



**FOOTBALL FEDERATION  
TASMANIA**

**PLAYER AGE POLICY**

**and**

**PLAYER ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

**2008**

# PLAYER AGE POLICY

Football Federation Tasmania requires that all matches/fixture competitions are to be regulated to players' age groups. To provide uniformity throughout the State and to ensure that the league operations address sound Risk Management practices this shall be achieved by compliance with the following rules.

## 1. **MINIMUM AGE**

The minimum age of any registered player eligible to participate in any match/fixture or associated activity shall be five (5) years by date of birth.

## 2. **AGE GROUPS**

Players shall be registered in the correct single designated age group e.g. under 10 or 11 etc. Eligibility for each age group shall be determined by the player's age on 1<sup>st</sup> January of the year for which he /she is registering. The cut-off date shall be midnight on the 31<sup>st</sup> December of that year. This is in accordance with Federation International Football Association (FIFA) regulations.

**An example** is an Under 10 program shall primarily contain players who are 9 years of age at the cut-off date and who will have their 10<sup>th</sup> birthday during the fixture year.

## 3. **LOWEST AGE GROUP**

The lowest age group recognized by Football Federation Tasmania is Under 6, which shall include all players who have attained the ages of 5 years, or 6 years by date of birth during the playing season/year.

## 4. **MAXIMUM AGE GROUP SPANS**

A player may play, without requiring approval from Football Federation Tasmania, a maximum two (2) years above his/her correct age group.

**Example:** A player who is registered in the correct age group of Under 12 as per Clause 3 shall not be eligible to participate in an Under 15 match/fixture or associated activity without being subjected to the assessment process. The player in question shall be eligible to participate in, up to and including, an Under 14 match/fixture or associated activity when he/she is correctly registered by age by birth.

The criteria in determining the **eligibility** of younger age players to compete in an older age group match/fixture shall be the **player's year of birth – not his/her playing team.**

\* Refer to Special Circumstance's Section

## 5. **SUBSTITUTE PLAYERS.**

Players who are registered and playing in an age match/fixture competition may be used as substitute and/or "fill-in" players in an older age match/fixture competition provided compliance with the two (2) years up by year of birth rule is maintained.

Refer to example above.

## 6. **FOOTBALL FEDERATION TASMANIA AUTHORISATION.**

Players wishing to compete in a match/fixture competition or associated activity greater than two (2) year span are required to apply to Football Federation Tasmania and undertake Football Federation Tasmania's approved assessment process. Upon consideration of the assessment report and any other relevant information, Football Federation Tasmania may grant permission for the player to participate at the higher age level.



## 7. ASSESSMENTS.

The assessment criteria of a player's capacity to compete safely at an extended higher age level as authorised by Football Federation Tasmania shall be set by Football Federation Tasmania in consultation with the State Coaching and Development Manager. Assessors shall make recommendations to a Football Federation Tasmania.

The assessor appointed by Football Federation Tasmania shall conduct the assessment of a player to participate in matches/fixtures or associated activities at an age level greater than two (2) years above his/her age by date of birth. This shall be the State Coaching and Development Manager. In circumstances where the State Coaching and Development Manager is un-available to carry out assessments, Football Federation Tasmania shall nominate an Assessor.

Any appointed Assessor shall minimally hold Senior Licence accreditation and shall be independent of the Club to which the player in question is registered. Where no Senior Licence accredited person is available, Football Federation Tasmania shall appoint a suitable person.

The assessment shall include player ability, satisfactory monitoring of development and acceptable risk management in relation to the potential of sustaining undue serious injury.

All reports of assessments and relevant recommendations shall be in writing and duly signed by the Assessor and submitted to Football Federation Tasmania. Upon receipt of an assessment report for determination, the Football Federation Tasmania decisions related to the assessment report shall be kept on file at Football Federation Tasmania's office.

Football Federation Tasmania retains the right to refuse permission for a player to participate in matches/fixtures or associated activities in an age group greater than two (2) years by year of birth.

## 8. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES Below an Age Group

Under special circumstances, evaluated and assured by Football Federation Tasmania to be consistent with Duty of Care and Risk Management requirements, permission for a small number of older age players to participate at an age level one (1) year below their ages by date of birth may be granted. Such players shall be dispersed among existing teams with no more than two (2) such players in any one (1) team. (An older age team shall not be permitted to participate in a younger age competition).

This eligibility shall be restricted to disadvantaged players where alternative avenues for participation are not available. Individuals in each category above are required to participate in an assessment process.

### Senior Female Competitions

The following rules apply for the purpose of Junior Players participating in Senior Female Competitions.

#### **Players not yet attained the age of 14**

Players younger than the chronological age of 14 i.e. (they have not had their 14th birthday), should be discouraged from seeking an assessment.

If players and their parents insist that players below the age of 14 are assessed, they will then be assessed in accordance with the guidelines.

