WDNC Grading Information for Year 5 & 6 Players and Families 2026

Hello everyone,

In preparation for the PNA Winter Netball season 2026 we have arranged our Wembley Districts Netball Club grading sessions to be held across **THREE (3)** sessions:

Mondays 9, 16 and 23rd February from 4-5.30pm.

(Week 2, 3, 4 Term 1 2026)

at Lords Recreation Centre

Wembley Place Subiaco (Courts 4 & 11)

This year we are trialing the grading process at the **start** of the season (instead of in November the year before as in previous years).

By holding 3 Grading sessions, it will allow us to refresh and reconnect with some team-building skills and games after the summer break.

We have been very fortunate to source 4 current players from Division 1 Open level to be our graders this year, they all have previous experience in grading.

Cost: Grading will cost **$30 per player** (non-refundable). This covers costs of court hire and paying graders and umpires for the 3 sessions. Payment is required prior to grading:

Wembley Districts Netball Club

BSB: 036-046 Acc: 255847

Description: Childs name grading (if more than one child just put their first names)

Junior Year 5 & Junior Year 6

- Team placements in this age group will reflect grading notes, feedback from last year's coaches and keeping a well-balanced team (positions on the court)

- Grading enables players to be grouped together with similar abilities and considers a well-balanced team with regards to court positioning. It can also be useful for players to diversify netball skills and friendships by having exposure to other players

- Friendships are an important part of netball- but this will be balanced with other factors such as balance of positions, skill in competition, team work, and ability
- *All year 5 players at WDNC will be placed in a Junior Year 5 (or possible Year 5/6 team rather than an NSG Year 4/5 team.*

What to Expect:

- ALL Year 5 and 6 will need to attend the Grading sessions held during February 2026.
- Players are expected to attend all scheduled Grading sessions.

  Should extreme weather be forecast- we may need to amend the Grading timeframes slightly. We have booked indoor courts for this reason.
- Players who have completed their registration via EOI, along with the relevant payments, can attend Grading.
- Only players who have attended Grading will be placed in a team.
- If players express their interest to play with WDNC after the grading sessions via the EOI form, we will invite players to register only as suitable places becomes available.

- **Arrive at 3.50pm to sign-in attendance with a WDNC Volunteer, fill water bottles, go to the toilet prior to 4pm start.**

- Players will be directed to a court number for a warm-up and short games

- The player will be given Number (this is usually drawn on both legs using a black marker pen)

- Players will be then put into 5 teams for grading to commence, 2 teams will take each court (2 courts) and then the players and teams will be moved

around as the graders see fit. There will likely be a whole team off as we rotate around. This will continue over the course of the sessions.

- Players are encouraged to rest and take water breaks whilst they are not on court however players are reminded to stay focused and at the courtside in case they are called to swap out with a player.

What to Bring and Wear:

- Please ensure that your child has eaten something after school before each Grading session
- Please wear shorts and a t-shirt (school uniform is okay if preferred)
- Bring a water bottle to stay hydrated
- Parents are welcome to attend for grading, but it is not required.

  Parents please do not approach graders at all during the process as they will be needing to focus.

Why do we Grade as a Club:

- Grading can be helpful to allow players to gain skills and knowledge by diversifying and playing with different people.
- Many teams may play well together, yet abilities can adapt better when challenged or offered new perspectives
- PNA will grade our teams, but it is good to have a cohesive and suitable team to enable development of each player

What do the Graders do?

- We use a mix of club and independent graders to observe the players and make notes of ability and skills
- Players are asked to play in their 1 or 2 preferred positions (time allowing)
- Players may be asked to play a different position if we need to fill the court (this is noted on the grading sheet)
- Graders will mark the player for each game they play - these marks help us determine who is of similar ability

Team Placement

- Our coaches will provide some pre-grading feedback to insure against this also, but the graders decisions take precedence and are final.
- Each netball team must have a minimum of 7 players and a maximum of 10 players. The ideal number of players to have on a team is 9 players, which is what we aim for depending on final numbers.

- In Year 5 there are 1-7 divisions for teams and in Year 6 there are 1-12 divisions.
- Our graders will be grading players individually on the day to form teams which they then will make recommendations on which division the team should register in
- We will inform teams after the grading sessions have been completed- likely via text or email correspondence to parents

You can look below to see what graders are watching for:

