

# **KRHJFC – Players playing out of true age policy**

(Version 2 2023)

## **Purpose of the policy**

This policy outlines the position of the Kellyville Rouse Hill Junior Football Club (KRHJFC) and rules regarding players wanting to play in an age group other than their true age. The policy is designed to give players, parents, coaches and the Committee a clear position should any KRHJFC player wish to be considered to play out of true age.

It is the position of KRHJFC that all players should play within their true age to get the maximum enjoyment from the AFL experience. However, in a limited number of cases, this may not be the best for the player. This policy aims to address this.

## **Who is covered by this policy**

All KRHJFC players are covered by this policy, and parents, coaches and the Committee are committed to following it.

## **How the policy operates**

It is the policy of KRHJFC that all players are to be registered in their true age group at the start of each season. If a player wishes to be considered to play in an older age group the following reasons will be considered:

1. The player has been involved in Auskick for more than 2 years and wishes to play in U9s. The player must have turned 7 years and meet AFL age requirements for U9s.
2. The player has played AFL for at least 1 season and can demonstrate skills and ability greater than their true age group that warrants consideration to play in an older age group.
3. The player has requested to play in a team with a friend and is within 6 months of the cut off for the true age requirement.

Requests to play out of age will not be considered unless a player is registered for the relevant season. A request to play out of age must be made by the parent of the player to the Vice President Football Operations at the time of registration for each season. A player playing out of age in a prior season does not automatically qualify to play out of age in any following season. Decisions regarding a player's ability to play out of age will be made upon finalising numbers for each age group. Should there be insufficient players to field a team in any age group, the priority of the Club will be to keep players in their true age to balance numbers regardless of the reasons for playing out of age stated above. Should a player commence training with a team not in their true age group prior to the season, no guarantee can be given that they will be able to play in this team during the season. Parents and coaches need to consider the welfare of the child in allowing this to occur. KRHJFC reminds parents we cannot guarantee a child's ability to play in future seasons with the same team unless they are playing in their true age.

Players wishing to play out of age from U13s to U17s will only be considered in extenuating circumstances. In addition to the considerations outlined above, the primary concern of KRHJFC is the welfare of the players. Playing out of age from U13s (full field games) increases risks associated with younger players who may not be of a similar size or skill to the older players. For this request to be considered, KRHJFC has the right to request a full waiver from parents regarding the risks associated with playing out of age and KRHJFC may request an assessment of the player's ability by an AFL representative.

**Administration of the policy**

The policy will be administered by the Vice President Football Operations and supported by coaches in utilising this policy.

**Review of a decision made under this policy**

Should a dispute be made regarding a decision in accordance with this policy, the parent of the player or coach can, in writing, request the KRHFJC Committee to review the decision. The reasons and supporting information must be provided in the request. The review will occur at the next KRHFJC Committee meeting and the decision made will be final with no further ability for revision.

**Review of this policy**

This policy will be reviewed by the KRHFJC Committee every 2 years.