



Ainslie Junior Football Club

Out of Age Policy

Playing Up an Age Group.

The Ainslie Junior Football Club (AJFC) respects its duty of care to its members. For reasons of equity, safety, enjoyment and personal development of each and every player, it is the policy of the Club that players should seek registration and play in the team that is appropriate to their age. Additionally, the AJFC has received advice from Insurers that supports players playing in an age appropriate age group.

Players must apply to the AJFC Committee to play out of their age group. Each request to play out of age will be considered individually by the AJFC Committee. The AJFC Committee has set criteria to which applications will be assessed. The AJFC Committee may permit a player to play up one age group if he/she is deemed to meet certain conditions.

In making its decision, the Committee will consider for each player:

- their skill development
- their physical development and whether they have the size and height to compete in an older age group.
- the number of players in both the teams involved (team eligible for and team seeking to play for)
- their age ie which part of the year he/she has been born
- whether or not the person has previously played at the higher level.

Approval will not be given in circumstances where the viability of a team may be compromised. Any decision to permit a person to play out of age is for that year only and needs to be reassessed each year.

The AJFC understands that for some talented players there is a desire to play up an age group so that they can continue to develop their football skills and knowledge of the game. Where a player has not been given permission to play up full time based on team numbers, permission may be given to play *some* games in the older age group. This will give the player experience at the older age and benefit his/her development. The coaches of both teams must agree with the proposal and no more than 6 games can be played up during a season. When playing up it is desirable that the player does not play a second game with his normal team in the one weekend.

The Committee reserves the right to re-evaluate the approval at any time throughout the season if the Coach reports that the player is having difficulty at the older age group, or conversely, the player is dominating in the younger age group. These decisions will be in full consultation with the parents/guardians and player concerned.

Applications to play up an age group must be made to the AJFC on the approved form. If permission is given, the parents must sign a Junior League form to acknowledge their consent. No game can be played out of age until the form is lodged with the Junior League.