

# Playing outside of age policy

This policy determines the approach taken by Broadbeach Cats JAFC regarding players playing above their age group.

## AFLQ Regulations

For season 2022, the AFLQ regulations regarding playing above a player's registered age group can be found in the AFLQ State Youth Rules and Regulations (sections 5.10 and 5.11).

<https://www.aflq.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/2022-AFLQ-State-Youth-Rules-Regulations-FINAL.pdf>

## Playing above age policy

Broadbeach Cats JAFC will allow players to play above their age group based in the following circumstances:

- To further development of exceptionally talented junior footballers (where the player would play the entire year above their age group)
- Player numbers are short for a given week

## Footy4Fun Football - U8 through to U11

### Playing up an age group week by week

Coaches will be permitted to select players from the age group below to fill in for the week if they see fit. This should only happen if the team is short of players.

If the team has equal to or more than the required number, coaches are able to select one or more substitutes however if either of those substitutes have, or will have by the end of the weekend, played a game other than this one - every effort should be made to give time to the players who are usually in that age group.

### For the entire season

It is the higher age group's coaches discretion as to whether to allow a player to play above their age group. This decision should be made in conjunction with all coaches in both age groups.

Factors such as whether the player is capable of playing at the higher age group (different rules, against bigger competitors, etc), and numbers of true-age players in the higher age group (increased bench time, etc) should be considered by the coaches .

If the player is accepted into the age group above, then the player becomes a full-time member of that age group.

Decisions to play above their age group are made one year at a time. At no point should a player be guaranteed of playing above their age group year after year.

## **Youth Football - U12 to U17**

### **Playing up an age group for the entire year**

A below-age player will only be allowed to participate in the higher age group for the entire season if they are, in the mind of the coach, capable of being selected at the highest division regularly through the season in that age group.

If a player wishes to play above their age, but is only an outside chance of playing in the highest division, they will not be allowed to play above their age, and will be asked to participate in their true age group.

The procedure to be followed is the following:

- 1) The coach of the age group identifies or is made aware of a player in the below age group who is talented and can play at the top level in that age group. This should be done at the start of the season, at the first few training sessions of the year.
- 2) The coach is to then submit a request to the committee to review the possibility of this player playing above their age group for the entire season. This review is to include the following points:
  - a) Player's details
  - b) Characteristics of that player and why they fit in a team above their age group
  - c) Which division in the age group above (if any) they expect to play in
  - d) Previous history which suggests they will perform
- 3) The committee will then review and come to a decision to either allow or deny the request.
- 4) The coach will then discuss with the parent about playing in the higher age group throughout the year.

- 5) The decision to play above their age group in a given season does not warrant automatic movement in the next age level. Each decision is made per individual, reviewed on a yearly basis.
- 6) If throughout the year, the player is not performing to standard and should be dropped back, the coach will advise the parent and the committee of this decision and they will slot back into the age group below, and will fall into the week-by-week decisions.

### **Playing up an age group on an as-required basis**

The procedure to be followed is the following:

- 1) This procedure is valid when the team in the lowest division is short for a week (or a period of weeks). If there are no divisions, or all teams are in the same division, then this process should be followed if there is no other way of sharing players within the same age group.
- 2) In this case, the coach(es) of the age group below will be contacted about players who can fill in for this week. The coaches of the lower age group will contact parents, and then advise which players are available to play in that particular week.
- 3) A pool of players should be available to be used for this scenario, and should be rotated to allow fair exposure to the age group above.
- 4) Players filling in week to week from the lower age group (not playing solely in the higher age group) should not be playing if it means a true-age player playing in that registered age group misses out on that given week. Players from the lower division players will only be eligible to play for the lowest division, allowing true-age players to fill higher division positions.

## **Playing below age policy**

The only time a player can play below their age group is through AFLQ approval.

There is no capability in our club or the AFLQ rules and regulations for a player to play under their registered age group for a week at a time.

The procedure to obtain permission to play below their age group is:

- 1) The parent will need to direct their request to play under their registered age group to the committee.
- 2) The committee will need to review the merits of this request, and ensure it fits in with the guidelines provided by AFLQ (see 4.6 above)

- 3) Should this request fit the required guidelines for playing underneath an age group, then a representative from the committee will work with the parent to complete the necessary paperwork and submit to AFLQ for approval.