

Age Group Registration Policy for Ormeau Bulldogs AFC Club

1. Introduction: Our junior AFL club is committed to providing a safe, fair, and enjoyable environment for all participants. As part of this commitment, this policy outlines the process and guidelines for players wishing to register in age groups older than their true age.

2. Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to ensure transparency, fairness, and safety in player registration within our club. It aims to maintain the integrity of age-group competitions while accommodating exceptional circumstances where appropriate.

3. Policy Statement:

a. **Age Group Eligibility:** Players are eligible to register in their appropriate age group based on their date of birth, as per league guidelines.

b. **Exceptional Circumstances:** In exceptional cases where a player wishes to register in an age group older than their true age, requests may be granted for players to play up. The following process must be followed:

i. **Submission of Request:** The player or their guardian must submit a written request to the club committee detailing the reasons for the request.

ii. **Submission Timeline:** Requests will only be accepted once pre-season training begins each year. Decisions on eligibility will be made within 3 weeks of full club training commencement.

iii. **Documentation:** The request must be supported by appropriate documentation, such as previous coach statement and contact details, medical records, school records, or other relevant evidence justifying the need for the player to compete in an older age group.

iv. **Evaluation:** The club committee will evaluate each request on a case-by-case basis, considering factors such as the player's physical and emotional maturity, skill level, and safety implications.

iv. **Decision:** The club committee will communicate their decision to the player or their guardian in writing, outlining the reasons for approval or denial of the request.

c. **Decision Process:** Decisions are made based on the following eligibility requirements.

i. A player permitted to play up must not displace a player registered in their true age group.

ii. The player must have demonstrated physical capacity to play in the higher age group.

iii. The player must have demonstrated social-emotional capacity to play in the higher age group.

- d. **Appeals Process:** In the event of a denial, the player or their guardian may appeal the decision by submitting additional relevant information or by requesting a review of the decision by the club committee.

4. Responsibilities:

- a. **Club Committee:** The club committee is responsible for reviewing and approving/denying requests for players to register in age groups older than their true age.
- b. **Coaches and Team Managers:** Coaches and team managers are responsible for ensuring that players are registered in the appropriate age group as per the club's policies and league guidelines.

5. Review and Revision: This policy will be reviewed periodically by the club committee to ensure its effectiveness and relevance. Any revisions to the policy will be communicated to all relevant stakeholders.

6. Contact Information: For further information or clarification regarding this policy, please contact president@ormeauafl.com.au.