



Player Age Policy – 2018 MiniRoos and Junior

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 as determined by their date of birth. Sunshine Coast Football acknowledges the FFA Curriculum and the development process for progression each year where a player remains within their correct age level.

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, SCF strongly encourages Clubs to play players **up** from the age level immediately below. Permission will **not** normally be given to play players **down** an age level.

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. SCF also encourages input from the Club Junior Coaching Director.

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.

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.

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 out of 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 PA 01 – Application for Permission to participate at a different age level.

A player playing one year out of their age group is required to lodge the PA01 form – Application for Permission to participate at a different age level.

All players playing two or more years out of their age group must complete both the SCF PA01 and the PA02 request to play out of age group forms.

These forms are to be forwarded to the SCF Office by the player's club.

Permission to Play Down

In general, SCF discourages requests for players to play down an age level. Players requesting to play down an age group must submit a written application to Sunshine Coast Football supported by appropriate evidence including evidence of consideration of the impacts of the player playing down on other players in the competition. Parents / Guardians must lodge PA01 and PA02 request to play out of age group forms. **A medical certificate to support the request may also be required.**

These forms are to be forwarded to the SCF Office by the player's club.

MiniRoos playing into Junior competitions

To encourage development of our Under 12(1) competition, clubs will be permitted to allow up to three Under 11 players of advanced ability to participate in the Under 12(1) competition. On completion and lodgement of a PA01 form Under 11 players may play up into Under 12(2) and Under 12(3) competitions.

Juniors Playing into Senior competitions

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). A PA 01 form must be completed and forwarded to the SCF Zone Office.

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). A PA 01 form must be completed and forwarded to the SCF Zone Office.

For purposes of the player age policy all players are classified as "juniors" until they attain 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 into seniors without completing the PA 01 form.