



PS4
NATIONAL
PREMIER LEAGUES



NPL Age Policy

“Players must play in their designated age group as determined by date of birth unless exceptional circumstances apply. Exceptional circumstances are defined as identified players who participate at State or National level competitions. “

Players considered to be in exceptional circumstances must be assessed by the NPL Club Technical Director and a submission made to the State Technical Director for approval.

The assessment needs to take into consideration the player’s physical, psychological, emotional maturity and technical ability.

To ensure that the principles are being maintained **ALL** players that have been given ‘exceptional circumstances’ status may be re-assessed during the season.

Re-assessment may result in withdrawal of the exceptional circumstance status, at which time the player will be required to play in their actual age group.

This movement will be permitted without impact on the players currently registered to that age group (i.e. another player would not need to be de-registered to make way for them).

Clubs cannot borrow up – 16 Players can be registered in a squad. Clubs must borrow sideways from their Catchment Clubs (Shadow Players) - 7 shadow players are to be named; of which one must be a Goal Keeper. Shadow players cannot take the place of a registered full time squad member; shadow players can only be used when registered players are not available to play.

Managing RAE varies from player to player - here are two suggestions to manage this group of players:

1. They are selected in their own age group, and their training and playing loads are monitored closely. A Management Plan is recommended to meet duty of care to ensure players safety and wellbeing when playing in competition.
2. Shadow Players may train with the NPL squad during the week, where the players training load can be monitored. If Shadow Players are not required to play for the NPL team, then they are to play their competition games for the catchment club in which they are registered to.

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Impact on other team

Moving players into younger age groups will have the impact on the team below of not having players selected who have the ability and need to continue their development.

Impact on individual players

From a well-being and personal development perspective, there are serious implications for the player's self esteem, peer group pressure, embarrassment of playing in a lower age group, and social exclusion from the player's regular peer group.

Female Players

Due to the combined age groups in the female program, the Relative Age Effect needs to be carefully monitored for those players who may be adversely affected (developmentally) by their date of birth in the year than other players with whom they are "competing" for football opportunities.

Those players born in the last three months of the year will, under strict guidelines, be eligible to apply to represent their teams in the age group below if they are assessed as technically strong, but lacking psychological, emotional or physically maturity due to being born in the last three months of the calendar year.

Club Technical Directors are to make the appropriate recommendations to the State Technical Director for approval.

All players given RAE status may be re-assessed during the season to ensure that the RAE principles are being maintained.

Re- Assessment may result in withdrawal of RAE status, at which time the player will be required to play in their actual age group.

This movement will be permitted without impact on the players currently registered to that age group (i.e. another player would not need to be de-registered to make way for them).

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