#### **Players attaining the age of 14**

Players having attained the chronological age of 14 (they have had their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday) may play senior football provided that they have been assessed and approved in line with the Player Age Policy.

#### **Players attaining the age of 15**

Players having attained the chronological age of 15 (they have had their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday) can play senior football without assessment.



## **Senior Male Competitions**

The following rules apply for the purpose of Junior Players participating in Senior Male Competitions.

### **Players not yet attained the age of 15**

Players not having attained the chronological age of 15 (they have not had their 15th birthday) are to be assessed as per current procedure prior to playing in a senior competition. They will then be assessed in accordance with the guidelines.

### **Players attaining the age of 15**

Players having attained the chronological age of 15 (they have had their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday) can play senior football without assessment.

*If a player that has received approval to play at youth (under 19) level, wishes to play at a later stage of the season in a competition above that which he has been assessed for, must undertake a further assessment prior to participating.*

*In the event that a player has been assessed to play senior football in a particular region, should the player transfer to another region, he will require re-assessment in the new region.*

*ie A players assessment is non-transferable*

# **PLAYER APPLICATION**

# **FORM A**

**PLAYER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION NO.** \_\_\_\_\_

**D.O.B.:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CLUB:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ELIGIBLE COMPETITION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**REQUESTED COMPETITION:** \_\_\_\_\_

On behalf of my child, I wish to make application for him / her to participate at the nominated level of competition. In making this application, I acknowledge my child will be assessed against guidelines to compete at this level of competition. I acknowledge that any decision made by Football Federation Tasmania in respect of this application is final and binding.

I also agree to indemnify and keep indemnified Football Federation Tasmania of any legal proceedings in the event of injury in playing in the nominated level of competition without consent from Football Federation Tasmania and that Football Federation Tasmania would be within its right to cancel the player's registration and insurance cover.

## **Parent / Guardian**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Club Declaration**

On behalf of the abovementioned club, I support this application for the assessment for the following reason:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Position in Club: \_\_\_\_\_

**This Form is to be completed and made available to the Assessor prior to an assessment being conducted.**



# **ASSESSOR'S RECOMMENDATION      FORM B**

**PLAYER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**D.O.B.:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CLUB:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CURRENT AGE DIVISION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**REQUESTED COMPETITION:** \_\_\_\_\_

I have been requested to pass opinion on the above player's suitability to participate in the \_\_\_\_\_ Competition.

After considering the application material, the player against the Assessment Guidelines, including witnessing the player **performing in activities at their current level**, it is my considered opinion that the player:

is not competent to perform at the level that has been requested.

is not competent to perform at the level that has been requested, however;  
is competent to perform at a maximum of \_\_\_\_\_ level of competition.

is competent to perform at the level that has been requested.

My reasoning is that:

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**Assessor:**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**This Form is to be completed and returned to Football Federation Tasmania State Coaching and Development Manager.**



**FOOTBALL FEDERATION TASMANIA**  
**FINAL DECISION**

**FORM C**

PLAYER: \_\_\_\_\_  
D.O.B.: \_\_\_\_\_  
CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_  
COMPETITION CENTRE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ELIGIBLE COMPETITION: \_\_\_\_\_  
REQUESTED COMPETITION: \_\_\_\_\_

The final decision of the above named player's application is that:

- approval is not granted to participate in the requested competition.
- approval is not granted to participate in the requested competition, however;  
approval is granted to participate in the \_\_\_\_\_ Competition.
- approval is granted to participate in the requested competition.

**State Coaching and Development Manager:**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Original copies of all forms are to be retained by Football Federation Tasmania for future reference purposes.

All information on form "B" is strictly confidential and is only to be used by Football Federation Tasmania to assist in their decision making process.



# Assessment Guidelines

There are several areas that an Assessor should examine when considering player's potential for playing in a competition that falls outside of their eligible age group.

These are, but not limited to:

## **Performance**

Performances at current level, including past performances as regional or state representative player (if applicable), and performances in local/regional events.

## **Fitness and Athletic Ability**

Physical capacities are considered including aerobic, speed, strength and agility (as observed in training practices and games).

## **Technical Competence**

Core skills for out field players include receiving, striking, heading, dribbling, tackling and defending. Core skills for goalkeepers include basic technique (handling), dealing with ground shots, dealing with crosses, agility and distribution.

## **Tactical Ability**

The ability to read the play, an involvement in the game, decision-making, and flexibility in positional play.

## **Potential to Improve**

Consideration of a number of factors, not least of which is potential to develop their physical and athletic ability with a view to developing their soccer skills to complement their athletic ability.

## **Competitive Ability**

A general assessment of the player's toughness, strength, temperament, determination, and commitment; their ability to perform in adverse conditions; their attitude to coping with setbacks and criticism, and general persistence.

