



## GUFC Playing Outside of Age Policy

GUFC players are expected to play in a team based on their birth age group. 'playing outside of age' (up or down) 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.

A player will be allowed to trial to '*play down*' if they meet the guidelines set out by Capital Football, whereby they are born within the last three months of the year, fall below the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile for weight and height for their age<sup>1</sup> and it is in both the best interest of the club and child alike.

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/younger 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 outside* an age group from the Technical Committee prior to trialing in a different age group.

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

If the Club grants a player permission to play up or down for a given season, this will only apply to the current season. Approval will need to be sought again if the player wants to continue to play outside of age in the next season.

The following reasons are provided for this policy decision:

1. The FA provides age level rules to ensure that all aspects of a child's development and enjoyment of football are taken into consideration. This includes ability, physical capability and emotional development.
2. GUFC philosophy is that children should develop in their mandated age levels and enjoy the progress they make through our football program.
3. By enabling a player to play in a different age level team, a position in this age level is filled which therefore prevents a player of the right age from participating in this team.

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<sup>1</sup> As of 2020. Please refer to the most recent publication of relevant competition guidelines for the season on the Capital Football website.



## Age Group Rules

Age groups for football in Australia are based on the calendar year i.e., 1st of January through to the 31st of December.

For the 2021 winter season, the qualifying birth years for grading are:

- U9 born in 2012
- U10 born in 2011
- U11 born in 2010
- U12 born in 2009
- U13 born in 2008
- U14 born in 2007
- U15 born in 2006
- U16 born in 2005
- U17 & U18 born in either 2004 or 2003

## Submit a request to 'Play Outside of Age'

If you would like your child to '*play outside of age*', then prior to trials and or season (depending upon if the player is grading or not), submit a written request to Coach Coordinators. 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 outside of age*' 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 outside of age*', 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.

The GUFC Technical Committee is made by the following roles:

1. Technical Director Community/Coach Coordinators
2. Technical Director Pathways
3. Head of Performance Male
4. Head of Performance Female



### **Playing Up Guidelines**

After consulting with the player's previous coach, the GUFC Technical Committee will assess a request to '*play up*', giving 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:
  - expose the player to levels of competition commensurate with their skills, and
  - 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,
- the player will be playing with their school year cohort,
- when requested submit a medical letter supporting their argument for playing up two years.

### **Playing Down Guidelines**

After meeting necessary Capital Football guidelines for playing down and after consulting with the player's previous coach, the GUFC Technical Committee will assess a request to '*play down*', giving strong consideration if:

- it represents a risk to the player's wellbeing should they play in their appropriate age group,
- 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 down last year.