



Policy Document

Player Age Policy

Purpose

This policy sets guidelines under which a player may compete or train in activities conducted for players of an age higher or lower than the player's playing age.

Principles

Players should be encouraged to play in their correct age group unless special circumstances apply.

The Policy acknowledges the principle role of the parent or guardian in deciding that a player should play in a different age competition than the one determined by the player's age.

Players, through their Guardian(s), may wish to play up, and in doing enhance their football skills or provide enjoyment to the player. In special circumstances it may be appropriate that a player should be able to play down.

Players shall only be permitted to play up when their physical capacity and social sense enable them to compete adequately at the higher age level. A player shall be permitted to play down only when their physical capacity and social sense are suitable to the lower level.

The decision whether a player should play up, should be based on the advantages to the player. The decision as to whether a player is able to play down must also consider the other players in the competition or training session.

Competing in too many games or training sessions can be detrimental to the development of a player as a footballer.

Minimum Age

The minimum age of any registered player eligible to participate in any match/fixture or competition shall be five (5) years. To be sure, eligibility shall not be met until the player has reached 5 years of age.

Permission to Play Up or Down

Prior to competing or training at a different age level, the permission of a player's parent or guardian must be obtained in writing, on prescribed form PA 01.

Players requesting to play down an age group must also submit a written application to Football Queensland supported by appropriate evidence. This may involve a further assessment process.

Where there is not a competition in every age group, a player may play into the next available age group, without assessment. Parent or guardian permission on prescribed form PA 01 is required.



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Where there is a competition in every age group, players are eligible to play in the next available age group, without assessment. Parent or guardian permission on prescribed form PA 01 is required.

Players requesting to play two years or more above their age group must be approved by Football Queensland. Parent or guardian permission on prescribed form PA 01 is required together with a written application and supporting evidence.

Exceptional Circumstances

A player may not compete or train in an open competition unless they have attained the age of fifteen (15) or males and fourteen (14) for females. Where a parent seeks relief from this provision, variations must be approved by Football Queensland on receipt of supporting information. This clause is to be read in addition to, not in place of, earlier requirements. To be sure, a player falling under exceptional consideration provisions, is still required to comply with the approval process.

DEFINITIONS

Player is a Registered Participant in a football competition sanctioned by Football Queensland. A junior player is one who has not attained the age of eighteen (18) years at the time of signing on.

Player Age is determined by the year of birth of the player in accordance with the scale below:

	Year of Competition			
	2009	2010	2011	2012
Players born in 2002	U7	U8	U9	U10
Players born in 2001	U8	U9	U10	U11
Players born in 2000	U9	U10	U11	U12
Players born in 1999	U10	U11	U12	U13
Players born in 1998	U11	U12	U13	U14
Players born in 1997	U12	U13	U14	U15
Players born in 1996	U13	U14	U15	U16
Players born in 1995	U14	U15	U16	U17
Players born in 1994	U15	U16	U17	U18
Players born in 1993	U16	U17	U18	U19
Players born in 1992	U17	U18	U19	Open Age
Players born in 1991	U18	U19	Open Age	
Players born in 1990	U19	Open Age		
Players born in 1989 +	Open Age			

To Play Up is to compete or train, either regularly or casually, in a competition of a higher chronological age than the first available competition for that player.

To Play Down is to compete or train, either regularly or casually, in a competition or training session conducted for players of a lower chronological age.