



FOOTBALL CENTRAL QUEENSLAND
JUNIOR & MINIROOS PLAYER AGE POLICY 2019
Appendix B

Purpose

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

Principles

1. Players should be encouraged to play in their correct age group as determined by their date of birth. FCQ acknowledges the FFA Curriculum and the development process for progression each year where a player remains within their correct age level.
2. In situations where Clubs experience a shortage of players in a particular age level to the point where it is not possible to form a team in that age level, younger players from the year immediately below the age group may be included to field a team. Permission will not normally be given to play players **down** an age level (see next page for possible exemptions).
3. A younger player can play up one age group level higher than his/her actual age without permission provided the age group level is not more than one year higher than their actual age. For example, a player who is 15 is eligible to play in an U16 competition without needing permission from FCQ. However the player cannot play in an U17 competition without permission.
4. A younger player can play up into the next available age group without permission where he/she has been identified and participated in State or National level competitions.
5. MiniRoos has three (3) development stages: U5 to U7; U8 & U9; and U10 & U11. The age groups differ regarding the size of the playing field and the number of players on each team.
6. Movement within each development stage – a player may play one (1) age group up within a development stage for the entire season without Football CQ approval. For example, an Under 8 player can play in the U9 group without approval but cannot play in the U10 group.
7. Movement across development stages - a player may play in the next development stage level for the entire season without Football CQ approval, provided that there is only a one year difference in age. For example, an Under 9 player can play in the Under 10 group without needing approval; however an Under 9 player cannot play in the Under 11 group unless approval is provided by Football CQ.
8. This policy acknowledges the principal role of the parent / guardian in deciding whether a player should play in a different age competition than the one determined by the player's age. FCQ also encourages input from the Club Junior Coaching Director or Head of Coaching.
9. Players should only be permitted to play up an age level when their physical capacity and social sense enable them to compete adequately at the higher age level.

10. A player shall be permitted to play down an age level only when their physical capacity and social sense are suitable to the lower level.
11. Clubs should consider whether a player should play up an age level, based upon the advantages to the player. Any request for a player to play down an age level must also consider the impacts on other players in the competition or training session.

Minimum Age

Players must be turning five (5) by the end of the calendar year in which they wish to register.

Permission to Play Outside of Eligible Age Group

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 [Request to Play Outside of Eligible Age](#) (available from the FCQ website). The completed form should be forwarded to FCQ through the club committee for consideration. If a physical player assessment is necessary, FCQ shall consult with the club in making the appropriate arrangements.

Permission to Play Down

In general, FCQ discourages requests for players to play down an age level but will consider a player's physical and social sense in any request. Written application to FCQ should be made supported by appropriate evidence including medical or educational considerations. Parents / Guardians, through their clubs, must lodge [Request to Play Outside of Eligible Age](#) group forms. A medical certificate to support the request may also be required.

MiniRoos Playing into Junior competitions

1. To encourage development of our Under 12 competition, clubs will be permitted to allow up to four (4) Under 11 players of advanced ability to participate in the Under 12 competition. On application to FCQ via the [Request to Play Outside of Eligible Age](#) group form, Under 11 players may play up into Under 12 for an entire season but if so cannot also play in the Under 11 fixtures. In other words, clubs can apply for exemption for an Under 11 MiniRoos player to play in a competitive team for the entire season. If approval is given, the player can only play in the higher age competition, they cannot play in both.
2. Registered Under 11 players can be borrowed weekly to assist an Under 12 team in the same club with dealing with shortages of players and can also play in their Under 11 fixtures on the same day.

Juniors Playing into Senior competitions

1. Male - A male player may not compete or train in an open men's (senior) competition unless they have attained the age of sixteen (16).
2. Female - A female player may not compete or train in an open women's (senior) competition unless they have attained the age of fifteen (15).
3. Eligible male and female junior players can move between junior and senior competitions without restriction. For clarification, there is no number of matches per team restriction on eligible juniors being borrowed for senior teams. In other words, an eligible junior can be borrowed in any team throughout a season where a club has multiple teams in community competitions. This rule also applies to senior competitions with multiple divisions. Juniors

registered as Playing in Senior Competitions Only usually cannot play in junior competitions. Application for exemptions can be made in extreme circumstances.

4. For purposes of the player age policy all players are classified as “juniors” until they pass the age of eighteen years. It is also noted a current Under 18 competition does not exist so all players eligible for this age group (i.e. 18 or turning 18 in the calendar year) may compete in seniors without completing the Request to Play Outside of Eligible Age form.

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Document History	
Author	Jim Douglas
Date developed	2 March 2018
Revised	10 January 2019 (JD)