



## GRADING & RE-GRADING POLICY

Version	Date	Changes	Author
V1.0	24/10/2023	Creation of Policy	Adam Fairley
V1.1	01/11/2023	Agreed changes at PJRL Board Meeting on 31/10/2023	Adam Fairley
V1.2	06/12/2023	NSWRL determination concerning Combined Central West Conference Competitions	Adam Fairley
V1.3	31/01/2024	Under 6 & Under 7 Development Competitions to be graded in colours as opposed to location.  Approved at PJRL Board Meeting on 30/01/2024	Adam Fairley
V1.4	21/02/2024	Under 10s to move from Competitive Competitions to Development Competitions in line with the Laws of the Game.	Adam Fairley
V1.5	23/04/2025	The PJRL withdrew from the Central West Conference, hence all reference to same was removed.  Under 11s to move from Competitive Competitions to Development Competitions in line with the Laws of the Game.	Adam Fairley
V1.6	19/02/2026	The PJRL introduced Talent Equalisation and changed Competition Structures in the 2026 season.  Relevant policies were re-written in line with the Competition Structures by Age Group.	Adam Fairley



## GRADING & RE-GRADING POLICY

### 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Junior League formally referred to By-Laws with respect to Grading & Re-Grading, the Junior League no longer uses By-Laws and are required to formulate a Policy for the Grading and Re-Grading of Teams.
- 1.2 Grading and Re-Grading is an exceptionally important process as it is undertaken to ensure that teams of equal ability are playing in a Competition against one another. Frequent close games improve players skills and resilience, keeps everyone involved in the team motivated and provides the best competitive experience, which aims to retain players in future seasons.
- 1.3 This Policy will state the process undertaken to Grade and Re-Grade Age Divisions.
- 1.4 At a meeting to discuss the Central West Conference Competitions for the 2024 season on 12 October 2023, the NSWRL proposed that Division 1 Competitions remain combined between the PJRL and the CBDJRL, while where possible, Division 2 and lower Competitions would be conducted by the individual Junior Rugby League. The PJRL Board of Management endorsed this proposal at it's 31 October 2023 meeting, notwithstanding that if there was an individual Age Group and Division where the CBDJRL could not conduct their own Competition, those teams would be welcome to play in a PJRL Competition.
- 1.5 The NSWRL advised that the PJRL would not be able to conduct their own Competitions for Under 13s and above and all such Competitions would remain as Central West Conference Competitions (i.e. if U13/2 consists of all PJRL teams it will still be a Central West Conference Competition, if U13/3 is a combined PJRL/CBDJRL competition it will be a Central West Conference Competition).
- 1.6 At the PJRL Forum conducted on 5 November 2023 it was discussed and agreed by Clubs that the Under 6 and Under 7 Competitions be conducted in line with the Under 8 and Under 9 Competitions (Red, Yellow, Blue, Green) as opposed to North and South.
- 1.7 After the 2024 Season the PJRL Board decided to withdraw from the Central West Conference, as such all references to the Central West Conference were removed from the Policy.
- 1.8 Pursuant to the Laws of the Game, Development Competitions will progress as follows: U11 and below 2025, Under 12 and below 2026 and beyond. This Policy was amended to reflect the changes.
- 1.9 The PJRL introduced Talent Equalisation in the 2026 season. Relevant policies were re-written in line with the Competition Structures by Age Group.



## 2. GRADING & RE-GRADING POLICY

### Team Grading Sheets and Club Nomination Forms

- 2.1 Nomination of teams for each season shall close on a date determined by the NSWRL for Metropolitan and Conference Competitions and by the Board for PJRL Competitions.
- 2.2 Parramatta Junior Rugby League Operations will forward Team Grading Sheets, Club Nomination Forms and Grading Request Forms to each Club.
- 2.3 Every Team Grading Sheet must list all players that are intending to play in a Team (registered or unregistered) as at the due date for submission, inclusive of their playing experience over the prior two (2) seasons.
- 2.4 Where applicable, Clubs must advise on the Team Grading Sheet their preferred Division based on the previous season's team performance, the player losses and gains for the current season and for U6-U12 the talent equalisation individual player ratings.
- 2.5 Clubs must complete the Club Nominations Form listing the number of Teams in each age group and their preferred divisions.
- 2.6 Clubs must submit a detailed Grading Request Form if a Team is applying to:
  - a) go up a Division (i.e. won lower Division in previous season, have recruited players, want to test themselves)
  - b) stay in the same Division (i.e. won same Division in previous season, finished towards bottom of ladder and have recruited players or want to test themselves)
  - c) go down a Division (i.e. finished towards the bottom of the ladder in previous season, have lost players of the previous seasons standard)

