

## **CRITERIA FOR GRADING JUNIORS**



### **Grading New Players**

All juniors playing competitive squash (Interclub & Tournaments) must be a financial member of a squash club and be on their club's grading list. It is a good idea to get players on to the grading list quickly so they are able to participate in Interclub and Tournaments.

**Especially for Black Knight Rookie of the Year Awards**

### **J Grade**

The Junior J-Grades is a series of 5 levels of grades specifically for junior players (5-18 yrs). Most juniors starting squash for the first time will be placed in one of the five J-Grade levels. NB: a junior player will only enter the grading list at a higher level (F Grade or higher) if they are able to compete with an adult of that same grade. It is also important to note that there is a "block on F Grade" meaning once a junior has over 600 points they can not go back down to J1 grade. Because the Junior Interclub can be mixed (boys vs girls) it is important that a J3 girl is approximately at the same playing standard as a J3 boy.

### **Assessing Junior Players**

For the first couple of years clubs have found it difficult to assess their new players and accurately place them in the correct J-grade level eg. teenage boys can be strong hitters but lack the skills to be placed in the higher grades. It would be great to have the numbers of junior players to enable us to run interclub competitions strictly in almp

## Grading Junior Players

Using the information above and the following table as a guide, you should be able to grade all your new junior players. (eg: a 16 year old boy in J3 or below is not acceptable)

Grade	Points	Approx. Age (Guide only)	Squash NZ – Junior Skills Awards
J5	100 – 200	Under 11 (5-10yrs) Primary age only	Has passed 1 & 2 Star level, not yet able to pass 3 Star level.
J4	200 – 300	Under 13 (5-12yrs) Primary & Intermediate age	Has passed 1 & 2 Star level, is working hard to get 3 Star level.
J3	300 – 400	Under 15 (5-14 yrs) All College age beginners to start at J3 or higher.	Has passed 1 & 2 Star level, can do most of 3 Star and be working on parts of the Bronze Award.
J2	400 – 500	Under 17 (8-16 yrs) Juniors over the age of 16 should all start at J1.	Should have passed 1, 2 & 3 Star levels. Is able to complete most of Bronze and parts of Silver.
J1	500 - 600	Under 19 (8-18 yrs) Any age junior.	Has passed 1, 2 & 3 Star levels. Most players would have also passed Bronze and some of Silver.

Obviously a junior boy at 17-18 years old is nearing manhood and he may be physically too strong to start off in J1 Grade. That boy should have a match with an F/E2 man to determine if he should start on the higher level, or start at J1. This decision is up to the Junior Convenor at the club.

As junior interclub is played using the same rules as senior interclub it is important that all players wishing to enter the Interclub competition have a minimum skill level as follows:

- Achieve a J5 (or better) grading
- Passed 1 & 2 Star Award
- Ability to serve consistently (4 out of 6 serves in)
- Working towards 3 Star Award.

When you are ready to put the new juniors on the grading list please contact your Club Statistician and they will organise player codes for them. An 'Add Player' form is available for download in the Junior section of the website, [www.squashwellington.org.nz](http://www.squashwellington.org.nz). All juniors playing interclub and competitive tournaments must have a player code. Please note that juniors with a D Grading (or higher) may not play junior Interclub, however E graders may play and continue to play for that season if they happen to go up to D Grade during the competition.

If there are any questions with regard to grading your juniors please phone:

Junior Convenor – Christine Barnett on 04 570 1422, or email

[christinebarnett@xtra.co.nz](mailto:christinebarnett@xtra.co.nz)

Junior Interclub Co-ordinator – Mike James on 04 972 9066, or email

[mandsjames@paradise.net.nz](mailto:mandsjames@paradise.net.nz)



**Black Knight** Supporting Junior Squash at all Levels in the Wellington Districts