



UMINA UNITED  
REGISTRATION  
AND  
GRADING  
A guide for parents and players



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**STAY STRONG  
STAY UNITED**



# Getting Registered

All junior players need to be registered before they can be graded or placed in teams. Registration for soccer begins in early January, with grading and team allocation normally taking place in mid-February. You can register in one of two ways:

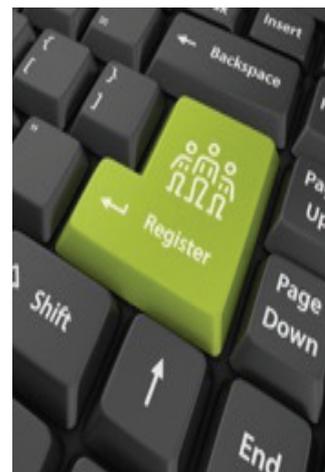
## Online

From the beginning of January, anyone can register to play soccer online at:

<http://www.myfootballclub.com.au>

This takes a few minutes, especially if you've registered to play before — you don't even need to pay there and then.

**\*\*Please note: Online registration for Juniors will close before our grading and team allocation begins.\*\***



## In Person

We hold one Junior Registration Day, in early February, where you can register your child in person. Times, dates and locations are posted well in advance on our club website and our Facebook page:

<http://www.uminaeagles.com.au>

<https://www.facebook.com/UminaUnited/>

**\*\*Please note: Once online registration has closed, you can only register in person, or by contacting our club registrar (see club contacts)\*\***

Once our junior players are registered, we set about placing them in teams for the coming year. This involves grading and team allocation.

# Who Gets Graded and Why?

Not all junior players are graded. Players from Under 5 to Under 8 are \*not\* graded because they are still playing soccer in what is known as “The Discovery Phase” — they are simply developing a love for the game and having fun. We allocate players to teams at U5-U8 socially and with the help of parents and coaches.

Where grading really begins is from Under 9s to Under 17s. By “grading” we mean that we assess players’ skills and place them in teams according to ability. It is not always obvious to parents why we grade players from as young as U9 but there are a few reasons why we start formal grading at that point.

## Reason 1: Skills Development

We want our young players to develop in line the Football Federation of Australia’s National Football Curriculum. At U9s players enter what is known as the “Skills Acquisition Phase” where there is greater focus on development and ability. Because we are committed to helping players develop these skills we use grading to assess their abilities and needs.



## Reason 2: Player Attrition

If juniors are to retain their love of the game they need to play with, and against, players of a similar ability.

Advanced players in beginner teams are not challenged and become bored. Beginner players in advanced teams feel out of their depth and don’t enjoy their game time. In both cases, these players go to clubs which do grade, or they leave the sport altogether.

## Reason 3: Peer Pressure

Children can be vocal about perceived differences in skill level in their teams. In our experience, this has a detrimental effect on how players develop, how much they enjoy the game, and how they view their own abilities. Good grading makes it easier to avoid such problems.



# What do you need to do?

How we grade and allocate players to teams differs depending on the age of the child. General instructions for different age groups are as follows:

## U5-8 Team Allocation

### Team Sheets

U5-U8 team allocation is managed primarily by parents acting as coaches and managers of their team. Team sheets can be downloaded from our website and parent/coaches should arrange amongst themselves a list of names and contact details for the players who want to play in their team. Don't worry if you are new or don't have a team yet, we can help you at our team allocation evening.

### Allocation Evening

If necessary, the club will arrange an "Allocation Evening" at a local venue where we will help new or unallocated players to find teams. We can also help coaches whose teams are short on numbers to find extra players. Coaches with full teams need not attend the allocation evening and can simply submit their team sheet to the registrar instead.

## U5-8 Grading

There is no formal grading for U5-U8, and **all** U5 and U6 teams are entered as beginner teams. However, Central Coast Football requires that we nominate our U7 and U8 teams as either *beginner*, *intermediate*, or *advanced*. We decide this with coaches and parents, but a good guide to this semi-formal grading is as follows:

### A Beginner Team has:

(i) Players who are new to the game, or (ii) players who've played before but were not competitive in their previous year's beginner or intermediate competition.

### An Intermediate Team has:

(i) Players who've played before, and (ii) were either dominant in their previous year's beginners competition, competitive in their previous year's intermediate competition, or struggled in their previous year's advanced competition.

### An Advanced Team has:

(i) Players who've played before, and (ii) were either dominant in their previous year's intermediate competition, or competitive (or better) in their previous year's advanced competition.