### Grading Process

#### Metropolitan Competitions

***Girls and Women's – U11 to Open Age Women Gold Competitions, League Tag  
Open Age Men's and any other Competition that the NSWRL declares is a Metropolitan  
Competition***

- 2.7 The PJRL will represent Clubs at the NSWRL Grading Meeting which relates to Metropolitan Competitions.
- 2.8 The PJRL will rank their Districts' teams based on the previous season's team performance, and the player losses and gains for the current season and will take into consideration the Club's preferred Division and Grading Request Form.
- 2.9 The main aim of the PJRL will be to ensure that their teams are graded in Competitions where they will be competitive and are playing against teams of equal ability.



### Parramatta Junior Rugby League Competitions

#### **U13 to U21s Male and U11 to Open Age Women (excluding Competitions that the NSWRL declares a Metropolitan Competition)**

2.10 The PJRL Qualifications Sub-Committee will conduct the Grading of PJRL teams in Competitions where only PJRL teams are participating or Competitions where Teams from other Junior Leagues have been approved to play in a PJRL Competition.

2.11 Prior to the Grading Meeting the PJRL will rank all nominated teams based on the previous season's team performance, and the player losses and gains for the current season.

*For Example:*

*There are 16 nominations for the Under 14s Age Group. The PJRL will rank the nominated Teams 1 to 16.*

2.12 At the Grading Meeting the PJRL Qualifications Sub-Committee will take into consideration any Grading Request Form submissions which states the Club's preferred Division and in detail provides the reasons why. Based on the Grading Request Form submissions the PJRL Qualifications Sub-Committee may increase or decrease a Teams ranking in an Age Division.

2.13 When the Teams final rankings are agreed, the nominated teams are to be split into Divisions. Each Division will aim to ensure that teams of equal ability are playing in a Competition against one another.

2.14 The PJRL will advise all Clubs of the grading's 14 days prior to the commencement of all such Competitions.

#### **U12 (Non-Competitive) in 2026**

2.15 The PJRL Qualifications Sub-Committee will conduct the Grading of PJRL Competitions.

2.16 The aim of the Under 12s Development Competitions are to:

- a) Provide a high-quality and engaging Rugby League experience
- b) Attract and retain participants
- c) Foster ongoing personal development
- d) Transition and nurture performance
- e) Provide high levels of deliberate play and game-based learning
- f) Develop and consolidate technical rugby league skills
- g) Develop a sound understanding of attacking and defensive principles
- h) Develop a strong understanding and application of the laws of the game

2.17 Competition Structure

#### **U12: Up to Three Divisions, U11s Backend Ladder, Talent Equalisation**



- a) Players are rated on a 1–6 scale.
- b) Players ranked 1–3 are to play in the highest division, while those ranked 4–6 are to play in lower divisions.
- c) Scores and ladders are kept in the backend of MySideline from Under 11s, therefore the PJRL will use that data to form Competitions.
- d) While the U12 Competition may have up to three divisions, as a Development Competition, the same principles apply: therefore, if a Club has three or more Teams and enough 1–3 ranked Players, it is expected to field two Teams in the highest division, both talent equalised.

2.18 Prior to the Grading Meeting the Parramatta Junior Rugby League will rank all nominated teams based on the previous season’s team performance, and the player losses and gains for the current season.

*For Example:*

*There are 20 nominations for the Under 12s Age Group. The Parramatta Junior Rugby League will rank the nominated Teams 1 to 20.*

2.19 At the Grading Meeting the Qualifications Sub-Committee will take into consideration any Grading Request Form submissions which states the Club’s preferred Division and in detail provides the reasons why. Based on the Grading Request Form submissions the Qualifications Sub-Committee may increase or decrease a Teams ranking in an Age Division.

2.20 When the Teams final rankings are agreed, the nominated teams are to be split into Divisions. Each Division will aim to ensure that teams of equal ability are playing in a Competition against one another.

