



Bendigo Football Netball League - Underage Policy

As per the National Community Football Policy Handbook, the Controlling Body (being the relevant League) may permit a Player to participate in a higher age group than that specified in the table listed below, where it determines that there are exceptional and compelling circumstances that warrant such permission being granted.

- (ii) Subject to Section [3.1\(b\)\(iii\)](#), a Player's age eligibility to participate in a Competition age group is as per the following table:

Age Group	Minimum age to participate in age group (age as at 31 December in the year prior to the applicable playing year)	Age turning in the applicable playing year
Under 8	7 - subject to Section 3.1(b)(i)	7 or 8 - subject to Section 3.1(b)(i)
Under 9	7	7, 8 or 9 - subject to Section 3.1(b)(i)
Under 10	7	8, 9 or 10
Under 11	8	9, 10 or 11
Under 12	9	10, 11 or 12
Under 13	10	11, 12 or 13
Under 14	11	12, 13 or 14
Under 15	12	13, 14 or 15
Under 16	13	14, 15 or 16
Under 17	14	15, 16 or 17
Under 18	15	16, 17 or 18
Under 19	16	17, 18 or 19
Seniors	16	17 or older

In considering a Players eligibility to participate in a higher age group the League MUST:

1. Receive written submissions from clubs for players individually which supports the permit application whilst not in the Policy. This information is to be submitted by a League approved template.
2. Consider each player individually.
3. Establish that exceptional and compelling circumstances exist for each individual player.
4. Have regard to the player football development interests including:
 - their physical capacity,
 - experience,
 - skill level and
 - social maturity.
5. The players access to age-appropriate participation opportunities
6. The players personal circumstances

The League MUST NOT permit groups of Players to participate in a higher age group and permission MUST be granted to individuals.

The player MUST NOT participate in a higher age group until permission has been granted in writing from the League for individual players.

When a League grants permissions for a player to participate in a higher age group the League MUST:

- * Notify the Club in writing including any conditions applicable.
- * Notify the Region (where applicable) in writing including any conditions applicable.

The League will make available a template to all Clubs to apply for Underage players.

Where the above processes have been followed consistent with the AFL National Policy, insurance will be extended to cover all parties.