing with players of similar skill level.)

Also, as there are now 9 players on the field, we aim for teams of a minimum of 10 and maximum 12 players (there may be 13 in specific circumstances which will require approval from our Grading Committee). The change in number of players on the field means we have to form new teams.

A full player grading is run for this age group where all players in the age group are required to attend the grading sessions (details are provided to registered players by our Age Coordinators and will be posted on our website). Note only players registered in play football.com.au may take part. Players who register after the grading sessions are run will be placed in a lower grade team where there are spots.

Please note exceptions to attendance may occur in circumstances of special or additional needs players who are best suited to the lower division teams. Please contact the relevant Age Coordinator or our Grading Manager to discuss it if required.

Teams of similarly skilled players are then formed from the grading session results and other relevant information, Age Coordinators will also review “play with requests” as we often have more than one team in the middle and lower divisions.

NOTE: All U8/W8 to U11/W11 teams are regraded through the season by MWFA based on game results to try and achieve more closely matched games for all the teams.

U11-U12 /W11-W12 - teams continue to play 9 v 9 format and we aim for 11 to 12 players on a team. We may have 13 players on lower graded teams or those teams who include players with factors causing regular absence.

For these age groups, we will run grading sessions to help form teams as required based on non-controllable factors such as new players to the club, non-returning players, players wishing to try out for a higher-grade team. Players in the lowest grade team will not be required to attend grading should they be happy to be play in their team from prior year (should we have enough returning players to form the team). Age Coordinators will communicate accordingly.

NOTE: U12/W12 whilst playing 9 v 9 format are a “competition” age group rather than Mini Roos which means their game results are published via tables for the age group/division and usually there is no “regrading” of teams by MWFA during the season.

YOUTH AGE GROUPS

MIXED U13/GIRLS W13 - teams move to the 11 v 11 game format and we aim for 15 to 16 players on a team where registration numbers allow.

For this age group all players are required to attend grading as with the change in format we often have, for example 3 teams merging into 2 teams due to the higher number of players on a team.

If there is only enough players for one team in the age group, we will still run a grading session to assess what division is best suited to the group of players.

MIXED U14/U16 - GIRLS W14/W16 - where there is more than one team in an age group, there will be a grading session on the following basis:

Where there are two or more teams, the lowest division team players will only need to attend grading should they wish to try out for the higher-grade team. All new players to the club must attend the grading even when they are requesting to play in the lower grade team.

There are scenarios where the “new player skill level” information can be very useful for example if the team finished top of division last season but has a number of new players who are lower skilled than the leaving players, having graded these new players will help support our request to stay in the “lower division”.

Our grading committee along with team coaches review all changes in a team for the new season before requesting a division for the teams as these teams are “stuck” with that division for the season.

MIXED U18/GIRLS W18 - This age group is a combination of U17 and U18 players and currently formatted this way due to the high drop off around 16-18 years of age for various reasons including important school study for HSC etc, players losing interest etc. The combination provides a more suitable number in teams in divisions. There may be upto 4 divisions in the mixed competition and the girl's competition varies each year between 2 and 3 divisions.

At CCFC we understand that once players get to this age, they often are only keen to play if they play with friends and to some extent our Club can take an approach to support this.

In Mixed U18 competition we run grading sessions for Division 1 and Division 2 teams as these are usually very tough and skillful competitions in MWFA. In Division 3 and 4 we do not usually grade, spots on teams often filled with friends of players. Where we are aware of a highly skilled player wishing to play in Division 3 or 4, this may be accommodated if it is generally seen to be keeping in the spirit of the game i.e. if there are a few strong players already in the team we may need to grade the team as a whole to consider the best suited division for the team as a whole.

In Girls W18 competition we run grading sessions for Division 1 team and possibly division 2 if there will be 3 divisions for the season.

Every season is unique in the U18/W18 competitions for our team formation as the number of players moving out of U18, who can stay in U18 and who move into U18 varies each year and our Grading Committee/Age Coordinators review what the best approach for that unique year is.

We always ask players in this age group to register ASAP when registration opens early January as making the decision on how many teams and what divisions we expect is very dependent on returning players and we often need to make decisions early to avoid disappointing players in the scenario where we end up with players for say 2.5 teams rather than 3 full teams.