2.21 U12 Competitions will be known as:

Age Group	Division	Competition Name
U12	1	U12 Cayless
U12	2	U12 Tuivaiti
U12	3	U12 Mamo

2.22 The PJRL will advise all Clubs of the grading’s 14 days prior to the commencement of all U12 competitions.

**U10, U11 (Non-Competitive) in 2026**

2.23 The PJRL Qualifications Sub-Committee will conduct the Grading of PJRL Competitions.

2.24 The aim of U10 & U11 Competitions is to:

- a) provide high quality early and ongoing engagement
- b) attract and retain participation
- c) foster personal development



- d) transition and nurture performance
- e) offer high amounts of deliberate play
- f) learn the technical aspects of the game (catching and passing, running in possession, play the ball, falling and landing safely, tackling & kicking)
- g) understand the basic attacking and defensive principles
- h) gain a further understanding of the laws of the game

## 2.25 Competition Structure

### **U10–U11: Two-Tiered Divisions Based on Player Ratings**

- a) Players are rated on a 1–6 scale.
- b) Players ranked 1–3 are to play in a higher division, while those ranked 4–6 are to play in a lower division.
- c) If a Club has three Teams in an age group and enough 1–3 ranked Players to fill two Teams, the expectation is that the Club will field two Teams in the higher division, both talent equalised.

2.26 At the Grading Meeting the PJRL Qualifications Sub-Committee will take into consideration any Grading Request Form submissions which states the Club’s preferred Division and in detail provides the reasons why. Based on the Grading Request Form submissions the PJRL Qualifications Sub-Committee may increase or decrease a Teams ranking in an Age Division.

2.27 When the Teams final rankings are agreed, the nominated teams are to be split into two (2) Divisions. Each Division will aim to ensure that Teams of equal ability are playing in a Competition against one another.

2.28 U10 & U11 Competitions will be known as:

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Division</b>	<b>Competition Name</b>
U10	1	U10 Keating
U10	2	U10 Sullivan
<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Division</b>	<b>Competition Name</b>
U11	1	U11 Morgan
U11	2	U11 Oake

2.29 The PJRL will advise all Clubs of the grading’s 14 days prior to the commencement of all U10 & U11 Non-Competitive Competitions.

### ***U8 & U9 (Non-Competitive)***

2.30 The PJRL Qualifications Sub-Committee will conduct the Grading of PJRL Competitions.

2.31 The aim of U8 & U9 Competitions is to:

- a) provide a fun, safe and inclusive introduction to Rugby League
- b) attract and retain participants
- c) foster personal and social development



- d) prepare players for future stages of the player development pathway
- e) provide high levels of deliberate play
- f) introduce and develop fundamental movement and rugby league skills
- g) develop a basic understanding of simple attacking and defensive concepts
- h) introduce an understanding of the laws of the game

#### 2.32 Competition Structure

##### **U8–U9: Talent Equalised, No Divisions**

- a) Players are rated on a 1–6 scale.
- b) Players ranked 1–3 are to play in a higher division, while those ranked 4–6 are to play in a lower division.
- c) If a Club has three Teams in an age group and enough 1–3 ranked Players to fill two Teams, the expectation is that the Club will field two Teams in the higher division, both talent equalised.

2.33 The PJRL will advise all Clubs of the Teams entered for the U8 & U9 Non-Competitive Competitions 14 days prior to the commencement of the season.

##### ***U6 & U7 (Non-Competitive)***

2.34 The PJRL Qualifications Sub-Committee will conduct the Grading of PJRL Competitions.

2.35 The aim of U6 and U7 Competitions is to:

- a) provide high quality early and ongoing engagement
- b) attract and retain participation
- c) foster personal development
- d) teach awareness of game rules
- e) learn basic attacking and defensive concepts
- f) learn how to catch and pass
- g) learn how to play the ball
- h) learn how to run in possession
- i) put smiles on faces

#### 2.36 Competition Structure

##### **U6–U7: Zoned, Talent Equalised, No Divisions**

- a) Clubs agreed to zone U6 and U7 Competitions for 2026 (North and South).
- b) Players are rated on a 1–6 scale.
- c) All Teams will be talent equalised, meaning Players are grouped to ensure balanced Teams and close contests.
- d) There will be no divisions; instead, Teams will be grouped by zones, and all Teams within a zone will be of equalised talent.

2.37 The PJRL will advise all Clubs of the Teams entered for the U6 & U7 North and U6 and U7 South Non-Competitive Competitions 14 days prior to the commencement of the season.



## Re-Grading Process

### Metropolitan Competitions

#### **Girls and Women's – U11 to Open Age Women Gold Competitions, League Tag Open Age Men's and any other Competition that the NSWRL declares is a Metropolitan Competition**

- 2.38 The PJRL will represent Clubs at the NSWRL Re-Grading Meeting which relates to Metropolitan Competitions.
- 2.39 The PJRL will request teams move up or down a Division based on their teams' performance in the current season and will take into consideration any Club Re-Grading Request Forms.
- 2.40 The main aim of the PJRL will be to ensure that their teams are graded in Competitions where they will be competitive and are playing against teams of equal ability.
- 2.41 When moving between Divisions teams will enter the new Competition pursuant to the NSWRL Metro Conference Competition By-Laws clause relating to Grading / Re-Grading.

