



## Player Age Policy – 2020 MiniRoos and Junior

### **Purpose**

This policy sets guidelines under which a player may compete or train in activities conducted for players of ages higher or lower than the player's playing age.

### **Principles**

Players should be encouraged to play in their correct age group as determined by their date of birth. Sunshine Coast Football acknowledges the FFA Curriculum and the development process for progression each year where a player remains within their correct age level.

In situations where Clubs experience a shortage of players in a particular age level to the point where it is not possible to form a team in that age level, SCF strongly encourages Clubs to play players **up** from the age level immediately below. Permission will not normally be given to play players **down** an age level.

This policy acknowledges the principal role of the parent / guardian in deciding whether a player should play in a different age competition than the one determined by the player's age within the parameters of the Player Age Policy. SCF also encourages input from the Club Junior Coaching Director.

Players should only be permitted to play **up** an age level when their physical capacity and social sense enable them to compete adequately at the higher age level.

A player shall be permitted to play **down** an age level **only when** their physical capacity and social sense are suitable to the lower level.

Clubs should consider whether a player should play up an age level, based upon the advantages to the player. Any request for a player to play down an age level must also consider the impacts on other players in the competition or training session.

### **Minimum Age**

Players must be turning five (5) by the end of the calendar year in which they wish to register.

### **Permission to Play out of age group**

Prior to competing or training at a different age level, the permission of a player's parent or guardian must be obtained in writing.

A player playing one year out of their age group is required to lodge the PA01 form – Application for Permission to participate at a different age level.

All players playing two years out of their age group must complete both the SCF PA01 and the PA02 request to play out of age group forms. Players may only play two years above their current age group - MiniRoos and Juniors. Playing three or more years above their age group will not be considered. (Please refer Juniors playing into Seniors and MiniRoos playing into Junior competitions). Official approval must be received from the SCF Office for these players. Fines and loss of points will apply if players play without approval.

### **Permission to Play Down**

In general, SCF discourages requests for players to play down an age level. Players requesting to play down an age group must submit a written application to Sunshine Coast Football supported by appropriate evidence including evidence of consideration of the impacts of the player playing down on other players in the competition. Parents / Guardians must lodge PA01 and PA02 request to play out of age group forms. **A medical certificate to support the request may also be required.** Official approval must be received from the SCF Office for these players. Fines and loss of points will apply if players play without approval.

Once a player has been approved to play down they can no longer play up into a higher division for that season.

Please note no more than three (3) players will be approved to play down into one team.

### **MiniRoos playing into Junior competitions**

Under 10 players may be considered to play into Under 12 competitions (boys and girls) but no higher. PA01 and PA02 forms to be provided.

### **Juniors Playing into Senior competitions**

**Male** - A male player may not compete or train in an open men's (senior) competition unless they have attained the age of sixteen (16). A PA 01 form must be completed and forwarded to the SCF Zone Office.

**Female** - A female player may not compete or train in an open women's (senior) competition unless they have attained the age of fifteen (15). A PA 01 form must be completed and forwarded to the SCF Zone Office.