



What is grading?

Grading of a football club's junior players involves assessing their skills and performance through structured evaluations to categorise them in either the appropriate teams and/or to categorise them so they are placed against relative opposition.

Why do we need to grade?

Teams

We are required to provide SSFA with a ranking of all squads so they can be placed against squads of similar ability from other clubs. When we estimate and get this wrong, it leads to re-grades which causes significant disruption including, usually, teams playing home games on 'off-weekends' away from the rest of the club.

Individuals

Players of any level will enjoy their experience better if they are with players of a similar standard. There is little benefit in placing players of vastly different skill levels into the same team. This does not allow weaker players to develop as in most cases they end up with less time on the ball. Similarly, better players do not get the opportunity of playing with players of like ability.

However, as a small club we believe that this division should only occur when there is a cohort with the assessed ability to enter an A/B team.

What will grading day look like?

Selectors will facilitate a skills session and minigames and assess ability in skills including:

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

At the end of this session their assessments will be provided to the Junior Committee and Registrar to consider for team allocations.

Who will be running it / providing assessments?

Independent coaches including some external from BMFC will be onsite to run a series. Where there is a conflict-of-interest coaches will not provide input to a particular team.

What if I'm not happy with the team allocation?

Any concerns or appeals to the process should be shared directly to the registrar via bmfc-rego@outlook.com