### Parramatta Junior Rugby League Competitions

#### **U13 to U21s Male and U11 to Open Age Women (excluding Competitions that the NSWRL declares a Metropolitan Competition)**

- 2.42 The PJRL Qualifications Sub-Committee will consider if teams are to move up or down a division based on their performance in the current season and will take into consideration any Club Re-Grading Request Forms.
- 2.43 When moving between Divisions teams will enter the new Competition as below:
  - a) Teams moving up a Division will enter the new Competition in 5th position with an equal number of Competition Points, Points For, Points Against and Points Differential to the team sitting 5th on the ladder at the time of the Re-Grade.
  - b) Teams moving down a Division will maintain their Competition Points, Points For, Points Against and Points Differential at the time of the Re-Grade.

#### **U12 (Non-Competitive) in 2026**

- 2.44 While U12 Competitions are Non-Competitive, the age groups are graded into up to three divisions.
- 2.45 The PJRL Qualifications Sub-Committee will meet with respect to the Re-Grading of U12 Competitive Competitions.
- 2.46 The PJRL Qualifications Sub-Committee will consider:
  - a) if Teams are to move up or down a Division based on their performance in the current season and will take into consideration any Club Re-Grading Request Forms.



- b) if Teams from the same Club are to be Talent Equalised due to:
  - i. there being a large disparity between Teams if they play in the same Division, or;
  - ii. if two of their Teams are dominating two separate Divisions.

For Example:

A Club has two Teams in the highest Competition, they play against each other in the first 6 rounds and the score is 30 - 0. At re-grade, both Teams will be merged and then talent equalised so that if they played against each other again the game will be competitive.

A Club has a Team in the highest division and a Team the next highest division, both Teams are the dominant Team in each division. At re-grade, both Teams will be merged and then talent equalised in the higher division.

***U10 & U11 (Non-Competitive)***

- 2.47 While U10 & U11 Competitions are Non-Competitive, the age groups are graded into two divisions.
- 2.48 The PJRL Qualifications Sub-Committee will meet with respect to the Re-Grading of U10 & U11 Non-Competitive Competitions.
- 2.49 The PJRL Qualifications Sub-Committee will consider:
  - a) if Teams are to move up or down a Division based on their performance in the current season and will take into consideration any Club Re-Grading Request Forms.
  - b) if Teams from the same Club are to be Talent Equalised due to:
    - i. there being a large disparity between Teams if they play in the same Division, or;
    - ii. if two of their Teams are dominating two separate Divisions.

For Example:

A Club has two Teams in the highest Competition, they play against each other in the first 6 rounds and the score is 30 - 0. At re-grade, both Teams will be merged and then talent equalised so that if they played against each other again the game will be competitive.

A Club has a Team in the highest division and a Team the next highest division, both Teams are the dominant Team in each division. At re-grade, both Teams will be merged and then talent equalised in the higher division.

- 2.50 The PJRL Qualifications Sub-Committee will consider if teams are to move up or down a Division based on their performance in the current season and will take into consideration any Club Re-Grading Request Forms.



### ***U8 & U9 (Non-Competitive)***

- 2.51 U8 & U9 Competitions are Non-Competitive, and the age groups are not graded.
- 2.52 The PJRL Qualifications Sub-Committee will consider if Teams from the same Club are to be Talent Equalised due to there being a large disparity between Teams. At re-grade, all Teams from that Club will be merged and then talent equalised so that there are talent equalised Teams.

#### For Example:

The PJRL has been advised by multiple Clubs that there is a dominant Team in the Competition. That Club has multiple Teams within the same Age Group. As a result, the PJRL Qualifications Sub-Committee will determine that the Teams are to be Talent Equalised. At re-grade, all Teams from that Club will be merged and subsequently re-distributed to form Talent Equalised Teams.

### ***U6 & U7 (Non-Competitive)***

- 2.53 U6 and U7 Competitions are Non-Competitive and they do not have divisions (they have North and South Regions), furthermore, Under 7s undertake the TackleReady program up until re-grade, as such there will be no re-grading of competitions.

#### **Definitions:**

PJRL Parramatta Junior Rugby League

NSWRL New South Wales Rugby League