

## **GRADING, RE-GRADING, GAME VENUES, GAME TIMES, FINALS STANDINGS AND QUALIFICATIONS EXPLAINED**

### **How are grades determined?**

There are 3 steps involved:

**First**, teams nominate their preferred grade(s) on their team entry form.

**Second**, we look at any historical information we have available to see where teams finished last season, and whether their nominated grades(s) match up with their previous ladder record and ladder position. We also look at the results of any grading games played in the first few weeks of the season to see how teams perform against each other.

We also take into consideration advice given from clubs (who may enter multiple teams) as to the strength of their teams and their recommendation for grading.

**Third**, we then look at the number of teams; their nominated grade, their strength and experience, and assess how we can best create suitable grades for each competition.

Generally, we use one of two formats for constructing draws, with these being:

- A) Combining all teams so they all play each other
- B) Splitting teams to create two or more divisions

For example, if 14 teams nominate to play in a competition, and only 3 are strong, it is not possible to have one grade of 3 teams, and one grade of 11 playing each other for a season.

Utilizing format (A); all teams would play each other and at the end of the competition the top 4 teams placed 1-4 would play Div 1 finals; the teams placed 5-8 would play Div 2 finals; and the teams placed 9-12 would play Div 3 finals, with teams placed 13 & 14 playing "play off games".

Utilizing format (B); we may create two divisions - one of 8 teams (Div 1-2) and one of 6 teams (Div 3). The teams placed 1-4 at the end of the Div 1-2 competition would play Div 1 finals; and the teams placed 5-8 would play Div 2 finals. Teams placed 1-4 at the end of the Div 3 competition would play Div 3 finals, with teams 5 & 6 would playing "play off games".

**Because of this, when a team(s) may nominate a particular grade, it does not necessarily mean that this will be the grade that they will play in.**

### **Why does re-grading take place?**

The process of grading is not foolproof. Changes to team personnel can occur after grading that affect the strength of various teams e.g. strong/experienced players leave teams, new players join teams, new teams are accepted into competition during the season etc.

Teams can sometimes end up being way out of their depth competitively. This is a very demoralizing experience and one that HKBA wishes to avoid where possible. Alternatively, a team that is too strong for a particular grade is not being challenged and may become bored.

Because there are often many team changes to personnel during competitions, re-grading can occur anytime throughout the season. Teams are able to request that a particular team be considered to be re-graded. We try to keep re-grading to a minimum, as re-drawing competitions not only affects teams in a specific competition, it can also affect teams in other competitions. Re-grading is done to try to maintain equity to all teams during the playing season.

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### **How are venues and game times allocated?**

Because multiple venues are used to fit teams into competitions, considerable time is spent constructing draws to try (**where possible**) to “even” the use of outside venues for so that one or more teams does not play a disproportionate number of games away from the Brickpit Stadium. Generally higher grade teams play more games at the Brickpit Stadium and lower grade teams play more games at outside venues.

**On weeknights Monday to Wednesday, Primary school competition games start from 5pm onwards, followed by High school games and then Senior competition games from approximately 7.30pm, going through to approximately 10.15pm at night.**

**On Thursdays High school competition games start from 5pm onwards, followed by one of our largest Senior competitions with games starting from approximately 7.30pm and going through to approximately 10.15pm at night.**

**On Fridays High school competition games start from 5pm through to approximately 8.30pm.**

### **Team requests**

Added to the task of balancing draws, there are numerous team requests taken into consideration which is why **draws and re-draws take considerable time and may not be “even” in regards to game times and venues.** Just some of the many requests we receive often include:

- Providing team byes on dates due to team unavailability
- Providing different game times for teams who share players in the same competition
- Providing more late or more early game times
- Providing two or more teams (in separate competitions) with non clashing game times as the same coach is responsible for coaching these teams

**Often there are multiple requests to be managed for teams in the same competition**

### **Finals and ladder standings**

Ladder standings are determined by Points (Pts) allocated for games played. Where teams do not play the same number of games (do not play each other an even number of times in the competition) the ladder standings will be determined by Winning Percentage (PCWon) not Points (Pts) or percentage of points scored (PC).

#### ***Ladder standings for Semi & Finals Games***

If two teams are even on either Pts or PCWon, then their head to head record will determine standings position, and if this is even, then points for and against percentage (PC) will be used to determine standings. If three or more teams are even on either Pts or PCWon, then the game results between these teams will determine the ladder placings.

#### ***Qualification for semi and final games***

A player must play 40 percent of regular season games. Those players under 40 percent must confer with the office for permission to play. Exemptions apply to injuries & certain other special reasons. Playing in semi finals and finals without permission results in a win to the non-offending party.