NETBALL CORE/SKILL RATING SELECTION REFERENCE CHART

LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE	NOVICE -1	EMERGENT -2	PROFICIENT -3	EXCELLENT -4	EXCEPTIONAL -5
MOVEMENT & FOOTWORK SKILLS	Reacts slowly when change of direction is required	Able to change direction but does not have agility or balance to work in small areas	Good physical ability and recovery.	Excellent agility and change of direction and is well balanced and able to recover	Outstanding physical ability to accelerate, change direction and recover as well as great balance, coordination and agility
CATCHING SKILLS	Regularly fumbles pass	Fumbles when pass is on extension or under pressure	Occasionally fumbles balls but generally in control and maintains ball	Sometimes fumbles difficult passes but is in control	Outstanding catching under pressure, able to catch difficult balls in one and two hands and moves ball quickly into passing position
THROWING SKILLS	Technique problems and makes poor decisions	Sound technique with most passes but sometimes makes poor decisions	Demonstrates correct technique and accurate execution. Rarely makes fundamental errors	Accurate and an excellent decision maker, occasionally makes an error under pressure. Can use non dominant hand for short passing options	Outstanding peripheral vision and depth perception executing with accuracy over all distances. Varies timing and makes excellent decisions. Can use non-dominant hand
ATTACKING SKILLS	Limited attacking skills and lacks space awareness	At times lacks vision and awareness and relies on basic attacking skills	Good vision and space awareness although occasionally crowds the area, uses a variety of attacking skills	Smart reader of the play with excellent vision and space awareness, uses full variety of attacking moves to gain possession of the ball	Great vision and space awareness and reads play consistently well, uses full variety of attacking moves to either gain possession of the ball or create space for team mates
DEFENDING SKILLS	Chases opponent and beaten on preliminary moves	Takes eyes off the ball or allows opponent easy access to ball and cannot cover multiple moves	Good physical ability and recovery and can cover multiple moves	Smart reader of the play and can cover multiple moves	Reads play consistently well and positions to intercept or force turnovers
SHOOTING SKILLS	Inconsistent shooting technique from short, medium and long range, limited attacking skills and awareness of the attacking unit	Demonstrates correct shooting technique from short and medium range but is inconsistent under pressure, uses basic attacking moves to combine with other shooter with limited awareness of the attacking unit	Demonstrates correct shooting technique from short and medium range under pressure and uses a variety of attacking moves to combine with other shooter with good awareness of the attacking unit	Accurate demonstration of shooting technique from short, medium and long range under pressure, ability to use a variety of attacking moves and ability to combine with other shooter and attacking unit	Consistent and highly accurate demonstration of shooting technique from short, medium and long range under pressure, strong ability to use full variety of attacking moves and strong ability to combine with other shooter and attacking unit for success
DECISION MAKING AND STRATEGY SKILLS	Consistently makes decision making errors	Occasionally makes decision making errors	Understands the game and normally chooses correct option	Excellent decision maker with or without the ball	Outstanding decision maker who chooses correct option with or without the ball. Has a great understanding of the game
CHARACTER	Has natural ability but does not prepare at training which reflects in match work ethic. Not competitive	Works hard in games but could improve at training. Can reduce level of competitiveness when confidence is down	Prepares well and desires to improve	Plays and trains at a high level of mental and physical intensity. Always remains competitive	Outstanding work ethic, extremely coachable and desires to improve. Plays best against the best and always competitive

A few notes to consider:

- *Should players register after grading they will be assigned to a team based on availability rather than grade.*

Balance of Positions:

Please bear in mind that graders will be forming complete teams of all positions. So, in some cases a player that is graded Div 1 may play in a Div 2 team if there are sufficient positions filled in the Div 1 team for example shooters. This is important to consider when your child places their position preferences and be mindful when the teams are formed that this has been a contributing factor, or they may be asked to play a different position on the day.

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Preparation Ideas for BODY, MIND & HEART

We understand that some players may feel nervous and apprehensive in the lead up to Grading. This is absolutely normal.

The grading process allows for the players to be placed in an appropriate team to their skill level and it may allow some diversification of friendships in preparation for their playing years in high school and beyond.

Please talk with your children and emphasize that they can give it their best go and remind them that the most important part of the sport is about having fun and giving it a go.

BODY

The players may wish to practice some skills in the weeks leading up, like some ball passing practice or shooting/defending in the swimming pool. Other ideas include going for a light jog, doing some bridge and plank holds, playing on the monkey bars or trampoline.

There is also the KNEE Program , which is a sport specific strength and conditioning program designed for Netball players.

The KNEE Program for Juniors - Netball Australia

Remember to do little bits at a time to ensure a gradual build up and keep it fun- it doesn't have to be too Netball focused just yet!

Lastly, ensure good food and fluid intake and adequate sleep/rest in the days leading up to grading.

Contacts on the Grading Days

Shirley (Year 5s) 0412 138 823 Natalie (Year 6s) 0419 914 484

Shirley and Natalie have kindly volunteered to be designated contacts on the day if you have any questions or concerns. Alternatively, please contact me (Cat) via the WDNC email prior to grading. I will be present for all of the grading sessions to support players and graders.

Pre-Grading Checklist:

- ✓ Pay grading Fee $30 to WDNC bank account (child's name in description)
- ✓ Adequate rest the night before
- ✓ An afternoon snack after school, Empty bladders, Full Water bottles
- ✓ Shorts and Tshirt or sports uniform
- ✓ Suitable footwear
- ✓ Have 'the chat'

Players will only be moved from the graded team in the event of numbers in higher teams changing. Please note players can easily play up a division rather than down so higher graded teams may be smaller for this reason.

Any dispute of grading placements must be submitted in writing within 48hrs of team notifications to: Wembleydistrictncfeedback@gmail.com stating the reasons of the dispute.

Thank you all so much for your co-operation and please let us know if you have any questions.

Cat von Felten

Club President and the 2026 WDNC Committee