



Playing Up an Age Group Policy

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GUFC Policy

GUFC players are expected to play in a team based on their birth age group. "Playing up" is generally discouraged as in most cases it is in the best interests of the club and the player for them to play at their appropriate age group.

A player will be allowed to trial to "play up" if they are rated as superior by their current Coach to trial in an older age group and approved by the club's Technical Committee. If a player is transferring from another club, then they are to trial in their designated age group in the first instance and promoted to trial in an older age group where deemed applicable.

Exceptions to this policy may be granted during the season when it is in the best interest of the Club. For example, if the ability to form a team depends on relocating some players from one age group to another.

Parents must seek permission for their player to "play up" an age group from the Technical Committee prior to trailing in an older age group.

Coaches may not permit under-age players to register or play with their team temporarily or permanently, without prior approval.

If the Club grants a player permission to play up a year for a given season, this will only apply to the current season. Approval will need to be sought again if the player wants to play up the next season.

Age Group Rules

Age groups for football in Australia are based on the calendar year ie 1 January to 31 December.

Example: If a player turns 10 in the calendar year, then their default age group is U10.

For U9 – U12s, if a player's birthday is before 30 April, then they can chose to play up without seeking approval from the club.

Example: If a player turn 10 on the 27th February in the calendar year, then they have the choice to play either U10 or U11.

For the 2019 winter season, the qualifying birth years for grading are:

- U9 born in 2010
- U10 born in 2009
- U11 born in 2008
- U12 born in 2007
- U13 born in 2006

Submit a request to “Play Up”

If you would like your child to play up, then prior to trials, submit a written request to the Technical Committee prior to trials. Include all relevant factors that you would like to be considered.

Requests must be submitted [here](#).

Technical Committee

It is the role of the GUFC's Technical Committee to make determinations regarding all requests playing-up requests. This committee is best qualified to make these decisions as it possesses a high degree of football expertise being comprised of International, Canberra and State league players as well as highly experienced and qualified coaches from within the region. If any committee member has a conflict of interest in the outcome of a player's requests to 'play-up', he or she should recuse themselves from participating in that particular decision. The Technical Committee reserves the right to alter or add to the composition of the Committee on a permanent or case-by-case basis for any reason.

Guidelines

After consulting with the player's previous Coach, they will assess a request to 'play up' and give strong consideration if a:

- player is “exceptional” and the best thing for their development is to play in a higher age group so as to:
 - (i) expose the player to levels of competition commensurate with their skills, and
 - (ii) provide the player with a challenging environment necessary to inspire them to higher levels of play and thus maintain their interest and passion for the game.
- a player's correct age group is unable to provide them with the training, coaching and/or competition that he or she needs.
- a player successfully played up last year.