



WAIKATO BADMINTON ASSOCIATION GRADING POLICY

1. Background

1.1 This policy is to ensure players are playing in an appropriate grade compared to their ability, and against players of a similar ability. One-sided matches may offer no challenge and/or may be disheartening.

1.2 This policy provides an opportunity for players to demonstrate their improved playing ability by moving up the grading levels.

1.3 Tournament players may come from overseas / interstate where standards may be different. First time participants determine their own grade based on the guidelines provided below. There is no opportunity for pre-assessment of players.

1.4 With new players entering tournaments throughout the year there will always be players who are still finding their correct grade.

1.5 It is recognised that sometimes players need to compete in several tournaments before their 'correct' grade is determined.

2. Implementation

2.1 WBA reserves the right to amend the Grading Policy from time to time and as circumstances may require. The implementation of the Grading Policy and the Grading List shall be the responsibility of the WBA Chief Executive Officer. A Grading Panel will consist of the WBA Chief Executive Officer, WBA Director of Coaching and WBA Events Manager.

2.2 The Grading Policy and the Grading List shall be posted on the WBA website. It shall be the responsibility of all players who compete in graded tournaments to familiarise themselves with the Grading Policy and the Grading List.

2.3 The Grading List can be monitored by fellow players at events by providing feedback to any member of the Grading Panel.

2.4 Grading takes into consideration a player's level of technical (hitting and movement) skills, tactical proficiency, win-loss records and score ratios against other players of similar playing ability. The Grading Panel shall have the right to make both objective and subjective assessments, weighted on a case-by-case basis without creating any form of precedent relevant to the determination of any later case. The Grading Panel must have a majority consensus in order to upgrade, downgrade, or allocate a grading to a player. Any discussions on grading between the Grading Panel and Player(s) shall remain confidential.

2.5 A new player's grading may initially be completed by self-assessment and feedback from other players.

2.6 Should a player have never played in a WBA/Badminton New Zealand/Badminton World Federation sanctioned tournament, they would be eligible to play in D Grade.

2.7 Should a player have not played any WBA tournaments for 12 months or more, the grade at which the player entered in their last tournament will be used.

2.8 Players will be allocated one overall grade regardless of the event discipline they compete in. As a guide, senior grades are:

2.8.1 A+ Grade (Open level) = Representative player (International/National)

2.8.2 A Grade (Open level) = Representative player (National)

2.8.3 B+ Grade = Representative player (Regional), Top club player

2.8.4 B Grade = Good club player

2.8.5 C+ Grade = Competitive and club player

2.8.6 C Grade = Social and competitive player

2.8.7 D Grade (Entry level) = Recreational and social player

2.9 Players are eligible to play in their grade or in a higher grade, but not in a lower grade than the one they have been allocated on the Grading List. However, no player may enter across three grades in an event. For doubles, players must play in the grade of the partner with the higher grade (eg. a C Grade player and their B Grade partner must play B Grade or above).

2.10 Only results from Waikato Badminton Association (WBA) sanctioned tournaments, with 80 participating players or more will be considered for grading purposes. Events may include the WBA Summer League, WBA Interclub, Waikato ABCD Championships. At the conclusion of a WBA sanctioned event, the Grading Panel will consider the results.

2.11 Any change to a player's grade is advised in writing to the player(s).

2.11.1 Upgrading:

Players who win a Graded event are considered for an upgrade. Guiding principles include (but may not be limited to):

- a) If a player's results are outstanding, eg. if a player wins all their singles matches (and opponents score less than half of the player's total points), they may be upgraded to the next grade immediately. This may particularly apply to first time entrants.
- b) If a player wins events in their current grade on two occasions in a 24-month period, that player shall be immediately upgraded.
- c) If a player wins an event in a higher grade than their current grade (eg. if a B grade player wins an A grade event), that player is immediately upgraded.
- d) If a player finishes in second position two grades above their current grade (eg. if a C grade player achieves runner-up in an A grade event), that player is immediately upgraded to the next grade above their current grade.
- e) If a player finishes in second position on two occasions in a 24-month period in a higher grade than their current grade (eg. if a B grade player is runner-up twice in an A grade event), that player is immediately upgraded.

2.11.2 Downgrading:

Players may request a downgrade. Requests must be sent to the WBA Chief Executive Officer in writing for consideration. Requests must be sent at least 14 days prior to the closing date of any WBA event where the player wishes to compete in a lower grade (no consideration will be given to any requests once the entries have closed). Guiding principles include (but may not be limited to)

- a) If a player has a reduced playing ability due to age or a medical problem (for which a medical certificate is produced).
- b) If a player is no longer competing at a representative level.
- c) If a player consistently achieves poor results over a 24-month period.

3. Appeals

3.1 Appeals contesting grading decisions based only on incorrect process may be considered. The appeals must be sent to the WBA Chief Executive Officer writing no later than forty-eight (48) hours following a grading publication.

3.2 Appeals must be accompanied by detailed supporting evidence to assist with the review.

3.3 The WBA Chief Executive Officer will consult with the Grading Panel and any other person as may be deemed appropriate in an attempt to respond to the player within forty-eight (48) hours of lodgement of the appeal.

3.4 In the event the Chief Executive Officer is unable to answer the concerns of the player such that the player wishes to maintain their appeal, then such appeal shall be referred to the WBA Board.

3.5 The WBA Board is to appoint 3 Board Members to hear and determine appeals by the player, and make recommendations as appropriate to the rest of the Board and/or Chief Executive Officer.

3.6 In determining any such appeal the WBA Board shall properly consider all such evidence as may be presented from the player, the Selector(s), and any other relevant party.

3.7 Upon determination of the appeal the WBA Board shall communicate their recommendation to both the Chief Executive Officer and the player at the earliest opportunity.