

Memo

To: All Clubs
Date: 23/11/2011
Subject: 11- 55 – Age Policy and Rules of Competition Update

Dear Clubs,

Following the final clarification from Football Queensland, the Football Brisbane Junior Rules of Competition will be released shortly. There are no significant changes apart from a strengthening of the age requirements and the move structurally from U16 (Junior) – U18 (Senior) to U15 – U17 (Junior) – U19 (Senior) which clubs need to be aware of when forming teams. Clubs who are unsure of the meaning of the age changes should contact Football Brisbane for clarification before fielding teams.

The guiding principles of the age changes are that 'playing up' should not be seen as a development strategy and that clubs should make every endeavour to place young players at their age appropriate level. Clubs should familiarise themselves with the FQ Memo outlining these changes and the Football Brisbane rules which implement them.

For your information the following amendments/additions should be read in conjunction with my original memo (11-46) on the subject.

BJL / Division One Competitions

Players may play up one year into these competitions, with parental consent, a maximum of three times a season to cover injuries, absences or at the discretion of their coach. At the culmination of the third game they must return to their own age group. Clubs should be aware that it is not 'three games up, stay up'.

Clubs are reminded that where it is necessary in the lower divisions to field composite teams, that the majority of players must come from the higher age group.

SSF Players

SSF players are not permitted to play up into Under 12 Division 1 or Division 2 Competitions even if they have been involved in the SAP Programme. The FFA Curriculum envisages a development pathway with each step along the way being an important stage which should be followed if young players are to reach their potential as footballers. There are appropriate levels of competition offered within Football Brisbane for these players.

Transition Year Arrangements 2012

Football Brisbane recognises that with the changes to the age requirements that some relaxation may be required in the transitional year. These considerations will be for 2012 only.

Under 19 Competitions

A player who played in an Under 18 Competition in 2011 and who attains the age of seventeen (17) years at any time in 2012 will be given an exemption to play Under 19 in 2012. However, this only applies to players **who played seven (7) or more games at Under 18 level in 2011**. Clubs are reminded to check this qualification before lodging any exemption request.

Senior Women's Division 1 and below

Clubs are reminded that the minimum age to play into these competitions is now "attained the age of seventeen (17) years". For 2012 only, the following exemption will apply.

Players who played in a Senior Women's Competition in 2011 and who will attain the age of seventeen (17) years at any time in 2012 will be permitted to play into these competitions. This applies to players **who played seven (7) or more times in a Senior Women's Competition in 2011**. Clubs are reminded to check this qualification before lodging any exemption request.

Exemptions

The Football Queensland Memo 10-11 (relevant section attached below) identified the minimum requirements for any exemptions from these age rules. Clubs should make players aware of those conditions before submitting any exemption application.

Regards,



Michael Bailey
President - Football Brisbane

Memo 10-11



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Player Age Policy

The Board resolved:

To rescind the Player age policy as of 1/1/2012 and requires Competition Administrators (CA's) to include player eligibility in Competition Rules. It was resolved to ask the CA's to provide 2012 Competition Rules by 1 November 2011.

Competition Rules must include the following provisions:

- Players must be turning 5 by the end of the calendar in which they wish to register. This replaces the previous requirement for players to have attained 5 years before registration.
- Players must play in their designated age group as determined by date of birth unless exceptional circumstances apply. Exceptional circumstances are defined as identified players who participate at State or National level competitions.
- Each CA are required to provide a top tier Division 1 competition in every designated junior competitive age group U12 – U15 (There are to be no combined age groups for the Division 1 competition). Variation will be considered by FQ on application.
- Where combined age groups are required for lower divisions, applications will be considered by FQ.

Draft competition rules available on application bruced@footballqueensland.com.au