



Player Age Policy – 2021 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 if playing up 2 years out of their age group or playing down an age group.

A player playing up one year out of their age group is not required to lodge any forms.

Permission to Play up 2 years

All players playing up two years out of their age group must complete the SCF PA02 request to play out of age group form. 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 a PA02 request to play out of age group form. **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 except under exceptional circumstances.

MiniRoos playing into Junior competitions

Under 10 players may be considered to play into Under 12 competitions (boys and girls) but no higher. SCF PA02 form to be provided. Official approval must be received from the SCF Office for these players. Fines and loss of points will apply if players play without approval.

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).

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).