



Petersham Rugby Union Football Club

Men's Selection Policy

Mission

- Win the Bruce Graham Shield for the NSW Suburban Rugby Union 1st Division Club Championship.
- Compete strongly and successfully in 1st Division.
- Ensure everyone who wants a game gets one.
- Enjoy the season and club experience.

Selection Policy – Senior Men's Grades

Senior teams will be selected weekly from 1st Grade through to 5th Grade based on the following criteria (not listed in order of priority).

General Principles

Players are expected to accept selection in whichever grade they are chosen. Coaches will, where possible, advise players of promotions or demotions before teams are announced at training.

Selection Criteria

- **Skills and Fitness** – Players must demonstrate the ability and fitness required for their selected grade. Players returning from injury may be asked to return through lower grades.
- **Specialist Skills** – Some positions require specialised abilities such as goal kicking, lineout throwing or scrummaging. These skills may influence selection.
- **Combinations and Team Balance** – Players may be selected based on combinations with teammates or to support a particular game plan or style.
- **Position Flexibility** – Players may have preferred positions, but coaches will select where they believe the player best suits the team. Refusal or reluctance to play a required role may affect grade selection.

- **Reliability** - Players who fail to attend or arrive late on match day without reasonable notice may be dropped at the coach's discretion. Ongoing unreliability may affect future selections. Players must notify coaches or managers as early as possible if unavailable.
- **Commitment** - Training attendance is encouraged, though not compulsory. Players who train regularly may naturally gain an advantage as combinations, fitness and form improve through the season. Repeated non-attendance without notice may affect selection.
- **Team Cohesion** - Positive morale is vital. Selections will aim to support team harmony. Players and captains are encouraged to raise concerns with coaches or club captains.
- **Club Cohesion** - Success depends on support across all grades. Players are expected to contribute to the wider club, including staying as reserves, helping with BBQ, ground duties, water running and supporting other teams.
- **Payment of Subs** - The club relies on player subscriptions to operate effectively. Early payment is strongly encouraged. Players with unpaid subs may be ineligible for finals selection.
- **Final Principle** - Selection decisions are made in the best interests of both the individual teams and Petersham RUFC as a whole.

Additional Policy – 5th Grade

5th Grade competes in a separate competition from the club's other senior grades, often against different opponents and sometimes at a different venue. The club will make every effort to organise a 5th Grade fixture each week, however this depends on opposition availability. Players are asked to be understanding of these limitations. Poor availability, low numbers or unwillingness to travel can also make fixtures difficult to arrange.

In return for player commitment, the club will aim to:

- Provide coaching
- Organise regular matches
- Support numbers with players from other grades where needed

5th Grade Selection Priorities

- **Reliability and Commitment** - Players who regularly play and train will be given priority over irregular players. Regular contributors should not lose their place to occasional players.
- **Excess Numbers** - If more than 15 regular players are available, players may be asked to share game time on a voluntary basis. If numbers remain consistently high, the club may explore establishing a 6th Grade team.
- **Insufficient Numbers** - If fewer than 15 players are available, volunteers from 1st to 3rd Grade may be asked to assist. Early notice of shortages helps planning. If low numbers become ongoing, the future viability of 5th Grade may be reviewed.

Colts Selection Policy

The Colts team will be selected from eligible players at the discretion of the coaches.

- If more Colts are available than required, surplus players may make themselves available for senior grade selection.
- If Colts numbers are low, eligible players must prioritise Colts before participating in senior grades.

Implementation

Team selection responsibility rests with the coaches of each grade, who are expected to apply this policy fairly and consistently.

The club will not interfere in selections unless it believes the policy has been breached. Final authority on selection matters rests with the Club Committee.

Grievances

Players who believe they have been treated unfairly should raise concerns with their:

- Coach
- Team Captain
- Club Captains

The club will always aim to resolve concerns fairly, and players are encouraged to remain patient, respectful and reasonable in their expectations.

