



RATIONALE

The physical development of junior netballers and footballers occurs at differing rates and consequently there are some players who are not ready to play their sport with similar aged peers. Further, each club and the CM & GR Leagues have a duty of care to all of its junior players to ensure their safety and they are playing in a competition which approximates their development and current skill level.

PURPOSE

- To provide a duty of care to young people who are not ready to transition to a higher age group.
- Encourage the retention of netballers and footballers in a competition with peers.
- Provide opportunities for young people with disabilities to play sport.
- Entrust clubs to make decisions in the best interests of the welfare of their players.
- The purpose of this policy is **not** to provide opportunity for club's to make up numbers in age groups where player numbers are scarce.

RESPONSIBILITY AND DUTY OF CARE

- The onus is on each club to assess their players and make a decision on the suitability of a player to be allowed to play as "overage".
- The Operations Manager will only assess an application **based on the written information presented for registration**. The Operations Manager will check each application to ensure the application has all of the correct details and the player meets the criteria for; their age, the number of higher games and the number of players in each team.
- Opposition clubs have a responsibility to ensure all designated over-age players meet the suitability criteria.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Only clubs can make application for overage status for one of their players.
- Clubs can register a suitable player using the "**Overage Player Application Form**". The application must be directed to the Operations Manager who has one week to inform the club of his/her decision.
- Up to 5 players per team (football) and 3 players per team (netball) can be registered as overage. Only 3 players (football) and 2 players (netball) can be named on the team sheet per team per match. These players must be designated with "**OA**" next to their names on the team sheet.
- All overage players will have their ongoing suitability assessed by the opposition coaches and team managers. If an opposition coach or team manager believes an overage player is unsuitable to be designated "overage", according to the criteria, the Operations Manager must be notified in writing by the close of business on the first day after the match.
- The Operations Manager or his nominee will assess the player at the next opportunity.
- Overage players must not exceed one full year above the age group on 1 January in the year they claim overage exemption.
- In some exceptional circumstances, the Board may grant overage status to young people who do not meet these age requirements.
- Any overage player may play a maximum of three games in the appropriate higher grade.
- No review request will be considered after 30 June and any review finding must be completed and reported to clubs concerned by 31 July.

- Under no circumstances are opposition clubs or members to approach any player or official of another club with complaints in any capacity in relation to overage players.
- All overage players will be continually monitored throughout the season and the Operations Manager or player's club can revoke any approval at any time during the current season.
- All overage nominations will be circulated to all clubs.
- The Board has the discretion to reject nominations and/or make exceptions.
- A fine of \$250 will be applied by the Board for:
 - Any frivolous overage nomination;
 - Nominations which clearly do not meet the criteria;
 - Any nominations which were used by the club for any other purpose than supporting the player's welfare.

CRITERIA FOR OVERAGE SELECTION

Any player registered for overage status must be assessed in the areas outlined below and on their ability to influence the result on any given day. Factors to be taken into account include:

1. Ability to influence a game

- General Motor Skills;
- Coordination;
- Speed and Agility.

2. General Football Skills (Netball Skills)

- Marking (Catching);
- Kicking (Passing);
- Ball Handling.

3. Ability to influence others

- Conduct - Plays in accordance with AFL Victoria Country Rules, NV Rules, CM & GR Leagues Codes of Conduct;
- Behaviour - Does not display an aggressive nature towards other players. (There will be a strict zero tolerance of aggressive behaviour).

APPEALS

Any decisions relating to overage nominations or fines must be made in writing to the Board within seven days of the Operations Manager decision being communicated to the club. These appeals must state the grounds for the objection, any new evidence which supports their submission and the desired outcome. All appeals will be heard by the Board at their next meeting.

All appeals by a club must be accompanied by a cheque/EFT of \$250. This sum shall be dealt with in the following manner:

- Where the appeal is upheld the sum shall be refunded;
- Where the appeal is dismissed and it is determined the appeal did not have sufficient merit, the Board may determine in its absolute discretion, that all, or part of the sum not be refunded.

VERSION CONTROL			
Version	Purpose/Change	Author	Approved Date
1.0	Consistent Policy in both leagues	Board	February 2019

CLUBS MAKING APPLICATION FOR OVERAGE EXEMPTION MUST ADDRESS THE CRITERIA

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CRITERIA FOR OVERAGE SELECTION

Any player registered for overage status must be assessed in the areas outlined below and on their ability to influence the result on any given day. Factors to be taken into account include:

4. Ability to influence a game

- General Motor Skills;
- Coordination;
- Speed and Agility.
- **General Football/Netball Skills**
- Marking (Catching);
- Kicking (Passing);
- Ball Handling.

5. Ability to influence others

- Conduct - Plays in accordance with AFL Victoria Country Rules, NV Rules, CM & GR leagues & club Codes of Conduct
- Behaviour - Does not display an aggressive nature towards other players. (There will be a strict zero tolerance of aggressive behaviour)