

Playing Up Policy



Purpose

This policy provides a consistent framework for assessing requests for players to compete above their eligible age group. The primary consideration in all decisions is the safety and wellbeing of the player while supporting appropriate development opportunities.

Guiding Principles

Caloundra Basketball supports players participating at a level that best meets their development needs. Playing up is a privilege, not an entitlement, and each request will be assessed on its own merits.

The Association's first priority is player welfare, followed by fair competition and positive participant experiences.

Eligibility

Players are eligible to register in their correct age group based on Basketball Queensland age eligibility rules.

- Top Age players may register into the age division above without committee approval.
- Bottom Age players must email members@caloundrabasketball.com.au for approval to be granted prior to registration.

Requests to play in the next age group, or further, may be considered where appropriate.

Assessment Criteria

When considering a request, the Association may take into account:

- The player's physical size, strength and maturity.
- Basketball skill level and experience.
- Emotional maturity and confidence.
- Previous experience competing against older players.
- Ability to safely compete at the higher level.
- Team numbers and competition structure.
- Recommendations from the player's current coach, receiving coach and/or Pathways Coordinator.

Approval Requirements

Before approval is granted, the following must be obtained:

- Player agreement.
- Parent or guardian consent (for players under 18).
- Approval from the Competition Committee or its delegated representative.

Approval may be reviewed or withdrawn at any time if safety or competition integrity becomes a concern.

Playing in Open Competitions

Requests from players under 18 to participate in Open competitions will be assessed individually due to the increased physicality of adult competition.

Additional consideration will be given to:

- The grade of competition.
- The player's experience and physical readiness.
- The potential risks associated with competing against adult players.

The Association reserves the right to decline any request where participation presents an unreasonable safety risk.

Risks

All parties acknowledge that competing in an older age group may involve:

- Increased speed and intensity of play.
- Greater physical strength and size differences.
- Increased risk of injury.
- Different levels of emotional and social maturity.
- Greater competitive expectations.

General Conditions

Approval to play up:

- Does not guarantee selection in a particular team.
- Does not guarantee court time.
- Applies only to the approved season unless otherwise determined.
- May be revoked if circumstances change.

Authority

The Caloundra Committee (or delegated Competition Manager and/or Pathways Coordinator) has final discretion in all decisions relating to requests to play above a player's eligible age group.

Where there is uncertainty, the Association will adopt the option that best protects the safety and wellbeing of the player.